

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MONTPELIER MASTER PLAN,  
AS READOPTED WITH MINOR AMENDMENTS JULY 13, 2005**

**CHILD CARE ADDENDUM**

This addendum is proposed to amend to the 2000 Montpelier Master Plan, as amended and readopted on July 13, 2005. Unless otherwise noted, ***bold, underlined, italic*** text is proposed to added to the existing document.

The footer on the pages of the Master Plan is amended to read:  
*2000 Montpelier Master Plan, readopted July 13, 2005 as amended [adoption date]*

**TABLE 1-1. MASTER PLAN CONSISTENCY WITH THE ACT 200 GOALS IN 24 V.S.A. §4302** is amended to include the following on the page 4:

GOAL column:

***(13) To ensure the availability of safe and affordable child care and to integrate child care issues into the planning process, including child care financing, infrastructure, business assistance for child care providers, and child care work force development.***

MASTER PLAN column:

**Chapter 7**

The following is proposed to added to Chapter 7. Community Facilities and Utilities. Because this would be an entirely new section, the new text is not shown in bold, underline, italic.

**7.18 Child Care Facilities**

The availability of adequate child care facilities for working parents is increasingly recognized as an important part of a community's social and economic infrastructure. Child care services are important influences on a child's early development, while at the same time help enable working parents to enter or stay in the workforce. Most licensed and registered child care facilities are small businesses which benefit the local and regional economy through the wages and taxes of the child care workers as well as those of the parents and others who are supported by the child care sector.

Parents who are unable to find or afford child care services have much greater difficulty entering or remaining in the workforce. This can lead to increased social, educational, and health costs. According to the Windham Child Care Association/Peace and Justice Center's 2002 study<sup>1</sup>, this

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<sup>1</sup>Windham Child Care Association & The Peace and Justice Center, *The Economic Impact of Vermont's Child Care Industry*, 2002.

problem is particularly acute in the retail and service sectors, which comprise almost half of Vermont's total jobs. Meanwhile, a significant proportion of the wages earned by the parent goes to child care expenses. The WCCA/PJC estimated that, in a household with two wage earners, between 22% and 34% of the second income was spent on child care services.

According to the WCCA/JPC report, an increase in the percentage of women in the work force, welfare reform, more female-headed households, and more people working non-traditional hours have caused the demand for child care services to increase dramatically over the last several decades, but the supply of child care services has not kept pace.

The provision of child care services is not strictly a local issue. For example, it might be more convenient or practical for a Montpelier resident working in Waterbury to use child care services there or along the way in Middlesex, and vice versa. Although this has not been defined, there is probably a child care-shed, or the maximum distance a parent is willing to travel out of their way to obtain child care services) in the Central Vermont region.

The Vermont Department for Children and Families/Child Development Division regulates child care facilities. Child care providers who care for six or fewer pre-school children from two or more families in their homes, and not more than four school age children for four or fewer hours each day, must be registered with the state. There are licensed child care centers and registered home family child care programs.

At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, 364 Montpelier residents (4.5%) were under 5 years of age, and 432 between the ages of 5 and 9 (5.4%). Census data show that a significant number of Montpelier households with children have working parents.

According to the State of Vermont Child Development Division's Bright Futures Information System (<http://www.brightfuturesinfo.org>), there were 10 licensed facilities (including school-based programs) and 8 registered homes providing care for children within Montpelier. These facilities serve children with full-day child care and/or part-day pre-school, but do not include legally exempt child care services (homes that provide care for not more than two families, including the provider's), of which there are approximately 30 in Montpelier, or other unregulated arrangements among families and friends. Information provided by the Family Center of Washington County indicates that, as of December 2005, the total capacity of the licensed programs and registered homes in Montpelier can accommodate 46 infants and toddlers, 208 preschoolers, and 396 school age children (250 of the school age children are for summer and school vacations only).

Although the City does not directly deliver child care services, the Family Center of Washington County's Preschool program is a partnership between the Family Center and the Montpelier School District. In addition, there are other actions the City can take to encourage the establishment and operation of private facilities in the community and eliminate potential unnecessary regulatory barriers.

**Table 7-3. Licensed and Registered Child Care Providers in Montpelier, 2006**

	<u>Licensed</u>	<u>Registered</u>
1.	Turtle Island Children's Center, Inc. 659 Elm Street (802) 229-4047	Mears, Robin 9 Dunpatrick Circle (802) 223-1154
2.	Kid Country, Inc. 24 Mountain View Drive (802) 223-3954	Roby, Cheryl 52 Hackamore Road (802) 223-6459
3.	Montpelier Children's House, Inc. 41 Barre Street (802) 223-3373	Tetreault, Cheryl 209 Berlin Street (802) 223-6476
4.	Family Center of Washington County-Union Elementary School 23 Park Street (802) 225-8310	Merchant, Lara 4 Hebert Road, P.O. Box 142 (802) 734-0695
5.	The Family Center of Washington County 32 College Street, Suite 100 (802) 828-8765	Hickory, Debbie 300 Elm St (802) 229-1152
6.	Montpelier Waldorf Child's Garden, Inc. 155 Northfield Street (802) 223-4338	Peer, Laura 186 Main Street (802) 223-0873
7.	River Rock at Turtle Island 661 Elm Street (802) 229-4047	Kahn, Joan 17 Harrison Avenue, Apt.#1 (802) 223-3005
8.	MRD Capital Kids Day Camp 170 Main Street (802) 225-8699	Tanner, Melissa 6 Hillhead Street (802) 229-4267
9.	Capital Kids Day Camp 1 Poolside Drive	
10.	Saint Michael's School 46 Barre Street (802) 223-6430	

Family Center of Washington County

The Family Center of Washington County (FCWC) is a non-profit child care and family support service provider located in Montpelier that provides a wide range of services to child care providers and families seeking services in Washington County.

- Their *child care referral* provides information about openings in the county and how to chose quality care;
- Their *child care subsidy* can help families pay for child care;
- They offer inclusive infant and toddler, preschool, and after school *early care and educational programs*, which are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children;
- They provide a variety of *training opportunities* and *technical assistance* for child care providers;
- Their *playgroups* are available to all families with children up to five years old;
- Their *parent educators* offer classes and workshops; and
- They provide *direct support to parents* through home visits.

As noted above, the FCWC also collaborates with Montpelier Public Schools to deliver an NAEYC-accredited *after school program* at Union Elementary School, and their preschool staff work with the Montpelier Essential Early Education (EEE) staff to provide an inclusive learning environment for young children with special needs.

### Regulatory Issues

Section 205.F. of Montpelier’s zoning regulations currently provides for a Home Child Care as a permitted residential use, where it is defined as “A state registered or licensed day care facility serving six or fewer children shall be considered by right to constitute a permitted single-family residential use of property.”

Below is an excerpt of Table 206. Table of Uses, which illustrates in what district various types of child care facilities are currently allowed.

Excerpt of **Table 206. Table of Uses**

<b>RESIDENTIAL USES (10)(11)</b>	<b>LDR</b>	<b>MDR</b>	<b>HDR</b>	<b>CIV</b>	<b>CB-I</b>	<b>CB-II</b>	<b>OP</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>IND</b>	<b>REC</b>	<b>RIV</b>
Child Care - Home	P	P	P			P		P	C		
<b>INSTITUTIONAL USES (12)</b>	<b>LDR</b>	<b>MDR</b>	<b>HDR</b>	<b>CIV</b>	<b>CB-I</b>	<b>CB-II</b>	<b>OP</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>IND</b>	<b>REC</b>	<b>RIV</b>
Child Care Facility (2)	C	P	C		P	C (3)	P	P	C		
Child Care, Home (2)	P	P	P			P		P	C		

Relevant notes to the Table of Uses:

- (2) Facilities licensed to serve 6 or fewer children are permitted in any residence. See Section 205.F.
- (3) Only in historic buildings or structures existing as of 1/01/87.
- (10) There shall be no more than two single family residential structures or four duplex / multi-family dwelling units on a single lot, except as may be approved as a planned development under section 508.
- (11) Any combination of uses listed under the heading Residential Uses totaling 24 dwelling units or more, shall be reviewed as a conditional use. This requirement shall be cumulative and shall include all units approved after the effective date of this regulation on the same parcel or in the same development.
- (12) Any retail, commercial, industrial, and/or multiple use structures 10,000 square feet or larger and/or multiple structures which combined equal or exceed 10,000 square feet shall be reviewed as a conditional use. This requirement shall be cumulative and shall include all structures approved after the effective date of this regulation on the same parcel or in the same development.

Article 13 further provides for the following definitions:

**CHILD CARE FACILITY:** A facility which operates according to a license or registration from the State of Vermont in which care is provided on a regular basis for seven or more children under sixteen years of age, at one time, for periods not to exceed 24 hours. Such facilities include those commonly known as day care center, day nurseries, play groups, and preschool.

**CHILD CARE HOME:** A facility which operates according to a license or registration from the State of Vermont to provide care in the owner's residence on a regular basis for six or fewer children, excluding children of the owner, at any time who are under the age of sixteen and provided care for periods not to exceed 24 hours.

## **Section 7.8 Community Facilities and Utilities goals and Recommendations.**

**Goal 8. Ensure the availability of safe and affordable child care within the community and integrate consideration of child care issues – including child care financing, infrastructure, business assistance for child care providers, and child care workforce development – into the local planning process.**

### **Recommendations**

- a. Post information on the City's Web site about child care services in the city:
  - Continue to list Child Care providers on the City's Web site ([http://www.montpelier-vt.org/services/#child\\_care](http://www.montpelier-vt.org/services/#child_care)), with a direct link to the State of Vermont's Child Development Division's Child Care Information System Web site for the most current information.
  - Add a special Child Care services page that includes guidance to current or prospective child care providers.
- b. Enable the provision of childcare services in a variety of settings from small home day care facilities to larger child care centers by reviewing the zoning bylaws to ensure that child care facilities are allowed in all appropriate locations and to minimize regulatory obstacles to the provision of child care.
  - Update the definitions used in the regulations for consistency and to coincide with those in the State Statute.
  - Allow child care facilities to be integrated in or near major centers of employment.
- c. Facilitate the creation, expansion, or continuation of child care programs in appropriate locations within the city by working with current and prospective child care service providers and employers:
  - through local development processes; and
  - by directing them to potential funding sources.

- d. Encourage the school district and appropriate childcare providers to explore the State Average Daily Membership (ADM) reimbursement for pre-school services.
- e. Encourage the city's larger employers to provide proximate or on-site child care services for their employees.
- f. Encourage employers and those seeking child care to link to the resources and referral services available through the Family Center of Washington County.