

Section 5.7 Rural (R) District^{23, 32}

The purpose of this district is to provide a location for low density single family residential development in conjunction with providing continued farming activities. This district is generally not served with public water or sewer facilities, although certain size developments processed under the cluster provision of Section 5.7D(2) may choose to do so. A primary function of the low density residential development permitted within this section is to preserve the rural character of the County and the agricultural community. All lots subdivided in the Rural District are subject to Section 5.7D. The Envision Jefferson 2035 Comprehensive Plan recommends that the cluster provision of the Zoning Ordinance be the preferred method of residential development in the Rural zoning district.^{8, 23, 32}

A. Principal Permitted and Conditional Uses^{23, 27, 32}

1. Uses that are permitted, conditional, and not permitted in this district shall be as indicated in Appendix C, Principal Permitted and Conditional Uses Table.^{27, 32}
2. Uses shown as conditional uses (CU) for this district in Appendix C, Principal Permitted and Conditional Uses Table shall be subject to review and approval by the Board of Zoning Appeals in accordance with Section 6.3 of this Ordinance.^{27, 32}

B. Minimum Lot Area, Lot Width and Yard Requirements²³

1. Setbacks, height, and other site development standards shall be as indicated in Appendix A, Residential Site Development Standards, and Appendix B, Non-Residential Site Development Standards, except as provided elsewhere in this Ordinance.²⁷
2. Commercial and Light Industrial uses are subject to the requirements of Section 5.6D and the requirements for such standards in Article 8.²³
3. Any building or feeding pens in which farm animals are kept shall comply with distance requirements specified in Section 4.6 and the requirements for barns and feeding pens specified in Article 8. Also, any buildings used to store manure shall comply with distance requirements specified in Section 4.6A.²³

C. Height Regulations

No structure shall exceed 45 feet in height except as provided in Section 9.2.³²

D. Maximum Number of Lots Allowed

All parcels of land that were on record as of October 5, 1988 are entitled to subdivide for single family detached residences based on Subsections 5.7D.1, 5.7D.2 or 5.7D.3 below.

A property owner may use a combination of these Subsections, provided that the number of lots are prorated by density. The density rights for any rural development shall be based on the parcel of record as of October 5, 1988 utilizing the following alternatives:^{8, 32}

1. A property owner may create one (1) lot for every 15 acres with a minimum lot size of three (3) acres.^{17, 21}
 - a. Maximum number of lots allowed (density) shall be computed using acreage on record as of October 5, 1988. Any divisions which have occurred since that time shall be subtracted from the maximum number of lots allowed.³²
 - b. A property owner may transfer rights to adjacent parcels which are owned by the same entity.^{17, 21}
2. Clustering
 - a. Purpose and Intent
 - i. To encourage the conservation of farmland in the Rural Zoning District by planning the residential development allowed in the zone to provide for the best obtainable siting, access and location of lots on a tract while retaining a portion of the property as green space³².
 - ii. To provide for a well planned development while minimizing the use of prime agricultural land.
 - b. Requirements
 - i. One (1) lot may be subdivided for every five (5) acres.^{17, 21, 23, 32}

- (a) Maximum number of lots allowed (density) shall be computed using acreage on record as of October 5, 1988. Any divisions which have occurred since that time shall be subtracted from the maximum number of lots allowed.³²
- (b) A minimum of 50% of the property shall be retained as green space and shall contain no further development rights unless the property is placed in another zone or further subdivision is allowed by ordinance. A note to this effect shall be placed on all cluster subdivision plats.³²
- (c) For every additional 5% green space preservation, the following sliding scale may be utilized:³²

55% green space	1 lot per 4.5 acres
60% green space	1 lot per 4 acres
65% green space	1 lot per 3.5 acres
70% green space	1 lot per 3 acres
75% green space	1 lot per 2.5 acres

- ii. The residue of a lot divided utilizing either 5.7D.1 or 5.7D.2 prior to the date of adoption of this amendment on March 16, 2017, shall have additional rights based on the provisions of this Subsection, provided that the total lots developed shall not exceed one lot per five acres based on the parent parcel on October 5, 1988 and all other provisions of this Subsection are complied with.³²
- iii. Minimum lot size shall be 40,000 square feet for lots that will be served by individual wells and septic systems; 20,000 square feet for lots that will be served by a central water OR central sewerage system; and 10,000 square feet for lots that will be served by both a central water AND central sewerage system.^{17, 21, 32}
 - (a) Setbacks shall be 25' front, 12' sides, and 20' rear.
 - (b) All clusters of three (3) or more lots shall be served by an internal road; provided that all clusters utilizing the sliding scale in 5.7D.2.b shall have an internal road with direct access to a public road identified as a Major Collector or a Minor or Principal Arterial on the Envision Jefferson 2035 Comprehensive Plan Roadway Classification Map.²³
 - (c) Clusters of three (3) or more lots shall not be along an existing public road.
 - (d) A property owner may transfer rights to adjacent parcels which are owned by the same entity.^{17, 21}
- iv. Procedures²³
 - (a) Concept Plan. For the subdivision of tracts eligible for cluster lots, a concept plan must be submitted pursuant to the requirements of the Jefferson County Subdivision and Land Development Regulations. All cluster developments must be processed as a Major Subdivision.^{17, 21, 23}
 - (b) The Concept Plan for a proposed Cluster Development can be combined with the required submittal and process requirements for a Concept Plan for a Major Subdivision as outlined in the Subdivision Regulations, provided that the Concept Plan includes all requirements of the Concept Plan in the Subdivision Regulations and includes the necessary soils and topographic data, together with a written narrative, required for the analysis listed below.³²
 - (c) The Staff shall review and make a recommendation to the Planning Commission regarding the proposed design and layout of the proposed Cluster Development. Staff shall consider the following when reviewing the Cluster Concept Plan:³²
 - (1) Soils: The cluster plan should minimize the use of the higher quality soils (class I, II and III as designated in the soils classification study) and maximize the use of steeper sloped areas, areas of poorer soils and areas which are otherwise less productive for agricultural uses.

- (2) Surrounding land use and zoning: The cluster plan shall consider the existing land uses and zoning in the vicinity. Generally, new lots which are adjacent to existing development or residential zoning are preferred to creating an isolated cluster of new houses.
 - (d) If the concept plan is approved by the Planning Commission, the applicant may then proceed with platting of the clustered development in accordance with the Jefferson County Subdivision and Land Development Regulations and the approved concept plan. The plat shall bear a statement indicating "The land lies within an approved rural cluster development and no further subdivision of the remaining land is permitted unless the property is placed in another zone or further subdivision is allowed by ordinance or regulation".²³
3. If the development rights under Subsections 5.7D.1 and 5.7D.2 above have not been utilized, any property that was a lot of record as of October 5, 1988 may create three (3) total lots (including the residue) during any five year period. Such application may process as a Minor Subdivision, in accordance with the Subdivision Regulations, and shall be exempt from density limitations provided that all subdivision requirements are satisfied. Applications which exceed this number during any five year period shall process under Subsection 5.7D.1 or 5.7D.2 above. Only the residue or parent parcel may qualify under this provision once the original subdivision takes place. All lots that qualify under this section must meet subdivision requirements.³²
4. Subdivisions involving transfers of land between family members known as "Family Transfers", as defined in Article 2, shall not be subject to the density requirements of this section. All lots that qualify under this section must meet subdivision requirements. Family transfers are not entitled to further subdivide except as another Family transfer.³²
5. Once the maximum number of lots are created under 5.7D, the property cannot be further subdivided unless the Ordinance is amended to allow such.
6. Notwithstanding any other provision contained in Article 5, Section 5.7(D), if a property was previously subdivided under the one (1) lot per ten (10) acre provision after October 5, 1988 and before this Ordinance was amended on March 16, 2017 (ZTA 16-01), then the property may continue to subdivide, or finish subdividing, utilizing the property's remaining development rights as they existed at the time(s) when the subdivision was previously processed. These vested rights may be shown on a previously approved Preliminary or Final Plat, Concept Plan or Community Impact Statement, or otherwise contained within the property's subdivision files within the Department of Engineering, Planning and Zoning.

Proposed Text Amendment
Jefferson County Zoning and Development Review Ordinance
Article 5. Section 5.7D
November 21, 2017

Authority: Article 12, Section 12.4.B.

Applicant: Richard S. Nickell
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Section of Ordinance: Article 5, Section 5.7.D.

Proposed Amendment: Attached with proposed section in Red

Relevant Envision Jefferson 2035 Comprehensive Plan Support Recommendations:

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Rural/Agricultural Areas Rural/Agricultural properties outside the UGBs and PGAs are allowed to develop using the "by right" standard of one lot per 15 acres and a cluster development of one lot per ten acres. Over the past number of years, the Zoning Ordinance has been amended to allow many additional uses in the Rural District to promote more rural agricultural uses and value added operations. The 2008 Subdivision and Land Development Regulations have been amended to reduce the site improvement standards for rural business. This Plan proposes that a holistic review of Rural zoned properties should occur that would allow for greater scope and variety of agriculture related activities and rural recreation. It should be noted that regardless of location, whether in an UGB, GMB, or PGA, all Rural zoned properties shall be permitted to undertake the activities noted above. Additionally, this Plan proposes that the Zoning Ordinance be reviewed and amended to consider a higher density for rural/agricultural lots utilizing the cluster provision instead of allowing rural residential developments via the Condition Use Permit process.

As part of the Envision Jefferson 2035 process, there are no zoning map amendments (rezoning requests) or reductions in existing zoning rights proposed by the County. The existing zoning on any property in the County will not be affected by this process. This Plan, including the Future Land Use Guide, does not propose to reduce the rights of any property owner. The Plan and the Future Land Use Guide propose to retain vested property rights....

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Urban Level Development Recommendations (Goal 1)

1. Recognize the existing vested rights, development entitlements, and permitted density levels on properties in Jefferson County.