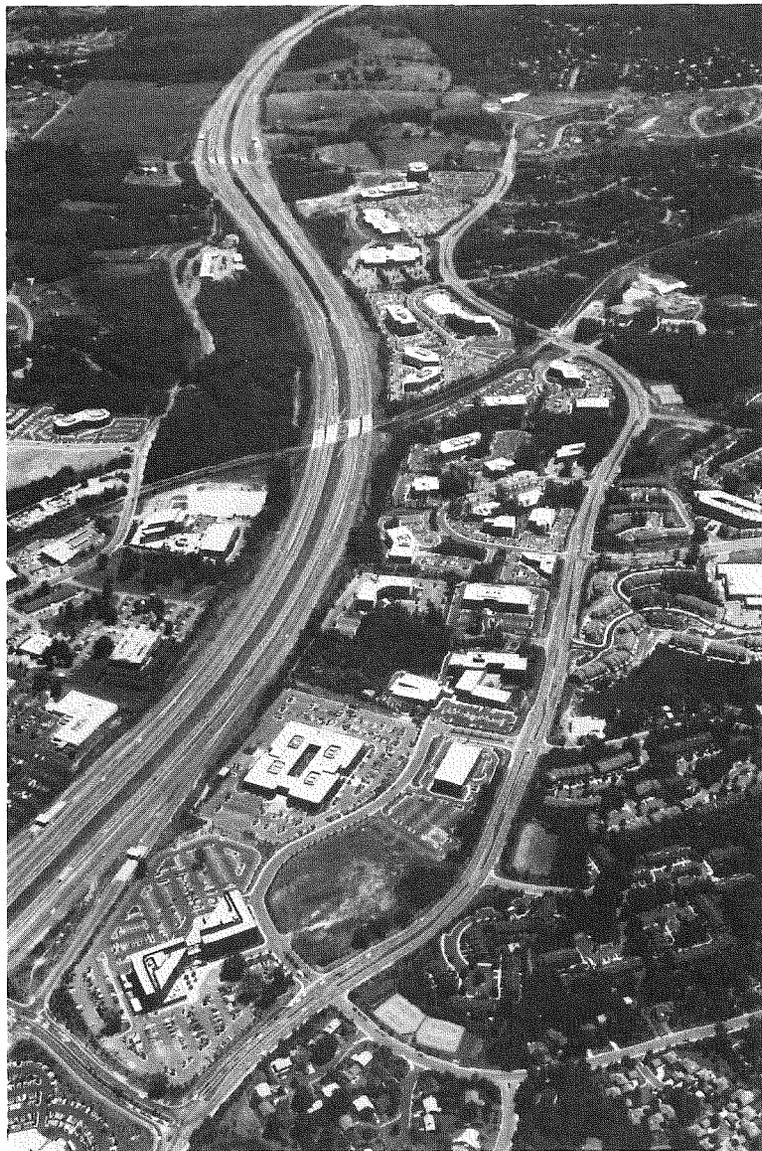# Countywide Planning
Objectives and Policies

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INTRODUCTION TO FUNCTIONAL AREAS

Purpose

The countywide element, acts as a broad statement of County policy to guide decisions toward enhancing the built and natural environment for the benefit of existing and future generations. Both the countywide policy embodied here and the more specific guidelines in the Concept for Future Development and Land Classification System, found in a separate document, are to be used together to give direction to the Area Planning process. The Area Plans give more site-specific guidance, from the Planning District down to the Community Planning Sector level. Finally, the entire Comprehensive Plan, made up of the Policy Plan and Area Plan volumes, is used during the development review process.

Scope

This section of the Plan contains the countywide planning objectives and policies for eight functional areas.

- Land Use

- Transportation

- Housing

- The Environment

- Heritage Resources

- Public Facilities

- Human Services

- Parks and Recreation

The functional elements share a common structure. Each begins with an introduction that contains an overview of the issues facing the County, both now and over the next twenty years. This is followed by a statement of the appropriate Board of Supervisors Goal(s). It is assumed that most or all of the goals may have some bearing on all elements; however, only the key goals that pertain to each are cited at the beginning of the corresponding element. The goals are followed by objectives, each with its own set of policies and action agenda items.

The approach used to develop the content of this document involved working through a logical progression from general goals to increasingly more specific objectives, policies and, in some cases, guidelines and/or standards. Goals are broad statements of the community's aspirations. All elements in the Policy Plan use the Board-adopted "Goals for Fairfax County" as their starting point. Objectives, the next step in the hierarchy, have been derived from key points that are stated in or implied by the goals. Thus, objectives are statements that provide further direction for achieving an aspect of a goal. Policies have been derived from the objectives.

These policies are approaches for pursuing a given objective. Adopted in the Plan, the policies give guidance, which when pursued, will assist in implementing the objectives. Guidelines and standards, in turn, give more detailed direction for implementing some of the policies.