

GUILFORD COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TRACKING SYSTEM

Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources Element

Policy #	Narrative	Responsible Party	Implementation Date	Status	Notes
1.1.1	Support clustering for projects with significant environmental challenges to afford the greatest protection of natural resources.	Planning staff	On-going	On-going	
1.1.2	Utilize the County's GIS system to create and/or update map layers locating natural assets and amenities, protected lands, current and future parks, dedicated open space, and places of historic and/or cultural significance.	GIS/Planning	Beginning Spring 2007	Active	Updated floodplain, new Open Space purchases, and newly designated historic properties have been mapped.
1.1.3	Create incentives that recognize or reward innovative project designs that respect, assimilate, and protect on-site and adjacent assets and amenities, natural, cultural, historic and recreational.	Planning staff	Spring 2007 (See Future Land Use objective 1.5 and Transportation objective 1.3)	Active	
1.2.1	Review the Subdivision section of the Development Ordinance, and pursue amendments as deemed necessary to foster more creativity and infuse land stewardship.	Planning staff/Design Community	Initiate Fall 2006	Active	See Housing 2.4.2
1.2.2	Review Mixed-Use Development standards in the Development Ordinance, and pursue amendments as deemed necessary, to foster more creativity in design.	Planning Department	Winter 2007 (See Housing policy 2.4.7)	Deferred	
1.2.3	Create incentives to stimulate development of infill and underdeveloped sites with public water and/or sewer access.	Planning staff/City staff	Fall 2006 (See Housing objective 1.2)	Active	Area plans recognize areas where public water and sewer available and encourage higher densities in these areas.
1.2.4	Utilize the County's Environmental Review Board in conjunction with the drafting of future Development Ordinance amendments.	Planning & Development staff/ERB	As deemed appropriate	On-going	
1.3.1	Utilize scheduled site inspections to assure on-going project compliance with erosion control, watershed protection, and floodplain regulations.	Planning & Development	On-going	On-going	
1.3.2	Provide timely investigations and responses to citizen generated complaints regarding potential violations of environmental regulations.	Planning & Development/Environmental Health staff	On-going	On-going	

Legend

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1.3.3	Follow the progression of enforcement procedures, as stated in the Development Ordinance, to resolve situations of non-compliance.	Planning staff	On-going	On-going	
1.3.4	Work collaboratively with external agencies charged with environmental enforcement responsibilities (e.g., NC Division of Water Quality) on issues outside the scope of local control.	NCDENR/Planning & Development staff	On-going	On-going	
1.3.5	Increase responsiveness to citizen complaints regarding landfills and illegal dumping by pursuing a Memorandum of Understanding with NCDENR for local enforcement and inspections.	P & D	On-going	Active	Draft MOU under Review
1.4.1	Review contents of the “Early Action Compact” document, evaluate and seek continuation of successful strategies and initiatives to address air quality issues.	PTCOG/PART/Planning staff	On-going (See Transportation policy 1.6.1)	On-going	
1.4.2	Use the County’s Open Space Committee to evaluate and rank potential sites for public acquisition utilizing dedicated bond funds.	Open Space Committee	On-going	On-going	
1.4.3	Provide support to the Environmental Review Board and Open Space Committee to foster public education efforts and promote land stewardship campaigns.	Planning & Development	On-going	On-going	
1.4.4	Explore alternative funding sources to support and expand open space acquisitions.	Open Space Committee	On-going	On-going	The Committee has successfully applied for and received state money for Open Space purchases.
1.4.5	Support retention of viable agricultural areas by encouraging traditional and nontraditional farm uses, including for example agri-tourism, organic farming, and viticulture; provide technical assistance in conjunction with Cooperative Extension, state and federal programs, and conservation organizations.	Cooperative Extension/Planning staff	On-going	Active	Cooperative Extension leading Farmland Preservation efforts
1.4.6	Diligently protect the County’s surface water resources by thorough watershed and erosion control plan review and site inspections, delineation and protection of stream corridors, timely investigations of alleged violations, and adherence to use restrictions within watershed tiers.	Planning & Development staff	On-going	On-going	

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1.4.7	Continue annual storm water pond maintenance inspection program.	Planning & Development staff	On-going	On-going	
1.4.8	Survey County owned properties and inventory water quality devices thereon as required pursuant to NPDES Phase II.	Planning & Development staff	Fall 2006	Complete	All County owned facilities have been surveyed and plotted through GIS
1.4.9	Incorporate drought-tolerant and native species into the landscape code for usage around water-bodies, within farm buffers, and other appropriate areas.	Planning staff/Cooperative Extension	Spring 2007	Active	Recommended changes to Landscape Code prepared and circulated to Stakeholders for review and comment.
1.4.10	Support public information campaigns related to water conservation/use reduction efforts.	Municipal service providers/Environmental Health	On-going	On-going	
1.4.11	Acquire information concerning the quality and quantity of groundwater resources to form baseline information for future monitoring purposes.	NCDENR	Annual estimates	Future	
1.4.12	Support efforts to protect existing forested areas and to establish new forest growth, especially in areas buffering streams, lakes, and other wetlands; in areas of steep slopes; in areas buffering agricultural uses; and in critical natural habitats.	Open Space Committee	On-going	On-going	
1.4.13	Investigate opportunities to incorporate "fire wise" landscaping design standards into the Development Ordinance.	Planning/EMS staff	Spring 2007	Active	Fire resistant species included in recommended changes in policy 1.4.9
1.5.1	Continue to implement recommendations of the Guilford County Open Space Report.	CED	On-going	On-going	
1.5.2	Incorporate Development Ordinance requirements of floodplain dedication, when applicable, during the review, approval and recording of new subdivisions.	Planning staff	Spring 2008	On-going	
1.5.3	Continue to support, both with staff and technical resources, the Haw River State Park initiative and other multi-jurisdictional open space and recreational initiatives.	Open Space Committee/Planning staff	On-going	On-going	

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1.5.4	Update the County's "Future Open Space and Parks" Map.	Property Management/GIS	Winter 2007	Active	Staff Working on update
1.6.1	Provide linkages on the Department's website for non-governmental and not for profit entities engaged in private land dedication and preservation endeavors.	Property Management/Planning	Fall 2006	Active	Improvements to website in process.
1.6.2	Support alternatives such as conservation easements, "less-than-fee simple" transactions, and life estates, to promote land stewardship and private land dedication/preservation.	CED/Planning/Piedmont Land Conservancy	On-going	On-going	
1.6.3	The County will participate in local and regional forums designed to enhance public awareness of land stewardship alternatives.	Planning & Development staff	On-going	On-going	
1.7.1	Guilford County will participate in regional efforts that address multi-jurisdictional environmental issues such as air quality, storm water management, NPDES Phase II and Jordan Lake nutrient loading.	Planning & Development staff	On-going	On-going	
1.7.2	The County shall seek partnerships with other affected jurisdictions to develop mutually beneficial, cost-saving strategies, to address environmental issues.	Planning & Development staff	Beginning Winter 2007	On-going	
1.7.3	The County will host local forums to educate design professionals and other stakeholders on emerging environmental regulations, and their impact on future land development.	Planning & Development staff	On-going	On-going	
1.7.4	Investigate alternative funding/revenue sources to help off-set future costs associated with Guilford County's compliance with un-funded State and Federal environmental mandates.	Planning & Development staff	Spring 2007	On-going	
1.8.1	Organize a multi-disciplinary team to review and recommend acceptance of new construction technologies, methods, materials and practices that are environmentally friendly.	Inspections/Planning and Environmental Health	Beginning Fall 2006 (See Housing policy 2.1.1)	On-going	
1.8.2	Investigate public/private opportunities to promote the use and availability of clean and alternative fuels throughout Guilford County.	P & D	On-going	On-going	

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1.8.3	Encourage and support local research of new and evolving changes in construction technologies by local colleges and universities.	Planning/Colleges	Initiate dialogue Winter 2007	On-going	
1.9.1	Continue and expand existing public education programs that encourage proper disposal of solid waste and discourage littering and illegal dumping.	P & D	On-going	On-going	
1.9.2	Increase responsiveness to solid waste-related citizen complaints by instituting a Memorandum of Understanding and Delegation of Authority with NCDENR for local landfill inspections, by amending the County Solid Waste Ordinance to add strength to enforcement and to mirror the MOU, by pursuing cooperation from cities and towns to inspect and investigate environmental matters within the incorporated areas of the County, by implementing a surveillance program for illegal dumping and by enforcing state and local environmental laws and ordinances.	P & D	Spring 2007	Active	Draft MOU under review & consideration by County and State Staff. Amendment to Ordinance pending approval by Board of County Commissioners
1.9.3	Expand recycling and disposal options, and ensure the availability of solid waste services for all County residents.	P & D	On-going initiative	On-going	Specific activities specified in 2006 solid water management plan
1.9.4	Ensure that all current and future state recycling mandates and landfill bans are properly implemented.	P & D	On-going	On-going	Preparing to implement new state recycling mandates effective 1-1-08
1.9.5	Expand our solid waste management planning partnership by fostering relationships with other counties and cities in the Triad, for the purpose of developing regional solid waste management planning and programs.	P & D	Spring 2007	On-going	Guilford County Constructive entity for a new regional organization " Triad Regional Solid Waste Consortium" for 18 City and Counties. Meeting held monthly
1.9.6	Assist with the distribution of public information related to recycling.	P & D	On-going	On-going	Continue to provide information at public events
1.10.1	Continue to support the efforts of the Guilford County Historic Preservation Commission, as lead agency, in conjunction with other local public and/or private programs and services.	Planning staff/GCHPC	On-going	On-going	

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1.10.2	Increase public awareness and appreciation of Guilford County's rich historic and cultural traditions through outreach campaigns, websites, publications, and educational forums.	GCHPC	On-going	On-going	
1.10.3	Pursue the creation and initial seed money for a "revolving fund" or similar low/no interest loan pool to support acquisition, restoration and maintenance of structures of significant historical value.	Planning staff/BOCC	Spring 2008	Deferred	
1.10.4	Consider the waiver of building fees, site development fees, and other regulatory fees, in conjunction with the relocation or restoration of structures of significant historical value.	Planning staff/BOCC	Summer 2008	Deferred	
1.10.5	Seek new and expanded partnerships with governmental and private organizations dedicated to historic preservation and the protection of cultural resources.	Planning staff	On-going	On-going	

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