

Section 110 of the Comprehensive Plan represents the official “Statement of Goals and Objectives” for the planning unit encompassing Daviess County. However, it is distilled from only a portion of the 1988 version of Part 100 – Goals and Objectives.

This section retains the principles and assumptions from previous comprehensive plans that are not incorporated into Section 110, to provide a narrative background on the philosophy of the planning effort in Daviess County since the 1970s.

## OVERALL

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*Community Directions* in 1978 grouped our community's goals into four general categories -- man (people), land, buildings, and movement. The overriding goal of the community is to make our environment a place of, and for people. This implies the responsibility of providing the maximum opportunity to every man, woman, and child to realize their own goals and aspirations.

## PEOPLE

The most difficult challenge we face is that of gaining a better understanding of people and their many and varying urban needs. Although many needs are common to all humans, others vary according to age, sex, race, income, religion, education, etc. Just as no two persons are exactly the same physically, so it is that no two persons share exactly the same needs.

We must strive to understand these differences and build our community to accommodate these varying needs. Our community must supply sufficient opportunity for everyone to search out and find their own dreams or realities.

## LAND

Daviess County is comprised of 476 square miles of land and water. It was here before we arrived and will remain after we are gone. Once polluted or destroyed, the land cannot be quickly renewed. Since this resource is partly non-renewable, it only makes sense that the community should strive to use this fixed amount of land as wisely and sparingly as possible. To accomplish this, we must gain a better understanding of our soil, rock, water, plants, air, and wildlife. Preventing pollution, protecting our fragile lands, and coordinating urban development would all aid in the wise use and allocation of this non-replaceable physical resource.

## BUILDINGS

Buildings serve many functions. They are the physical structures that house most of our activities -- sleeping, eating, playing, working, etc. Buildings are one of two land innovations given to the world by people. Our goal is to have buildings that are physically pleasing, functional, efficient, and most of all that meet the needs of all our activities.

We must strive to group buildings so that one type (industrial or commercial) does not destroy the weaker types (residential). Both strong and weak building activities must be accommodated if the community is to remain a viable economic unit.

## MOVEMENT

The movement of people, their goods, wastes, energy, sounds, and images is another important concern of the community. To reduce the cost and time of movement between areas and buildings is a necessary goal. The most efficient movement system is the almost instantaneous movement of sound and image via radio, television, and telephone. Until this optimum is reached by our other movement systems (transportation, utility supply, and waste disposal), we must strive for improvements in our present technologies, so that cost and time savings can be realized.

We must endeavor to maintain and renew our present people, land, building and movement systems. For those people new to our community, for the new buildings that will be constructed, and for our new movement systems that will serve us, it should be a community objective to provide well thought-out plans and programs to properly guide their development.

## LAND USE

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A major decision facing our community is the location of future urban growth. When *Community Directions* was adopted in 1978, a decision was reached to encourage future urban development near existing urban built-up areas. Two principal planning areas were established for Daviess County: the Urban Service Area (USA) and the Rural Service Area (RSA). The USA consists of Owensboro, its developing fringes, and additional territory in which unincorporated urban development has scattered over the years.

**The principal land-use goal for Daviess County is to concentrate future urban development within the Urban Service Area. The highest level and concentration of urban services in the community presently exist in the USA. Thus the most efficient, most affordable, and most rapid expansion of urban services possible would occur with concentrated urban development in this area.**

**The land-use goal for the remainder of Daviess County that lies in the Rural Service Area is to reserve the land primarily for agricultural uses, other natural resource activities, and support uses that need to be near such activities. Rural residential uses should be accommodated throughout the RSA for people who wish to live in a rural setting, but only to the extent that such rural residential uses do not significantly impinge on the primary uses noted above.**

**Urban residential uses and other urban growth that may occur in the RSA should be concentrated around the existing built-up rural communities. This will minimize potential conflicts with the primary uses noted above, and will allow for more efficient delivery of any desired urban services.**

The compactness to be gained by concentrating new urban growth in the Urban Service Area has many advantages. Just as it takes less energy and time to walk one mile than it takes to walk ten miles, so it is with the delivery of services.

Shorter distances mean...

- ◆ Fewer pipes, wires, and roads will have to be installed,
- ◆ Less time is necessary for police and fire protection to arrive at the scene,
- ◆ Less fuel is used by vehicles, and
- ◆ Less time is needed to transact business and deliver services.

However, the big savings to the people of the community is that fewer tax dollars will be spent to supply necessary urban services to the greatest number of people.

Also, compact urban growth helps protect the natural environment. By taking less prime agricultural land out of production for urban development, we have a valuable resource for the future. Even though some excellent farmland near existing built-up areas will inevitably be lost to urbanization, by encouraging compact development, the loss of this farmland should be reduced considerably.

### RESIDENTIAL AREAS

We should avoid the introduction of urban activities that would have a detrimental effect on residential activity. This does not mean neighborhoods must be entirely residential; neighborhoods can be much more convenient, safe, and interesting with a mixture of uses. However, these other uses -- commercial, industrial, religious, educational -- must have adequate space for future expansion as well as be designed so that their noise, parking, traffic, etc. do not conflict with the residential uses.

We should provide protection from heavy through-traffic. New housing should have access only to local streets. In all areas of town, alternatives to the automobile must be given full consideration. Within neighborhoods, walkways and bikeways should be a part of the neighborhood design.

We should make many kinds of housing compatible. Residential areas should promote sharing by providing a wide variety of types of housing suitable to a wide range of people. This would mean that single-family, duplexes, and apartment buildings could all be in a neighborhood as long as the designs for the different housing types do not become irritants to the neighborhood.

### HOUSING

We should provide each resident a warm, structurally sound, sanitary, and affordable dwelling unit. We should make homes good places for a family to eat, sleep, live, and grow together. We should provide a physical environment that is free of disturbing noise and repulsive odors, and is safe and free from outside hazards -- especially unnecessary vehicular traffic -- and is surrounded by compatible residential activity. Also, we should preserve existing housing and neighborhoods.

### COMMERCIAL AREAS

We should promote adequate, attractive, and accessible shopping and service facilities for all segments of the community.

### INDUSTRIAL AREAS

We should promote a diversity of desirable industrial activities for a broad and stable economic base.

## TRANSPORTATION

Our local transportation system is comprised of our highway, mass transit, airport, waterway, railway, bikeway and walkway networks. We should provide for the movement of people and goods from one place to another in a safe and efficient manner.

### HIGHWAYS

Streets, like people, are not alike in appearance or function, and properly designed streets come in four basic varieties:

- ◆ Freeways/expressways are the highest type in terms of speed permitted and number of through vehicles moved safely and efficiently. They require controlled access points and no driveway access.
- ◆ Arterials, as the next highest through type, should establish the boundaries of residential neighborhoods and other land use activity areas.
- ◆ Collectors, as the third highest type, are intended to collect non-through traffic within neighborhoods and other activity areas, and carry it to arterial streets.
- ◆ Local streets, which carry the least amount and slowest traffic, are the means of reaching the final destination whether it be home, office, or industry.

Freeways and arterials may be attractive to commercial or industrial uses, but are objectionable to residential areas -- and, when adjoining living areas, should be designed with sensitivity to insure little, if any, decrease in the quality of livability. That means we should control the noise, safety, and visual pollution effects of our major streets.

None of our citizens live, work, or carry on any other productive human activity on our highway system. Therefore, we should strive towards reducing the amount of time spent in highway travel.

### MASS TRANSIT

Our local transit service provides transportation for those persons in the community who choose or have no alternative to this means of transportation.

### AIRPORT

The airport should provide safe and convenient air service to the community. It is a critical element to the success of economic development efforts.

### RIVERPORT

In 1975 the Owensboro Riverport Authority was created for the purpose of fostering economic growth in the region. We should provide sufficient infrastructure improvements (roads, rail, and utilities) to handle existing and future development requirements of the port facility.

### RAILWAYS

We should provide safe and adequate rail transportation in and out of our community. Without adequate rail facilities our economic growth potential would be severely limited. For

highway traffic safety and efficiency, we should upgrade hazardous railroad crossings.

### **BIKEWAYS**

We should provide bikeways of sufficient quality and quantity so that bicycles provide a viable mode of transportation. This way, we could realize savings in energy and pollution as well as eliminate some of the vehicular congestion on the urban street network.

### **WALKWAYS**

We should provide safe and adequate facilities for pedestrian movement in urban areas of the community. That means providing adequate walkways in newly developed urban areas, and improving substandard walkways in existing neighborhoods. An important safety priority should be to provide walkways along all our existing arterial and major collector streets in urban areas. In conformance with standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we should install ramps at all intersections so as to accommodate the needs of wheelchairs and other pedestrian-propelled equipment. Also, we should give proper consideration to alternative and innovative walkway systems when planning new or redevelopment areas of the community.

### **COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

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The type and quality of public facilities and services a community provides often serves as a barometer of its quality of life. Without adequate public protection, health, utilities, recreational and educational opportunities, disposal systems, or cultural facilities, the economic vitality of the community can be severely limited. We should maintain, preserve and extend the high level of services of all of our public facility agencies.

### **PUBLIC PROTECTION**

Police and fire protection, disaster and emergency services, and our community shelters plan are the components of our public protection system in the community. Our police protect the community from crime against persons and their property. Our fire fighters protect persons and their land, buildings and movement systems from damage and destruction by fire. Our disaster and emergency services system alerts citizens to their duties and responsibilities during natural and wartime disasters. We must maintain and improve the present high level of public protection services in the community.

### **HEALTH SERVICES**

Providing quality health services is a critical element in the economic vitality of our community. New and expanding businesses often consider the cost and quality of health care when making decisions concerning location or expansion in a community. Therefore, we should provide the highest quality health care at the lowest cost possible for the citizens of our area.

### **EDUCATION**

Our society becomes more technical each day, and this in turn places a greater burden on our educational institutions to produce well-educated and well-trained citizens. A sound and responsive

educational system can influence most every aspect of the community. Therefore, we should provide an educational system with equal opportunity and of the highest quality possible for all our citizens.

### **CULTURAL FACILITIES**

The availability of a variety of cultural and artistic facilities, services, and programs enriches the life of the individual as well as the community. Our county is fortunate to provide cultural facilities and programs in music, art, and theatre appreciation; as well as in history, architecture, and literature. We should actively seek to enrich the cultural environment of all our residents through accelerated programming in the arts and arts education.

### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

We must provide parks, open space, and recreational facilities and programs that meet the needs and desires of the community. This means acquiring additional open space and parkland as the community continues to grow. If we want parks to be conveniently located to most people, it is very important to acquire land in developing neighborhoods before remaining open space is filled in with buildings. We can expand the usefulness of our parkland by sharing park site with schools, community centers, or other appropriate public facilities.

### **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Telephone, radio, television, and recently, the Internet constitute our telecommunications system. This system is vital to the educational, entertainment, social, and economic wellbeing of Owensboro and Daviess County. We should provide for all of our people the most efficient system for almost instantaneous two-way communications between persons in non-face-to-face situations. The flow of information should include audio, video, and data. And, as desired, this system should provide for either private or public communication. To maintain the appearance of our community, we should minimize the number of towers needed for wireless communication by encouraging co-location of antennas on single towers.

### **UTILITY SUPPLY**

Electricity, natural gas, and water supply comprise the utility supply system in our community. We should provide an adequate and affordable utility supply for the existing and future citizens of the county, through continued maintenance and upgrading of our existing systems and through coordinated utility expansions with planned growth and development.

### **DISPOSAL SYSTEMS**

The disposal of human wastes and storm water run-off is of critical concern to the health and safety of all Daviess County residents. Necessary facilities include sanitary sewers, storm water sewers, drainage ditches, and solid waste landfills. We should design and develop these disposal systems to eliminate existing problems and provide for future growth in the most efficient, economical, and environmentally sound manner possible.

## ENVIRONMENT

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Our only physical resource is our natural environment: the sun, air, rock, soil, plant life and wildlife. We depend on the land -- or natural environment -- in several ways:

- ◆ Our biological existence is dependent upon sunshine, fresh air to breathe, pure water to drink, safe food to eat, and physical protection from harsh climate.
- ◆ All that we build comes from a reshaping of the land -- whether it is clothing, buildings, vehicles, chemicals, etc.
- ◆ The land provides a resting-place or foundation for gravity-bound people, as well as for all of the things we build.
- ◆ Our education and emotional stability are partially dependent upon the land, since observance and understanding of nature always has been one of our better teachers. And, our emotional relationship with the land is quickly illustrated by our reverence and love for parkland, forest areas, streams, wild animals, and other facets of nature.

And of course, the land exists in its own right, and is not dependent upon the existence of humans for its continuation or validity. Once we appreciate our dependence upon the land, it should quickly follow that we want to protect it to insure our continuation. We, then, must be concerned with any challenge that exists to the preservation of our natural resources.

- ◆ To protect our biological existence, we must eliminate any pollution problems that would deprive us of purity in our air, water, food, etc.
- ◆ To retain the capacity for future building, we must assure that replaceable resources are replaced by recycling or replanting, and that irreplaceable resources are sparingly and wisely used, or possibly spared completely by either doing without or securing a proper substitute.
- ◆ Using the land as a resting-place also removes it from our resource bank. This preemption results from urbanization activities -- adding buildings, streets, etc. We must be very careful in the selection of that land which will be urbanized, and to withdraw our resources from this bank as sparingly and wisely as possible.
- ◆ Since the presence of nature in our urban areas can enhance our educational opportunities and our emotional health, it must be an objective to welcome trees, grass, wildlife, etc. back to our urban areas where construction has eliminated them. And in developing areas, we should reduce scraping and bulldozing to the minimum, while saving and enhancing the green areas to the maximum extent possible.