

Florida
Orange
Groves

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA COMPREHENSIVE POLICY PLAN EVALUATION AND APPRAISAL REPORT

JULY 11, 2006

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Orange County Comprehensive Plan

Evaluation and Appraisal Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State of Florida's local government comprehensive planning law, Chapter 163, Part 2, Florida Statutes (F.S), requires that all counties and municipalities throughout Florida maintain long-range comprehensive planning programs. The purpose of comprehensive planning is to monitor and evaluate numerous community characteristics relating to development, provisions of services, environmental protection, and other governmental activities. Planning should be a continuous and ongoing process, thus, as a part of this process, local governments are required and periodically prepare Evaluation and Appraisal Reports (EAR) addressing implementation of the comprehensive plan.

Chapter 1 provides the background information summarizing the changes that have occurred in Orange County since the last EAR in 1998. Chapter 2 presents an evaluation of the nine (9) major issues identified by internal and external stakeholders and the public, as agreed upon by Orange County and DCA. An assessment of the County's Comprehensive Plan nineteen (19) Elements is discussed in Chapter 3 – Assessment of Elements. Chapter 3 also provides a summary of conclusions and recommended revisions to the Comprehensive Plan, whether the revision originated from a major issue, an evaluation of the Elements, or an evaluation of an additional requirement. Information to address the additional statutory requirements of Chapter 163.3191, F.S., which are not reflected in the major issues, is contained in Chapter 4 - Special Topics. Chapter 5 outlines the EAR public participation process.

The identified issues form the heart of the EAR analysis. The issues were established based upon numerous public discussions over the past few years and closely reflect Mayor Crotty's vision.

- Issue 1: Economic Development: There is a need to increase economic diversification and to improve the jobs-housing balance in areas of the County.
- Issue 2: Environmental Protection: As the County's development proceeds toward build-out, additional pressures are being placed on natural resources throughout the County, especially within developable areas of the Urban Service Area and on areas adjacent to environmentally sensitive lands and public conservation areas.
- Issue 3: Parks and Recreation: The current level of service standards for recreation are 1.5 acres/1,000 population for publicly owned activity-based parks, and 6.0 acres/1,000 population for publicly owned resource-based parks. Although vacant land is available to meet some of these needs, many of the properties are not conveniently located for residents and many of the County's children do not have any neighborhood parks within walking or bicycling distance.
- Issue 4: Public Safety: There is a significant public concern about safety at several levels: the neighborhood level, where people live and play; the community level, where they work and socialize, and the regional level of which their community is a part. The primary concerns at the neighborhood level are crime, pedestrian safety, and traffic;

- at the community level, schools, parks, and traffic; and at the regional level, disaster preparedness, traffic, and public health.
- Issue 5: Regionalism: Regional, formal cooperative efforts are needed to address long-term problems such as water supply, transportation, concurrency, and workforce housing.
- Issue 6: Smart Growth: The County needs to develop additional ways to promote infill development and redevelopment, and ensure that the timing, location, and type of urban expansions support Smart Growth concepts. Such concepts include, but are not limited to, mixed-use, pedestrian oriented development, avoiding sprawl, protecting rural areas, and other associated strategies. The County shall evaluate its existing “Smart Growth” policies and evaluate the need for additional amendments.
- Issue 7: Transportation / Mass Transit / Infrastructure Funding: The County’s transportation system is comprised of various elements, primarily roads to accommodate private motor vehicles. Transit and other multi-modal options are needed to relieve the growth in vehicular traffic and promote infill development. Transit supportive land uses and increased connectivity are required to improve multi-modal opportunities. Additional roadways also are needed to accommodate growth.
- Issue 8: Visioning: Orange County’s CPP would be improved if it were to include a well-articulated, community-based vision to guide planning initiatives through the 21st Century. The Vision Statement(s) adopted into the CPP should describe what we want the County to be like in the future in terms of urban form, physical appearance, and qualities.
- Issue 9: Workforce Housing: Due to high land and housing costs, and low wage jobs, there is a need for more affordable workforce housing within the County.

The EAR is intended to serve as a summary audit of the actions that a local government has undertaken and identify changes that it may need to make. This report is based on Orange County’s analysis of major issues and how they impact attainment of the community’s goals. The EAR evaluates and assesses the effectiveness of the Comprehensive Plan in accomplishing its adopted objectives as they relate to the issues, and will include suggested modifications or amendments that may be needed to update the Plan and its Elements including updated or otherwise revised objectives, policies and standards.

In general, the Comprehensive Policy Plan adequately addresses most issues and most of the objectives have been achieved and their implementation is ongoing. Additional objectives and policies are needed to address the issue of workforce housing. Building upon our past successes with innovative planning, additional “Smart Growth” policies are expected to help address the jobs-housing balance and housing affordability, improve the provision of public services, and address most of the growth-related issues of concern to the Public. Once the County’s Vision is incorporated into the CPP, its Goals, Objectives, and Policies will be reviewed to ensure they help attain that Vision. The CPP also will be updated throughout to reflect current conditions, the best available information, and the new planning horizon.

Mission Statement

“In Orange County, we embrace the best of our past but our vision is to the future. We are committed to preserving our environment and employing cutting edge technology to give our citizens efficient access to government and improve their quality of life.”

*Richard T. Crotty, Mayor
Orange County, Florida*

