

Chapter 1: Introduction

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The Comprehensive Plan is a dynamic planning tool that provides a structural framework for land use while simultaneously allowing for continuous revision based upon changes in the market and in growth trends. The purpose of the Comprehensive Land Use planning process is threefold: to provide spatial design specification for its communities, to provide a technical database for legal stature in the use of the land, and to provide the framework for implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

It is intended that this plan is used not only as the guide for land use decisions, but also as a comprehensive reference on Madison County and its cities, and the blueprint for community programs, public and private sector initiatives, and investment in facilities and infrastructure.

The development of the Comprehensive Plan was structured around extensive open and inclusive citizen involvement.

The planning process was initiated on November 9, 2000 with a public hearing that created the Citizen's Advisory Committee that would develop this plan. Its first priority was to review and address the planning elements outlined by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs in accordance with Georgia State Law. Based on identified needs, specific work program recommendations were developed by the Advisory Committee.

A final public hearing was held on March 29, 2001.

