



Chapter 1. Plan Overview

1.1. USER'S GUIDE (SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PLAN)

Welcome to the Orange County Comprehensive Plan. This Plan is a “blueprint” document to guide future policy decisions for the County through the year 2030. **Chapter 1: Plan Overview** provides a summary of the history and process by which this Comprehensive Plan came to be adopted, the contents of the Plan, an overview of ways the Plan seeks to address sustainability in its goals and objectives, and the process for implementing the Plan and monitoring its implementation over the long-term. **Chapter 2: Planning Principles** describes the principles adopted by the Orange County Board of Commissioners that have guided development of the Plan.

Unlike previous County plans that focused on one component of County planning, the Comprehensive Plan addresses a wide range of interrelated planning areas. Each of these areas is dealt with separately in an Element, or Plan chapter. Some chapters cover multiple substantive areas, as noted below:

- Economic Development (Chapter 3);
- Housing (Chapter 4);
- Land Use (Chapter 5);
- Natural and Cultural Systems (Chapter 6), including
 - Agriculture
 - Air and Energy Resources
 - Cultural and Historic Resources
 - Natural Areas, Wildlife Habitat and Prime Forests
 - Water Resources
- Parks and Recreation (Chapter 7);
- Services and Community Facilities (Chapter 8), including:
 - Water and Wastewater
 - Erosion Control and Stormwater Management
 - Solid Waste and Recycling
 - Public Safety and Telecommunications
 - Library Service
 - Education
- Transportation (Chapter 9).



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Each Plan Element includes the following pieces of information:

- **Purpose** - The Purpose section describes the intent of each Element;
- **Overview** - This section provides an overview of the planning topic, background information that informs the planning context, and key issues of relevance to each Element;
- **Historic and Current Data and Evaluation of Trends** - This section provides statistical and geographical data that describe existing and future County conditions relevant to each Element. Much of the data provided in each of these sections are also referenced in *Appendix A: County Profile (Data) Element*. This County Profile Element is the primary reference point for basic information common to each of the Elements. Although the scope of the Comprehensive Plan is intended to guide the development and growth in the unincorporated area of Orange County, many data variables are only available for the County as a whole. Unless otherwise indicated, tables and charts for county-level data will pertain to both the incorporated and unincorporated areas. Population values for the extra-territorial jurisdictions will not be included within city or town totals, but rather within the unincorporated County totals;
- **Orange County Needs** - This section describes the data, informational, policy-related, programmatic, and infrastructure needs or gaps for each planning topic that need to be addressed through Plan implementation;
- **Goals** - This section lists the goals of each Element. A goal is defined as a “general direction-setter.” Goals are written to express an ideal future end state related to the public health, safety, or general welfare that expresses community values. Plan goals set the stage for defining Plan implementation;
- **Objectives** - Following the goals, the objective section lists the objectives to be achieved through Plan implementation. An objective defines a specific end, condition, or state that is an intermediate step toward reaching a goal. Objectives should be achievable and, when possible, measurable and time-specific. An objective may pertain to one particular aspect of a goal or it may be one of several successive steps toward goal achievement. Consequently, there may be more than one objective for each goal;
- **Links to Other Elements** - This section describes the areas of overlap or linkage between Elements. Goals and objectives often address multiple planning areas that are addressed in separate Elements. This section helps to coordinate these efforts and ensures consistency among them;
- **Other Key Documents** - This section lists the documents, reports, and studies that were drawn from in developing each Element; and



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- **Intergovernmental Coordination** – This section outlines areas where intergovernmental coordination should continue or is needed to achieve plan goals and objectives.

An underlying theme throughout the Plan is the County’s vision of becoming a more sustainable community. *Section 1.3: Toward A Sustainable Future*, provides a summary of ways that the Plan works toward achieving that vision.

Subsequent to adoption of the plan, the County will enter into an implementation phase where specific action strategies for achieving plan goals and objectives will be identified. (See *Section 1.4: Administration and Implementation Guidelines*.) Looking long-term, the Plan provides a set of procedures for monitoring Plan implementation efforts, and a process for amending the Plan over time. (See *Section 1.5: Monitoring and Evaluation Procedures*.)

Several appendices are provided, giving Plan readers additional information not included in the Plan. A glossary of planning terms used in the Plan is provided in Appendix B.

1.2. DEVELOPING THE PLAN

1.2.1. WHAT IS THE ORANGE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

The Orange County Comprehensive Plan is an official public document that provides the framework for long-range decision-making in the community. The Plan serves to guide the County’s growth and development through the year 2030 by addressing the multitude of issues facing the County -- ranging from land use, to economic development, to housing, to public facilities, to environmental protection and beyond.

By setting goals and objectives, County officials can use the document to make policy decisions that effectively provide a coordinated approach to future growth. In addition, the adopted Plan serves as the statutory basis for many of Orange County’s land use regulations, as well as the application of zoning districts. Through setting a course of action to guide the County’s development over the next twenty years, the County and its residents are much more likely to realize desired outcomes.

1.2.2. AUTHORIZATION AND STATE GUIDELINES

Orange County’s ability to adopt and implement a comprehensive plan is drawn from its state authorized general police power to “define, regulate, prohibit, or abate acts, omissions, or conditions detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of its citizens” per North Carolina General Statute § 153A-121.

In North Carolina, county zoning enabling statutes have long required that zoning be “in accordance with a comprehensive plan.” Neither the North Carolina statutes nor case law mandate preparation of comprehensive plans, define their elements, or set a mandatory procedure for their adoption. However, the state zoning statutes were amended in 2005 to strengthen the role of adopted plans where they do exist.

This new law requires that Planning Board review of proposed zoning amendments include written comments on the consistency of the proposed



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amendment with the Comprehensive Plan and any other relevant plans (such as a small area plan, a corridor plan, or a transportation plan) that have been adopted by the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners is also required to adopt a statement on plan consistency before adopting or rejecting any zoning amendment. These written comments are required, but do not limit the board's discretionary power to adopt or not adopt zoning amendments.

The *Orange County Zoning Ordinance* provides the authorization and legal framework for development and adoption of a comprehensive plan. The ordinance states that the plan "shall constitute an internally consistent and compatible statement of policies for the long-term physical development" of the County, and that the plan should include the following elements (or chapters):

- Land Use Element;
- Transportation Element;
- Housing Element;
- Open Space Element (i.e., Natural and Cultural Systems Element);
- Recreation Element (i.e., Parks and Recreation Element);
- Economic Development Element; and
- Services and Facilities Element.

The Planning Board is given the express power to develop and recommend the Comprehensive Plan for adoption by the Board of County Commissioners. Before the board can adopt the plan, a public hearing must be held to provide an opportunity for the County's citizenry to comment on the plan. The zoning ordinance also provides standards for amending the plan. (*See Section 1.5.3: Amendments.*)

1.2.3. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Orange County is governed by a seven-member Board of Commissioners, elected in partisan countywide elections. The primary duties of the board include adopting an annual budget, establishing the annual property tax rate, appointing various officials, planning for County needs, adopting local plans, and enacting local ordinances. The board also has the authority to call for bond referenda, enter into contracts, and establish new programs and departments.

The board is advised by more than 40 different boards and commissions comprised of Orange County citizens that volunteer for their positions. Achieving the goals set by the County Commissioners is made possible because of this citizen input into programs, services, and general operations. Some of these boards have been established by state law and their authority is defined in the North Carolina General Statutes. Others have been created by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners to help them set policies for specific areas of service.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints an administrator, the Orange County Manager, to manage all County government departments and to



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assure that adequate levels of service are provided to residents as efficiently as possible. The manager implements the policies of the Board of County Commissioners and coordinates, monitors, and evaluates all County government activities.

1.2.4. PLAN PROCESS AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

To date, the County has achieved long range planning by developing separate plans for community issues, such as land use, economic development, historic preservation, etc. In 2006, the Board of County Commissioners initiated a process to develop a consolidated comprehensive plan that would address all these plans within one document.

The board approved a process for developing a plan that uses both community input through advisory boards and public outreach, and technical information provided in the many studies that have been prepared by advisory boards and staff over the years. Eight planning principles (see *Chapter 2: Board of County Commissioners' Planning Principles*) were adopted to guide development of the Plan. The complete process is provided in *Appendix C: 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update Process and Schedule*.

The Plan development process was overseen and managed by the County's Planning Board. Element Lead Advisory Boards, comprised of more than 80 citizen representatives, served as the lead advisors on relevant plan elements. Table 1-1 shows the citizen advisory boards that were tasked with the development of the various Plan Elements. In addition, advisory boards also served as liaisons on other Elements to ensure there was coordination among them.

TABLE 1-1: ELEMENT LEAD ADVISORY BOARDS

| Plan Elements | Element Lead Advisory Boards | Advisory Board Liaisons |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Economic Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic Development Commission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning Board |
| Housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Affordable Housing Advisory Board ▪ Planning Board | |
| Land Use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning Board | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Orange Unified Transportation ▪ Orange Public Transportation ▪ Commission for the Environment ▪ Agricultural Preservation Board ▪ Historic Preservation Commission ▪ Affordable Housing Advisory Board ▪ Economic Development Commission ▪ Parks and Recreation Advisory Council ▪ Board of Health |



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| Plan Elements | Element Lead Advisory Boards | Advisory Board Liaisons |
|--|---|--|
| Natural and Cultural Systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commission for the Environment ▪ Agricultural Preservation Board ▪ Historic Preservation Commission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning Board ▪ Board of Health ▪ Parks and Recreation Advisory Council |
| Parks and Recreation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parks and Recreation Advisory Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning Board ▪ Commission for the Environment |
| Services and Community Facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning Board | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Solid Waste Advisory Board ▪ Board of Health |
| Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning Board ▪ Orange Unified Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Orange Public Transportation |

As mentioned previously, the Plan was developed from input from citizens who were engaged throughout the planning process. This public engagement included the following:

- All Plan related meetings were advertised and open to the public;
- Citizens served on the Element Lead Advisory Boards that oversaw development of plan elements and wrote previous studies and plans that were incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan;
- Information on the status of the planning process was regularly emailed to distribution lists, posted on the County’s website, and written about in local newspapers; and
- Public information meetings and public hearings were advertised widely and held at key milestones in the process to engage the community in discussion of Plan development and to update the County’s citizenry on the status of the process.

1.2.5. WHERE TO LOOK FOR RELATED INFORMATION

Numerous reports, studies, plans, and other technical and policy-related documents were reviewed, referenced, and incorporated into this Orange County Comprehensive Plan. Each plan element references the reports and studies that were used to inform development of that particular Element. A comprehensive list of resources is located in Appendix P of this Plan. Many of these documents are provided on the County’s website at <http://www.co.orange.nc.us/>. For information on obtaining copies of these documents, please contact the Orange County Planning and Inspections Department.



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1.3. TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

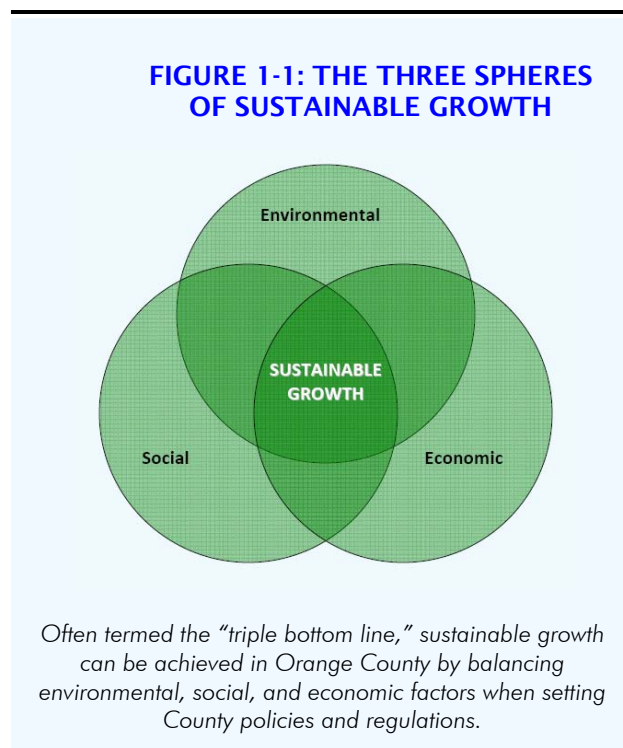
An emerging point of consensus in Orange County is that we need to move toward becoming a sustainable community. What that means is that we must seek to develop a community that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Current global trends have demonstrated the need for planning healthy and sustainable communities. One trend is the increasing impact of greenhouse gases on the world's climate and another is the decreasing supply of resources that support life.

Sustainability is defined as aligning our built environment and socioeconomic activities with the natural systems that support life. In the long run, sustainability means adapting human activities to the constraints and opportunities of nature.

The figure below is a graphic representation of a sustainable community. Each ring represents one of the Three E's: the environment, the economy and social equity. Each of these rings is connected to, and dependent upon the others.

The design of a sustainable community in Orange County means that this Comprehensive Plan will strive, in its implementation, to link the economy, the environment and social equity to improve the vitality of all three of these domains.

The meaning of sustainability can be further understood by examining four basic principles regarding human needs, natural systems, and the relationships between them.



1. For a given natural resource, if the depletion rate exceeds the replacement rate, the resource will be available for only a finite time. **Thus, unchecked use of resources has implications for our future generations.**
2. Human activity produces harmful substances, which must be mediated to maintain balance in the natural systems. **Human-generated waste, such as plastics, sewage, and carbon monoxide, must be carefully managed to minimize and eliminate damage to the earth.**
3. **Earth's ecosystems, of which humans are a part along with other living beings, are interdependent and most stable when**



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they include a diversity of species. Overuse and pollution of the natural environment has implications for maintaining the earth's biodiversity.

4. **Human needs span physical, economic, environmental, cultural, social, and spiritual dimensions.** Human needs can be met equitably, justly, and with dignity without compromising the physical environment. Achieving greater fairness is essential for social stability and the cooperation needed for making large-scale changes within the framework laid out by the first three principles.

These global principles are locally relevant because our community is part of a region, part of a continent, and part of a world. Our individual and collective decisions and actions affect the quality of human life and the quality of our natural environment not only in the local community, but also in the world. By understanding these principles and the consequences of continuing to violate them, we establish a common basis for working toward becoming a sustainable community.

Sustainability is a theme that runs throughout this Comprehensive Plan. Orange County residents understand the linkages that support a sustainable future. Examples abound: To help preserve rural character, shop at a farmers market to help keep local farms in production. To help pay for schools and services, encourage growth of the non-residential tax base by locating residences close to business and retail centers. Reduce growth in carbon emissions by achieving compact development patterns. We need to use the resources that are available to us today in a manner that protects them for future generations. Following is a summary of the key ideas presented in this Comprehensive Plan that relate directly to the goal of achieving a sustainable future. Refer to each of these Plan Elements for more details.

1.3.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The County has established Economic Development Districts wherein public investment will be focused to stimulate and accommodate development in strategic locations that can be served by transportation systems and public infrastructure, and be convenient to housing opportunities.

The County's Economic Development Commission works with local, regional and state governments and agencies to attract and promote the types of businesses suited to Orange County. These efforts focus on recruiting appropriate businesses that will provide jobs to local residents and provide a more balanced tax revenue structure that relies less on the generation of private property taxes.

The County and Economic Development Commission have identified Action Steps in the report: *"Investing in Innovation: Orange County Economic Development Commission Five-Year Strategic Plan."*

To meet the demand for locally grown products, the County is working with Alamance, Chatham, and Durham Counties to establish a value-added food processing center, where farmers and others could make value-added products, such as jams, pickles, or tamales.



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1.3.2. HOUSING

The County supports an array of affordable and workforce housing initiatives, designed to support non-profit organizations, make use of state and federal funds, and provide housing opportunities for County residents. By providing additional affordable housing initiatives within the County, opportunities for living and working in proximity increase.

The County is actively pursuing options to provide residential opportunities for homeless individuals and families, contributing to the area's strong emphasis on social equity.

1.3.3. LAND USE

Mixed-use districts are being actively encouraged, and locations for new mixed-use centers are being identified, providing live-work-shop opportunities that minimize travel needs.

The County is exploring a Strategic Growth and Resource Conservation program (similar to TDR - Transfer of Development Rights) that will help to focus new development in areas that can best accommodate it, in proximity to jobs, housing, transportation, and services near transit corridors. Simultaneously this program will also help to preserve/conservate rural and agricultural land with compensation provisions for rural property owners.

The County's development of an interconnected system of pedestrian and bicycle trails will both provide recreation opportunities and also hold promise for increasing mobility choices available to Orange County residents.

High residential densities near transit corridors and along major thoroughfares may encourage more public transportation use by County residents.

1.3.4. NATURAL AND CULTURAL SYSTEMS

As of 2007, more than 22,000 acres of land in the County have been protected through various land conservation programs. These efforts support the goals of sustaining a balanced and healthy diversity of native plant and animal populations, providing a network of protection for natural, cultural, and agricultural lands, and achieving an adequate level of protection for important natural areas, prime forests, and wildlife habitat. Ideas for expanding conservation efforts include improved monitoring of critical natural lands and expanding the County's inventory of critical lands to include new areas not before assessed.

Preservation of working farms, forestry, and ancillary agricultural businesses is supported by the County. Voluntary agricultural districts (VADs), agricultural preservation through private conservation easements, and the use value taxation model are working to protect farmland and the farming industry in Orange County. More can be done, and County regulations are being reviewed to identify impediments to farming practices. The potential of the Strategic Growth and Rural Conservation program and enhanced VAD program could provide additional opportunities for farmland protection.

Developing a local food system that links local producers and consumers is of high importance. The number of farmers markets operating in the County



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has increased in recent years, exemplifying their success. Agri-tourism and farming events have also proven popular. One idea to expand on the success of our local agricultural industry is to identify suitable locations for agricultural facilities, such as processing centers, community kitchens, demonstration tracts, community gardens, and the like that can bring together producers and consumers and educate the next generation of farmers.

Orange County, Chapel Hill and Carrboro initiated a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Reduction Action Plan project in 2006. More can be done to improve air quality and reduce the use of non-renewable fuels over the planning horizon. Ideas include the promotion of private and public use of alternative fuel sources and power generation options, such as harnessing and using landfill gas, and participating in green energy production programs.

Our historical character has been protected through the efforts of national and local level preservation programs. Cultural landscapes, historic structures, and even scenic roadways can be protected through existing preservation programs. Ways to advance preservation goals could include funding assistance to landowners needing additional resources to maintain historic properties.

1.3.5. PARKS AND RECREATION

By investigating new forms of recreation to meet new demands (seniors, changing demands for youth), the County is pro-actively planning for the range of needs and demands that will accompany residential growth.

By planning for joint use of facilities by multiple users and jurisdictions (e.g., the two school systems and recreation departments), the County is encouraging efficient use of land and wise use of public financial resources.

1.3.6. SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Water conservation efforts have been a critical piece in managing water supplies through recent droughts. County level coordination is needed to manage water resources that will serve future populations. Placing public water and sewer facilities near areas targeted for dense development can reinforce a more sustainable land use pattern.

Erosion control and stormwater management efforts in the County are paramount for protecting natural areas from the adverse effects of development. These efforts can be expanded by improving surface water mapping and collecting additional water quality data to inform development management efforts.

The County has set an ambitious waste reduction goal of 61%¹. Orange County has surpassed state mandates for waste reduction in 1996 and 2001. Continued effort to identify waste reduction opportunities is supported by the County. The identification of a future waste transfer site and landfill location are critical needs that will be addressed over the planning horizon.

¹ The 61% waste reduction goal refers to the current reduction in waste when compared to a benchmark year of 1991-1992.



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Services and facilities should be provided in a manner that reflects the specific needs of the community, while taking into account its fiscal and environmental limitations. **Sustainable Government**, as it relates to the provision of County services and facilities, is discussed in Chapter 8.

1.3.7. TRANSPORTATION

The County is actively encouraging alternative modes of transportation and ride-sharing, expanding possibilities for mobility by means other than single-occupant automobiles. Examples of alternative modes of transportation include, but are not limited to:

- Interconnected pedestrian and bicycle trails;
- Transit lanes along major thoroughfares; and
- Considering the development of park-and-ride lots that would encourage use of public transportation to travel to and from work.

Increasing public transit by expanding public and special transportation services for seniors and individuals with disabilities increases choice and opportunity. Increasing bus service, designating public transportation nodes throughout the County with facilities to accommodate pedestrians, park and ride lots, and bicycle racks all contribute to mobility options.

These initiatives reinforce each other. Taken together, they form a platform of sustainable practices upon which current and future generations of Orange County residents can build productive lives.

1.4. ADMINISTRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

1.4.1. PURPOSE

Development of specific policies and implementation strategies will follow adoption of this Comprehensive Plan. A periodic review of plan goals and objectives and the development of specific policies and implementation strategies will keep attention focused on these ideas and help achieve implementation. This section sets out the procedures and timeline by which future Comprehensive Plan policies and implementation strategies will be developed.

1.4.2. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY/STANDARDS AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Existing public policies, including the policies provided in the 1981 Orange County Land Use Element (*See Appendix D: 1981 Land Use Element Policies*), will remain in effect while additional specific policies, standards, and implementation strategies of this 2008 Comprehensive Plan are being developed and adopted.

Additional policies or revisions to existing policies may be added to the Comprehensive Plan Elements on an incremental and case-by-case basis as new programs are identified and authorized by the Board of County Commissioners.



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1.4.3. RECOMMENDED PROCESS FOR SETTING PRIORITIES

Advisory boards and staff should review Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives on a regular basis and develop specific ideas on implementation strategies for presentation to the Board of County Commissioners. Setting priorities will be guided by the feasibility of accomplishing the strategies within a given year.

Implementation strategies that are presented to the Board of County Commissioners should identify the following:

- The corresponding Comprehensive Plan goal(s) and objective(s);
- Estimation of fiscal impacts and staff resources required to implement the strategy;
- Identification of responsible department and advisory board(s) and any contributing department(s) and advisory board(s) that will be engaged in strategy implementation; and
- A timeline for implementation of the strategy.

The Board of County Commissioners will consider implementation strategies submitted by advisory boards, consider fiscal constraints and opportunities, and provide guidance to the County Manager on priorities for implementation.

1.4.4. SUMMARY OF EXISTING IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS

The County has several implementation tools that may need to be revised as new implementation strategies come on line in the County. These implementation tools include the following:

- Orange County Zoning Ordinance;
- Orange County Subdivision Regulations;
- Sedimentation and Erosion Control Ordinance;
- Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance;
- Building, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, fire and housing codes;
- Capital Improvement Plan; and
- Public Funding of Initiatives and Programs.

Additional implementation tools may be identified during development of implementation strategies.

1.4.5. DECISIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION

The Board of County Commissioners will, as needed and appropriate, prepare a work plan for Comprehensive Plan implementation strategies that identifies strategies to be initiated in a given year, the human and financial resources allocated to implementation of the strategies, and the parties responsible for implementing the strategy.



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1.5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

1.5.1. PURPOSE

The Comprehensive Plan is a “living” document. It should be revised and updated regularly to ensure its relevance as the guiding document for County decision-making. This chapter outlines procedures for ongoing monitoring and updating of the Comprehensive Plan.

1.5.2. PLAN REVIEW AND EVALUATION

The following Plan review and evaluation procedures should be conducted according to the timelines given:

1. A set of evaluation criteria, including a set of sustainability and community building indicators, or metrics, together with specific action statements will be developed for each Plan Element by each Element Advisory Board with assistance of County staff within the first year after plan adoption. The evaluation criteria may include short-term (1-2 years), medium-term (3-5 years), and long-term (more than 5 years) measurements. Combined, these evaluation criteria will be used to inform periodic updates of the Plan. The evaluation criteria will serve as a “Report Card” and will describe how and where the County is making progress on implementation of the plan and where additional attention may be needed.
2. Comprehensive Plan Element Status reports to the Board of County Commissioners will be developed by respective Advisory Boards and staff. Status reports will include a review and evaluation of Plan goals and objectives using the evaluation criteria discussed above. The report will be developed every other year beginning one year after adoption of the Plan and will be delivered to the Board for review at its annual retreat. A specific format for reporting will be developed to maintain consistency in reporting.
3. The County Profile Element will be updated after data from the 2010 U.S. Census are available. Regular updates to the County Profile Element should occur to reflect new U.S. Census data in subsequent years.
4. Following the incorporation of 2010 data, a survey of County departments will be undertaken by the Planning and Inspections Department to determine the usefulness of the County Profile Element, and if annual updates would be beneficial.
5. A full review and update of the Comprehensive Plan will occur within 10 years of adoption of the plan, with a preliminary target of 2015.

1.5.3. AMENDMENTS

Monitoring and reporting activities will identify opportunities for updating and revising the Plan. The Plan should be amended in a manner that maintains internal consistency between Elements and upholds the basic goals and objectives on which it was formulated.

Request for amendments can be brought forward by the general public, County staff, and Advisory Boards, as well as the Board of County



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Commissioners. Plan amendments should be evaluated through a public review process.

The specific procedure for initiating Plan Amendments is outlined in Section 2.2.14 of the *Orange County Zoning Ordinance*. This procedure may need to be revised to reflect the new Comprehensive Plan model that incorporates the work of Advisory Boards and departments. In particular, the following issues should be considered for revision:

- Review and amendment of Section 2.2.14 of the Orange County Zoning Ordinance to reflect the role of advisory boards, in addition to that of the Planning Board, in the amendment process.
- A process should be developed and adopted that guides the coordinated dialogue of the advisory boards when making recommendations on Plan amendments.