

Economic Vitality and Sustainable Growth

Core Objective

Create fertile ground for sustainable, healthy population growth by diversifying our economic and employment base and expanding quality housing choices.

What will attract people to live in Oak Ridge? The answer is complex – changes in the local economy, the quality and variety of housing, and the value of historic and natural assets can all impact potential growth. In turn, growing population and tourism will grow the economy and tax base.

The notion of comprehensiveness in urban planning is to maintain a set of policies and decisions over time that reinforce each other and work together toward the achievement of the City's goals.



Wilson Street Corridor Study – A Vision for 'Downtown Oak Ridge'

Wilson Street connects Rutgers Avenue and Tulane Avenue, across from the Oak Ridge Municipal Building and next to the Main Street shopping area. The outcome of the study illustrates a walkable, urban place with a distinct Oak Ridge character, including space for gathering and multi-story buildings next to wide sidewalks. The Wilson Street corridor would support a mix of restaurants and shops, offices, and residential apartments and condominiums connected to open space. City Council approved this vision in January 2020, as a guide for "Downtown Oak Ridge."



Main Street Oak Ridge Progress

The Master Plan for the redevelopment of the Oak Ridge shopping mall was amended in 2019 to replace multifamily uses with more commercial retail, and to close an access road and roundabout. Due to these significant changes, the developer was asked – and agreed – to improve pedestrian circulation throughout the site, add public open space for gathering, and designate future phases of development along Wilson Street as mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly development.

New Businesses and Popular Events



Dairy Queen!



Flexible office space at 701 Scarboro Rd @TS117Coworking



Summer concert in AK Bissell Park columbiaheralddaily.com