

Activity 2: Land Use Definitions – Page 2 (2/2)

Legislation that empowers municipalities within the state to enact regulations for the development and preservation of land. It has three main sections: (1) The Comprehensive Plan, (2) Zoning, and (3) Subdivision and Land Development.

A unit of local government, a political subdivision of a state where a corporation has been established to govern the population concentrated in a defined area such as a county, city, township or borough. The officers make policy decisions, levy taxes, spend money and make decisions on local planning and zoning.

It is the act of designating specific types of land use in specific areas within a municipality. Each zone or district allows for a designated type of land use such as residential, agriculture, commercial, industrial or mixed uses. A map is used to indicate the location of the zones.

A condition of development which conjures up a vision of continuous patterns of strip malls, parking lots, traffic and unconnected styles of development creating a need to drive everywhere and leaving a community without character or a sense of place.

A dynamic process of deciding how best to provide a proper arrangement of land uses, transportation patterns, development, agricultural lands and desirable environmental features for the future.

It is a document developed by either a county or municipality that provides recommendations for the growth and changes that are anticipated in the future. A county comprehensive plan provides recommendations for communities within the county but it is not enforceable. It is a document that outlines community or countywide vision, goals and objectives. It includes a land use plan, housing plan, transportation plan, community facilities plan, natural and historic resources plan and water supply plan.

An officially constituted municipal board created to advise local governments on environmental issues and policies including recommendations on open space.

Corridors of open space that can be land or water-based whose purpose is protecting natural, cultural, and/or scenic resources. Its defining function is its connectivity to other places.