

Farm Landscape

CHARACTER

The Farm Landscapes are currently characterized by crop production and rural roadways built to a county standard that expected low daily car counts, that generally run from northwest to southeast. As farming activities are a significant part of Kyle's history and the economic base of the region, it is important to preserve the Farm Landscapes as a reminder of that agricultural heritage. Additionally, preservation of these lands is necessary for stormwater management, erosion control, and maintaining water and air quality. Open agricultural lands and an uninterrupted ground plane characterize the Farm Landscapes. Property lines should not be clearly marked by fences or other vertical, opaque expressions, such as tree lines. Vertical and opaque expressions should be avoided on property lines to blur these lines and preserve open views. Development forms should respond to agricultural patterns, with significant building setbacks, native landscaping, and, where possible, non-structured surface water management.

INTENT

Due to the historic and environmental significance of the Farm Landscapes, the intent of this Landscape is to preserve existing agricultural land uses and the context within which they reside. The spacious views and active farmland should be protected and preserved for Kyle residents to enjoy. The City should implement preservation policies that foster the goals of farmland preservation. Utilizing these lands for the propagation of row crops and/or the grazing of livestock means a certain level of sensitivity needs to be recognized and respected as it relates to sustainable and resilient development practices. Water quality both across and below the surface of this landscape should be a priority during any development activity, and special consideration to designing with nature should be implemented in any area featuring natural

land forms. New development should be directed toward uses that can appropriately co-exist with farming.

JURISDICTION

Farm Landscapes are found in the southeastern portions of Kyle and its Extra Territorial Jurisdiction, where the historic Blackland Prairie with its rich soils and flat land was well suited for conversion to farming activities. The Landscape is bordered by the New Settlement and Riparian Districts. Figure 4 indicates the location of the Farm Landscape.