

Chapter 15

GENERAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

INTRODUCTION

Achievement of the principal goal of this **General Plan** requires an effective program of coordinated local and county efforts. The principal institutional components of this program were presented in Chapter 14. This chapter describes the general process to be followed. Key priorities for inclusion in short range action programs and budgets are also identified. A more detailed process for implementation will need to be developed after adoption of the **General Plan** for annually updated work programs tied to local and County budgets.

As important a benchmark as this plan represents, the initiatives proposed in the **General Plan** will not implement themselves. It will take the concerted efforts of citizens, elected officials, local and County planner, and other administrative officials to bring this plan from concept into reality. It will take continued support and commitment for many years. However, the goals of this plan and the actions proposed to implement it offer the promise of a much better future than that likely to occur if existing trends continue unabated.

The central ingredients to successful implementation will be commitment by citizens, by the County Board of Commissioners, and by support from local units of government. Benefits to all groups will be most visible in terms of lower infrastructure and maintenance costs for public facilities and retention of the rural character of the landscape (so cherished by residents and visitors). Many indirect benefits will also occur. For example, local plans and development regulations will be easier and less costly to prepare and maintain because the information in the Planning and Community Development Department's "County data center" can easily be updated and displayed on maps from the Geographic Information System and on the County-wide website. In working in partnership with the County in a manner compatible with this plan, local governments will be able to justifiably provide for a narrower range of land uses in their plans and zoning regulations.



This could eliminate the continued scattering of commercial and industrial uses in inappropriate locations while improving the success of businesses established in appropriate locations. These and many other benefits previously identified will result from implementation of this **General Plan**.

As this **General Plan** explains, County concerns related to growth and development issues are most significant on issues of greater than local concern. Such issues, while numerous, do not include the full range of land use issues that must be addressed by local communities, but they do overlap on certain issues. This should not be viewed as negative, or an obstacle to progress, but rather as an opportunity to insure that both local and County-wide issues are adequately addressed before making decisions on issues of greater than local concern.

Process Leading to Plan Implementation

There are two basic steps that need to be addressed in implementing this **General Plan**. They are:

- Plan adoption process.
- Establishment of a process for updating the plan.

Plan Adoption Process

The plan proposes adoption by the County Planning Commission, with approval by the County Board of Commissioners. The County Planning Commission needs to conduct a public hearing(s). The plan will be submitted to each local governmental unit in the County and public notices will announce the review period. Any suggestions for revisions that are received during the public review period, will be forwarded to the County Planning Commission. Additional refinements may occur as a result of this process and prior to adoption. Following adoption of the **General Plan** by the County Planning Commission, it will be formally submitted to the County Board of Commissioners. The County Board has the option of final approval of the document, if they pass a resolution to that affect.

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Mechanism for Updating the General Plan

An annual report on actions taken to implement the plan should be made to the County Board of Commissioners, along with adoption of any necessary amendments by the County Planning Commission. Periodically, and at least once each five years, the **General Plan** should be thoroughly reviewed and updated.

Key Priorities

The most important priorities identified should be included, wherever feasible, in work programs and budgets by the appropriate organization(s). This list should be annually updated and supplemented. Action statements should be considered as priorities :

Top Priority Actions:

- A County capital improvement programming process (CIP) that is annually updated.
- Continued development of the "County data center" within the County Planning and Community Development Department and the County-wide website.
- Expansion of technical assistance services of the Planning Department to meet growing needs by County agencies, local governments, businesses, and citizens in the County. A special emphasis of expanded services should include priority service to communities acting in partnership with the County in implementation of the **General Plan**.
- Continued support for new legislation to provide new tools to better guide growth and manage change.

The central ingredients to successful plan implementation will be commitment by the County Board of Commissioners and support from local units of government.



Vineyard in Suttons Bay Township