



September 10, 2024

**BOCC Briefing:  
Land Use Alternatives**

# Agenda



- Project Status
- Land Use Alternatives:
  - Purpose and intent
  - How they are defined
  - Outcomes of modeling
  - Collecting feedback
- Next Steps

# Project Process



**1**

Phase 1:  
Launch Project

Summer  
2023

**Set the Stage  
&  
Collect  
Stakeholder  
Inputs**

**2**

Phase 2:  
Identify New  
Issues and  
Opportunities

Fall 2023  
to Winter  
2024

**Collect  
Community  
Inputs  
&  
Define New  
Issues and  
Opportunities**

**3**

Phase 3:  
Evaluate  
Planning  
Influences

Fall 2023  
to Winter  
2024

**Evaluate  
Existing  
Conditions  
&  
Planning  
Influences**

**4**

Phase 4:  
Develop the  
Plan

2024

**Create Draft  
Vision and Goals  
&  
Test Land Use  
Alternatives  
&  
Draft and  
Finalize Plan**

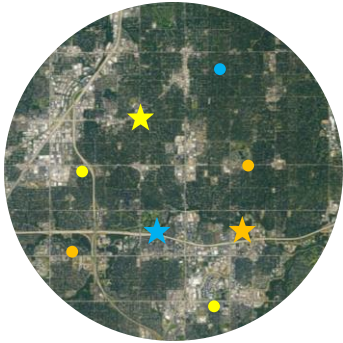
**5**

Phase 5:  
Adopt the  
Plan

2025

**Adopt Plan**

# Purpose of Land Use Alternatives



Identify the **areas where the community might want to see change.**

**Define and explore potential land use alternatives** through hypothetical modeling exercises.

Evaluate the **impacts those changes could yield** using modeled outcomes.

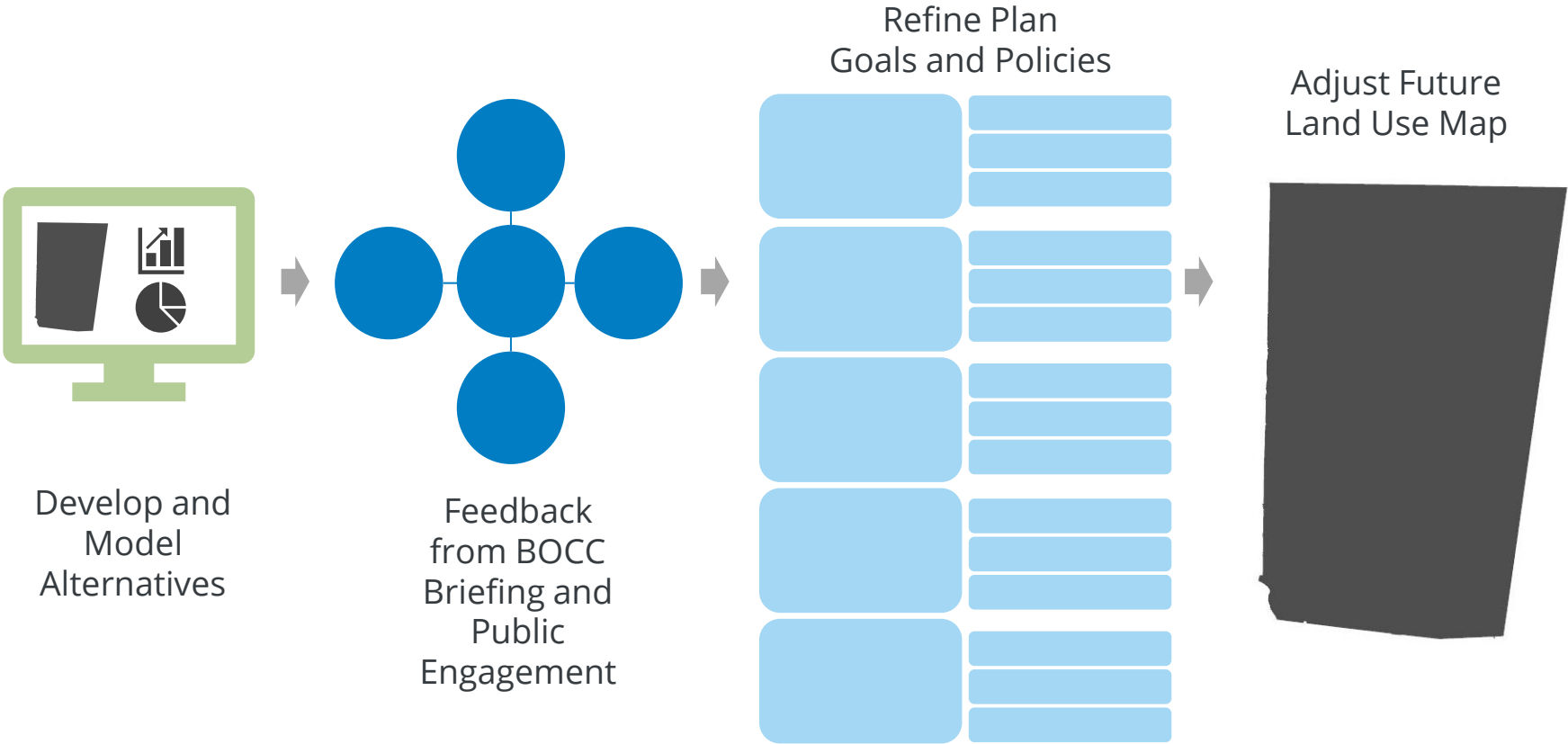
Collect and use community feedback to inform development of the **plan policies needed to support the desired outcomes.**

# Land Use Alternatives Are Not...



- **Formal recommendations for new policies**
  - *They are* hypothetical land use policy options to evaluate through mapping analysis and discuss as part of community engagement activities.
- **A recommended new future land use map (FLUM)**
  - *They are* policy options to evaluate and inform development of the new 2050 Land Use Plan's FLUM. The new FLUM could be a hybrid of different aspects of the alternatives.

# How LU Alternatives will be used...



# Basic Steps of Land Use Alternatives Exercise



1. **Identify key question** to answer with land use alternatives.
2. **Start from current Future Land Use Map (FLUM) and policies.** Update to current policy context.
3. **Develop and model hypothetical future policy alternatives** for unincorporated Orange County and assess outcomes.
4. **Share outcomes** with County leadership and residents and **gather feedback** on support for future alternatives.

*Assumption that final preferred Growth and Conservation Framework (FLUM) may be a combination of policy directions from these alternatives.*

# Context for Defining Land Use Alternatives



Initial  
Community  
Feedback

(Strategic Plan Survey,  
CEW #1, and  
Stakeholder Interviews)

Technical  
Analysis

(Fact Book)

Current  
Future  
Land Use  
Policies

Key Question  
& Land Use  
Alternatives  
to Explore

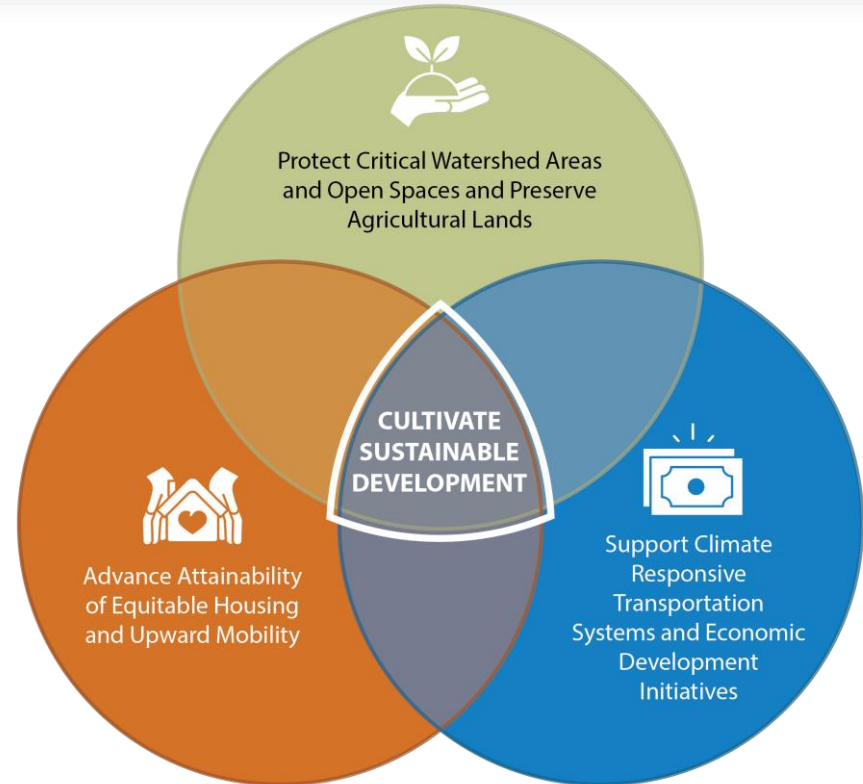
(Alternatives 1-4)



# Refresher on Key Question Derived from Public Engagement Feedback



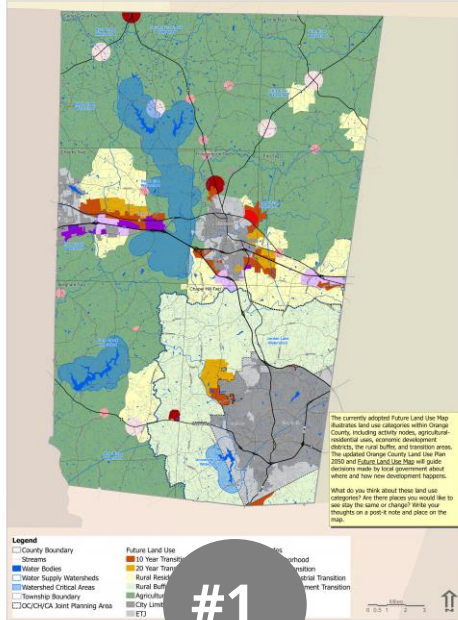
**Which aspects of the land use alternatives best achieve the balance of sustainable development in Orange County?**



# Start from Current Policies



## Baseline Alternative with Policy Updates



Continue Current Policies



Enhance Agricultural  
and Environmental  
Protections



Low-Impact Rural  
Conservation  
Neighborhoods and New  
Employment in Strategic  
Locations



Mixed-Use Centers  
and New Employment  
in Strategic Locations

# Environmentally Sensitive Areas



For all “new” alternatives, avoided adding more dense or intensive development within...

- Critical water supply watersheds
- Voluntary Agricultural Districts (VAD) and Enhanced (EVAD)

To the extent practical, avoided adding more dense or intensive development within...

- Protected water supply watersheds
- Conservation corridors (Eno/New Hope Habitat)



#2

Enhance Agricultural and Environmental Protections



#3

Low-Impact Rural Conservation Neighborhoods and New Employment in Strategic Locations



#4

Mixed-Use Centers and New Employment in Strategic Locations

# Land Use Classifications



## Updated Classifications for Hypothetical Land Use Alternatives

Mixed Use Center

Economic Development Area

Low Density Neighborhood

Urbanizing Residential

Rural Activity Node

Rural Conservation Neighborhood

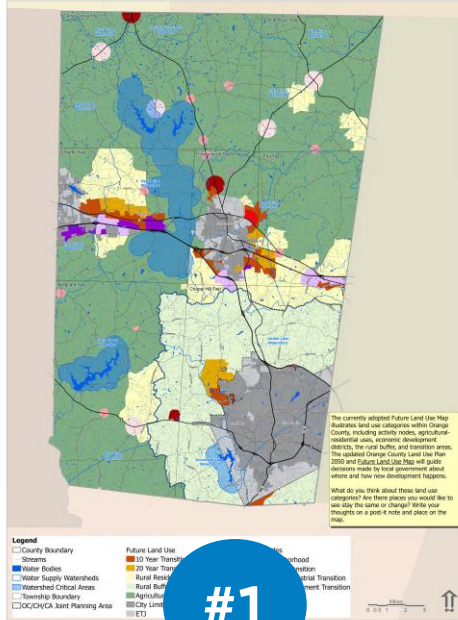
Rural Residential

Rural Buffer

# Baseline Alternative #1



## Baseline Alternative with Policy Updates



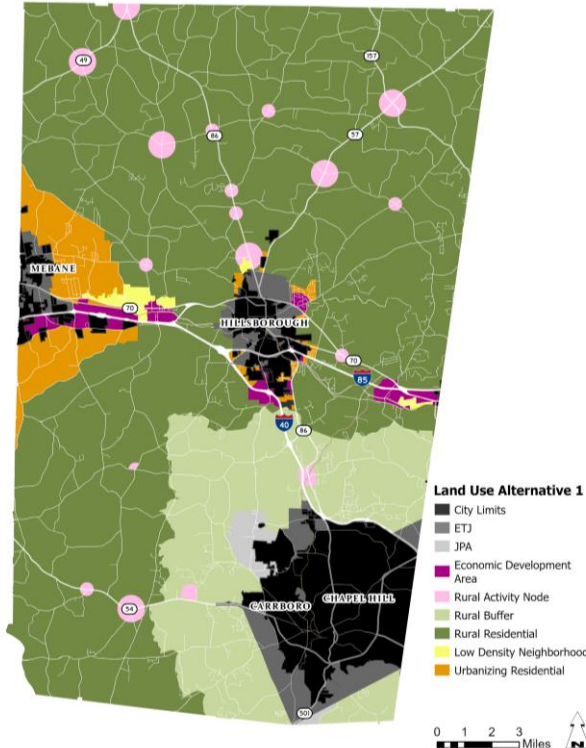
## Updates:

- Refined palette of land use classifications
- Reflect Hillsborough's new Comprehensive Plan and study area for Mebane's forthcoming plan
- Update to include Blackwood Station as Rural Node (bring into alignment with Joint Planning Agreement, Rural Node as subcategory of Rural Buffer)

#1

Continue Current Policies

# Baseline Alternative #1

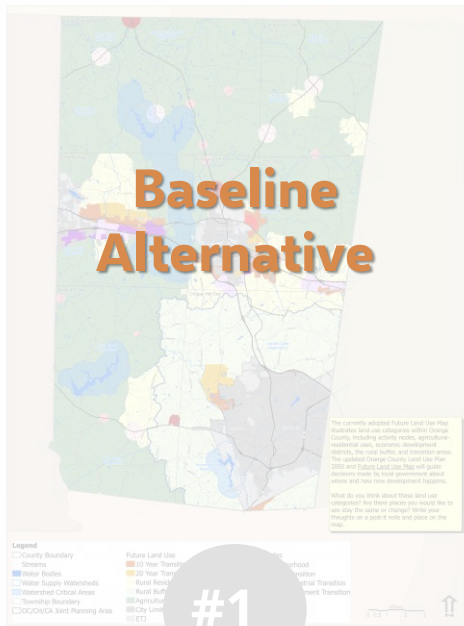


**Maintain current densities for land use categories in unincorporated areas**

## Land Use Alternative 1

- City Limits
- ETJ
- JPA
- Economic Development Area
- Rural Activity Node
- Rural Buffer
- Rural Residential
- Low Density Neighborhood
- Urbanizing Residential

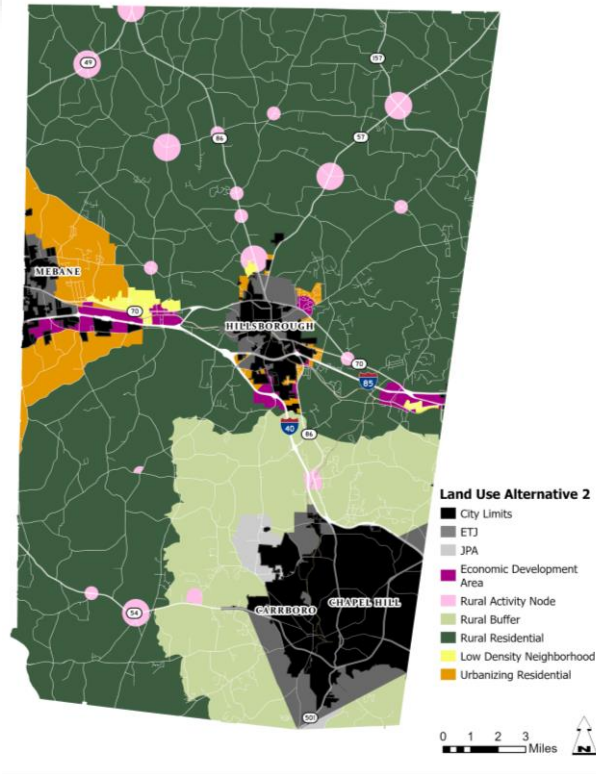
# Alternative #2: Agricultural & Environmental Protections



**Enhance Agricultural and Environmental Protections**

- Focus on **protecting priority agricultural, environmental, watershed, and rural** lands
- Would **lower densities for all residential areas** (except Urbanizing Residential and Lower Density Residential)
- Would **limit the extent of new housing opportunities** in unincorporated Orange County through more restrictive residential density policies
- Would **not require changes to water/wastewater policies**; users would rely on individual well and septic systems

# Alternative #2: Agricultural & Environmental Protections



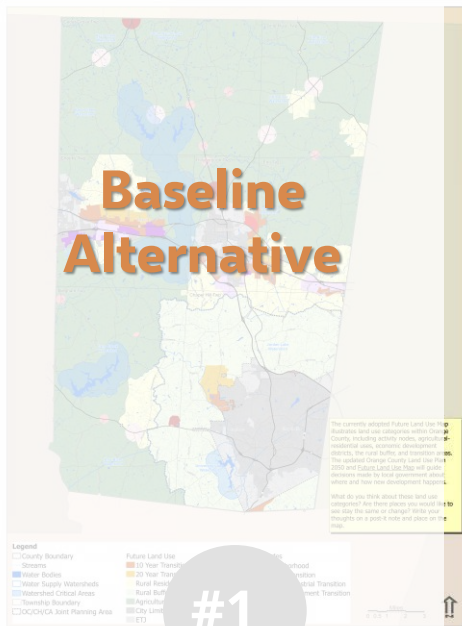
**Lower residential densities for majority of lands in unincorporated areas**

## Land Use Alternative 2

- City Limits
- ETJ
- JPA
- Economic Development Area
- Rural Activity Node
- Rural Buffer
- Rural Residential
- Low Density Neighborhood
- Urbanizing Residential



# Alternative #3: Rural Conservation Neighborhoods



**Low-Impact Rural Conservation Neighborhoods and New Employment in Strategic Locations**

- Would **require Rural Conservation Neighborhoods** in strategic locations
- Would require that Rural Conservation Neighborhoods **permanently protect 60% of site** prioritizing key areas (farm, ecological areas, habitat) **in trade for higher-density housing**
- Would offer the **potential for a mix of housing types and neighborhood-scale commercial** in unincorporated areas
- Would **support expansion of Buckhorn Economic Development District** south of West Ten Road
- Would **require explicit policy to allow for community systems** (water and wastewater)

# Ex. Rural Conservation Neighborhood



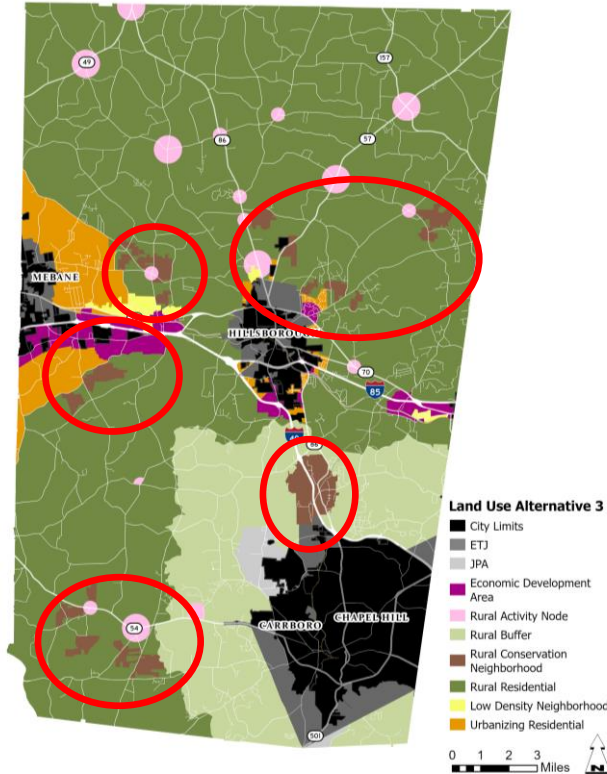
Images courtesy  
of Randall Arendt

**Conventional Neighborhood**



**Rural Conservation Neighborhood**

# Alternative #3: Rural Conservation Neighborhoods

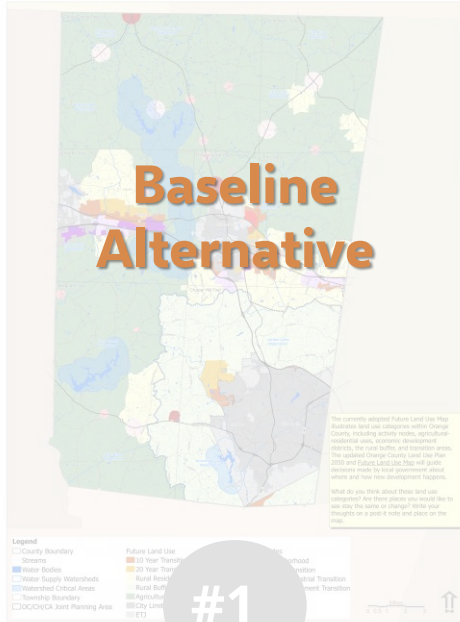


**Rural Conservation Neighborhoods and Economic Development Areas in strategic locations**

## Land Use Alternative 3

- City Limits
- ETJ
- JPA
- Economic Development Area
- Rural Activity Node
- Rural Buffer
- Rural Conservation Neighborhood
- Rural Residential
- Low Density Neighborhood
- Urbanizing Residential

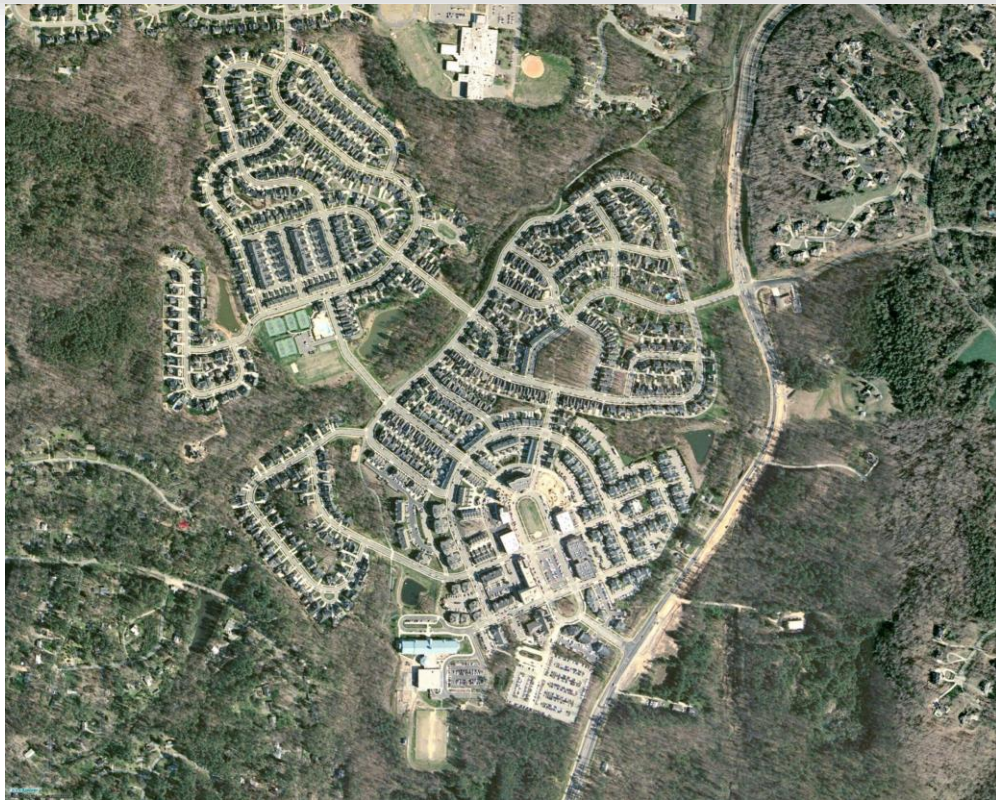
# Alternative #4: Mixed Use Centers



**Allow Mixed-Use Centers and New Employment in Strategic Locations**

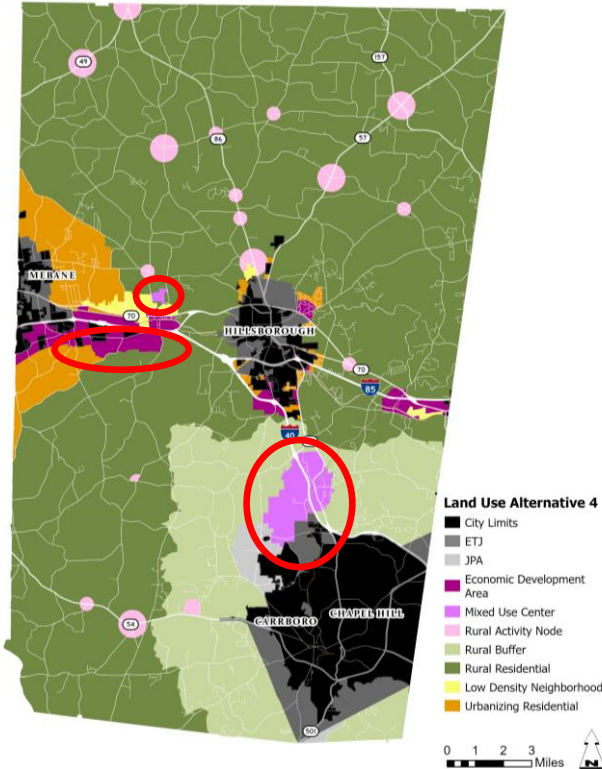
- Would allow **two areas to provide higher-density, mixed-use developments**
- Would **support expansion of Buckhorn Economic Development District** south of West Ten Road
- **Mixed Use Centers to be located adjacent to municipalities** to increase the feasibility for extension of public water and wastewater utilities
- Would **require changes to water/wastewater policies** to allow for expansion of public water and sewer systems to these sites

# Ex. Higher Intensity, Mixed-Use Center



Southern Village

# Alternative #4: Mixed Use Centers



## New Mixed Use Centers and Economic Development Areas in strategic locations

### Land Use Alternative 4

- City Limits
- ETJ
- JPA
- Economic Development Area
- Mixed Use Center
- Rural Activity Node
- Rural Buffer
- Rural Residential
- Low Density Neighborhood
- Urbanizing Residential

# Outcomes of Alternatives



## Conservation Land

Total amount of land (**acres**) required to be conserved as either permanently protected open space or as part of private rural lots if all lands were to be developed.

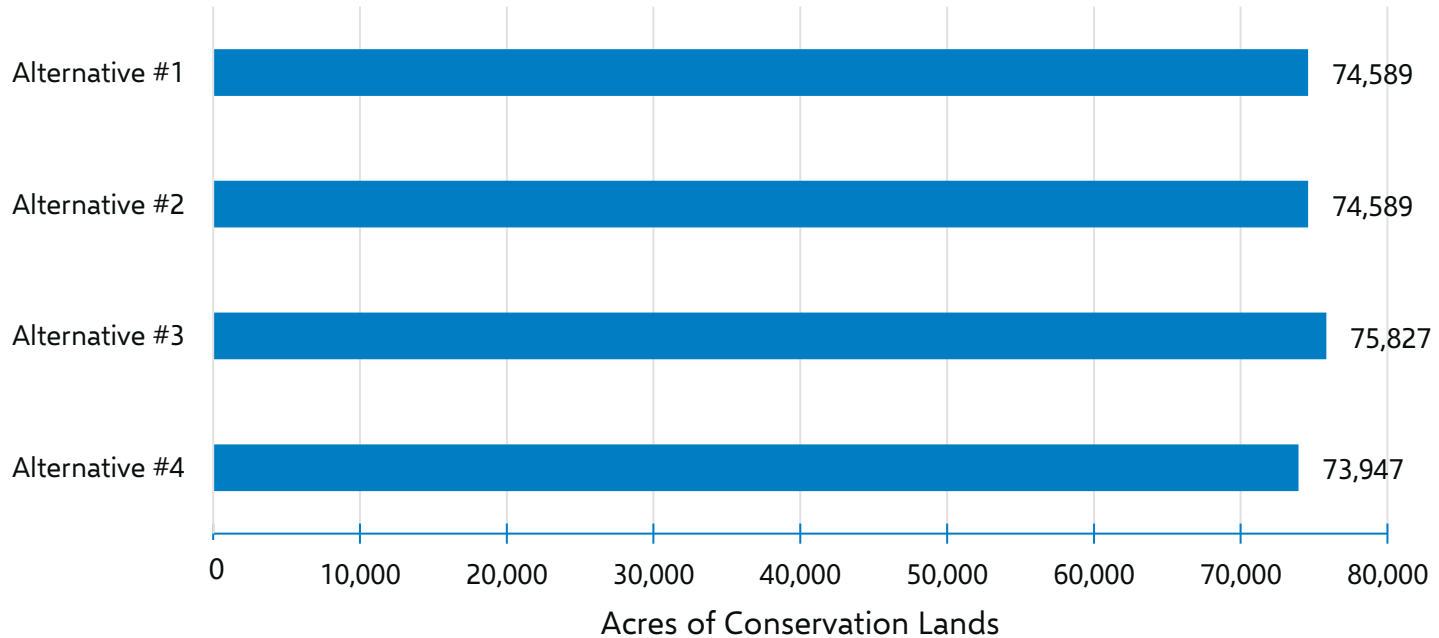
## Residential Capacity

Residential development capacity (**dwelling units**) if all lands in unincorporated Orange County were to be developed.

## Nonresidential Capacity

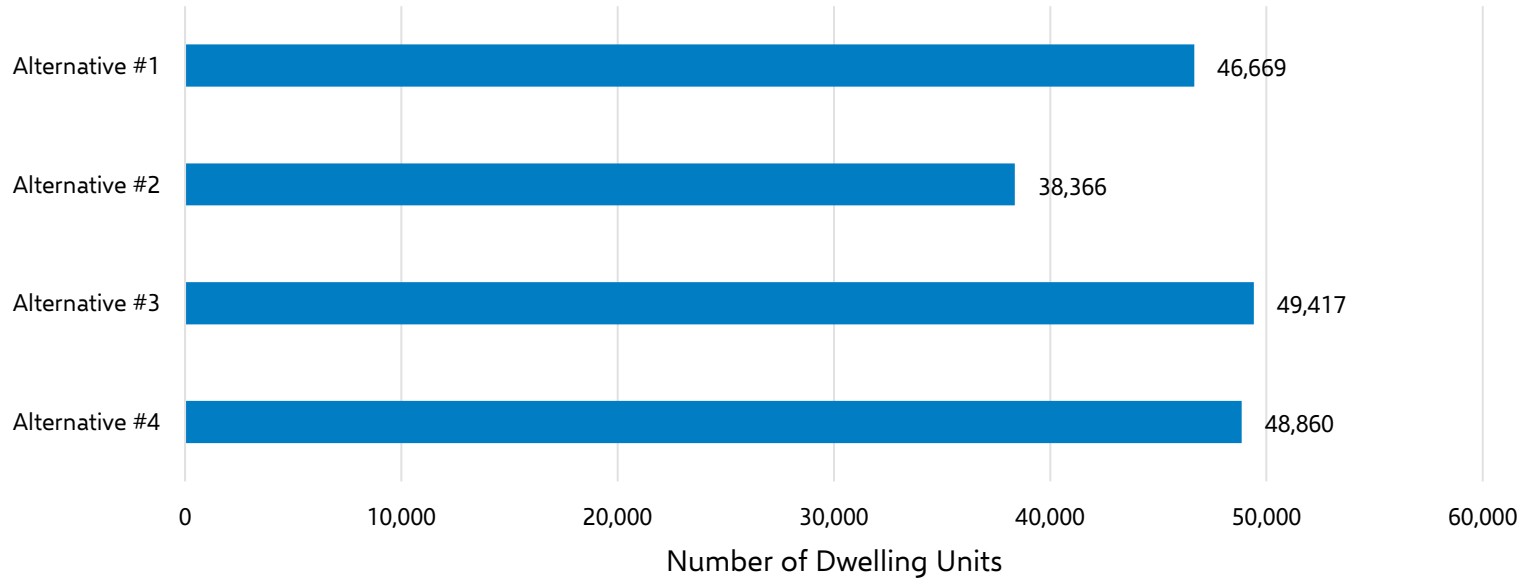
Nonresidential development capacity (**square feet of development**) if all lands in unincorporated Orange County were to be developed.

# Outcomes: Conservation Land

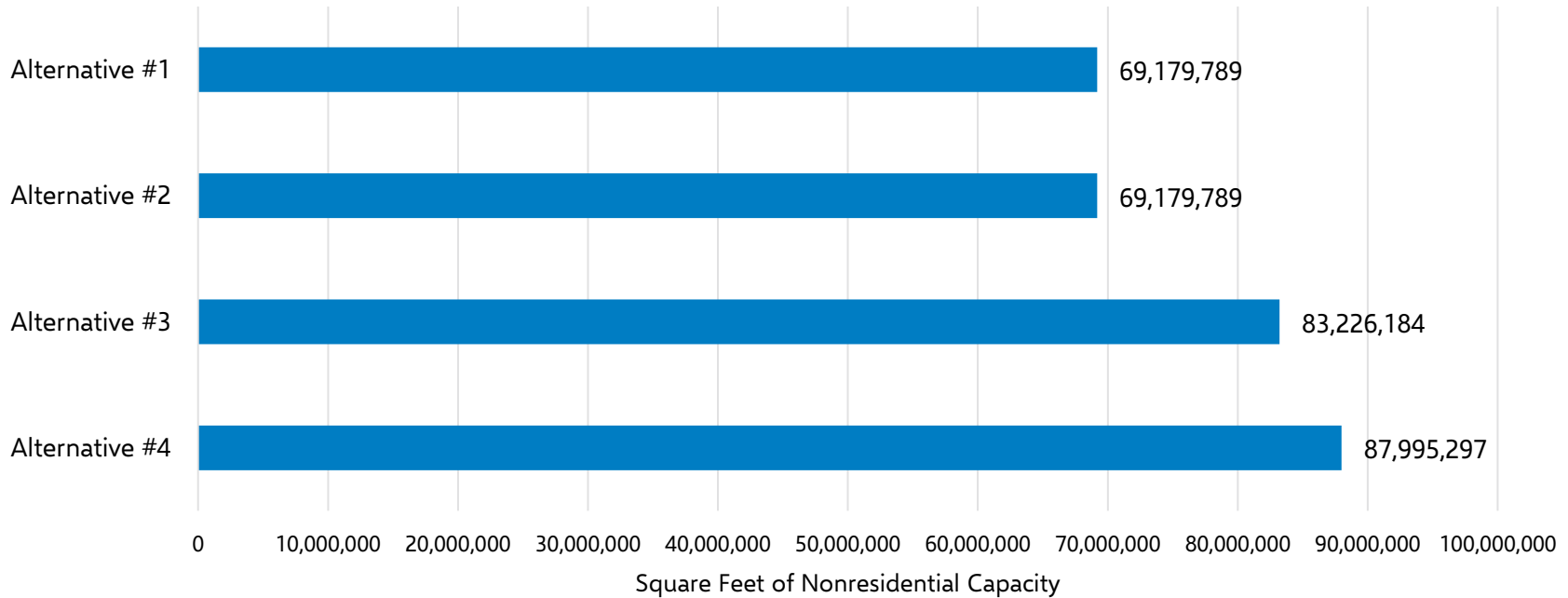




# Outcomes: Residential Capacity



# Outcomes: Nonresidential Capacity

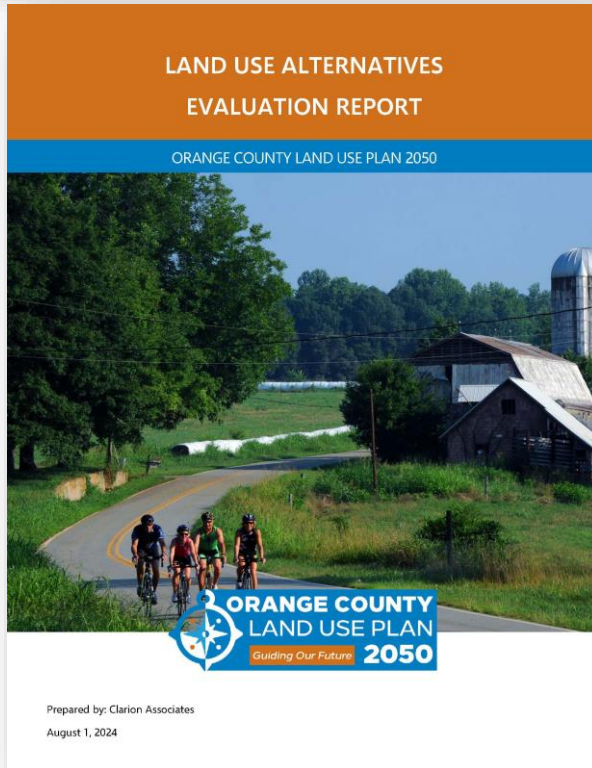


# Comparison of Outcomes



	<b>Alternative #2</b>	<b>Alternative #3</b>	<b>Alternative #4</b>
<b>Increasing protection of high-value environmental, agricultural, and rural lands</b>	Medium	Medium	Low
<b>Increasing affordable housing or increase housing stock</b>	Low	High	Medium
<b>Increasing potential for transit use in unincorporated Orange County</b>	Low	Medium	High
<b>Reducing VMTs or reducing greenhouse gases</b>	Medium	Low	Medium
<b>Creating new employment opportunities in unincorporated areas</b>	Low	Medium	High

# Technical Report



Documents the methodology, analysis, and outcomes.

Available online:

<https://www.orangecountylanduseplan.com/resources>

# Community Engagement Window #2: Testing Land Use Alternatives



Please join us at the following events:

**Wednesday, September 25th**

**6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

**Gravelly Hill Middle School**

**4801 W Ten Rd, Efland, NC 27243**

**Thursday, October 3**

**6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

**American Legion Post 6**

**3700 NC-54, Chapel Hill, NC  
27516**

In addition, Orange County Planning staff is working directly with community representatives to host targeted community meetings.

# Community Engagement Window #2



# Community Engagement Activities



## CHOICES FOR OUR FUTURE

### What is the Orange County Land Use Plan 2050?

In 2023, Orange County launched a planning process that will result in a rewrite of one of Orange County's key policy documents, called the Orange County Land Use Plan. The Plan will serve to guide the County's growth and conservation effort through the year 2050.



We are here.

How Can I Participate Today?

Have a few minutes? Please complete one or both short surveys using this QR code or paper copies provided.

Have more time and want to provide more detailed feedback? Use the QR code below to learn more.



[orangecountylanduseplan.com](https://www.orangecountylanduseplan.com)



Use this QR code to visit the project website and sign up for email updates.



## LAND USE ALTERNATIVES

### Summary of the Land Use Alternatives

- Continue Current Policies**
  - Baseline scenario
  - Represents future if no changes are made to current policies
  - Includes updates to reflect Hillsborough's and Mebane's growth and planning areas and the Joint Planning Agreement (JPA) near Chapel Hill
- Enhance Agricultural and Environmental Protections**
  - Tests a policy direction that protects priority agricultural, environmental, watershed, and rural lands
  - Limits the extent of new housing opportunities
  - Assumes that new housing will be accommodated within municipalities
- Add Low-Impact, Rural Conservation Neighborhoods in Strategic Locations**
  - Tests a policy direction that allows for the creation of Rural Conservation Neighborhoods (conservation subdivisions) in suitable locations
  - Rural Conservation Neighborhoods include a mix of housing types, protect key ecologically valuable areas of the site, and by permanently protecting open space
- Add Higher Intensity, Mixed-Use Centers in Strategic Locations**
  - Tests a policy direction that allows for the development of higher density housing types and commercial/employment areas in strategic locations
  - Mixed use centers will require municipal water and sewer services



### Learn More About Each Alternative

Review the following boards to learn more about the different aspects of each land use alternative, explained below.

Call out boxes and leader lines to the map identify what's different about each alternative.

The map shows the modeled land use categories applied within each land use alternative.

A photo provides an aerial example from Orange County of the modeled land use.

The scorecard compares the alternative to Alternative #1 (baseline) across five categories.



[orangecountylanduseplan.com](https://www.orangecountylanduseplan.com)



## CHOICES FOR OUR FUTURE

### What is the Orange County Land Use Plan 2050?

In 2023, Orange County launched a planning process that will result in a rewrite of one of Orange County's key policy documents, called the Orange County Land Use Plan. The Orange County Land Use Plan 2050 will serve to guide the County's growth and conservation efforts through the year 2050. By setting goals and objectives, County officials can use the document to guide land use policy decisions that effectively provide a high quality of life for community members.

### What is Land Use Alternatives Modeling?

Land use alternatives modeling (also called "scenario planning") is the process of comparing multiple future, hypothetical, land use patterns. For example, this could look at how much residential or non-residential development capacity exists or how much land is conserved or left undeveloped. Land use alternatives modeling attempts to evaluate the impacts of building one type of development versus another, or of conserving the land instead.

The key question to answer through this exercise is: Which aspects of the land use alternatives best achieve the desired balance of sustainable development in Orange County?

To learn more about the land use alternatives modeling, you can read the report here: <https://www.orangecountylanduseplan.com/resources>



### How Can I Participate Today?

- Review the Land Use Alternatives**  
Review the four land use alternatives modeled for Orange County's future.
- Review the Vision Themes & Goals**  
Review the draft Vision Themes and Goals for the Orange County Land Use Plan 2050.
- Submit your feedback!**  
You can share your feedback in one of two ways:

**A** Use the Comment Forms provided.

**B** Submit your feedback online: [www.orangecountylanduseplan.com](https://www.orangecountylanduseplan.com)



Use the QR codes below to learn more on the project website and sign up for email updates.



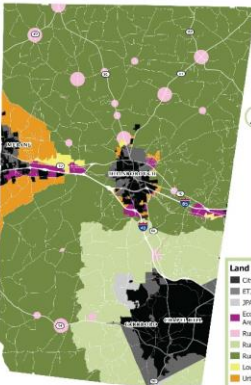
[orangecountylanduseplan.com](https://www.orangecountylanduseplan.com)



# Community Engagement Activities



## ALTERNATIVE #1 CONTINUE CURRENT POLICIES



**INSTRUCTIONS**

Please review the following information about the land use alternative.

On the comment form provided, please respond to the questions.

**A BASELINE**

Represents a baseline scenario that reflects the policy intent of the current 2030 Future Land Use map. Orange County comes forward with the currently adopted Future Land Use Map (FLUM), with adjustments made to reflect new or pending plans for Hillsborough and Mabasco and accurately convey the guidance of the 1981 Joint Planning Agreement (JPA).

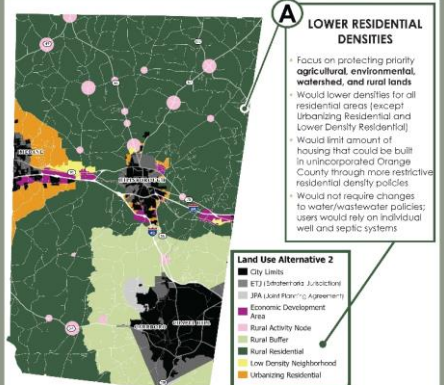
- Land Use Alternative 1**
- City Limits
  - ETJ (Urbanizing Jurisdiction)
  - JPA (Joint Planning Agreement)
  - Economic Development Area
  - Rural Activity Node
  - Rural Buffer
  - Rural Residential
  - Low Density Neighborhood
  - Urbanizing Residential

**ELEMENTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES SCORECARD**

Alternative #1 represents the baseline for comparison to the other alternatives. When the other boards will see the final map, they will be able to compare the alternatives.

- Preserving the best of all high-density, medium-density, and low-density residential uses and preserving agriculture.
- Preserving off-road recreation and preserving existing trails.
- Preserving the potential for rural uses in unincorporated Orange County.
- Reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and supporting local businesses.
- Creating new employment opportunities in unincorporated areas.

## ALTERNATIVE #2 ENHANCE AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS



**A LOWER RESIDENTIAL DENSITIES**

- Focus on protecting priority agricultural, environmental, watershed, and rural lands.
- Would lower densities for all residential areas (except Urbanizing Residential and Lower Density Residential).
- Would limit amount of housing that could be built in unincorporated Orange County through more restrictive residential density policies.
- Would not require changes to water/wastewater policies; users would rely on individual well and septic systems.

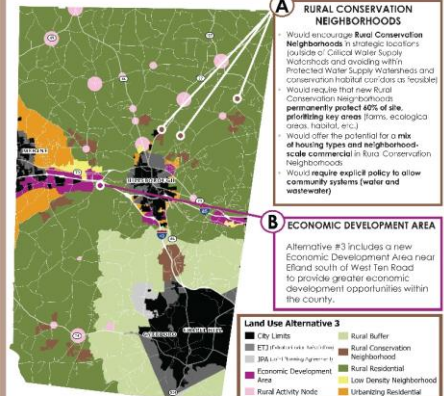
- Land Use Alternative 2**
- City Limits
  - ETJ (Urbanizing Jurisdiction)
  - JPA (Joint Planning Agreement)
  - Economic Development Area
  - Rural Activity Node
  - Rural Buffer
  - Rural Residential
  - Low Density Neighborhood
  - Urbanizing Residential



**ALTERNATIVES SCORECARD**  
In comparison to Alternative #1 (baseline), Alternative #2 scores as follows:

Preserving prime agricultural and rural lands	MEDIUM
Preserving off-road recreation and preserving existing trails	LOW
Reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and supporting local businesses	MEDIUM
Preserving the potential for rural uses in unincorporated Orange County	LOW
Creating new employment opportunities in unincorporated areas	LOW

## ALTERNATIVE #3 ADD LOW-IMPACT, RURAL CONSERVATION NEIGHBORHOODS IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS



**A RURAL CONSERVATION NEIGHBORHOODS**

- Would encourage Keep Conservation Neighborhoods in strategic locations (outside of Critical Water Supply Watersheds and avoiding within Protected Water Supply Watersheds and conservation habitat corridors as required).
- Would require that new Rural Conservation Neighborhoods permanently protect 40% of site, prioritizing key areas (farms, ecological areas, habitat, etc.).
- Would offer the potential for a mix of housing types and neighborhood-scale commercial in Rural Conservation Neighborhoods.
- Would require explicit policy to allow community systems (water and wastewater).

**B ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA**

Alternative #3 includes a new Economic Development Area near Eland south of West Ten Road to provide greater economic development opportunities within the county.

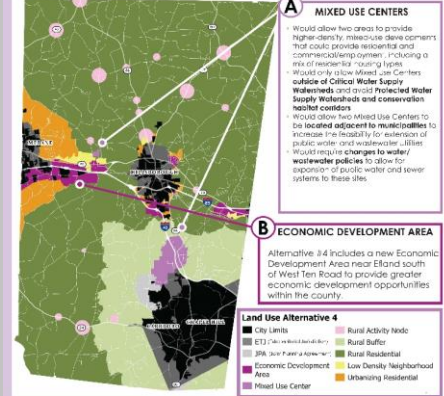
- Land Use Alternative 3**
- City Limits
  - ETJ (Urbanizing Jurisdiction)
  - JPA (Joint Planning Agreement)
  - Economic Development Area
  - Rural Activity Node
  - Rural Buffer
  - Rural Conservation Neighborhood
  - Rural Residential
  - Low Density Neighborhood
  - Urbanizing Residential



**ALTERNATIVES SCORECARD**  
In comparison to Alternative #1 (baseline), Alternative #3 scores as follows:

Preserving prime agricultural and rural lands	MEDIUM
Preserving off-road recreation and preserving existing trails	HIGH
Reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and supporting local businesses	LOW
Preserving the potential for rural uses in unincorporated Orange County	MEDIUM
Creating new employment opportunities in unincorporated areas	MEDIUM

## ALTERNATIVE #4 ADD HIGHER INTENSITY, MIXED-USE CENTERS IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS



**A MIXED USE CENTERS**

- Would allow two areas to provide higher density, mixed-use centers that could provide residential and commercial/employment, including a mix of residential, commercial, and public uses.
- Would only allow Mixed Use Centers outside of Critical Water Supply Watersheds and avoid Protected Water Supply Watersheds and conservation habitat corridors.
- Would allow two Mixed Use Centers to be located adjacent to municipalities to increase the feasibility for extension of public water and wastewater utilities.
- Would require changes to water/wastewater policies to allow for expansion of public water and sewer systems to these sites.

**B ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AREA**

Alternative #4 includes a new Economic Development Area near Eland south of West Ten Road to provide greater economic development opportunities within the county.

- Land Use Alternative 4**
- City Limits
  - ETJ (Urbanizing Jurisdiction)
  - JPA (Joint Planning Agreement)
  - Economic Development Area
  - Rural Activity Node
  - Rural Buffer
  - Rural Residential
  - Low Density Neighborhood
  - Urbanizing Residential
  - Mixed Use Center



**ALTERNATIVES SCORECARD**  
In comparison to Alternative #1 (baseline), Alternative #4 scores as follows:

Preserving prime agricultural and rural lands	LOW
Preserving off-road recreation and preserving existing trails	MEDIUM
Reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and supporting local businesses	MEDIUM
Preserving the potential for rural uses in unincorporated Orange County	HIGH
Creating new employment opportunities in unincorporated areas	HIGH



# Community Engagement Activities

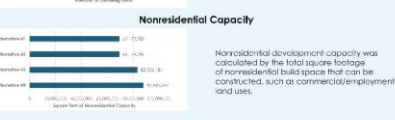
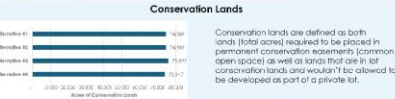


## LAND USE ALTERNATIVES: OUTCOMES

### COMPARISON OF OUTCOMES ACROSS ALTERNATIVES

The modeled land use alternatives have been compared across three **quantitative outcomes** (acres of conservation lands, residential capacity in dwelling units, and non-residential capacity in square feet), shared in the table and graphs below.

Alternative #1: Current Future Alternative #2: Balance Agriculture and Agriculture #3: Add Open Space Alternative #3: Add Open Space Alternative #4: Add High Intensity Alternative #4: Add High Intensity Alternative #4: Add High Intensity	Conservation Lands		Residential Capacity		Nonresidential Capacity	
	Conservation Lands (Acres)	Comparison to Alternative #1 (Percent)	Total Number of Dwelling Units	Comparison to Alternative #1 (Percent)	Square Feet	Comparison to Alternative #1 (Percent)
Alternative #1: Current Future	74,389	100%	44,643	100%	49,179,789	100%
Alternative #2: Balance Agriculture and Agriculture #3: Add Open Space	74,389	100%	38,366	86%	49,179,789	100%
Alternative #3: Add Open Space	70,927	95%	49,417	111%	83,224,181	169%
Alternative #4: Add High Intensity	73,847	99%	48,540	109%	87,414,207	178%



## LAND USE ALTERNATIVES: OUTCOMES

### COMPARISON OF OUTCOMES ACROSS ALTERNATIVES

The modeled land use alternatives have been compared across five **qualitative outcomes** (housing, transit, vehicle miles traveled/greenhouse gases, employment, and environmental protection), summarized below. Alternatives #2, #3, and #4 are compared to Alternative #1, which serves as a baseline.

Scorecard Metric	Land Use Alternatives Scorecard			
	Alternative #2: Enhance Agricultural and Environmental Protections	Alternative #3: Add Low-Impact, Rural Conservation Neighborhoods in Strategic Locations	Alternative #4: Add Higher Intensity Mixed-Use Centers in Strategic Locations	Alternative #4: Add Higher Intensity Mixed-Use Centers in Strategic Locations
Increasing protection of high-value environmental, agricultural, and rural lands	Medium	Medium	Low	
Increasing affordable housing or increasing housing stock	Low	High	Medium	
Reducing VMTs or reducing greenhouse gas emissions	Medium	Low	Medium	
Increasing the potential for transit use in unincorporated Orange County	Low	Medium	High	
Creating new employment opportunities in unincorporated areas	Low	Medium	High	

## DRAFT VISION THEMES

We heard your input from Community Engagement Window #11 based on ideas from the community, the following Vision Themes have been drafted. Please review them and use the comment form provided to respond to the questions.

### VISION THEMES

The following Vision Themes are intended to express the direction of the Orange County 2050 Land Use Plan and articulate the County's land use priorities.

- Cultivate Sustainable Development**  
Orange County will cultivate responsible and equitable land use and environmental policies that meet the needs of the present community without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Recognizing the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental sustainability, the County will accomplish this through:
  - Protect Critical Watershed Areas and Open Spaces and Preserving Agricultural Lands**  
The County will ensure the sustainability, resiliency, and health of our natural resources by protecting wildlife habitats and migration corridors, riparian areas, open spaces, and critical lands vital to water resources. It will also preserve our natural and cultural heritage sites, agricultural lands, and working forests as important contributors to our local quality of life and economy.
  - Advancing Equitable Housing**  
The County will be home to a thriving community supported by development of diverse and equitable housing opportunities for all community members that increase access to needed and desired amenities, public transportation, employment, and commercial centers.
  - Implementing Sustainable Transportation Systems and Economic Development Initiatives**  
The County will reduce vehicle miles traveled by enhancing walking, biking, and public transit opportunities to lower GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions and help achieve our overarching climate action goal of 100% GHG (greenhouse gas) reductions by 2050. Economic development efforts will integrate the County's commitment to sustainable practices in transportation, land use, and accessible housing, fostering a more balanced tax base.

## DRAFT GOALS

We heard your input from Community Engagement Window #11 based on ideas from the community, the following Goals have been drafted. Please review them and use the comment form provided to respond to the questions.

### GOALS


During the next 25 years, Orange County will strive to achieve the following goals through its land use planning policies and efforts.

- Community Equity**  
Create an environment in which all are welcomed, represented, empowered to contribute, and connected with their community. Orange County will ensure that all residents have equitable access to housing, employment, transportation, services and community facilities. Natural areas, parks, and recreation that contribute to health and quality of life.
- Regional and Local Growth**  
Position Orange County as a leader in the region for balancing the competing needs of conservation and growth; prioritize, undertake a balanced approach to meet local needs for growth, while protecting key environmental and agricultural assets.
- Resiliency and Hazard Mitigation**  
Mitigate the impacts of hazards such as extreme heat, drought, flooding, and other severe weather events, through climate resilient and green infrastructure designs and infrastructure systems.
- Economy and Employment**  
Promote economic development initiatives (ESDs) to foster development of new businesses that reinforce the County's commitment to sustainable development through site design and green building practices, leverage multilateral transportation options, advance the economic upward mobility of community members, and diversify the local tax base.
- Services and Community Facilities**  
Partner with municipalities and utility providers in Orange County to provide services and community facilities that support the County's Conservation and Growth Framework (the Future Land Use Map and 2050 Land Use Plan policy guidance); maximize available resources; are facility responsible; are land, energy, and water efficient; and promote resiliency within our community.
- Environment, Parks, and Recreation**  
Protect and sustain the County's natural resources for the continued good of all, including tree canopy enhancements and water, stream, and wildlife habitat protection. Provide equitable access to Orange County's abundant natural resources and high-quality parks and recreation facilities.
- Housing and Affordability**  
Reduce the number of cost burdened households and increase the number of workers that live and work in Orange County by supporting a development of a diverse array of housing options for community members. Housing should be safe, climate smart, high quality, affordable to different household incomes, and accessible to key destinations such as healthcare, employment, and community resources.
- Transportation and Mobility**  
Support partnerships with municipalities and regional transportation partners to achieve innovative, resilient, and sustainable multi-modal travel options; reduce traffic congestion; decrease vehicle miles traveled; and reduce air pollution.
- Working Lands and Open Space**  
Limit the loss of farms, other working lands, and open spaces by guiding growth to areas near existing towns and away from priority protection areas (conservation corridors, water supply watersheds, and priority agricultural protection areas). Continue to implement and encourage programs that preserve the County's highest quality agricultural and working lands. Promote carbon sequestration to protect land resources and support climate goals.

# Community Engagement Activities



**Short Survey: Conservation and Growth in Orange County**



**1. I support Orange County's current approach to guiding conservation and growth in unincorporated Orange County.**  
(See map provided by staff for unincorporated Orange County.)

Strongly agree  
 Agree  
 Neutral  
 Disagree  
 Strongly disagree  
 Don't Know/No Opinion

**2. To protect priority agricultural, environmental, and rural lands, I support further restricting development in unincorporated Orange County.**

Agree  
 Neutral  
 Disagree  
 Strongly disagree  
 Don't Know/No Opinion

**3. To provide more housing choices, I support residential development in unincorporated Orange County as long as it permanently protects priority agricultural, wildlife habitat, or watershed lands on the development site.**

Strongly agree  
 Agree  
 Neutral  
 Disagree  
 Strongly disagree  
 Don't Know/No Opinion

**4. To provide more housing choices, I support higher-density residential mixed-use developments, such as townhomes and apartments over shops, in a few locations in unincorporated Orange County that could be served by town water and sewer.**

Strongly agree  
 Agree  
 Neutral  
 Disagree  
 Strongly disagree  
 Don't Know/No Opinion

**5. To provide more employment opportunities in unincorporated Orange County, I support the development of new employment centers near I-85 and Mebane.**

Strongly agree  
 Agree  
 Neutral  
 Disagree  
 Strongly disagree  
 Don't Know/No Opinion

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**ORANGE COUNTY LAND USE PLAN**  
**SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK!**

Please respond to any or all of the following questions to share your thoughts about the future of Orange County.

**LAND USE ALTERNATIVE #1 - CONTINUE CURRENT POLICIES**

Considering Alternative #1, what is your level of satisfaction with the County's current approach to managing land use? Please circle your level of satisfaction on the scale, with 1 being not satisfied and 5 being very satisfied.

1 = not satisfied      5 = very satisfied

Provide any additional reactions here.

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**LAND USE ALTERNATIVE #2 - ENHANCE AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS**

Considering Alternative #2, what is your level of support for changing the County's current approach of managing land use to be more focused on protection of environmental, agricultural, watershed, and rural lands? Please circle your level of support on the scale, with 1 being do no support and 5 being strongly support.

1 = do not support      5 = strongly support

Provide any additional reactions here.

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**LAND USE ALTERNATIVE #3 - ADD LOW-IMPACT, RURAL CONSERVATION NEIGHBORHOODS IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS**

Considering Alternative #3, what is your level of support for changing the County's current approach of managing land use to encourage new Rural Conservation Neighborhoods that allow for smaller lot sizes in trade for 40% of the site to be permanently protected? Please circle your level of support on the scale, with 1 being do not support and 5 being strongly support.

1 = do not support      5 = strongly support

Provide any additional reactions here.

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**ORANGE COUNTY LAND USE PLAN**  
**EXIT QUESTIONNAIRE**

Please share a little about yourself so we know who has participated in the Orange County Land Use Plan 2050 process.

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE**  
 How did you hear about the Orange County Land Use Plan?

Were you comfortable sharing your input today?  
 Yes    No    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you participate in future events?  
 Yes    No    Maybe

Did you previously participate in one of the prior engagement meetings or online engagement held October 2023 - February 2024?  
 Yes    No    Not Sure

**TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF**  
 If you are willing to share some information about yourself, it will help us ensure we are reaching a broad set of voices.

**Which racial or ethnicity group do you most closely identify with?**  
 Asian    Black / African-American    American Indian / Alaska Native  
 White / Caucasian    Two or more races  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you Hispanic / Latinx?       Yes    No

Do you live in Orange County?       Yes    No

Do you work in Orange County?       Yes    No

**What is your age?**  
 <15 years    25-34 years    45-54 years    65 years or over  
 15-24 years    35-44 years    55-64 years

**Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?**

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A short survey and a long survey are available for the convenience of participants.

Voluntary exit questionnaires can provide self-reported data.



Questions?