

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

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### PLANNING: A “PROCESS”

Comprehensive planning is a *process* of problem solving. After problems are diagnosed, goals and objectives are determined, alternative solutions explored, and implementation strategies developed to serve as a blueprint for future development.

The Plan is a fluid *process* and is meant to be modified from time to time. Conditions change, resources are shifted, and goals altered, making it necessary to revise, adapt, and update the plan. Public participation, through surveys and public meetings, is important in all phases of the planning process.

### THE PLAN DOCUMENT

The Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan is presented in two (2) parts:

#### PART 1: BASIC STUDIES & TRENDS

Basic Studies & Trends provides historical data and existing conditions in ten (10) chapters:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Introduction                        | Land Use                                   |
| Historic & Cultural Resources       | Housing                                    |
| Natural Resources                   | Transportation                             |
| Population & Socio-Economic Profile | Community Facilities, Services & Utilities |
| Economic Base                       | Administration & Finance                   |

#### PART 2: ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan develops goals, objectives, and strategies to meet the needs identified in the Basic Studies & Trends chapters:

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Plan 1: Introduction                  | Plan 6: Land Use                                   |
| Plan 2: Historic & Cultural Resources | Plan 7: Housing                                    |
| Plan 3: Natural Resources             | Plan 8: Transportation                             |
| Plan 4: Socio-Economic                | Plan 9: Community Facilities, Services & Utilities |
| Plan 5: Economic Development          | Plan 10: Implementation                            |

### FOUR PLANNING SECTIONS

Dauphin County has been divided into 4 plan development sections: North, Southeast, Southwest and Harrisburg City. These sections are utilized for data collection and analysis throughout the comprehensive plan. The planning section areas are depicted on **Map 1-1**.

