

**Vision and Directions  
Volume**

**Town of Cottage Grove Comprehensive Plan**



**This packet includes the adopted  
Future Land Use Map and policies  
associated with each of the  
categories depicted on the map**

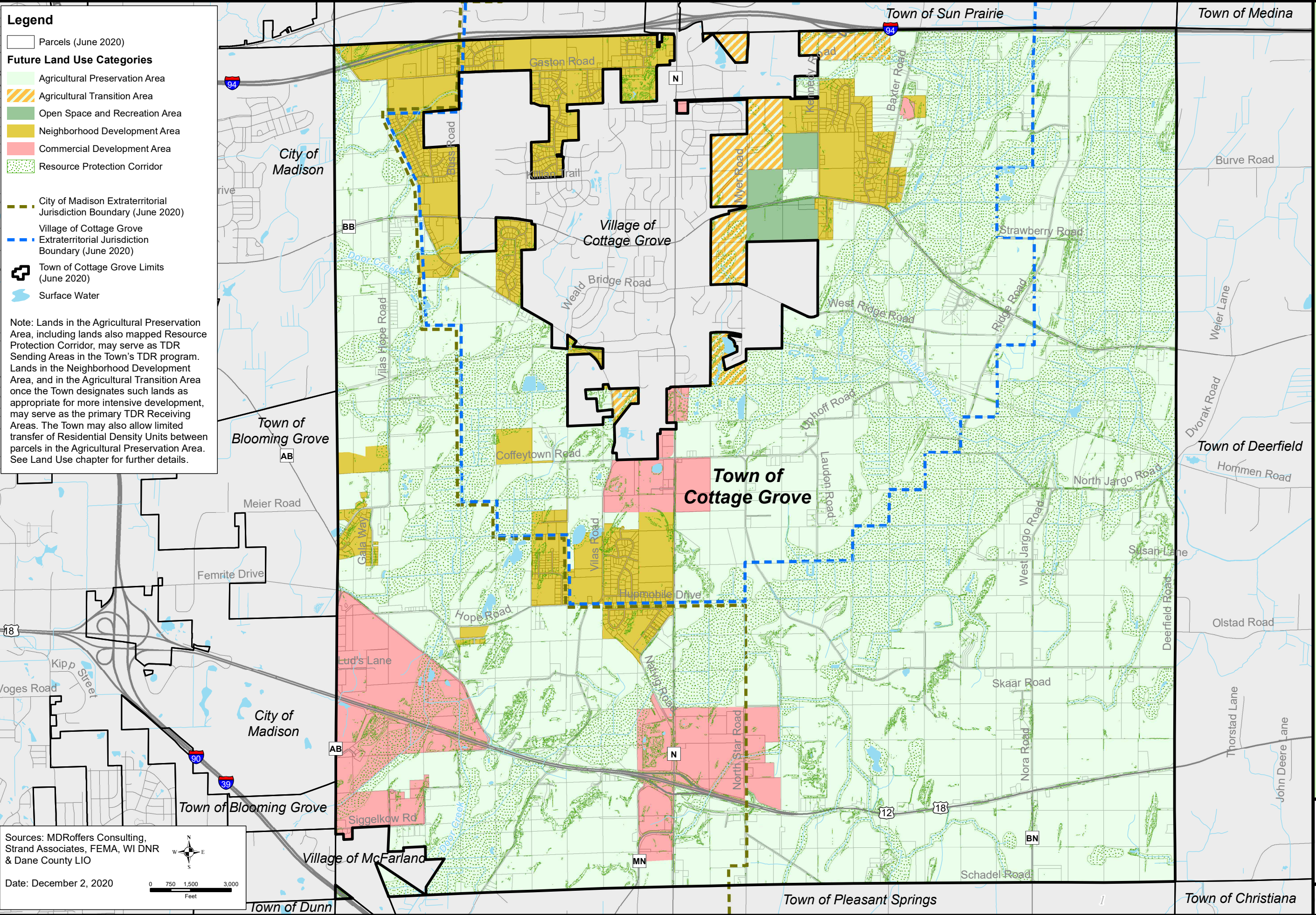
Recommended by Plan Commission and  
Adopted by Town Board: 10.28.15

Amended: 8.1.16, 6.12.17, 6.18.18, 7.1.19,  
1.18.21

**Legend**

- Parcels (June 2020)
- Future Land Use Categories**
- Agricultural Preservation Area
- Agricultural Transition Area
- Open Space and Recreation Area
- Neighborhood Development Area
- Commercial Development Area
- Resource Protection Corridor
- City of Madison Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Boundary (June 2020)
- Village of Cottage Grove Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Boundary (June 2020)
- Town of Cottage Grove Limits (June 2020)
- Surface Water

Note: Lands in the Agricultural Preservation Area, including lands also mapped Resource Protection Corridor, may serve as TDR Sending Areas in the Town's TDR program. Lands in the Neighborhood Development Area, and in the Agricultural Transition Area once the Town designates such lands as appropriate for more intensive development, may serve as the primary TDR Receiving Areas. The Town may also allow limited transfer of Residential Density Units between parcels in the Agricultural Preservation Area. See Land Use chapter for further details.



Sources: MDRoffers Consulting, Strand Associates, FEMA, WI DNR & Dane County LIO

Date: December 2, 2020

**FUTURE LAND USE**

TOWN OF COTTAGE GROVE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN



**Figure 4: Agricultural Preservation Area Purpose and Policies (two-page figure)**

Purpose	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve productive agricultural lands and farming in the long-term.</li> <li>• Protect existing farm operations from encroachment by incompatible uses. Farming often involves noise, dust, odors, heavy equipment, use of chemicals, and long hours of operation.</li> <li>• Promote prior and continued investments in farming.</li> <li>• Maintain farmer eligibility for incentive programs, such as state income tax credits.</li> <li>• Mapped mainly over lands actively used for farming, with productive agricultural soils, and/or with topographic and other conditions suitable for farming.</li> <li>• Also mapped over open lands and woodlots, farmsteads, and agricultural-related uses.</li> <li>• Allow limited single-family residential development at densities at or below one home per 35 acres. See “Development Policies” below and Figure 2: Residential Density Unit (RDU) Principle. This one housing unit per 35 acre policy does <u>not</u> mandate or even allow the creation of 35+ acre residential lots.</li> </ul>	
Typical Implementing Zoning Districts	New Lot Sizes
<p>For agricultural uses, the FP-35 General Farmland Preservation or FP-1 Small Lot Farmland Preservation districts are typically used. Where a new farm residence is proposed, a conditional use permit is required by Dane County and the requirements and standards in Section 10.101(7)(d) of the Dane County Zoning Ordinance shall be met.</p> <p>For other new residential lots, the RR-1, RR-2, SFR-1, SFR-08, AT-5, and other districts that allow non-farm residences may be used. Any rezoning away from FP-35 or FP-1 must be consistent with applicable development and density policies below, the land must be better suited for a use not allowed in FP-35 or FP-1 district, and the rezoning may not substantially impair or limit current or future agricultural use of surrounding parcels of land that are zoned for or legally restricted to agricultural use.</p>	<p>Where land is to remain in agricultural use, the FP-35 district has a 35 acre minimum and the FP-1 district has a 5 acre minimum and 35 acre maximum.</p> <p>For new lots intended for new residences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum lot size is 20,000 square feet, provided that soil tests determine that the lot is suitable for an on-site waste treatment system (holding tanks not allowed).</li> <li>• Maximum lot size is 2 acres, except that the Town Board may approve a greater size due to unusual land configuration, to better protect farmland, for commercial uses, and/or to enhance rural or scenic character.</li> </ul> <p>For new lots for a farm residence and/or farm building(s) that existed as of May 15, 1982:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum lot size is 20,000 square feet, provided that soil tests determine that the lot is suitable for an on-site waste treatment system (holding tanks not recommended).</li> <li>• Maximum necessary to encompass the farm residence and all farm buildings, but no greater than 10 acres.</li> </ul>
Relationship to Town’s TDR Program	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See Figure 3: Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program for TDR program description.</li> <li>2. Lands in the Agricultural Preservation Area qualify as TDR Sending Areas, provided that an RDU is available to transfer.</li> <li>3. There may also be transfers of RDUs between lands within the Agricultural Preservation Area, at a 1-to-1 transfer ratio per applicable policies in Figure 3.</li> <li>4. Legally created lots zoned residential prior to January 1, 1981 may be developed with residences and divided without having to meet the Town’s RDU and TDR requirements.</li> </ol>	

## Development Policies for Agricultural Preservation Area

1. **Density:** Permit residences in the Agricultural Preservation Area per the standard of one housing unit per 35 acres owned, as further described in Figure 2: Residential Density Unit (RDU) Principle and to enable RDU transfers under Figure 3: Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program.
2. **Farm Residences:**
  - a. A farm residence built before May 15, 1982 shall not count against this density policy, except where separated from the 1982 parcel. Separation of the farm residence from the 1982 parcel requires use of one RDU per Figure 2, and must also meet all zoning and other requirements.
  - b. One-time replacement of a farm residence with a new residence for the farm operator shall be allowed without counting against this density policy, provided that the pre-existing farm residence will be demolished. This one-time limitation does not apply when a farm residence or its replacement is destroyed by wind, fire, or other acts of God.
  - c. Separation and retention of one lot for a new residence for the farm operator when he or she sells the whole farm shall be allowed, but requires use of one RDU. These separated lots will count against the one housing unit per 35 acre density policy.
  - d. New farm residences, as described in Section 10.103(11) of the County zoning ordinance shall be allowed if conditional use standards and other applicable requirements are met, and count against the one housing unit per 35 acres policy. If the farm operator chooses to retire in the existing residence, a new farm residence will be allowed for the new operator, but will require use of one RDU.
  - e. Aside from any replacement farm residence under policy 2b, any residence built after May 15, 1982 shall be considered one housing unit for the purposes of this density policy (i.e., require one RDU) regardless of occupant.
3. **Rezoning to FP-1:** The number of permitted housing units conferred under this density policy shall not be reduced by rezonings to the County's FP-1 district.
4. **Commercial and Other Land Uses:** The Town generally will not support rezoning of lands for commercial use within the Agricultural Preservation Area, except for the expansion of existing businesses at the discretion of the Town Board. In such case, the FP-B Farmland Preservation Business, RE Recreational, or preexisting commercial zoning district is generally appropriate. Non-residential uses shall not count against the one housing unit per 35 acre density policy; in other words, an RDU as described in Figure 2 is not required for non-residential uses.
5. **Subdivision Plats:** Subdivision plats (5+ lots within 5-year period) are allowed within the Agricultural Preservation Area where the number of lots is consistent with the density policy in this section. For example, a 240-acre parcel may be allowed six lots/housing units under the density policy, which would require a subdivision plat.
6. **Substandard Lots:** Allow pre-existing uses on parcels of less than 35 acres as of May 15, 1982 (i.e., substandard lots in FP-35 zoning district) to continue. Substandard lots may be divided as determined on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Town Board. No parcel less than 35 acres shall be made into a residential lot.
7. **Existing Residentially Zoned Lands:** Residentially zoned parcels which existed prior to January 1, 1981 and meet all Town, County, and state requirements related to land division are eligible for home construction and potential further division. These parcels are not subject to TDR or the RDU requirements as described in Figures 2 and 3. By extension, such parcels do not have RDUs for transfer, and RDUs may not be transferred to these parcels. The intent of this policy is to facilitate residential infill and increased density residential development that is consistent in character to the existing residentially zoned area. To this end, division of such lands shall result in the creation of lots with similar area, road frontage, and width-to-depth ratio as a majority of the adjacent parcels. Lot sizes may be different from the minimum and maximum in the above "New Lot Sizes" section, based on the sizes of adjacent parcels, unusual land configuration, to better protect farmland, and/or to enhance rural or scenic character.
8. **Residential Development Siting:** The applicant for any rezoning and/or land division approval request that enables a new non-farm residence shall submit, along with the rezoning and CSM/plat approval application, a site plan showing the relationship of each proposed residence to the proposed lot (i.e., buildable area), all proposed residences and lots to the rest of the parcel, and all proposed residences and lots to the features indicated below. At least 80% of the following standards shall be met:
  - a. Direct new non-farm residences and their driveways away from Group I or II soils, depicted on Map 2 of the Conditions and Issues volume, unless no other alignment is possible or all soils on the parcel are so classified.
  - b. Divide all new lots to have frontage on a public road per subdivision regulations; minimize use of flag lots except to achieve other standards in this section.
  - c. Site residences adjacent to tree lines where available and at the edge of open fields rather than the middle.
  - d. Site residences to minimize visibility from public roads, such as through thoughtful placement with respect to existing vegetation and topographic changes.
  - e. Avoid multiple home sites side-by-side along existing roads with multiple driveways and modest building setbacks.
  - f. Limit tree clearance in wooded areas to the area required for the residence, a yard area not exceeding 20,000 square feet, and an area for the driveway.
  - g. If located near the top of a hill or ridge, site the residence so that its roof line is below the hilltop or ridgeline.
  - h. Incorporate home design that either reflects agricultural farmstead architecture or blends with the agricultural or natural environment.
  - i. Place new lots to allow for driveways suitable in length, width, design, and slope for emergency vehicle travel, per the Town's driveway ordinance.
  - j. Avoid building placement within the Resource Protection Corridor, as described in Figure 9 and mapped on Map 10: Future Land Use.

**Figure 5: Agricultural Transition Area Purpose and Policies**

Purpose	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes lands anticipated for non-agricultural use and development within the next 15 years, and are as a result generally zoned in the County’s AT-35 zoning district.</li> <li>• Preserves land in agricultural or open space use until more intensive future development, such as inclusion in an urban service area, or is appropriate.</li> <li>• Prior to more intensive future development, enable limited single-family residential development at densities at or below one dwelling per 35 acres (see “Agricultural Preservation Area” development policies and Figure 2: Residential Density Unit (RDU) Principles).</li> <li>• Coordinate growth and development planning between the Town and adjacent incorporated municipalities.</li> </ul>	
Typical Implementing Zoning Districts	New Lot Sizes
<p>Prior to Town determination that land is ripe for more intensive development, the AT-35 Agricultural Transition district is typically used, along with the RR-1, RR-2, SFR-1, SFR-08, AT-5, RM-8, RM-16, and other districts that allow non-farm residences, per “Agricultural Preservation Area” development policies and Figure 5. After such a determination, any of a number of residential or non-residential zoning districts, depending on development plan.</p>	<p>Same as “Agricultural Preservation Area” prior to the Town’s determination that land is ripe for more intense development. After such a determination per the policies below, same as Neighborhood Development Area. Smaller lot sizes possible where public sewer and water service will be provided.</p>
Relationship to Town’s TDR Program	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See Figure 3: Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program for TDR program description.</li> <li>2. Lands in the Agricultural Transition Area may qualify as TDR Receiving Areas with an 8-to-1 transfer ratio, per applicable policies in Figure 3, once the Town designates such lands as appropriate for more intensive development per the “Development Policies for Agricultural Transition Area” below.</li> <li>3. Prior to such designation, there may be RDU transfers with a 1-to-1 transfer ratio between and within Agricultural Preservation Areas/Agricultural Transition Areas, per applicable policies in Figure 3.</li> </ol>	
Development Policies for Agricultural Transition Area	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Designation of lands in the Agricultural Transition Area on Map 10: Future Land Use does not guarantee that that area will develop or is even buildable; there may be challenges to building, including soil limitations and other environmental constraints.</li> <li>2. For all lands designated as Agricultural Transition Areas near city/village and town limits, pursue intergovernmental boundary agreements or cooperative boundary plans to further determine the type, timing, jurisdiction, services, and other aspects of future development.</li> <li>3. Prior to the Town’s determination that lands in an Agricultural Transition Area are ripe for more intensive development:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Follow all development policies applicable to the Agricultural Preservation Area in Figure 4.</li> <li>b. Require that all development projects be designed not to impede the orderly future development of the surrounding area with more intensive future development.</li> <li>c. Allow RDU transfers with a 1-to-1 transfer ratio, but only per the applicable policies in Figure 3.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. The Town Board will consider the following factors when determining whether and when lands in the Agricultural Transition Area are ripe for more intensive development:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Applicable comprehensive plans, zoning regulations, and intergovernmental agreements.</li> <li>b. The submittal and detailed understanding of a specific development proposal.</li> <li>c. The desire to promote an orderly, sequential pattern of land use to ensure that the provision of public services, roads, and utilities keep pace with development.</li> <li>d. The availability of public infrastructure such as road capacity, utility availability or capacity, and other public facilities to serve the proposed development.</li> <li>e. If such public infrastructure is unavailable, the projected timing of and funding for public infrastructure improvements to serve the proposed development.</li> <li>f. The ability of local governments and the school district to cost-effectively provide community services to the proposed development.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. The Town does not intend to require an amendment to this <i>Plan</i> if and when it determines that land in a mapped Agricultural Transition Area is ripe for more intensive development. Policies within either or both of the “Neighborhood Development Area” or “Commercial Development Area” will be followed upon a finding of “ripeness.”</li> </ol>	

**Figure 6: Open Space and Recreation Area Purpose and Policies**

Purpose	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain permanent open space and assist with community separation</li> <li>• Preserve natural areas, productive agricultural lands, and farming in the long-term.</li> <li>• Maintain farmer eligibility for incentive programs, such as state income tax credits.</li> <li>• Allow limited single-family residential development at densities at or below one home per 35 acres. See “Development Policies” below and Figure 2: Residential Density Unit (RDU) Principle. This one housing unit per 35 acre policy does <u>not</u> mandate or even allow the creation of 35+ acre residential lots.</li> </ul>	
Typical Implementing Zoning Districts	New Lot Sizes
<p>For open space uses, NR-C Natural Resource Conservancy is the typical zoning district.</p> <p>For agricultural uses, the FP-35FP-35 General Farmland Preservation or FP-1 Small Lot Farmland Preservation districts are typically used. Where a new farm residence is proposed, a conditional use permit is required by Dane County and the requirements and standards in Section 10.101(7)(d) of the Dane County Zoning Ordinance shall be met.</p> <p>For other new residential lots, the RR-1, RR-2, SFR-1, SFR-08, AT-5, and other districts that allow non-farm residences may be used. Any rezoning away from FP-35 or FP-1 must be consistent with applicable development and density policies below, the land must be better suited for a use not allowed in FP-35 or FP-1 district, and the rezoning may not substantially impair or limit current or future agricultural use of surrounding parcels of land that are zoned for or legally restricted to agricultural use.</p>	<p>Where land is to remain in open space or agricultural use, the FP-35 district has a 35 acre minimum and the FP-1 district has a 5 acre minimum and 35 acre maximum.</p> <p>For new lots intended for new residences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum lot size is 20,000 square feet, provided that soil tests determine that the lot is suitable for an on-site waste treatment system (holding tanks not allowed).</li> <li>• Maximum lot size is 2 acres, except that the Town Board may approve a greater size due to unusual land configuration, to better protect farmland, for commercial uses, and/or to enhance rural or scenic character.</li> </ul> <p>For new lots for a farm residence and/or farm building(s) that existed as of May 15, 1982:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum lot size is 20,000 square feet, provided that soil tests determine that the lot is suitable for an on-site waste treatment system (holding tanks not recommended).</li> <li>• Maximum necessary to encompass the farm residence and all farm buildings, but no greater than 10 acres.</li> </ul>
Relationship to Town’s TDR Program	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See Figure 3: Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program for TDR program description.</li> <li>2. Lands in the Open Space and Recreation Area qualify as TDR Sending Areas, provided that an RDU is available to transfer.</li> <li>3. There may also be transfers of RDUs with a 1-to-1 transfer ratio between and within lands within the Open Space and Recreation Area/Agricultural Preservation Area, per the applicable policies in Figure 3.</li> <li>4. Legally created lots zoned residential prior to January 1, 1981 may be developed with residences and divided without having to meet the Town’s RDU and TDR requirements.</li> </ol>	
Development Policies for Open Space and Recreation Area	
Same as “Agricultural Preservation Area”—see Figure 4.	

**Figure 7: Neighborhood Development Area Purpose and Policies (two-page figure)**

Purpose	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map over and near pre-existing areas of rural residential subdivisions and use (see Map 10).</li> <li>• Promote sustainable residential development by encouraging infill around existing development and incorporating principles of conservation neighborhood design.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for a range of single family housing choices, including estate and affordable single family housing.</li> <li>• Enable limited neighborhood-serving, small-scale commercial, institutional, and two- and multiple-family residential uses.</li> </ul>	
Typical Implementing Zoning Districts	New Lot Sizes
<p>SFR-08 Single-Family Residential and HAM-R Hamlet Residential are typical.</p> <p>HAM-M Hamlet Mixed Use, LC Limited Commercial, TFR-08 Two-Family Residential, and MFR-08 Multi-Family Residential may be used on a limited basis for neighborhood-serving commercial, institutional, and higher-density residential sites.</p> <p>Existing commercial uses/zoning districts may be expanded to include additional land.</p>	<p>Minimum lot size is 20,000 square feet, provided that soil tests determine that the lot is suitable for an on-site waste treatment system (holding tanks not allowed). A larger minimum lot size may be required for commercial, institutional, and two- and multi-family residential uses.</p> <p>Maximum lot size is 1 acre, except to the minimum greater size necessary due to unusual land configuration; to better protect farmland; for commercial, institutional, and two- and multi-family residential uses; and/or to enhance rural or scenic character, as determined by the Town Board.</p>
Relationship to Town’s TDR Program	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See Figure 3: Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program for TDR program description.</li> <li>2. Lands in the Neighborhood Development Area may qualify as TDR Receiving Areas, per the policies in Figure 3.</li> <li>3. For each Residential Density Unit (RDU) transferred from a TDR Sending Area to a Neighborhood Development Area, the developer is able to develop eight housing units above the number of housing units allocated to the May 15, 1982 parcel, provided that the developer meets all other applicable regulations and policies.</li> <li>4. To build one or more residences on any new lot zoned residential and created after January 1, 1981, the parcel owner must have an RDU based on the acreage he or she owns as further described in Figure 2: Residential Density Unit (RDU) Principle, obtain an RDU originating from a TDR Sending Area, or both. For each RDU assigned to the Neighborhood Development Area parcel per Figure 2, one housing unit will be allowed, subject to compliance with other applicable policies of this <i>Plan</i> and Town ordinances. For each RDU obtained from a TDR Sending Area, the transfer ratio incentive in Figure 3 shall apply. So, for example, an owner of an undeveloped 80 acres in the Neighborhood Development Area who acquires two RDUs from a TDR Sending Area is allowed 16 housing units from the transferred RDUs (2 transferred RDUs x transfer ratio incentive of 8), plus two additional housing units assigned to the 80-acre parcel land area as a base under the RDU principle in Figure 2, for a maximum of 18 housing units.</li> <li>5. Legally created lots zoned residential prior to January 1, 1981 may be developed with residences and divided without having to meet the Town’s RDU and TDR requirements.</li> </ol>	

## Development Policies for Neighborhood Development Area

1. Designation of lands in the Neighborhood Development Area on Map 10: Future Land Use does not imply that an area is immediately appropriate for rezoning or guarantee that that area will develop or is even buildable. There may be challenges to building, including soil limitations and other environmental constraints.
2. For all lands designated as Neighborhood Development Area near city/village and town limits, pursue intergovernmental boundary agreements or cooperative boundary plans to further determine the type, timing, jurisdiction, services, and other aspects of future development.
3. Residentially zoned parcels which existed prior to January 1, 1981 and meet all Town, County, and state requirements related to land division are eligible for home construction and potential further division. These parcels are not subject to TDR or RDU requirements as described in Figures 2 and 3. By extension, such parcels do not have RDUs for transfer, and RDUs may not be transferred to these parcels. The intent of this policy is to facilitate residential infill development that is consistent in character to the existing residentially zoned areas. To this end, division of such lands shall result in the creation of lots with similar area, road frontage, and width-to-depth ratio as a majority of the adjacent parcels.
4. Parts of the Neighborhood Development Area, particularly near crossroads and in other locations with heavier traffic, may be appropriate for a limited range of commercial service, retail, and office uses that are compatible with a predominately residential setting. Non-residential uses, rezonings, conditional use permits, and land divisions shall not require an RDU as described in Figure 2.
5. Follow applicable requirements of the Town's Land Division and Planning Code and Town Design Review Ordinance for the development of lands within the Neighborhood Development Area.
6. Meet Town driveway ordinance requirements and permit safe access by fire trucks, ambulances, and any other emergency vehicles. The Town Board or Plan Commission may require notification of the fire chief or other emergency service provider, as well as require their approval of any driveway configuration.
7. Direct the development of private lots to areas outside of the Resource Protection Corridor on Map 10: Future Land Use and to locations that support the safe construction of on-site waste treatment systems, unless public sewer service is extended to the area.
8. Meet at least 80% of the following conservation neighborhood design standards in the development of new residential subdivisions, at the Town Board's decision:
  - a. Minimize visibility of development from main roads through natural topography, vegetation (e.g., tree lines, wooded edges), and setbacks. Minimize placement of lots in open fields.
  - b. Back lots onto county, state, and federal highways, designing deeper lots and landscape bufferyards into these areas.
  - c. Preserve mature trees and tree lines wherever possible.
  - d. Include an interconnected network of streets meeting Town road standards.
  - e. Design streets and lot layouts to blend with natural land contours.
  - f. Limit cul-de-sacs except where topography, environmentally sensitive areas, or the pre-existing development pattern in the area necessitates their use.
  - g. Integrate natural resources into the subdivision design as aesthetic and conservation landscape elements.
  - h. Restore the quality and continuity of degraded environmental areas within the subdivision, such as streams and wetlands.
  - i. Encourage stormwater management treatment systems that focus on Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs may include overland transfer, natural landscaping to increase infiltration and reduce runoff, bio-infiltration systems, and maximum impervious surface ratios for development sites.
  - j. Provide vegetative buffers of at least 75 feet between building sites and wetlands and streams.
  - k. Provide wide areas for public access to parks and common open spaces.
  - l. Maximize common open space in the neighborhood through public dedication and/or private management through a homeowner's association with conservation easements.
  - m. Create pedestrian trails through open space areas, allowing for future connections to other parcels and parts of the Town.
  - n. Require new homes to meet Energy Star standards or otherwise incorporate specific energy efficiency techniques into the development.



**Figure 8: Commercial Development Area Purpose and Policies (two-page figure)**

Purpose	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable a range of agricultural business, retail, commercial service, storage, light assembly, institutional, health care, research and development, institutional, and recreational uses.</li> <li>• Require that new development meet high standards for site, building, landscape, lighting, stormwater, and signage design per Town and County ordinance requirements.</li> <li>• Support development of an agricultural business center, to enhance rural research and production opportunities and build off similar initiatives in the area.</li> <li>• Provide logical locations for highway-oriented commercial development consistent with the Town’s character, population, needs, and public service capabilities.</li> <li>• Minimize uses that focus on outdoor storage or display and that may someday require extensive public services and utilities.</li> </ul>	
Typical Implementing Zoning Districts	New Lot Sizes
<p>HAM-M Hamlet Mixed Use                  GC General Commercial                  HC Heavy Commercial                  LC Limited Commercial</p>	<p>Minimum lot size is one acre, provided that soil tests determine that the lot is suitable for an on-site waste treatment system. New holding tanks not permitted.</p>
Relationship to Town’s TDR Program	
<p>Non-residential development—and land divisions, rezonings, and conditional use permits for such development—may occur without having to meet the Town’s RDU and TDR requirements.</p>	

## Development Policies within Commercial Development Area

1. Encourage growth within Commercial Development Areas to enhance the tax base and job opportunities within the Town, making agricultural preservation elsewhere more feasible. Proposed development should not have a substantial adverse effect upon adjacent property (including values), the character of the area, or the public health, safety, and general welfare. Because of the intensity of anticipated non-residential uses in the Commercial Development Area, rezonings that would enable new residential development are discouraged.
2. Attempt to focus the three distinct Commercial Development Areas shown on Map 10: Future Land Use as follows:
  - a. Highway 12/18/N Interchange. This modern interchange provides a well-placed opportunity for easily accessed development for businesses that enhance, promote, and support the continuation of agricultural production in the Town and in the region. Uses may be dedicated to local food production, agricultural research and experimental facilities, and sustainable non-agricultural uses. Other commercial uses may also locate in this area, but those that emphasize storage (particularly outdoor storage) and outdoor display and activities should be minimized in order to maximize tax base and minimize negative aesthetic impacts in this high-visibility area with some surrounding residential development.
  - b. Southwest Corner of Town. Town Line/City of Madison ETJ. The western edge of the Town benefits from proximity to Interstate 39/90 and growth associated with the City of Madison. This may be an appropriate location for commercial development geared to the traveling public and for distribution uses. Expansion of the Central Urban Service Area would facilitate industrial operations here. The Town will monitor and potentially build off of activities of the Ho-Chunk Nation in this area.
  - c. Town/Village Limits along N. The Village of Cottage Grove meets the Town boundary in such a way that promoting commercial growth provides opportunities and benefits for both communities and future growth in the area. Expansion of the Cottage Grove Urban Service Area would facilitate larger-scale commercial operations here.
3. Recognizing that all three of these areas are mainly in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of either the City of Madison or Village of Cottage Grove, communicate with the respective incorporated communities concerning development prospects in these areas. Given its distance from both municipalities and its location, the Highway 12/N Interchange area may be the most promising location for future commercial development. The Town will consider a TID district in this area, following the lead of the Towns of Windsor, Springfield, and others that have taken advantage of Town TIDs under State law. Any TID incentive should be tied to exceptional development quality.
4. For new non-residential development, with each application for rezoning or conditional use permit approval, require submittal and review of conceptual site and building plans. Prior to building permit issuance, require that a detailed site and building plan be submitted that as laid out in accordance with Section 12.08 of the Town's Design Review Ordinance and this figure. As the Commercial Development Area is predominately mapped near main community entryways and other highly visible locations, the Town is particularly concerned that it contributes to the Town's aesthetic quality. Views to and from highways like 12, N, and AB are of particular importance to the Town.
5. Jointly work with the State Department of Transportation, the Dane County Highway and Transportation Department, and developers to ensure that adequate rights-of-way for future roadway expansions are provided and that proper controls on vehicle access (especially the number, design and location of access driveways and intersecting local roadways) are provided. Driveway cuts that impede the efficient and safe operations of roadways are prohibited. Shared driveways and frontage road access may be required. Off-street parking shall be delineated on the site plan, in accordance with the provisions of the Dane County Zoning Ordinance.
6. Require developments to address off-site traffic, environmental, and neighborhood impacts.
7. If the business requires levels of service or roads greater than what the Town can provide, the proposal will have to be modified, it may be rejected, or it may be required to fund required service or road improvements.
8. As necessary, apply appropriate limitations preventing unacceptable future commercial or industrial uses (or conditions such as outdoor storage) on an approved development site through a deed restriction.
9. Do not permit parking or storage of vehicles within the public road easement or right-of-way.
10. If the business is located within 100 feet of an adjacent residence or residential zoning district, buffer the side of the business site facing the residence.
11. Assure that development provides access and an attractive rear yard appearance and existing and future development behind these sites.
12. If the business is to operate at night, design all outdoor lighting so as not to create glare or shine directly on neighboring residences.

**Figure 9: Resource Protection Corridor Purpose and Policies**

Purpose		
Protect continuous systems of sensitive environmental resources and natural areas, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetlands, as defined in state statute and including both the shoreland-wetland and inland-wetland districts under Chapter 11 of the Dane County Code.</li> <li>• Dane County Code shoreland setbacks and wetland buffers required under Chapter 11.</li> <li>• 1% regional floodplains, including the general floodplain district, floodway district and flood storage district, as described in Chapter 17 of the Dane County Code.</li> <li>• Slopes exceeding 20%.</li> </ul>		
Typical Implementing Zoning Districts	New Lot Sizes	Relationship to Town's TDR Program
NR-C Natural Resource Conservancy FP-35 General Farmland Preservation	Division of land within the Resource Protection Corridor is discouraged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May serve as a TDR Sending Area where also mapped as an Agricultural Preservation Area.</li> <li>• May not serve as a TDR Receiving Area.</li> </ul>
Resource Protection Corridor Policies		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All development shall be consistent with and meet the requirements of Chapter 11 of the Dane County Code of Ordinances regulating shorelands, wetlands, and flood plains.</li> <li>2. Work collectively with surrounding local governments, Dane County, and the State on the protection and preservation of these areas.</li> <li>3. Prohibit building development in the Resource Protection Corridor, and driveways on slopes greater than 20%, except as may be allowed via variance or special exception processes in the associated ordinances.</li> <li>4. Permit cropping and grazing within the Resource Protection Corridor where in accordance with county, state, and federal law. Where Resource Protection Corridors overlap lands in designated Agricultural Preservation Areas, properties remain eligible for farmland preservation tax credits and other benefits under Chapter 91, Wis. Stats. and the Dane County Farmland Preservation Plan.</li> <li>5. Permit recreational activities such as trails in publicly owned Resource Protection Corridor areas where compatible with natural resource protection.</li> <li>6. Where development is proposed near the mapped Resource Protection Corridor, determine the exact boundaries based on the features that define those areas. De-map these areas as Resource Protection Corridor to allow more intensive uses if:                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. more detailed information or studies reveal that the characteristic(s) that resulted in their designation as a Resource Protection Corridor is not actually present,</li> <li>b. approvals from appropriate agencies are granted to alter land so that the characteristic that resulted in its designation will not exist, and/or</li> <li>c. a mapping error is confirmed.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		