

AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY IN RILEY COUNTY

2008 Dialog on Sustainability

July 17, 2008



1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

Timeline:

Riley County Planning & Development

1980 Minimum lot size for a residence in the Ag district changed from 1 acre to 20 acres.

1974

1987 Riley County Comprehensive Plan adopted.

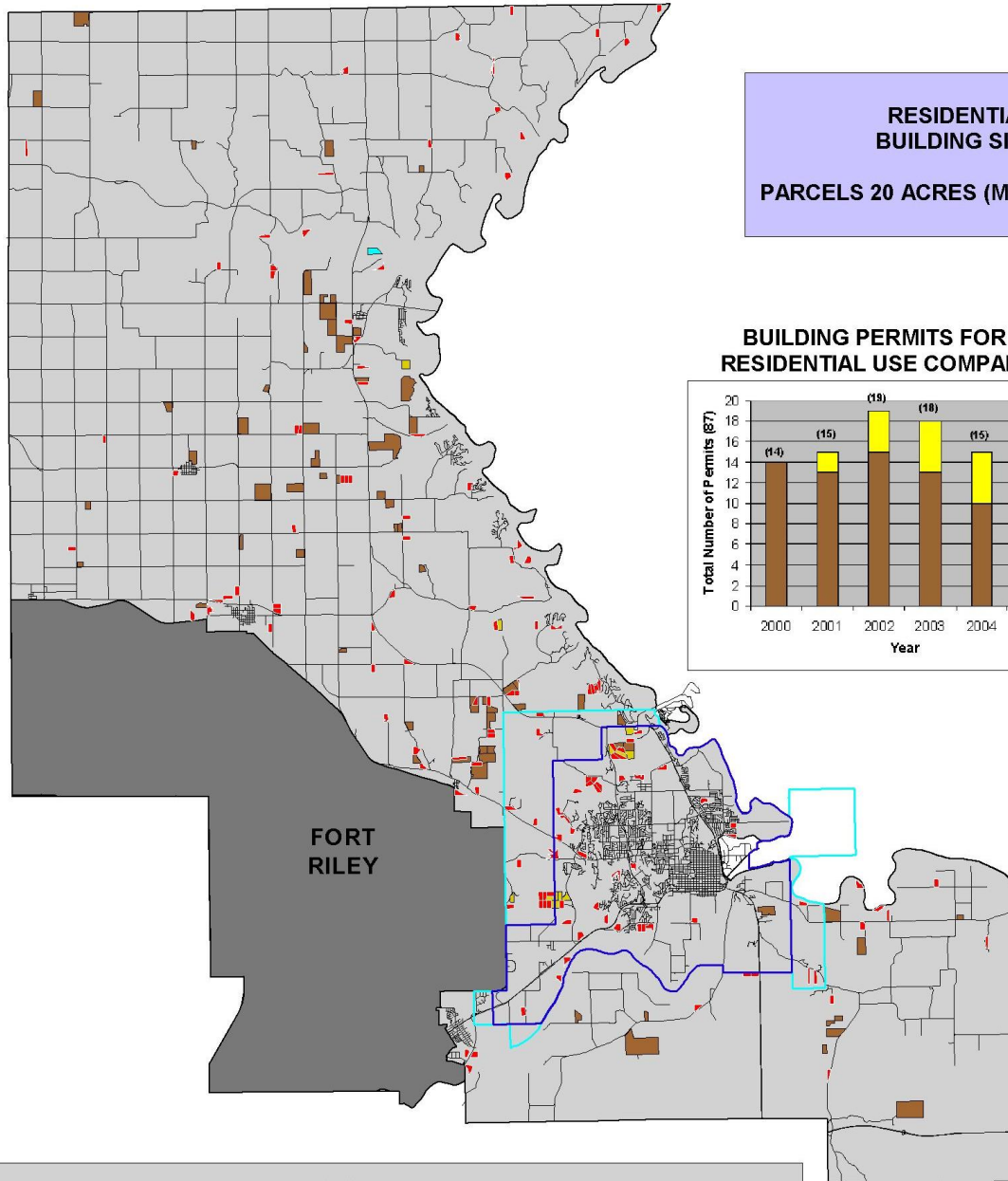
2003

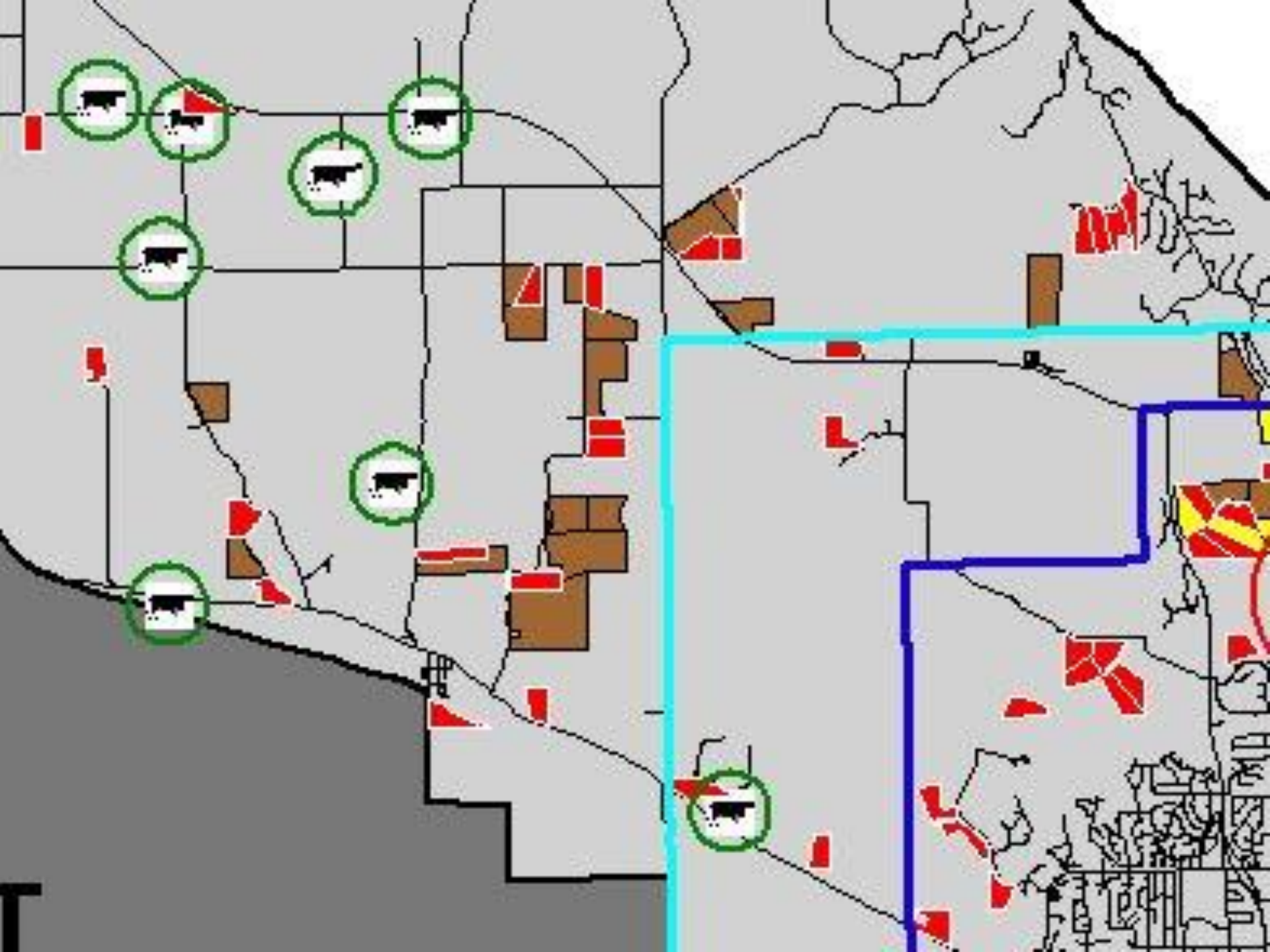
- Manhattan Urban Area Plan adopted jointly by City of Manhattan and Riley County.

1997 Zoning regulations adopted for areas surrounding the City of Manhattan.

2005 Vision 2025 campaign begun.

2006 (Sep) First meeting of Vision 2025 Committee.





Vision 2025



Comprehensive Plan Update

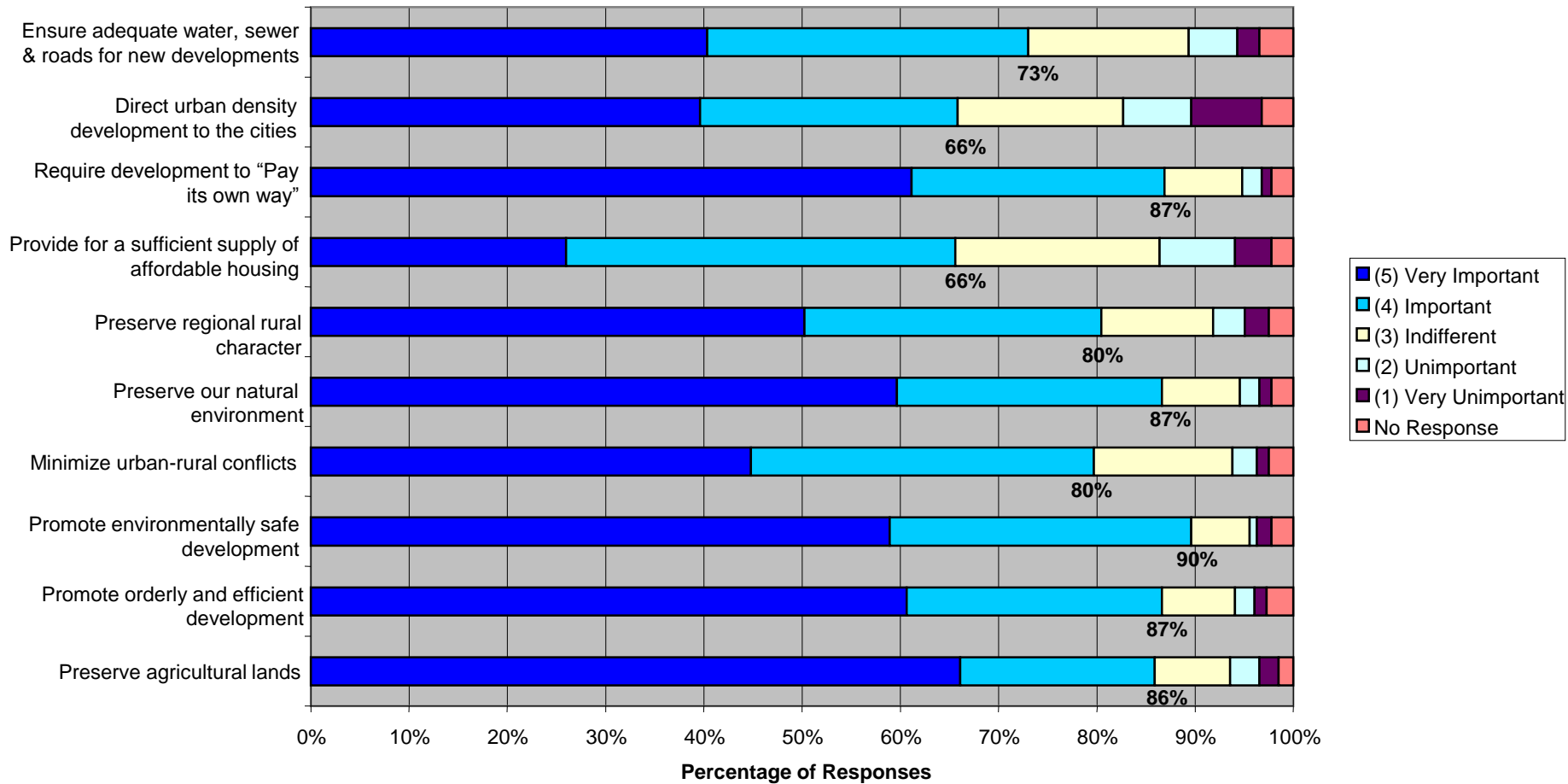
Survey Results Report

February 2006



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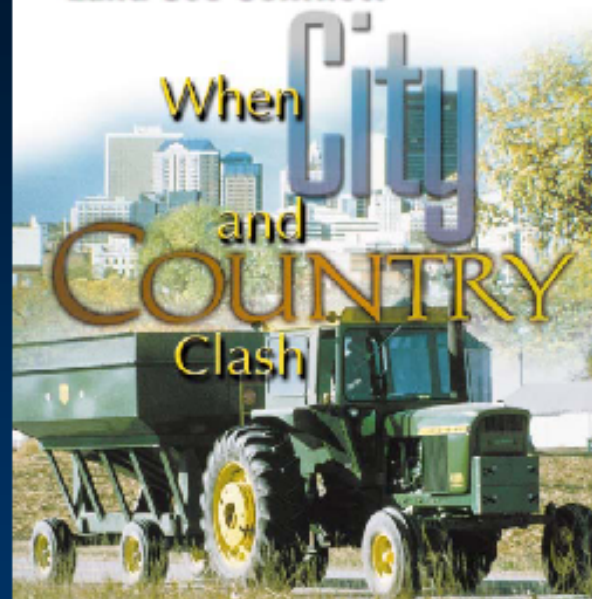
PLANNING GOALS RESPONSES





Brief Review of Issues Related to Growth Management and Farmland Protection

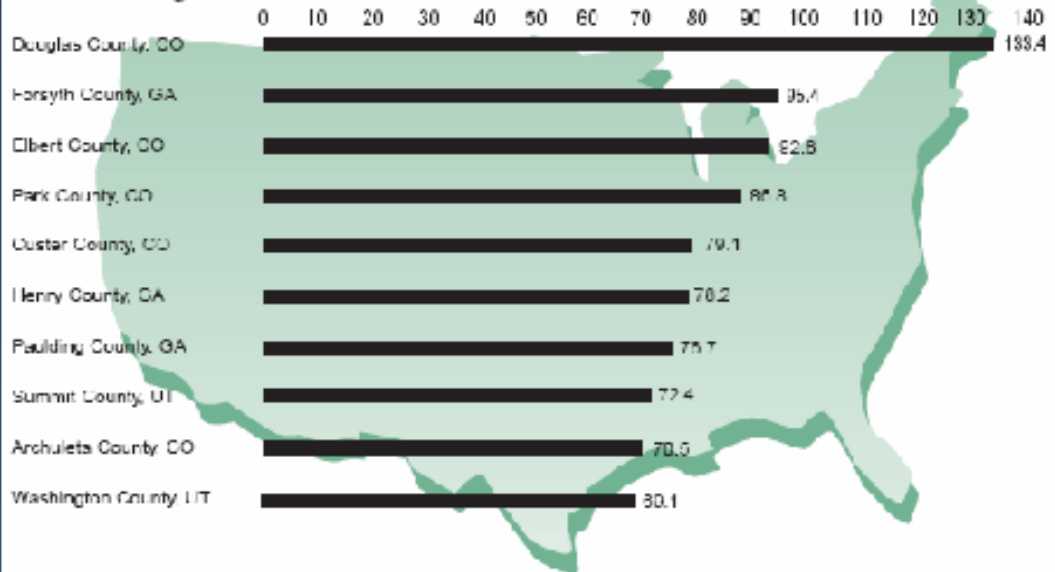
Land Use Conflict:



A Project of the National Public Policy Education Committee in Cooperation with the Farm Foundation

"Visualize a strip of land a half-mile wide stretching from New York to California," reads a study done for the Council on Environmental Quality and USDA. "That is one million acres — the amount of farmland converted to other uses from agriculture every year in the United States."

Fastest-Growing U.S. Counties Percent change 1990-98



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, 1999.

One of the fastest-growing suburban areas in the country is in and around Atlanta, Georgia. This southern city and its suburbs have grown from a span of 65 miles from north to south to a 110-mile span since 1990. Atlantans drive an average 36.5 miles per day round trip to work — the longest commute in the nation. Growth around this metropolitan area converts 500 acres per week from farmland and open space to urban uses. Air pollution is in violation of clean air standards. Similarly, many other suburban areas from coast to coast are experiencing unprecedented rates of growth.

"America is losing 1.2 million acres of farmland annually, much of it the best and most productive farmland near where most Americans live."

Source: American Farmland Trust (2006)

<http://www.farmland.org/programs/default.asp>

See also: www.farmland.org/resources/fic/default.asp

Source: <http://www.farmfoundation.org/pubs2/whencityandcountry.pdf>

Why Preserve Ag Land?

- Nonrenewable resource
- Primary and secondary economic impact
- Cultural heritage
- Local food
- Future alternative uses
- Wildlife habitat and related economic activity
- Quality of life
- Lower public costs
- Fragmentation diminishes sustainability

Obstacles to Preservation

- Population demands
- Cheap fuel
- Age of landowners
- “Island” view of property rights

Actions

- Support local agriculture
 - Farmer's markets, cooperatives, pick-your-own.
 - Community gardens, urban agriculture.
- Dialog and education on property rights and the community good.

Vision 2025



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QUESTIONS?



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