

# **Oriental's Long Range Vision**

*Approved by the Town Board of Commissioners on October 6, 2009*

## ***Community Identity, Waterfronts, Appearance and Lifestyle***

The town's appearance and charm come from its proximity to the Neuse River and the many creeks surrounding it. The harbor waterfront, original village and newer neighborhoods off White Farm Road echo the theme of a lifestyle that is safe, friendly and historically reliant on maritime activities.

### **A. Oriental Waterfronts**

- Maintain and expand the public's access to the water, water views, launching and docking facilities, and public waterways throughout the community.
- Encourage public and private expansions of commercial and recreational maritime activities and services along Oriental's traditional working waterfronts.

### **B. Harbor**

- Insure that future development and redevelopment include the public's interest in preserving and expanding access to the harbor's working waterfront.
- Encourage fishing, both commercial and recreational, as important elements of the local economy and traditional reflections of the town's heritage.

### **C. Village**

- Encourage preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of older, historic, and original buildings.
- Promote development and redevelopment that reflect the traditional "front porch" welcoming character of the village.

### **D. Whitaker Creek, Pierce Creek, Dolphin Point and other areas.**

- Encourage development that continues a feeling of small town togetherness.

## ***Economic Opportunity, Development and Sustainability***

Over the years, Oriental's economic capacity has expanded and contracted based on the success or failure of water-oriented businesses. A comprehensive business development strategy that creates an environment for opportunity, growth and support will help to overcome threats, both real and perceived, which face businesses and entrepreneurs.

### **A. Waterfronts**

- Encourage and facilitate the continuation and enhancement of working waterfronts such as fish houses, marinas and boat yards.

## **B. Business and Commerce**

- Engender an atmosphere of welcome and support for entrepreneurs and business owners.
- Assist in the coordination of community resources, activities and services among the town, its businesses, and volunteers.

## ***Town Governance and General Operations***

The town's elected governing body is responsible for enacting and/or reviewing the town's procedures and ordinances. The paid staff tends to daily operations and enforcement (GS 160A-148). A long range vision will assist these individuals in anticipating the town's needs while honoring its heritage.

### **A. Public Works, Public and Private Services**

- Provide an environment that is safe and functional with appropriate and necessary services.
- Manage the town's facilities and assets to preserve and protect the local environment.
- Link together community and county assets, resources, activities and services.

### **B. Transportation, Traffic Circulation and Parking**

- Provide traffic patterns for vehicular and alternative transportation modes that are safe, fluid, and accessible.
- Implement transportation routes and parking facilities that enhance Oriental's visual appeal.

### **C. Open Areas, Trails and Pathways**

- Develop pathways, trails and corridors that interconnect the town's recreational facilities, parks, commercial areas and residential neighborhoods.
- Expand Oriental's park space and recreational opportunities in established and future neighborhoods.

## ***Growth and Expansion***

Just as the town has evolved since its inception, changes will come to Oriental. In the long-range vision process the public has spoken clearly that in general they like Oriental the way it is now and hope, regardless of what changes may come, that Oriental will continue as a small waterfront town welcoming a variety of individuals, interests and pursuits.

- Establish the means to guide growth, expansion, redevelopment and development that adheres to the points brought forward by the public and contained in this long-range vision.