

LAND USE MAPPING EXERCISE

ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

This activity will get you thinking about where it is appropriate to locate development in rural communities, and how the placement of that development impacts the environment, the economy, and quality of life. During the activity, you will be determining which land uses make sense in different areas of the community and what opportunities and challenges are associated with different types of development.

BACKGROUND

Each community will develop differently over the years. However, most rural communities have three main types of places:

- **Downtown**—historic core of the community, including Main Street and the surrounding blocks and buildings
- **Town**—developed area surrounding the Downtown core, including neighborhoods, community facilities, other business areas, and parks
- **Countryside**—rural area surrounding the town where development is generally very limited

For purposes of this activity, assume that your community has developed in accordance with this general pattern.



INSTRUCTIONS



You will work in small groups (3 to 4 people) to complete this activity. The instructor will present an assortment of land uses that are typical in rural areas. Assume that each of these land uses will be developed in your community. Work in your group to determine where in your community it makes sense for this land use to be located (Downtown, Town, or Countryside). While you discuss each land use, consider the following questions:



- Does locating this use in a particular area help or hinder the goal of supporting the community's rural landscape?
- Does locating this use in a particular area help or hinder the goal of helping existing places?
- Does locating this use in a particular area help or hinder the goal of creating great new places?
- Does locating this use in a particular area support your region's economic development goals?
- What potential challenges or opportunities could arise from siting this land use in the area selected (e.g., traffic, utilities, appearance, etc.)?


Nominate one person in your group to serve as the scribe and take notes; nominate a second person to report out at the end of the activity. Work your way through the worksheet, and identify your community's desired location for each land use. Note any thoughts or ideas that you have related to potential impacts or challenges associated with locating a use in your selected area.

If you believe that this location helps advance the goals identified, use a plus sign (+) to denote that the location supports the goal. If you believe that this location detracts from the goal, use a negative sign (-). Leave the cell blank if you do not think the goal is applicable or if the location you selected has no impact on the goal.

Land Use	Preferred Location <i>(Downtown, Town, Countryside)</i>	<u>WHY?</u> What potential challenges or opportunities could arise from siting the land use in the selected area?	Does locating this land use in this area help achieve any of the following goals? (+ supports, - detracts)		
			<i>Support the rural landscape</i>	<i>Create great new places</i>	<i>Help existing places thrive</i>
<p>1. Single-Family Housing</p> 					
<p>2. Multi-Family Housing</p> 					

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			<i>Support the rural landscape</i>	<i>Create great new places</i>	<i>Help existing places thrive</i>
<p>3. Retail Shop</p> 					
<p>4. Big Box Store</p> 					

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			<i>Support the rural landscape</i>	<i>Create great new places</i>	<i>Help existing places thrive</i>
<p>5. Civic Use</p> 					
<p>6. School</p> 					

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			<i>Support the rural landscape</i>	<i>Create great new places</i>	<i>Help existing places thrive</i>
7. Industry 					
8. Energy Production/Resource Extraction 