

PLANNING PROCESS THEMES

SEVEN THEMES GUIDING THE PLAN AND PLANNING PROCESS



CREATING A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

Wilmingtonians want a **diverse and inclusive community**, full of **family-friendly, vibrant, and creative environments**. Citizens want a **welcoming community** that includes arts and culture, activities for youth, families, and seniors, and **high-quality housing** that is available to everyone.

GETTING AROUND

Diverse modes of transportation are needed for an inclusive, connected community. Regional partnerships can link green ways and other amenities. **Options for pedestrian and bicycle amenities**, along with other modes of transportation, should be explored as valid **alternatives to automobile transit**, as well as other options for local and regional **mass-transit**.



REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Wilmington does not and cannot exist in a bubble. Collaboration with other local governments, including New Hanover and **surrounding towns and counties**, is critical to Wilmington's and the region's success. **Cooperative relationships** with UNCW and CFCC, as well as the public school system, state ports, and our utility providers will **help us all flourish**.

CHANGING PLACES, REVITALIZED SPACES

Development of vast open land is no longer an option in Wilmington; our future will include a significant level of infill and redevelopment. Envisioning **suitable infill and redevelopment and optimizing existing development** will be critical to our community's well-being, not only downtown, but **within neighborhoods across the city**. **Balancing the need for open space and a well-designed built environment** will be a key to future development.



OPPORTUNITY & PROSPERITY

Fostering opportunities for **economic growth and development** that enhance the concepts of each of the other themes is critical to our future prosperity. **Creating jobs, building a strong workforce, facilitating commerce, and promoting business vitality** are necessary to the success of a healthy, well-balanced community.

NURTURING OUR COMMUNITY

Environmental sustainability is at the core of where we want to go in the future. Our natural resources are a major factor in **attracting residents and visitors** to the area; balancing retention of their **accessibility and protection** of these resources will be a challenge. How we **manage our interaction with the natural habitat**, from **parks, water, and open spaces, to locally-grown agriculture, to protecting water quality to solid waste disposal** will be critical to our future success.



UNIQUE PLACES, CAPTIVATING SPACES

The "built environment" encompasses places and spaces created or modified by people including **buildings, parks, land use patterns, and transportation systems**. Since the built environment has profound consequences for **individual and community well-being**, all elements of our built environment should **enhance the character of our community**, being **not only functional, but aesthetically appropriate**, enriching the lives of visitors and residents alike.