

Subpart B. Conditional Zoning Districts

§42-45. Conditional Zoning Districts Established

Conditional Zoning Districts are created for the purpose of providing an optional rezoning choice where the *owner* of property proposes to rezone property and, in order to, among other reasons, carry out the purposes of the *Comprehensive Plan*, proposes to impose special limitations and conditions on the *use* of the property proposed for rezoning.

Conditional Zoning Districts are zoning districts in which the development and *use* of the property is subject to predetermined Chapter standards and the rules, regulations, and conditions imposed as part of the legislative decision creating the district and applying it to each individual development project. For each General Use Zoning District, there is a corresponding Conditional Zoning District (CD) which corresponds to each of the districts authorized by this Chapter as follows: R1-CD; R2-CD; R2R-CD; R3-CD; R-4-CD; OI-CD; LC-CD; CC-CD; RC-CD; I-CD; R-40-CD; WR-CD; SR-CD; and MU-CD.

Certain types of zoning districts would be inappropriate at certain locations in the absence of special conditions. Some land *uses* are of a nature or scale that may have significant impacts on both the immediately surrounding area and the entire community, which cannot be predetermined or controlled by general district standards. There are also circumstances in which a general use district designation allowing such a *use* by right would not be appropriate for a particular property though the *use* could, if properly planned, be appropriate for the property consistent with the objectives of these regulations, the adopted *Comprehensive Plan*, and adopted district. The review process established in this section provides for the accommodation of such *uses* by a reclassification of property into a conditional zoning district, subject to specific conditions, which ensure compatibility of the *use* with the use and enjoyment of neighboring properties.

Where the *applicant* for rezoning desires property to be rezoned to such a district in such situations, the Conditional Zoning District is a means by which such special conditions can be imposed in the furtherance of the purpose of this Chapter and the recommendations of the *Comprehensive Plan*. The Conditional Zoning District classification will be considered for rezoning only with the consent of the property *owner*. If, for any reason, any condition imposed pursuant to these regulations is found to be illegal or invalid or if the *applicant* should fail to accept any condition, it is the intent of this Chapter that the authorization of such Conditional Zoning District shall be null and void and of no effect and that proceedings shall be instituted to rezone the property to its previous zoning classification.

§42-46. Plans and Other Information to Accompany Petition

Property may be rezoned to a Conditional Zoning District only in response to, and consistent with, a petition submitted by the *owners* of all of the property to be included in the district. A petition for conditional zoning must include a *site plan*, drawn to scale, and supporting information and text that specifies the actual *use* or *uses* intended for the property and any rules, regulations and conditions that, in addition to all predetermined requirements, will govern the development and *use* of the property.

§42-47. Approval of Conditional Zoning District

Conditional Zoning District decisions are a legislative process subject to judicial review using the same procedures and standard of review as applicable to general *use district* zoning

decisions. Conditional Zoning District decisions shall be made in consideration of identified relevant adopted land *use* plans for the area, including, but not limited to, the *Comprehensive Plan*, strategic plans, district plans, *community plans*, *neighborhood* plans, corridor plans, and other land-use policy documents.

§42-48. Conditions to Approval of Petition

In approving a petition for the reclassification of property to a Conditional Zoning District, the Planning Board may recommend, and the Board of Commissioners may request that reasonable and appropriate conditions be attached to the approval of the petition. Conditions and site-specific standards shall be limited to those that address the conformance of the development and *use* of the site to County ordinances and any officially adopted *Comprehensive Plan* or other land *use* plan, that address the impacts reasonably expected to be generated by the development or *use* of the site. Any such conditions should relate to the impact of the proposed *use* on surrounding property, support facilities (such as parking areas and *driveways*), pedestrian and vehicular circulation systems, *screening* and buffering areas, timing of development, *road* and *right-of-way* improvements, water and sewer improvements, *stormwater* drainage, provision of *open space*, and other matters that the Commissioners may find appropriate or the *applicant* may propose. Such conditions to approval of the petition may include dedication to the County, State or other public entity, as appropriate, of any *rights-of-way* or *easements* for *roads*, water, sewer, or other public utilities necessary to serve the proposed development. The *applicant* shall have a reasonable opportunity to consider and respond to any such conditions prior to final action by the Board of Commissioners. Only those conditions mutually approved by the Board of Commissioners and the *applicant* may be incorporated into the petition.

§42-49. Effect of Approval

If a petition for conditional zoning is approved, the development and *use* of the property shall be governed by the existing Chapter requirements applicable to the district's category, the approved *site plan* for the district, and any additional approved rules, regulations, and conditions, all of which shall constitute zoning regulations for the approved district and are binding on the property as an amendment to these regulations and to the Official Zoning Map.

Only those *uses* and *structures* indicated in the approved petition and *site plan* shall be allowed on the subject property. A change of location of the *structures* may be authorized pursuant to §42-50 (Alterations to Approval). Changes to the *site plan* layout shall not increase the number of *structures*.

Following the approval of the petition for a Conditional Zoning District, the subject property shall be identified on the Official Zoning Map by the appropriate district designation. A conditional zoning shall be identified by the same designation as the underlying general district followed by the letters "CD" (for example "OI-CD").

§42-50. Alterations to Approval

Except as provided herein, changes to an approved petition or to the conditions attached to the approved petition shall be treated the same as amendments to these regulations or to the Official Zoning Map and shall be processed in accordance with the procedures of this Chapter.

The *Planning Director* or designee shall have the delegated authority to approve an amendment to an approved *site plan*. The standard for approving or denying such an amendment shall be that the change does not significantly alter the *site plan* or its conditions and that the change does not have a significant impact upon abutting properties. Any decision must be in writing stating the grounds for approval or denial.

For *nonresidential development*, an increase in the intensity of the development is limited to ten (10) percent of the approved *structure* size or 1,000 square feet, whichever is less. For *residential development*, increases in density are limited to ten (10) percent of the development or no more than five (5) *dwelling units*, whichever is less.

The *Planning Director*, however, shall have the discretion to decline to exercise the delegated authority either because of uncertainty about approval of the change pursuant to the standard or because Board of Commissioner consideration and public hearing is deemed appropriate under the circumstances. If the *Planning Director* declines to exercise this authority, the *applicant* may request a map amendment as permitted by this Chapter.

§42-51. Review of Approval of a Conditional Zoning District

It is intended that property shall be reclassified to a Conditional Zoning District only in the event of firm plans to develop the property. Therefore, no sooner than three (3) years after the date of approval of the petition, the Planning Board may examine the progress made toward developing the property in accordance with the approved petition and any conditions attached to the approval. If the Planning Board determines that progress has not been made in accordance with the approved petition and conditions, the Planning Board shall forward to the Board of Commissioners a report, which may recommend that the property be classified to another district.