

# 2012 Comprehensive Plan Goals and Objectives

Adopted by the Urban County Council on May 17, 2012

## Preamble

To ensure that the urban growth boundary policies and other long-range planning issues address the expected needs for new urban development and contribute to the prosperity of Lexington-Fayette County, these goals and objectives have been drafted based upon the determined community needs of today with confidence that they will continue to be reviewed and revised as necessary on the five-year review cycle mandated by state statute.

## Mission Statement

The 2012 Comprehensive Plan seeks to provide flexible planning guidance to ensure that development of our community's resources and infrastructure preserves our quality of life, and fosters regional planning and economic development. This will be accomplished while protecting the environment, promoting successful, accessible neighborhoods, and preserving the unique Bluegrass landscape that has made Lexington-Fayette County the Horse Capital of the World.

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## Goals and Objectives

### A. Growing Successful Neighborhoods

#### Goal

1. Expand housing choices.
  - a. Pursue incentives and regulatory approaches that encourage creativity and sustainability in housing development.
  - b. Plan for housing that addresses the market needs for all of Lexington-Fayette County's residents, including, but not limited to, mixed-use and housing near employment and commercial areas.
  - c. Plan for safe, affordable, and accessible housing to meet the needs of older and/or disadvantaged residents.
  - d. Create and implement housing incentives that strengthen the opportunity for economic development, new business, and jobs, including, but not limited to, higher density and housing affordability.
2. Support infill and redevelopment throughout the Urban Service Area as a strategic component of growth.
  - a. Identify areas of opportunity for infill, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse that respect the area's context and design features whenever possible.

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- b. Implement innovative programs, such as the land bank, to facilitate sustainable development, including, but not limited to, affordable housing and commercial and economic activity.
  - c. Create materials that educate the public about infill and redevelopment.
3. Provide well-designed neighborhoods and communities.
- a. Enable existing and new neighborhoods to flourish through improved regulation, expanded opportunities for neighborhood character preservation, and public commitment to expanded options for mixed-use and mixed-type housing throughout Lexington-Fayette County.
  - b. Strive for positive and safe social interactions in neighborhoods, including, but not limited to, neighborhoods that are connected for pedestrians and various modes of transportation.
  - c. Minimize disruption of natural features when building new communities.
  - d. Promote, maintain, and expand the urban forest in existing neighborhoods.

## **B. Protecting the Environment**

### Goal

- 1. Continue to implement the Consent Decree, including the capacity assurance program, as directed by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- 2. Reduce Lexington-Fayette County's carbon footprint.
  - a. Implement the adopted environmental policy.
  - b. Anticipate the community's needs by encouraging environmentally sustainable uses of natural resources.
  - c. Provide incentives for green building, sustainable development, and transit-oriented development with civic agencies leading by example through the use of green building standards.
- 3. Support the funding, planning, and management of a green infrastructure program.
  - a. Identify and protect natural resources and landscapes before development occurs.
  - b. Incorporate green infrastructure principles in new plans and policies, including, but not limited to, land use and transportation.

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## C. Creating Jobs and Prosperity

### Goal

1. Support and showcase local assets to further the creation of a variety of jobs.
  - a. Strengthen efforts to develop a variety of job opportunities that lead to prosperity for all.
  - b. Strengthen regulations and policies that propel the agricultural economy, including, but not limited to, local food production and distribution, agritourism, and the equine industry that showcase Lexington-Fayette County as the Horse Capital of the World.
  - c. Collaborate with institutions of higher learning to foster a capable and skilled work force while engaging agencies that address the lack of prosperity for residents by reducing joblessness.
  - d. Foster the success and growth of large employment sectors; protect and provide readily available economic development land to meet the needs for jobs; and enable infill and redevelopment that creates jobs where people live.
  - e. Encourage the development of appropriate attractions and supporting uses that promote and enhance tourism.
2. Attract the world's finest jobs, encourage an entrepreneurial spirit, and enhance our ability to recruit and retain a talented, creative workforce by establishing opportunities that embrace diversity with inclusion in our community.
  - a. Identify and promote sectors of the economy that will flourish in Lexington-Fayette County.
  - b. Improve opportunities for small business development and workers who rely on personal technology.
  - c. Review and improve regulations and policies that attract and retain high paying jobs through close collaboration with agencies that focus on economic development.
  - d. Provide entertainment and other quality of life opportunities that attract young professionals and a work force of all ages and talents to Lexington.

## D. Improving a Desirable Community

### Goal

1. Work to achieve an effective and comprehensive transportation system.
  - a. Support the Complete Streets concept which includes, but is not limited to, the design and use of the right-of-way for cars, bicycles, and pedestrians.

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- b. Develop a viable network of accessible transportation alternatives for residents and commuters, which may include the use of mass transit, bicycles, walkways, ridesharing, greenways, and other strategies.
  - c. Improve traffic operation strategies.
2. Provide for accessible community facilities and services to meet the health, safety, and quality of life needs of Lexington-Fayette County's residents and visitors.
    - a. Encourage public safety and social sustainability by supporting Secured by Design concepts and other policies and programs for the built and natural environments of neighborhoods to help reduce opportunities for crimes.
    - b. Collaborate with educational and healthcare entities to meet the needs of Lexington-Fayette County's residents and visitors.
  3. Protect and enhance the natural and cultural landscapes that give Lexington-Fayette County its unique identity and image.
    - a. Protect historic resources and archeological sites.
    - b. Incentivize the renovation, restoration, development, and maintenance of historic residential and commercial structures.
    - c. Develop incentives to retain, restore, preserve, and continue use of historic sites and structures, rural settlements, and urban and rural neighborhoods.
  4. Promote, support, encourage, and provide incentives for public art.

### **E. Maintaining a Balance between Planning for Urban Uses and Safeguarding Rural Land.**

#### Goal

1. Uphold the Urban Service Area concept.
  - a. Continue to monitor the absorption of vacant and underutilized land within the Urban Service Area.
  - b. Encourage compact, contiguous, and/or mixed-use sustainable development within the Urban Service Area, as guided by market demand, to accommodate future growth needs.
2. Support the agricultural economy, horse farms, general agricultural farms, and the rural character of the Rural Service Area.

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- a. Update, reaffirm, and readopt the Rural Service Area Land Management Plan to continue as the community's framework for preserving and enhancing rural resources.
  - b. Protect and enhance the natural, cultural, historic, and environmental resources of Lexington-Fayette County's Rural Service Area and Bluegrass farmland to help promote the general agricultural brand and ensure Lexington-Fayette County remains the Horse Capital of the World.
  - c. Support the Purchase of Development Rights and private sector farmland conservation programs to protect, preserve, and enhance our signature agricultural industries, historic structures, cultural landscapes, natural environments, and community welfare.
3. Maintain the current boundaries of the Urban Service Area and Rural Activity Centers; and create no new Rural Activity Centers.

### **F. Implementing the Plan for Lexington-Fayette County and the Bluegrass**

#### Goal

1. Engage the residents of Lexington-Fayette County in the planning process.
  - a. Pursue all venues of communication, including, but not limited to, electronic and social media to involve residents.
  - b. Establish early and continuous communication with residents.
  - c. Develop a network of diverse contacts and a means to engage them.
  - d. Collaborate with other agencies in Lexington-Fayette County to meet local standards in order to achieve compatible developments and accomplish the community's vision as articulated in *Destination 2040*.
2. Implement the 2012 Comprehensive Plan.
  - a. Develop and update a work program for the 2012 Comprehensive Plan that can be measured and analyzed.
  - b. Provide an annual public report about the progress of implementation.
3. Increase regional planning.
  - a. Set the standard through leadership and engagement to identify and resolve regional issues.
  - b. Support legislative efforts and cross-border actions that improve regional planning, including, but not limited to, developing regional policies; sharing information; and planning for regional systems of transportation, open space, water supply, and infrastructure.