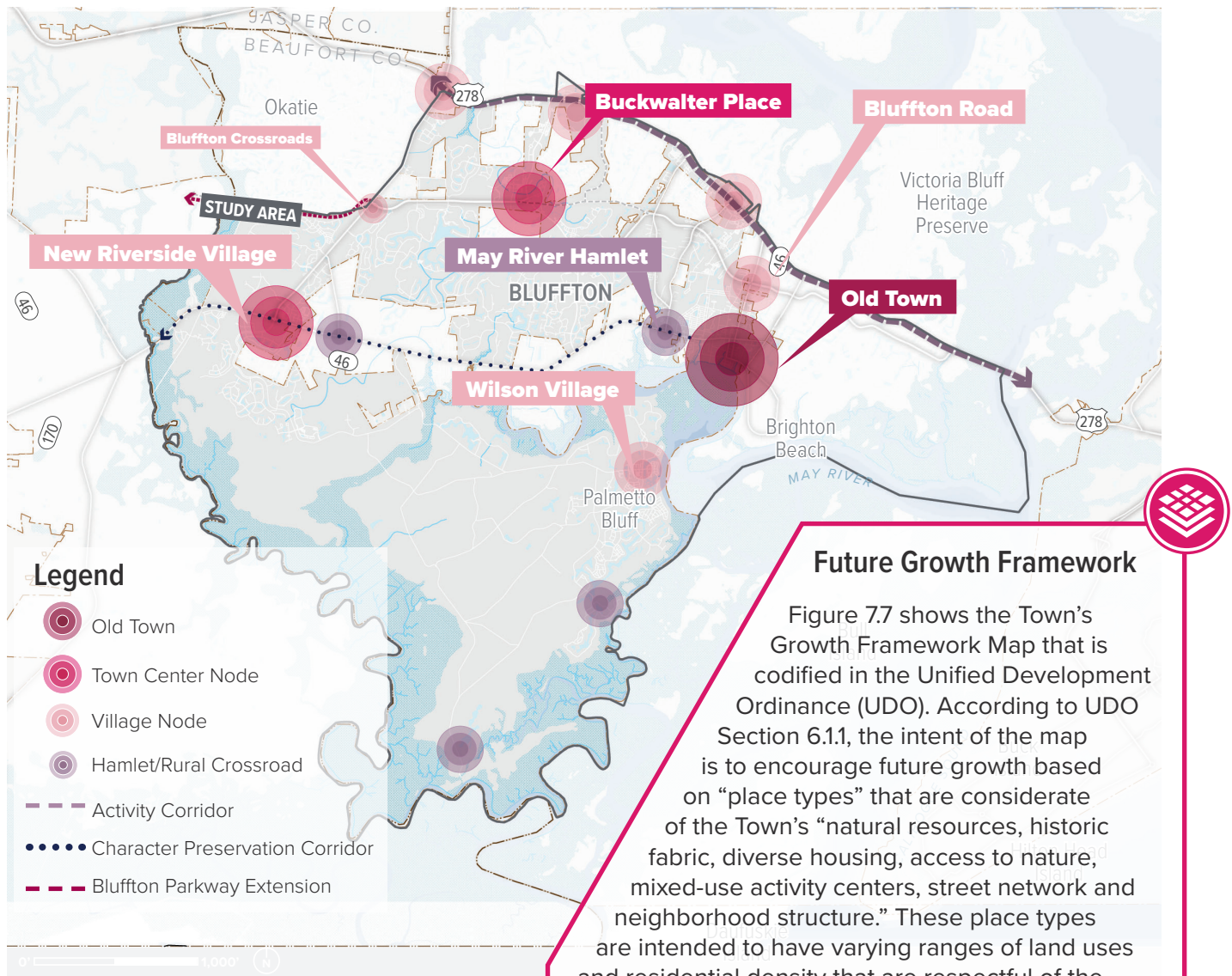


Current Growth Framework Map



- m. **Forge new connections.** Leverage the emerging community-wide trail system to connect all parts of the community. Strengthen partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions to ensure consistent maintenance of public infrastructure, and execute key roadway expansions such as the Bluffton Parkway to reduce traffic congestion within the community.
- n. **Preserve the rural corridors and gateways.** Several roadways serve as gateways or entrances to Bluffton. The existing rural character should be protected to maintain the gateway into the community. South Carolina Highway 46 is a State Scenic By-Way.



6.1 Introduction and the Growth Framework Map

6.1.1 Intent

The Town strives to provide a sustainable, environmentally conscious, and business friendly community. In this regard, the intent of this Article is to provide applicants options and incentives to integrate sustainable growth principles for neighborhood development and building construction, as well as promote workforce/affordable housing goals.

A portion of this Section is facilitated through the use of a [Growth Framework Map](#) which sets forth a land use vision that assumes that growth should be sustainable as stated in the Town of Bluffton [Comprehensive Plan](#). The [Growth Framework Map](#) is structured to suggest patterns of growth into "place types" that are intended to result in a growth pattern that respects the Town's natural resources, historic fabric, diverse housing, access to nature, mixed-use activity centers, street network and neighborhood structure. Place types are made up of centers and edges with varying degrees of residential and non-residential intensity. Centers consist of locations where a range of uses and density establishes context and character. Edges are either natural (such as a wetland, lake, or coastal marsh) or man-made such as a highway, parkway, or utility easements.

The Town of Bluffton recognizes that a growth framework is necessary to prepare for a more compact and sustainable future. The Town further recognizes that certain areas are best suited for a more intense land development scenario while other areas are more suited for a lower intensity of land use. To effectively and efficiently provide public services, attract desired investment, protect property values, and protect key natural resources, this growth framework is vital as the Town of Bluffton increases in population.

6.1.2 Applicability

This Article shall apply to all development or redevelopment located within a Place Type as designated on the [Growth Framework Map](#), as adopted herein, and/or located within an already existing neighborhood as defined in the Town's [Comprehensive Plan](#). Each application shall be judged on its own merit and the request for approval of Sustainable Development Incentives defined herein, shall be made at the time the applicable application is submitted.

The [Growth Framework Map](#) shall serve as a guiding document to facilitate preferred growth scenarios and is composed of the following Place Types:

- A. **Rural Crossroads:** Located at the intersection of two or more rural roads, the Rural Crossroads provide a small amount of locally serving retail in a rural context. Generally, rural crossroads should have a distinct boundary from nearby agricultural uses or the natural environment;
- B. **Hamlet:** Located in less urbanized areas, Hamlets typically exist at the edge of rural and developed areas. A Hamlet is made up on a single center with a small retail area and is surrounded by sparsely developed residential areas and rural businesses. The retail area and surrounding residential area of the hamlet transitions into agricultural areas or natural settings;
- C. **Village:** Located in highly developed areas or those areas to be developed, a Village consists of a single center surrounded by compact, complete and connected neighborhoods providing support for a mixed-use area with moderate intensity. The mixed-use development occurs at the intersection of larger neighborhoods and along corridor connecting multiple neighborhoods; and





- D. **Town Center:** Located in the most intensely developed areas or those areas to be intensely developed, Town Centers consist of compact, complete, and highly connected neighborhoods that support a larger, most intense mixed-use development condition. Buildings within the Town Center are usually larger, attached, and may be up to five stories in height.

6.1.3 Approval Authority

Sustainable Development Incentives, as described herein, shall be determined and approved by Town Council, unless approval authority is delegated to Town Manager through Town Council Resolution.

6.1.4 Calculation of Fee(s), Refund(s), Waiver(s)

Sustainable Development Incentives shall be calculated as described in this Article using the Master Fee Schedule and/or applicable Development Agreement in effect at the time the application requesting Sustainable Development Incentives is determined complete by the UDO Administrator. Refund(s), as described in this Article, refer to fees paid by the applicant for the application requested prior to approval of incentives. Waiver(s), as described in this Article, refer to future fees applicable to the application that the approval authority has determined are no longer due as part of the overall approved incentives.

6.2 Design Parameters

The following land use scenarios and development characteristics shall apply to development and/or redevelopment within the place type designations as illustrated on the [Growth Framework Map](#). Further, as applicable per the below Table, [Article 4, Zoning Districts](#) shall serve as a baseline for implementation.

Table 6.2: Design Parameters

	Rural Crossroads	Hamlet	Village	Town Center
Activity Mix	Retail, Service, Agricultural, Community/Civic Use	Retail, Service, Residential, Agricultural, Community/Civic Use	Retail, Service, Residential, Community/Civic Use	Retail, Service, Residential, Community/Civic Use
Mix of Uses	Horizontal Mixed Use	Horizontal Mixed Use	Horizontal and Vertical Mixed Use	Horizontal and Vertical Mixed Use
Character of Buildings	Detached Residential, Agricultural Buildings, Other Detached Buildings	Detached Residential, Agricultural Buildings, Other Detached Buildings	Attached and Detached Residential Buildings, Attached and Detached Non-Residential Buildings	Mostly Attached Buildings
Place Type Scale	Size: 0.5-5 acres	Size: 6-80 acres	Size: 160+ acres	Size: 200+ acres
Zoning District Allocation	0-10% AG 20-50% RG 30-80% RMU	0-20% RMU 20-50% RG 30-70% NC	10-30% RG, NG-HD 20-60% NC, NCE-HD 10-30% GM	5-10% RG, NG-HD 30-70% NC, NCE-HD 30-70% GM

