



Chapter 2. Board of County Commissioners' Planning Principles

2.1. SUMMARY

In October, 2004, the Orange County Board of Commissioners adopted the following guiding principles to guide and direct development of the plan. These principles are representative of the board's values and have been the foundation for plan development.

2.2. PLANNING PRINCIPLES

1. EFFICIENT AND FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE PROVISION OF PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Orange County's public facilities and services should be delivered in a manner that efficiently uses existing capacity. Expansions of facilities and services should be made only after careful consideration of the costs and benefits of expansion.

2. SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Growth and development within the county should occur in a pattern, location, and density that is sustainable over the long-term.

3. A. ENCOURAGEMENT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY, LOWER ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND THE USE OF NON-POLLUTING RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

3. B. PROMOTION OF BOTH AIR QUALITY PROTECTION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Decreasing the use of non-renewable resources and lowering energy consumption are encouraged in both public and private activities. The county's transportation system should be enhanced to promote more energy efficient modes of travel and improve air quality.

4. NATURAL AREA RESOURCE PRESERVATION

Protection of the County's natural areas, including forests, wildlife habitat, and other important open spaces should be a priority. The County should work with regional and local organizations, the towns, and private landowners to promote and achieve preservation of the County's important natural resources.



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5. PRESERVATION OF RURAL LAND USE PATTERN

The County's rural areas are a cherished component of the County's character. Future development should preserve and enhance the county's rural landscape.

6. WATER RESOURCES PRESERVATION

The County has finite water resources to provide to future populations. The protection and management of the County's water resources should be a high priority.

7. PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND DIVERSITY

Development of a diversity of new businesses and expansion of existing businesses should occur in Orange County.

8. PRESERVATION OF COMMUNITY CHARACTER

Future growth and development should occur in a manner that preserves and enhances the existing character of the County, its townships, and rural crossroads communities.