



Conserving Dauphin Island: A Strategic Vision for the Future

Funded by

Town of Dauphin Island

Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant Consortium

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Lands Division- Coastal Section

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program



Coming to the Table

Funding Partnerships for Change

Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant
Consortium

Alabama Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

And

The Town

Overview of DI Strategic Planning

Guiding Principles



- To **guide resource management and growth** over time
- To **balance economic development and environmental conservation**, preserving the community's quality of life and cultural integrity
- To **recognize change** as inevitable
- To **manage change** so that Dauphin Island is a better place to live, work and visit

A Community Driven Process

Gathering Citizen Input and Participation

- **Steering Committee**
- **Stakeholders** Visitors and residents alike
- **Input** Methods to assess community values
- **Communication** Provision of feedback throughout process
- **Visioning** The future
- **Strategy and Design** SWOT and Charrette
- **Action** On the ground

Charting a Course for Dauphin Island for the next 20 Years...

What do you value about this place we call HOME?

- Help us develop a common **vision for the community**.
- Help us **expand business** and other **economic opportunities**.
- Help us improve Island infrastructure to **ensure environmental sensitivity** and **hurricane resistance**.
- Help us **manage community development**.
- Help us improve/expand our **community facilities, arts and recreational opportunities** and **access to the water**.
- Help us improve **social and community services** on the Island.
- Help us **work together**, both in government and throughout the community.



Birding... Fishing... Biking... Golf... Beaches... Just Being ... on Dauphin Island.

We want to know what you think!



Take a moment to tell us...



Determining What is Important:

The Vision

On behalf of the people of Dauphin Island,
the **Town will lead** this small island community
through the 21st century

By **preserving** the island's **history,**
culture, and **environmental assets,**

while planning for a future
that **capitalizes** on its **natural resources** to
promote economic and community well-being.

Island Priority Needs

Economic Development That Is Compatible With Island Environment And Community Life

- Design of **Historic Village Downtown Business District**
- Promotion of **Working Waterfronts** throughout the Island
- Enhancement and interconnection of **economic opportunities** at Ferry Landing
- Promotion of **nature based tourism** opportunities

Protection Of The Island's Natural Resources

- Alternative **Development Strategies** for West End
- Protection/conservation of primary **shallow water aquifer**
- Low Impact **development of East End**
- Promotion of **Green Building** practices

Coordinated Island Governance

- Expansion of **local revenue sources** to support Town growth
- Expansion of **collaborative activities** among governing entities



Economic Development that is compatible with island environment and community life

Historic Village Business District *proposed ideas*



Historic Village Revitalization

- Design of Centralized **Downtown Business District**
- Zoning- Design Concept Development **Districts/Downtown Corridor District**
- Development of **Gateway(s)** to Island
- Sustainable **Small Town Community** Development



Economic Development that is compatible with island environment and community life

East End Economic Opportunities

- ❖ Design/build a **commercial tourist district** that incorporates neighborhood services at Island's East End/Ferry Landing
- ❖ Develop a **public transit** system
- ❖ Expand environmentally appropriate **trailer/car parking**



Economic Development that is compatible with island environment and community life



Working Waterfronts

- Consistent **zoning** that supports working waterfronts
- Incorporate **multifaceted working waterfront activities in the village business district**
- Promote **commercial fishermen** use of working waterfront for **product sales and dockage**



Economic Development that is compatible with island environment and community life

Nature Based Tourism

- ✦ Preserve and promote Dauphin Island's **history and culture**
- ✦ Expand tourist activities that are cultural or **nature based**
- ✦ Protect all natural and cultural resources by determining **user capacity vs. resource vulnerability**



Protection of the Island's natural resources



Environmental Protections And Low Impact Growth

- Protect and sustain the **Island's groundwater** shallow aquifer
- Design and implement programs for **canopy protection and habitat preservation** of the maritime forest ecosystem
- Preserve **wetland and surface water ecosystems**
- Preserve and restore the **island's dune system**
- Pursue **conservation based strategies** that achieve low impact housing in the wooded areas of the island

Protection of the Island's natural resources

Alternative Development Strategies for West End

- Educate about **value of West End** to community sustainability
- Identify beach **stabilization alternatives** (renourishment vs. “let go”)
- Determine **best use benefits** of West End to support island wide community well being
- Identify **methods for beach environmental protection** and dune restoration/preservation



Working Together

Coordinating Island Governing Entities

- Expansion of local **revenue sources** to support Town growth



- **Coordination and collaboration** among governing entities



Balancing Progress Projects and Policies

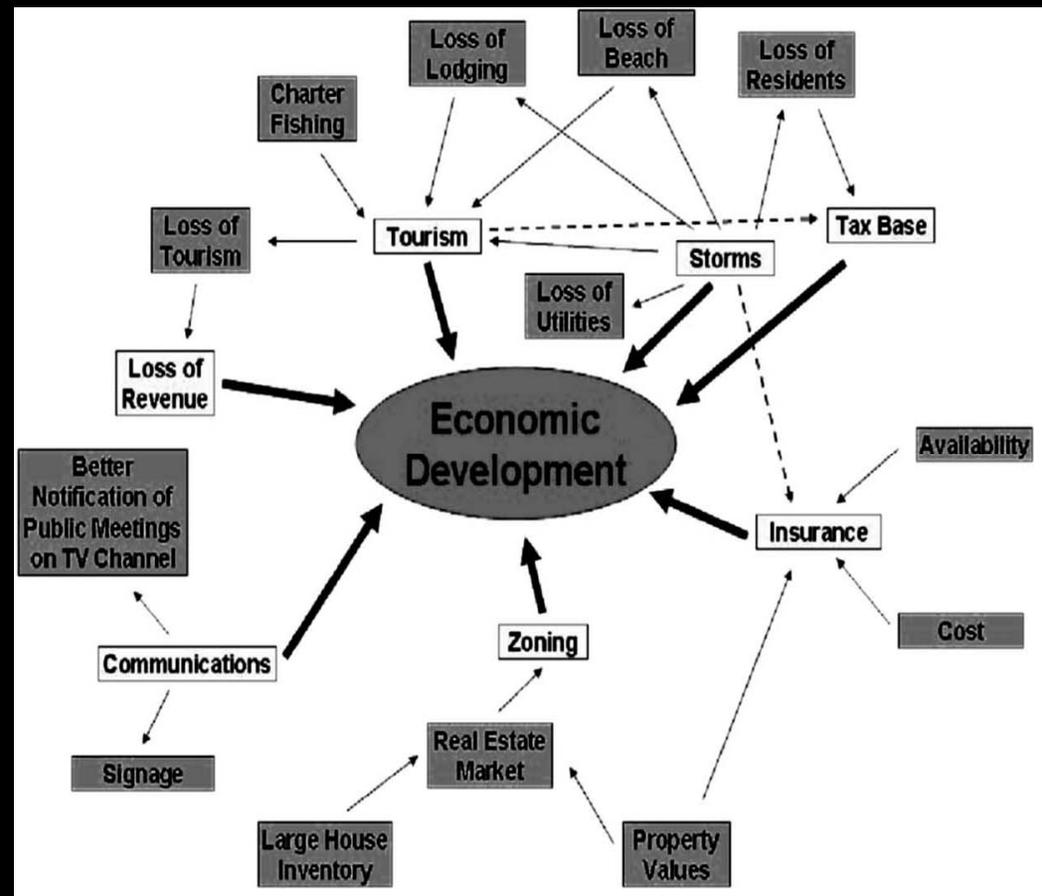


- Ordinance development, modifications
- Zoning Changes - Comprehensive Plan Update
- Public Outreach and awareness
- On the Ground Projects

“Show Stoppers” to Implementation

Funding Limitations

- Local **Money**
- Technical **Assistance**/Planning support
- **Regulatory** Obstacles
- **Future** of Oil and Gas Royalties
- Sustainable **Tax Base**
- Grant **Eligibility**



“Show Stoppers” to Implementation

Market Limitations



- Supply vs. demand of **housing**—the glut
- **Insurance** issues
- Available **workforce** to meet seasonal employment demands

“Show Stoppers” to Implementation

Nature’s Limitations



- Future **Storm** Events
- Continued **Accretion/Erosion**
- Salt Water **Intrusion**
- Deforestation/**Loss** of wetlands

What The Future Holds Already in Action

- Wetlands **Ordinance** Revision
- Working **Waterfronts** Workgroup
- Village and West End **Design** Projects with Auburn and MASGC
- Funding sought for **East End Beach Re-nourishment**
- Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries **acquisition** of wetlands
- MASGC Legal Program **Evaluation of Existing Ordinances** and covenants



Where Do We Go From Here?



- **Adoption** of plan by Town Council
- **Presentation** to the public
- **Determination** of implementation process
 - Partnering with local, state, federal agencies
 - Soliciting “Island Stakeholders” to champion issues
- **Prioritization** of action items
- **Implementation** of projects