



# Northwest Regional Planning Commission

## Act 181 Future Land Use Mapping Standards

### New Regional Future Land Use Map

The Regional Future Land Use Map guides regional planning and development. The map provides a big picture view to help coordinate growth across the region. Act 181 sets consistent land use categories for future land use mapping across every region in Vermont that correlate with Act 250 jurisdiction and state designation programs. The regional future land use map does not replace local planning or zoning nor change the regulatory impact of the regional plan in Act 250. Act 250 Criterion 10 on conformance with regional and local plans remains unchanged by the new law and continues to be standard by which these plans are considered.

### Mapping Areas for Future Growth

One of the main goals of the new map is to identify areas where growth is encouraged. Under Act 181, there are four regional land use categories to recognize vibrant mixed-use centers and neighborhoods:



Downtowns



Village Centers



Planned Growth Areas



Village Areas

Centers

Neighborhoods

These areas may be eligible for Act 250 exemptions and state designation program benefits. See the Act 250 Exemptions page and the State Designation Program page for more information.

### Other Mapping Areas

In addition to areas where growth is encouraged, the Regional Future Land Use map includes land use areas for agriculture, forestry, conservation, rural development and other areas such as recreation areas and industrial parks. Combined, these areas make up most of the land in the region, while areas encouraged for growth are a much smaller proportion. Unlike areas encouraged for growth, these areas will not be eligible for Act 250 exemptions or state designation programs. More information on these planning areas can be found here: <https://www.nrpcvt.com/resources-publications/act-181/>.

### How NRPC Will Map Your Community

NRPC is mapping land use areas in each community based on the statutory requirements of Act 181 and unified guidance developed in collaboration with the state's other Regional Planning Commissions. Local planning will be considered. Areas not encouraged for growth locally will not be mapped for growth regionally.

NRPC is meeting with each municipality's Planning Commission to review and take feedback on the Regional Future Land Use map. Regional residents will also have additional opportunities to provide comments on the maps at our regional open houses, schedule TBD.

To learn more, please visit our website at: [nrpcvt.com/resources-publications/act-181/](https://www.nrpcvt.com/resources-publications/act-181/)

