



Draft Farmland Preservation Comment Form August 3, 2010

The following draft Goals, Objectives and Policies are to further guide the preservation of agriculture land and promote agricultural development. They were developed by the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee, using the existing goals and policies within the Comprehensive Plan. Please comment or make suggestions within the right column on the Goals, Objectives and Policies and the Draft Map. Comments are due to the Planning Department by Friday, August 13, 2010.

Draft Farmland Preservation Map – State changes or mark changes on the map.

Goals / Objectives – (A broad future condition the city intends to achieve)

1) To protect and maintain agriculture as a significant resource within Fitchburg.

2) To preserve agricultural land as a resource for the use and benefit of current and future generations.

3) To preserve open space, natural areas, and rural and agricultural land by promoting compact development that contains a logical and sustainable mix of uses and building types.

Policies – (A principle to guide decisions to reach the goals and objectives)

Agriculture

1) Consider the creation or variations of either a Transfer or Purchase of Development Rights program to be used to compensate rural landowners who may be outside the long-term growth area and within the Farmland Preservation Area.

2) Encourage farmers to invest in improvements to their farm operations or to diversify their agricultural operations to address the changing farm economy.

3) Maintain and promote agriculture infrastructure to enhance and sustain agriculture operations.

4) Use the City's zoning control to discourage development in designated agricultural preservation areas.

5) Understand that privately held agricultural lands are a large part of the rural character of the community.

6) Pursue development or boundary agreements with
