

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

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GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

GOAL ED 1: IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC BASE OF WALTON COUNTY THROUGH PLANNING, COORDINATION, AND RESEARCH ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

~~Objective ED-1.1: Facilitate economic development planning.~~

~~Policy ED-1.1.1: Walton County shall facilitate economic development through a strategic planning process that will identify economic development opportunities and determine strategies and incentives to attract desirable businesses to Walton County.~~

~~Policy ED-1.1.2: Walton County will coordinate its efforts to facilitate economic development planning with Florida's Great Northwest, the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce, Walton County Economic Development Alliance, and other economic development organizations.~~

~~Policy ED-1.1.3: By 2011, Walton County will develop an economic profile of the community and the region for use in its economic planning efforts in order to attract new businesses.~~

~~Policy ED-1.1.4: By 2012, Walton County shall appoint an economic development committee to assist the county in its effort to focus on economic development planning, including the adoption of a vision for the future economic opportunities and projects.~~

~~Policy ED-1.1.5: By 2013, Walton County will adopt an economic development plan.~~

GOAL ED 2: BUILD AND SUPPORT A SYSTEMATIC METHOD TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.

~~Objective ED-2.1: Identify opportunities for economic development in order to assist development sectors, projects, and initiatives.~~

~~Policy ED-2.1.1: Walton County will continue to strengthen opportunities within the tourism, silviculture, arts and crafts, construction, and technology industries.~~

~~Policy ED-2.1.2: Walton County will develop partnerships within the community to promote opportunities for economic growth and diversification.~~

~~Policy ED-2.1.3: Walton County will support job creation projects benefiting local communities, the county, and the entire region.~~

~~Objective ED-2.2 Support opportunities for the county workforce to obtain alternative work skills to qualify for higher wage jobs.~~

~~Policy ED-2.2.1: Walton County will support community-based educational programs to improve workforce skills, support childcare programs for single parents pursuing higher education, small businesses, minority and women-owned businesses, and business enterprises.~~

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~~Policy ED-2.2.2: The County will promote the evaluation and update of community training programs to meet current and projected skill needs of Walton County employers.~~

~~Policy ED-2.2.3 Walton County will support incentive programs to encourage the hiring and advanced training of the local workforce.~~

~~GOAL ED-3: THE COUNTY SHALL ASSIST IN SECURING FUNDING FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.~~

~~Objective ED-3.1: Secure funding sources for economic development activities and programs, assist local organizations, businesses, and individuals to establish economic and community development plans, incubate new businesses, and expand existing businesses and industries.~~

~~Policy ED-3.1.1: Walton County will explore private and public sector economic development funding opportunities (such as EDA, USDA, State of Florida) that could be used to stimulate business growth and job creation.~~

~~Policy ED-3.1.2: Walton County will identify opportunities for joint ventures, facilitate in negotiations concerning joint ventures, and provide economic opportunities for venture capital.~~

~~Policy ED-3.1.3: Walton County will prepare recruitment plans targeted to attract businesses or industries that create jobs.~~

~~Policy ED-3.1.4: Walton County will work with other agencies, including the Tourist Development Council, the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce, Walton County Economic Development Alliance, and private entities to develop a marketing strategy for the region in general and for Walton County in particular.~~

~~Policy ED-3.1.5: Walton County will develop loan programs and other programs to assist businesses venture capital funds.~~

~~Policy ED-3.1.6: Walton County will facilitate an entrepreneurs' forum where business people can network and discuss key issues relevant to their businesses.~~

~~Policy ED-3.1.7: Walton County will provide guidance on licensing, taxation, land use and other business related regulations.~~

~~Policy ED-3.1.8: Walton County will support the various workforce improvement programs throughout the county and region.~~

~~Objective ED-3.2: Promote Walton County and the local municipalities in order to expand economic development opportunities.~~

~~Policy ED-3.2.1: Walton County or its designee will develop community and regional networks with potential economic investors.~~

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~~Policy ED-3.2.2: Walton County will develop and maintain a registry of existing local businesses. The County will use this registry to establish positive working relationships with local business owners to increase retention of quality businesses and jobs in Walton County and to facilitate the expansion of existing local businesses.~~

~~Policy ED-3.2.3: Walton County will develop strategies to promote specific sectors of the economy, including the growing need for aerospace and other airport-related businesses. The County will support and develop an aviation industry target plan to direct specific resources toward attracting and promoting those industries.~~