



Draft Plan Chatham Goals

11/17/2016

1. Preserve the rural character and lifestyle of Chatham County.
 - OBJ: Preserve and restore cultural and historic resources that contribute to the identity of the county.
 - OBJ: Preserve farms and lifestyle in the western part of the county and forests and open space in the eastern part of the county.
 - OBJ: Leverage assets to promote entrepreneurship, arts, culture and tourism.
 - Metrics: Acreage in farms. Number of farms. Number of small businesses. Number of telecommuters. Economic impact of tourism. Number of historic structures lost.
2. Preserve, protect, and enable agriculture and forestry.
 - OBJ: Maintain the number and diversity of farms and forestry operations.
 - OBJ: Support existing and expanded agriculture, forestry, and horticultural operations, including value-added production.
 - OBJ: Reduce encroachment on or development pressure on agriculture, including forestry.
 - OBJ: Avoid conflicts between agriculture and residential development over water availability.
 - Metrics: Acreage in farms. Number of farms. Agricultural production (crops, livestock, forestry and horticulture). Average age of farmers. Local food sales.
3. Promote a compact growth pattern by developing in and near existing towns, communities, and in designated, well planned, walkable, mixed use centers.
 - OBJ: Reduce impacts to natural resources and systems.
 - OBJ: Lessen infrastructure burden and long-term cost of providing services.
 - OBJ: Reinforce towns as residential and commercial centers of the county.
 - Metrics: 70% of new development within ETJs or within designated centers.
4. Diversify the tax base and generate more quality, in-county jobs to reduce dependence on residential property taxes, create economic opportunity and reduce out-commuting.
 - OBJ: Increase non-residential share of the tax base.
 - OBJ: Increase high-quality, in-county jobs.
 - OBJ: Strengthen support for existing businesses, including small and medium-sized firms.
 - Metrics: Non-residential tax base (as percentage of total). Number of new living wage jobs. Number of small businesses. Percentage of out-commuting residents.
5. Conserve natural resources.
 - OBJ: Maintain and restore the quality and quantity of groundwater and surface water resources.
 - OBJ: Preserve and protect the ecosystem services provided by green infrastructure.
 - Metrics: Acres of protected land (public and private). Number of acres of conservation land or land cover along rivers and streams. Stream miles considered impaired. Water quality in rivers and Jordan Lake.



6. Provide recreational opportunities and access to open space.
 - OBJ: Provide expanded recreation opportunities and improve access to parks, community facilities, trails and open space
 - Metrics: Percentage of population with access to parks and trails. Park facilities. Trail usage. Recreational opportunities and participation.
7. Provide infrastructure to support desired development and support economic and environmental objectives.
 - OBJ: focus the development of utilities and urban services to foster compact development and support economic development in defined areas.
 - OBJ: Create a multi-modal transportation system that is well-maintained, age-friendly, and context-appropriate.
 - OBJ: High-speed internet/broadband should be available to all and enable education and entrepreneurship.
 - Metrics: Number of new residential wells vs. public water system customers. Groundwater usage statistics from residential development. Number and location of failing wells and septic tanks. Number of new septic tanks, private wastewater systems and public sewer customers. Transit ridership. Transportation mode for work and non-work based trips. Percentage of homes and businesses with internet available.
8. Become more resilient by mitigating, responding and adapting to emerging threats.
 - OBJ: Improve emergency response and limit risk associated with natural and man-made disasters (drought, floods, energy costs and availability, etc.).
 - OBJ: Become/remain a carbon negative county.
 - OBJ: Encourage resource efficient building standards.
 - OBJ: Increase awareness through outreach and provision of information.
 - Metrics: Structures at risk for flooding and/or wildfire. Carbon emission vs. carbon sequestration (carbon balance). Number of electric vehicles (or charging stations). Alternative energy produced.
9. Provide equitable access to high-quality education, housing and community options for all.
 - OBJ: 100% high school graduation rate (current rate is 87.3 (2015 NC BOE)).
 - OBJ: Increase number of higher education degrees (trade school, university, etc.).
 - OBJ: Diversity of educational options (public, private, STEM, magnet) and support services.
 - OBJ: Provide housing and community options (types, locations and prices) for all ages and incomes.
 - Metrics: Graduation rates. Income level. Number of affordable housing units by type.
10. Foster a healthy community.
 - OBJ: Improve access to healthcare
 - OBJ: Support active lifestyles (walking and biking as options)
 - Metrics: Obesity rates. Longevity. Biking and walking trends.