

## Guiding Principles

As it continues to develop, Charlotte will strive for:

- 1. High quality, context sensitive community design:** New development should be designed to complement the desired character of the area. In established areas, new development should reflect and build upon the existing character.
- 2. A range of residential opportunities to accommodate a diverse population in quality and livable neighborhoods:** Charlotte's population includes a diverse range of people with different housing needs and preferences. Differences in income, age, physical abilities, lifestyle preferences and other population characteristics should be recognized and quality housing choices should be available within the Charlotte community to meet the needs of these various groups of people.
- 3. Heightened consideration of environmental benefits and impacts:** Recognizing that environmental stewardship is fundamentally important to Charlotte's quality of life and essential to maintaining a vibrant economy. Consideration of environmental factors should continue to be an important part of the process when making decisions related to future growth and development.
- 4. More walkable places with a variety of activities:** Much of Charlotte's future growth should be accommodated by creating, or building upon places that have a mixture of compatible land uses within close proximity and that are well connected to each other. This will not only help create more vibrant and interesting places but will also reduce the dependence on the automobile.
- 5. A healthy and flourishing tree canopy:** The City's tree canopy is an integral part of Charlotte's identity. It also contributes to the City's environmental quality, livability and economic viability. Because trees are a renewable resource, the City should seek not only to maintain as much of the existing canopy as is feasible, but also to re-plant when trees are removed, and plan ahead for replacement as trees are lost due to age or other factors.
- 6. A diverse, growing and sustainable economy:** To ensure that Charlotte remains a prosperous and livable City, economic development activities should focus not only on quality job growth, but also on tax base expansion and increased personal income. In particular, the City should work to grow its job and employment base, capitalizing on existing strengths while broadening its economy to include emerging industries and other economic development opportunities.
- 7. Inclusive revitalization of economically challenged business and residential areas:** All areas and neighborhoods should share in Charlotte's economic prosperity. Therefore, the City should strive to bring redevelopment to challenged areas, particularly by investing in public- private partnerships and targeted projects.
- 8. Better transportation networks for pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and transit users.** As Charlotte continues to grow outward and upward, it is increasingly important that there be more and better ways for people to get around. To accomplish this, it will be necessary to create more route options for people who are walking, cycling, driving, or riding transit. Creating a network of "complete" streets will allow people to feel comfortable and safe, whichever mode they use.
- 9. Efficient and coordinated public and private investment in infrastructure that keeps pace with existing and future development:** In many areas of Charlotte, infrastructure, such as streets, parks,

and fire stations, has not kept pace with rapid growth. Going forward, it will be necessary to have the public and private sectors cooperate to efficiently fund and build the new and retrofitted infrastructure critical to adequately sustain a high quality of life throughout Charlotte. Additionally, maintenance and reinvestment in existing infrastructure should play a key role in meeting future needs.