INTRODUCTION

This map is part of the Hamilton County Comprehensive Plan Update, which was originally drafted and adopted in 1995. The Comprehensive Plan covers all portions of Hamilton County that are not within municipalities or other planning districts. The purpose of a Comprehensive Plan is to guide future development and growth. It provides the framework for the planning and implementing of land use decisions in Hamilton County. The Comprehensive Plan is designed to protect the natural beauty and plan the management of development in order to maintain a balance between land use and natural resources, to encourage private and public investment in sustainable land use practices.

This Comprehensive Plan Update is presented in an environmentally-based planning approach and incorporates the opinions and desires of current residents through an ongoing public participatory process. Specific goals identified as priorities in Hamilton County are summarised as follows:

1. Land Use Planning - The land use categories in this Comprehensive Plan reflect the current land use and development patterns and are in agreement with the recommendations of this Comprehensive Plan.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement must serve as the foundation for the plan and reflect the direction given by the citizens of the community. The mission statement identifies the values and priorities of the community and serves as a guide for decision-making.

1. This plan is based upon a common vision for Hamilton County that stresses a healthy balance between ecology, community, culture, and economy.

2. Rapid growth and development must be managed with sound, long-range planning for natural resources, transportation, homes, businesses, and other community infrastructure.

3. The citizens of Hamilton County and their elected officials are committed to carry through with the recommendations of this Comprehensive Plan.

LAND USE PLAN UPDATE

The land use categories indicated on the land map are as follows:

1. Residential Areas - These areas are most removed from municipal services, roads, and other infrastructure. They are primarily in agricultural use currently, and are anticipated to stay in agriculture, or be developed with extremely low density, scattered farmettes and farmhouses.

2. Priority Growth - Mixed-Use: These areas are accessible to major transportation, and existing areas where one or more communities can develop to accommodate the anticipated growth in population caused by the new industrial, commercial, or light industrial development which should follow conservation practices to minimize environmental impacts and provide a high quality of life for residents.

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4. Priority Growth - Mixed-Use: These areas are adjacent to already-paved arterial roadways where linear-use development includes homes and other uses such as schools, shops, businesses, churches, and other uses that benefit from the visibility and access those locations provide.

5. Airports Business Enterprise: These areas are adjacent to and provide the urban opportunity of accessibility to Brownsville Airport. Certain business and other uses that would benefit from being served by small airports should be developed here.

6. Conservation/Recreation: These are large, contiguous areas where natural landscapes and water bodies should be preserved and restored in perpetuity as an ecological system. They do not represent all of the areas that should be identified for parks and open space. There should be parks and open space associated with each neighborhood for additional recreation, habitat, and enjoyment.