

**Madison Comprehensive Land Use Codes**  
**Community Mixed-Use and Employment**

***Community Mixed-Use (CMU)***

Community Mixed-Use districts are the recommended locations for a relatively high density mix of residential, retail, office, institutional and civic uses in a compact urban setting. Compared to Neighborhood Mixed-Use districts, Community Mixed-Use districts are typically larger, may extend several blocks in each direction, and are intended to include a much wider range of non-residential activities.

*Location and Design Characteristics*

Community Mixed-Use areas should be located adjacent to Medium and High Density Residential areas whenever possible. As an alternative, when adjacent to Low Density Residential areas, the mixed-use district should be large enough to include a significant amount of relatively high-density housing within the defined district. Community Mixed-Use districts should also be located along existing or planned high-capacity public transit routes, and a transit stop should be located at, or very close to, all activity center focal points within the district. Because of their location along transportation corridors, it is recommended that many of the City's aging strip commercial centers and suburban-style shopping centers be considered for eventual redevelopment as Mixed-Use districts. Community Mixed-Use areas may also be located adjacent to Employment areas whenever possible, in order to provide employment centers with easy access to the amenities and advantages that nearby residential, commercial, mixed use, institutional, park and open space offer.

Community Mixed-Use areas should include at least one activity center focal point which is developed at relatively high densities and focused on a specific use or cluster of uses, such as a mixed-use or commercial core area, an urban plaza or square, a civic use, or a dense residential development. Community Mixed-Use areas should be consistent with the design standards for mixed-use areas recommended in City plans, and should provide a pedestrian-oriented urban environment generally characterized by:

Well-designed buildings placed close to the sidewalk and street.

Parking located primarily behind the buildings or underground. On-street parking is recommended where sufficient right-of-way is available.

Buildings more than one story in height, with maximum building height compatible with the size of the district and surrounding structures and land uses. Specific height standards may be recommended in an adopted neighborhood or special area plan.

Pedestrian-friendly design amenities, such as decorative paving and lighting along sidewalks and paths, plazas, benches, landscaping.

Whenever possible, Community Mixed-Use districts should be designed to incorporate some or all of the Transit-Oriented Development standards outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

*Recommended Land Uses*

- Commercial buildings and employment, retail and service uses serving both adjacent neighborhoods and wider community markets. Detailed neighborhood or special area plans may provide more-specific recommendations on allowed types of non-residential uses.
- Housing types generally similar to Medium-Density Residential districts, provided the building scale is appropriate to the district and the adjacent neighborhood.
- Mixed-use buildings.

- Non-commercial residential support uses similar to Medium-Density Residential districts.

#### *Recommended Development Intensity*

Generally, buildings should be at least two stories in height. Specific height standards should be established in neighborhood or special area plans and should be compatible with the scale and intensity of the district as a whole and the context of the surrounding neighborhood.

The maximum development intensity (floor area ratio) for commercial uses should be established in a detailed neighborhood or special area plan.

No fixed limits on the gross square footage of commercial buildings or establishments, but the types and sizes of commercial uses appropriate in the district may be defined in an adopted neighborhood or special area plan.

Net residential densities within a Community Mixed-Use district generally should not exceed 60 dwelling units per acre, but a neighborhood or special area plan may recommend small areas within the district for a higher maximum density if the development is compatible with the scale and character of the neighborhood.

#### **Employment (E)**

Employment districts (as distinct from the Commercial districts) are recommended as predominantly office, research and specialized employment areas; and generally do not include retail and consumer service uses serving the wider community. Limited retail and service establishments primarily serving employees and users of the district are encouraged. Although primarily used to identify relatively large, multi-establishment employment districts, such as the University of Wisconsin Research Park, the designation may also be applied to an individual property, such as a hospital, for example.

#### *Location and Design Characteristics*

Employment districts typically require good transportation access and should be located on or near major arterial or collector roadways and served by high-capacity transit routes. This is especially important for districts with large numbers of employees. Districts should provide a variety of flexible sites for small, local or start-up businesses, as well as sites for large national or regional enterprises.

Employment districts should be designed to encourage multi-modal travel and convenient circulation to supporting uses located within the district. This would include multiple access points to help disperse traffic, and a complete system of streets, sidewalks and pedestrian and bicycle paths to provide circulation within the district and connections to the surrounding roadway and bicycle route system. Whenever possible, Employment districts should be located close to other Commercial or Mixed-Use districts that provide restaurants, lodging and other services, particularly when these are not available within the district. Location close to residential areas is also recommended.

Whenever possible, Employment districts should be designed to compact urban activity centers rather than low-density suburban-style development, particularly in newly developing areas where the pattern of development is not yet established. Design and development standards are recommended that would help to make developments within existing districts more attractive, engaging and accessible places.

*Recommended Land Uses*

- Corporate and business offices.
- Research facilities and laboratories.
- Hospitals, medical clinics and similar uses.
- Complementary uses primarily serving district employees and users, such as business services, conference centers, child care, restaurants, convenience retail, and hotels and motels.

*Recommended Development Intensity*

No fixed limits on size of establishment or development intensity, but all uses should be compatible with the density and scale of surrounding development. More specific recommendations may be included in applicable neighborhood or special area plans, and also will be established by applicable zoning regulations. The recommended intensity of development will vary greatly depending on location.