
**SECTION 3.
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

MASTER PLAN 2004

TOWN OF COPPER CANYON, TEXAS

SECTION 3. GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Introduction

What should Copper Canyon be like in the year 2010 or 2020? The Master Plan establishes goals and objectives that help to shape and direct growth and development for the next ten to twenty years and beyond. The Plan is based upon a shared vision of the citizenry and stakeholders for the future of Copper Canyon.

The following goals and objectives have been developed to guide the community's vision as it grows and matures. The goals and objectives establish a framework for specific actions (i.e. policies and codes) to be developed during later phases of the Master planning process. This framework was developed based on the findings of a citizen survey conducted in August 2003 that sought a highly developed understanding of the residents' vision for the community.*

3.1 Critical Issues

At meetings with the Master Plan Committee (MPC) and concerned citizens held on August 18 and September 7, 2003, a consensus was gained for a detailed vision for the Town. The MPC and those attending agreed upon the general findings of the aforementioned survey and its central role in the development of the *Goals and Objectives* for Copper Canyon. Based upon the survey and these meetings, here are the critical issues to be addressed for the realization of the Town's vision:

- Preservation of the rural character of the Town through preserving current lot sizes and their current level of dispersal throughout the community
- Minimization of the effects of suburban sprawl surrounding the Town
- Preservation of the current street network
- Preservation and restriction of all residential streets to feature a "rural" street section (i.e. paved streets to not feature curb and gutter)
- Transportation that encourages multi-modal travel via bike lanes to reduce auto traffic and dependence
- Establishment of a linear greenbelt system throughout the Town

* The findings of this survey are presented in Appendix A.

- Creation of a trails system, within the linear greenbelt system, for recreation and travel by foot and horseback
- Establishment of parklands for active recreational uses
- Preservation of open space throughout the Town
- Retail and office development in a highly limited and controlled manner should be encouraged to increase Town tax revenues
- Establishment of a Office/Retail District to accommodate retail and office development done in a manner to minimize negative impacts to the rural character of Copper Canyon

3.2 Goals and Objectives

The Master Plan goals and objectives were formulated using the results of these discussions with the MPC and Town staff. In order to better understand the purpose of this section, general definitions of goals, objectives and policies have been included below:

Goals are general statements concerning an aspect of the Town's desired ultimate physical, social and/or economic environment. Goals set the tone for development decisions in terms of the citizens' desired quality of life.

Objectives express the kinds of action necessary to achieve the stated goals without assigning responsibility to any specific action.

Policies will clarify the exact position of the Town regarding a specific objective, and will encourage particular courses of action for the community to undertake to achieve the applicable stated objective. Policies are often associated with Plan recommendations, and they will be developed during that phase of the master planning process.

The goals and objectives formulated during the Master planning process pertain to the following areas:

- Physical Form of the Town
- Transportation and the Thoroughfare Network
- Infrastructure and Utility Systems
- Public Services and Facilities
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Parks and Open Space

Physical Form of the Town

Goal 1: To preserve and enhance the rural character of the Town.

Objectives:

- 1.01 Maintain a continuous and coordinated planning process that involves citizens, stakeholders, Town Council, Town boards/commissions, Town departments, and other public and private entities in policy development and decision-making.
- 1.02 Provide for the efficient use of land, coordinated with the provision of applicable public infrastructure and facilities.
- 1.03 Utilize the *Future Land Use Plan* in daily decision-making regarding land use and development proposals.
- 1.04 Develop companion policies and guidelines to assist in the review of zoning and subdivision regulations and development requests.
- 1.05 Determine appropriate locations for future retail and office development that will minimize any negative effects upon the Town's rural character

Goal 2: To encourage development of high quality residential neighborhoods that are aesthetically pleasing and conform to the large-lot, rural setting that defines the character of the Town.

Objectives:

- 2.01 Institute basic architectural controls for future single-family development to ensure development that is consistent with the look and feel of the Town.
- 2.02 Institute design guidelines that enhance a rural and community lifestyle by addressing such issues as lot lines, landscaping and building orientation.

2.03 Improve enforcement of Town codes and regulations pertaining to property maintenance, upkeep and appearance.

2.04 Develop a density plan that provides a variety of residential large lot sizes, beginning with minimum one acre lot sizes.

Goal 3: Retail and office development should have a minimal impact on the rural character of the community, is pedestrian friendly, and serves as the social and economic focal point of the community.

Objectives:

3.01 Develop design guidelines for nonresidential properties that enhance the pedestrian environment and minimize the negative effects of automobiles through such measures as minimized and screened parking, wide sidewalks, streetscape requirements and controlled signage.

3.02 Establish an Office/Retail District that will be minimal in land area while adequate to facilitate the business tax revenues needed to support public services/facilities.

3.03 Locate office/retail development at a point to be determined along F.M. 407 or the proposed expansion of F.M. 2499.

Goal 4: To explore the benefits of establishing a community center that meets the civic needs of the community

Objectives:

4.01 Identify the characteristics of a community center that would most appropriately meet the needs of Copper Canyon residents (i.e. size, location, uses, etc.).

4.02 Determine level of community support at the time of consideration to ensure such a center is a financial priority.

4.03 Examine financing mechanisms and feasibility for developing a community center

- 4.04 Examine the feasibility and level of support for an equestrian facility as part of the community center concept (Section 4. *Future Land Use Plan*), to be physically on the same site as the main structure or separate.

Transportation and the Thoroughfare Network

Goal 5: To provide Thoroughfare Plan that discourages expansion of the street network and encourages multi-modal travel through the use of bike lanes.

Objectives:

- 5.01 To maintain a continuous, coordinated transportation planning process that addresses long-term needs while emphasizing short-term problem solving.
- 5.02 To deter any extension, widening (except to accommodate bike lanes or increase safety), or addition of curb and gutter construction to any existing roadways.
- 5.03 To deter construction of any roadway providing an east-west connection through the Town.
- 5.04 To deter the addition of new roads except when absolutely necessary.
- 5.05 To deter “pass-through” traffic.
- 5.06 To ensure that if and when new development occurs, new roadway costs are borne by the developer and occur in a manner consistent with the overall character of the street system.

Infrastructure and Utility Systems

Goal 6: Ensure that utility and infrastructure systems (i.e. water supply, wastewater treatment, storm drainage, etc.) will adequately serve present and future residents and businesses.

Objectives:

- 6.01 Define standards for adequate service levels for public utility infrastructure systems:
 - 1. Water treatment, storage and distribution;
 - 2. Water service adequate for fire fighting needs;
 - 3. Onsite wastewater systems
 - 4. Storm water/drainage management and erosion control (including non-point pollution prevention).

- 6.02 Provide utilities and infrastructure for all residents and businesses in the most efficient, equitable and fiscally responsible manner possible.

- 6.03 Use the *Future Land Use Plan* (Section 4) and future land use projections to help plan where infrastructure improvements will be needed.

- 6.04 Encourage new development to occur within areas that are already served by necessary utilities/infrastructure, or where utility extensions can be reasonably provided.

- 6.05 Ensure that, through the development review process, infrastructure improvement costs are borne by the developer and are appropriate to the level of development.

- 6.06 Ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place (by developers) before actual development occurs.

- 6.07 Address future water demands within areas not already served, and within areas that will be difficult to serve.

- 6.08 Encourage private/franchise utilities (e.g., telephone, gas, electric, cable TV, internet, etc.) to provide service to existing and newly developed areas as efficiently as possible.

- 6.09 Ensure that private/franchise communications facilities and services are coordinated with Town planning efforts.
- 6.10 Ensure that adequate drainage easements are established throughout the Town.
- 6.11 Coordinate efforts with other agencies and entities (e.g., applicable water and utility districts, etc.) to ensure the long-term provision of adequate utility commodities and services for Copper Canyon's residents and businesses.
- 6.12 Maintain and ensure the effectiveness of onsite wastewater systems.
- 6.13 Restrict development in flood-prone areas (i.e. areas within the floodplain, principally along Poindexter Creek).

Public Services and Facilities

Goal 7: Ensure that public services and facilities (e.g., police and fire protection, library services, administrative facilities, etc.) will adequately serve present and future residents and businesses.

Objectives:

- 7.01 Define standards for adequate response/service levels for public services and facilities:
 - 1. Police protection
 - 2. Fire protection and emergency medical services
 - 3. Solid waste management
 - 4. Public administrative facilities
- 7.02 Provide public services and facilities for all residents and businesses in the most efficient, equitable and fiscally responsible manner possible.
- 7.03 Use the *Future Land Use Plan* and future land use projections to help plan where public service/administrative facilities will be needed.

- 7.04 Co-locate public facilities with other municipal facilities or with those of other quasi-governmental jurisdictions (i.e., School District, etc.), wherever possible.
- 7.05 Continue to encourage recycling efforts and other solid waste management techniques that are financially feasible and environmentally responsible.
- 7.06 Continue to contract all existing services until such time that an increased level of demand warrants providing some or all services by the Town itself.

Fiscal Responsibility

Goal 8: Ensure that future community facility and service expansions are accomplished through sound, long-range fiscal planning and policies established by the Town Council.

Objective:

- 8.01 Utilize recommendations contained within the Master Plan to assist in decision-making on short and long-range capital improvement projects (e.g., streets, water, sanitary sewer, storm water management, purchase of major equipment, construction of public facilities, etc.).
- 8.02 Ensure that Town staffing, real property acquisitions, infrastructure improvements, and facility construction/maintenance are based upon priorities set forth in the Master Plan and upon fiscal practicality.
- 8.03 Ensure that taxes paid by residents are kept to a minimum by encouraging the attraction of nonresidential land uses to the Office/Retail District to help support and subsidize the overall tax base.

Parks and Open Space

Goal 9: Create a system of parklands and/or open space interconnected through hike and bike trails that supports the recreational and transportation needs of town residents.

Objective:

- 9.01 Establish parklands for active recreational uses such as playgrounds and unlit ballparks.
- 9.02 Ensure that the trail system is planned with the greater region in mind and connects, where desired, to other planned and existing trail systems and recreational areas.
- 9.03 Encourage participation and communication with all neighboring communities and associations involved with parks and trails planning that impacts the community.
- 9.04 Preserve and utilize the floodplain and all applicable easements (i.e. Upper Trinity River waterline, utility easements, Army Corps of Engineers' easements, etc.) for a substantial portion of the parks plan, particularly the greenbelt system.
- 9.05 Promote and provide public access to publicly owned open space.