

What is a Growth Policy?

- A Growth Policy is a non-regulatory document that identifies key social, physical, environmental, economic and land use issues that are important to the citizens of Park County.
- A Growth Policy articulates goals, objectives, and actions that will assist the County Commissioners in making decisions on how to manage county resources.
- A Growth Policy includes an implementation plan that describes actions, a timeline and partners for carrying out the actions. It also includes performance indicators to gauge whether the actions have been effective at meeting the goals and objectives.
- State law identifies several elements that a growth policy must consider, but it also allows local governments to address issues that are specific to their jurisdiction. The elements that must be addressed are:
 - Land uses
 - population;
 - housing needs;
 - economic conditions;
 - local services;
 - public facilities;
 - natural resources;
 - sand and gravel resources;
 - wildland urban interface;
 - criteria for subdivision review; and
 - when and under what conditions the growth policy will be reviewed and updated.

Why Update the Growth Policy?

- A number of conditions have changed since Park County's current growth policy was adopted:
 - The County has begun to recover from the Great Recession;
 - There are updated data on demographics, the economy, housing, and a variety of other topics.
 - A number of plans and studies identified in the 2008 Growth Policy have been completed, providing the county with new information and new objectives to accomplish; and
 - Many of the implementation actions in the 2008 Growth Policy have been accomplished, or need to be revised.

- State law requires a Growth Policy be reviewed every five years to evaluate whether it needs to be revised. In 2015, the Park County Planning Department and the Park County Commission determined changing conditions warranted a revision of the document.

Who Will be Involved?

- The project will be managed locally by the Park County Planning Department and the Park County Commissioners with guidance from the Planning and Development Board.
- Land Solutions LLC, a Montana planning firm, will provide technical assistance with drafting the document and conducting public outreach.
- The public will help draft the goals, objectives and actions steps.

Project Timeline

- Currently, the consultants are drafting an existing conditions report, due to be released at the end of April.
- In late April, meetings to identify key issues will be held with County staff, key stakeholders and community groups.
- In May, a series of five community meetings will be held in locations throughout the County to gather input on draft goals and objectives.
- A survey will be conducted over the summer to gather input on alternative approaches for addressing key issues in Park County.
- The first draft of the Growth Policy is scheduled to be released in late summer.
- Following the release of a draft, meetings will be held with the public, the Planning and Development Board and the County Commissioners to obtain feedback on the draft.
- The revised and final Growth Policy is set to be completed in late 2016 – early 2017.

Where to Find Information and Drafts?

- All times and dates of meetings, reports, drafts, and important information will be available online. (Need website)
- All information available online will also be available at the Park County Planning Department.

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How is this Funded?

- The growth policy update is funded through a grant from the Montana Department of Commerce and through local Park County funds.