

# Comprehensive Plan 2008

*Little Elm, Texas*



## Chapter 6: Growth Strategy



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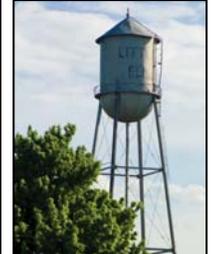
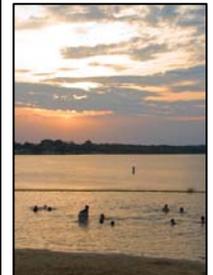
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# INTRODUCTION

The location of future growth and development, through annexations and growth management strategies, can have a profound impact on Little Elm's ability to provide water, wastewater, roadway, police, and fire services. Annexations and growth management strategies will play a critical role in shaping the future of the Town. Specifically, the expansion of the Town helps to ensure the safe and orderly development in growing areas that would otherwise be in the County, which has very limited power to properly manage development. Therefore, developing a strategy for annexation and growth management is necessary to the future welfare of the community and outlying region.

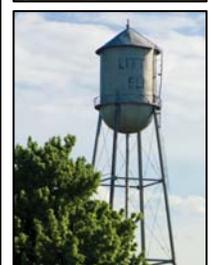
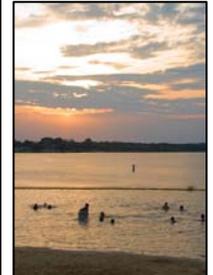
Annexation is the process by which municipalities extend services, regulations, voting privileges, and taxing authority to new territory with the purpose of protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare. The Texas Local Government Code prescribes the process by which municipalities can annex land in Texas. Annexation is essential to the efficient and logical extension of urban services. Annexation is important to the long-term well-being of cities and should be carried out in accordance with established policies, and not on an ad hoc basis.

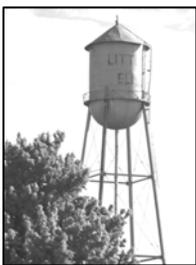
Municipalities can annex land only within their extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The Town's ETJ is based upon its population and size. Little Elm's ETJ is one mile from its existing Town limits. The ETJ serves two purposes. First, there is a statutory prohibition against another municipality annexing into the ETJ of another city and second, cities can extend and enforce their subdivision regulations within their ETJ. Cities cannot, however, enforce zoning regulations within their ETJ. Notably, there are no additional areas to expand the Town's ETJ, due to the fact that other municipalities' ETJs and limits abut the Town's boundaries.

**Table 6-1**  
 ETJ Distances from Municipal Limits  
 Municipalities in the State of Texas

Town Population	Respective Distance ETJ extends From Town Limits
Fewer than 5,000	0.5 miles
5,000-24,999	1.0 mile
25,000-49,999	2.0 miles
50,000-99,999	3.5 miles
100,000 or more	5.0 miles
Texas Local Government Code: Chapter 42.021	

This *Growth Strategy* provides direction to help Little Elm achieve a livable and sustainable community. With recent changes to State laws regarding annexation and private property, the Town should plan for coordinated growth. This *Growth Strategy* allows for better communication about the future development of the Town. Notably, Little Elm has service agreements with several surrounding developments at which sometime in the future the Town may annex these developments.





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## PROJECTED POPULATION & CAPACITY

How many people will ultimately live in Little Elm? This is an important question because in order to plan the community effectively, the Town needs to have an understanding of the future demands that citizens will ultimately place on municipal services. For instance, if the Town were planning to build a new library facility, it would be important to know how many citizens may use the library. This size of the Town's ultimate population projection could influence the size of the library facility and types of services available.

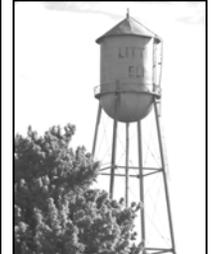
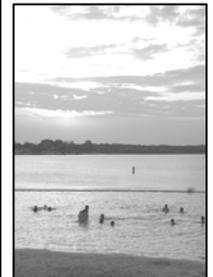
In addition, how fast will the population of Little Elm grow? This second question is as important as the first. Projecting population growth is crucial to determining the need and timing of capital improvements to serve future development. Municipalities across Texas have adopted estimations of growth to base when future capital and other service needs is required.

For the purposes of this discussion, it is necessary to define the area in which the future population of Little Elm will live. The defined area is the Town limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). All calculations have been based on accommodating a population living within this area, which is approximately 18,000 acres or 28 square miles (notably, 2,800 acres or 4.3 square miles are covered by Lewisville Lake).

### *Ultimate Population Capacity*

What areas remain vacant and will be used for future population growth? Approximately 30 percent of the Town's total acreage (Town limits and ETJ – **Table 1-14** in Chapter 1) is vacant land. The majority of the Town's vacant land is designated for residential uses (refer to the *Future Land Use Plan Map, Plate 4-1*). Notably, large areas of land in the ETJ have already been planned for residential communities, such as Valencia, Paloma Creek, Spiritas, and Frisco Ranch. Some of these areas are develop and some are currently vacant, but could soon develop. Substantial population growth will occur within these communities and within the other portions of the ETJ and Town limits. In order to determine the largest ultimate population capacity, all areas within the Town and ETJ have been considered in the calculations. However, it is possible that the Town will never annex some areas of the ETJ, such as the extended planning areas (refer to **Figure 6-1**). It is generally preferred to overestimate a population projection than to underestimate because the latter has consequences that are more negative.

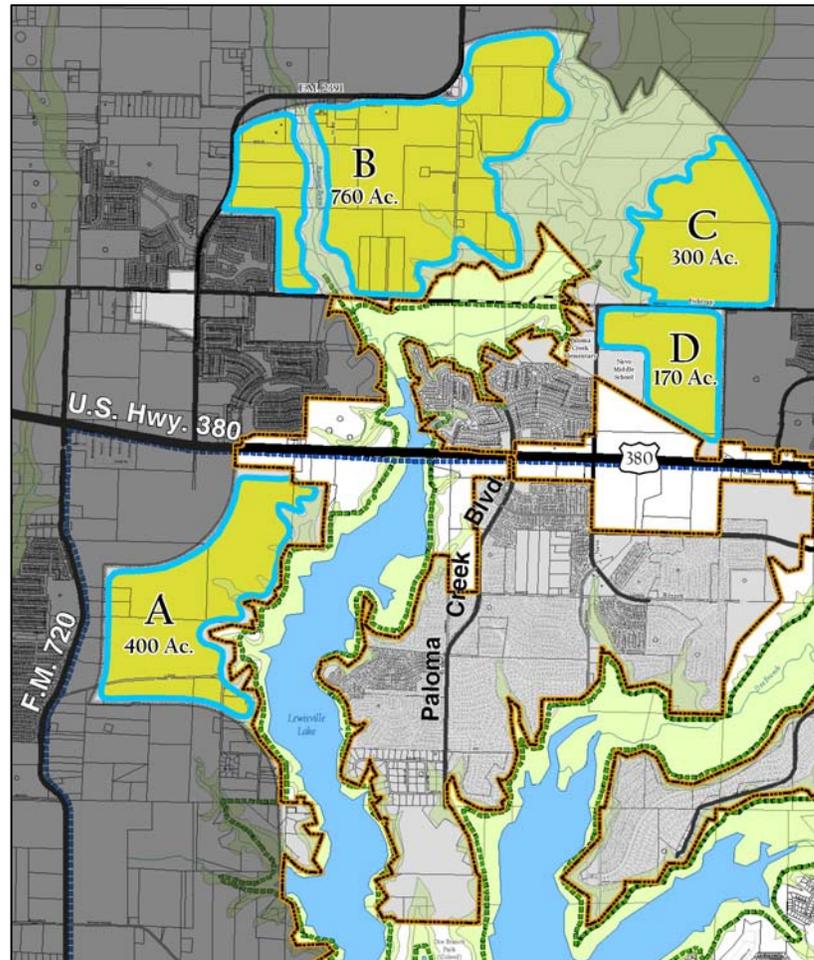
Numerous elements are taken into consideration to calculate ultimate capacity. First, Town records regarding currently platted or planned subdivisions were reviewed to



determine the total amount of lots within the Town Limits and ETJ. Second, Little Elm's existing land use map was reviewed to obtain information on where vacant areas exist within the Town and ETJ. Then, the *Future Land Use Plan Map (Plate 4-1)* was then reviewed to obtain information on planned locations within the Town limits and ETJ for future residential areas. The respective densities of these residential areas were also reviewed and determined to be similar to the existing residential development. In addition, the Town's 2000 U.S. Census information was then reviewed to obtain information on *Occupancy Rate* and *Persons Per Household*. As a result, the ultimate population capacity within the Town limits and ETJ is 90,077 persons. The calculation process used to determine the ultimate population capacity is outlined in **Table 6-1**.

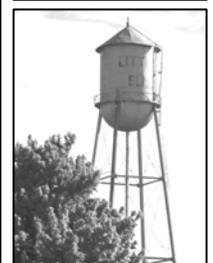
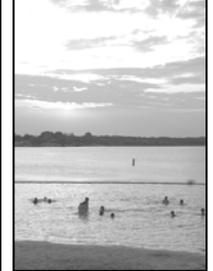
In order to provide a detailed population projection, some areas within the ETJ have been designated as extended planning areas. These areas are not generally associated with the current water districts and do not have annexation agreements with the Town. The following four areas (Tracts A, B, C, and D) will allow the Town to adjust its population projections when it is determined that an area will or will be annexed.

Figure 6-1  
Extended Planning Areas  
Town of Little Elm, Texas



**Table 6-1  
 Ultimate Population Capacity  
 Town of Little Elm, Texas**

Type of Lots or Type of Land Use	Acres/Lots	Average Number of Dwelling Units Per Acre*	Occupancy Rate	Average Household Size	Estimated Population
<b>----- CURRENTLY PLATTED OR POTENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS -----</b>					
Lots within Town Limits	12,095 Lots	n/a	92.9%	3.01	33,821
Lots within the ETJ	13,109 Lots	n/a	92.9%	3.01	36,657
<b>Sub-Total</b>					<b>70,478</b>
<b>----- EXTENDED PLANNING AREAS -----                      Vacant Residential Land Use (Areas that have not been subdivided)</b>					
Low Density Residential - Tract A	400 Acres	4.3	92.9%	3.01	4,810
Low Density Residential - Tract B	760 Acres	4.3	92.9%	3.01	9,138
Low Density Residential - Tract C	300 Acres	4.3	92.9%	3.01	3,607
Low Density Residential - Tract D	170 Acres	4.3	92.9%	3.01	2,044
<b>Sub-Total</b>					<b>19,599</b>
<b>Ultimate Population Capacity within the Current Town Limits &amp; ETJ</b>					<b>90,077</b>
* Dwelling Units per Acre – Average Density (4.3 DUA = 7,000 Square Foot Lots) Note: "Occupancy Rate" and "Average Household Size" Source: 2000 U.S. Census					





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## Projected Population Growth

Now that Little Elm's ultimate population has been calculated, how quickly might Little Elm grow to reach this ultimate population? This question proposes a unique situation for Little Elm because many areas of the ETJ may not be annexed until at least 2022, due agreements between the Town and water districts. Even in 2022, the Town may decide not to annex these subdivisions, thus reducing the ultimate population capacity of the Town. Additionally, some areas of the ETJ that currently do not have agreements with the Town could remain in the ETJ, thus never annexing into the Town for a variety of reasons.

Projecting what Little Elm's population will be in the next ten and 20 years is challenging, due to the fact that there are so many variables that may affect the rate of population growth. However, it is important to provide an analysis of what is most likely to occur. Therefore, the best method to predict the Town's growth is it to consider the area within the current Town limits until it is built-out and then add the population from the ETJ. What has been determined to be "most likely" is based on two things – the population growth of other cities in Little Elm's region, and the rate at which the Town has been growing in the past few years. **Table 6-2** below shows information about population growth in surrounding cities. **Table 6-3**, on the following page, shows the number of residential building permits issued by the Town annually from 1999 to 2007.

Table 6-2  
 Population Growth: 1980 to 2005  
 Town of Little Elm, Texas & Surrounding Communities

Year	City							
	Frisco	Hackberry	Little Elm	McKinney	Oak Point	Plano	Prosper	The Colony
1980	3,420	N/A	926	16,256	N/A	72,331	675	11,586
1990	6,138	200	1,255	21,283	645	127,885	1,018	22,113
2000	33,714	544	3,646	54,369	1,747	222,030	2,097	26,531
2005	70,793	475	17,150	96,581	2,391	250,096	4,207	37,972
Percent Change	1,970.0%	137.5%	1,752.1%	494.1%	270.7%	245.8%	523.3%	227.7%
Compound Annual Growth Rate	12.89%	5.94%	12.38%	7.39%	9.13%	5.09%	7.59%	4.86%

Source: U.S. Census  
 Note: The Census did not report populations for Hackberry and Oak Point in 1980.

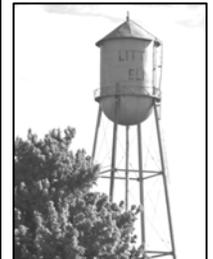
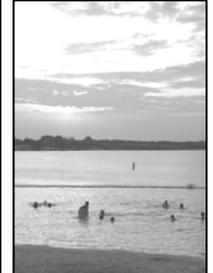




Table 6-3  
 Single-Family Building Permits: 1999-2007  
 Town of Little Elm, Texas

<i>Year</i>	<i>Permits</i>
1999	502
2000	761
2001	984
2002	1,001
2003	1,019
2004	1,061
2005	1,006
2006	708
2007	313
<b>Average</b>	<b>817</b>

Source: U.S. Census; Sefko Planning Group

Figure 6-2  
 Single-Family Building Permits: 1999-2007  
 Town of Little Elm, Texas

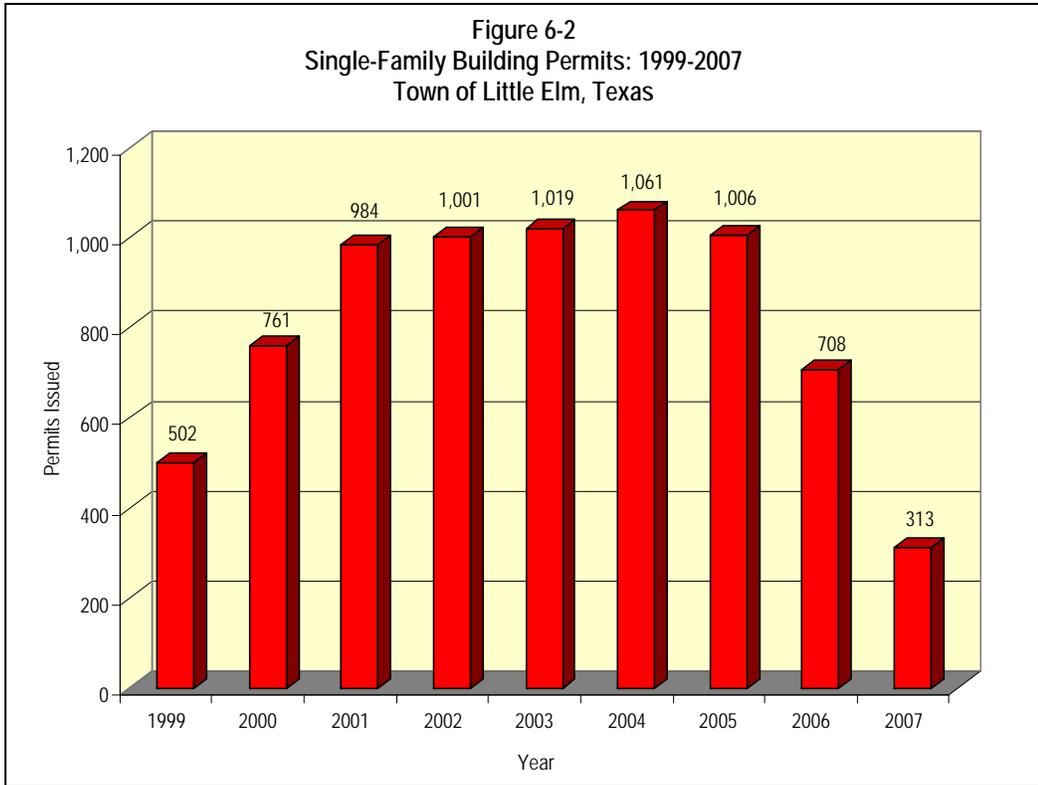


Table 6-4 shows population projections based on the information in the previous two tables and the anticipated continued level of growth. A compound annual growth rate of 4.5 percent has been used as the “most likely” growth rate Little Elm will experience. This rate is smaller than what the Town and surrounding communities have experienced and it predicts that the Town will issue fewer building permits than what it has averaged since 1999. Additionally, the 4.5 percent growth rate has been adjusted to show periodic variations to more accurately reflect the anticipated rate of growth.

**Table 6-4**  
**Growth within the Town Limits: 2007 – 2017**  
**Town of Little Elm, Texas**

<i>Compound Annual Growth Rate: 4.5%</i>				
<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Population Increase</i>	<i>Permits Issued</i>	<i>Growth Rate</i>
2007	21,793	875	313	3.3%
2008	22,668	582	208	
2009	23,250	750	268	
2010	24,000	1,000	358	
2011	25,000	1,500	536	7.4%
2012	26,500	2,000	715	
2013	28,500	2,500	894	
2014	31,000	1,500	536	
2015	32,500	800	286	2.0%
2016	33,300	521	186	
2017	33,821	-	-	
<b>Average</b>		<b>1,211</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
<small>Permits - Single Family Residential Permits are calculated using 3.01 Persons Per Household and a 92.9% Occupancy Rate</small>				

Several factors have been considered in the development of the 4.5 percent compound annual growth rate.

- First, the Town is approximately 67 percent built-out of its residential lots within its Town limits, leaving only 4,039 platted out of 12,095 residential lots remaining to be built upon, refer to **Table 6-1**. In similar situations to Little Elm, communities have encountered that the development of the last third of their community happens slower than was previously experienced in the first two-thirds. This is due to many factors such as most of the prime, easily developable residential sites have been developed, and as a result, the remaining land is often not as easy to develop. Also, as land has been consumed within the community, market forces drive up the cost of the remaining parcels, which tends reduce the number of developers willing to build new homes.
- Second, most communities grow slowly at first then experience rapid growth. After the period of rapid development, growth tends to slow down until the growth rate flattens out and the ultimate population is reached. As evidenced by the Town building permits, Little Elm appears to be beyond its stage of rapid growth and is now experiencing slower growth.
- Third, the recent crisis in the housing and mortgage markets would indicate that the phenomenal growth rate the Town and region has experienced will not likely continue. With lenders strengthening credit standards, many people throughout the region are not able to acquire loans to purchase homes. As a result, the amount of potential homebuyers is reduced.





### *Accommodating the ETJ*

If the Town annexes its entire ETJ, then the town could increase dramatically. However, the timing of annexation is a large question. While some areas cannot be annexed until 2022, other sections of the ETJ could be annexed before 2022. Issues that the Town will have to consider, in addition to the political and financial implications, is should Little Elm annex ETJ areas, leave these areas within the county, or allow another municipality to annex the areas by relinquishing or realigning its ETJ.

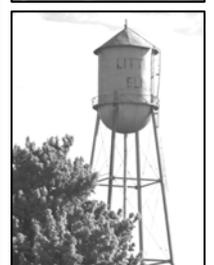
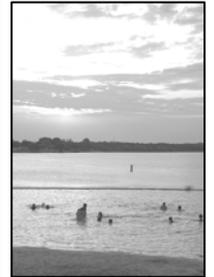
According to **Table 6-1**, 13,109 lots are already platted (i.e., subdivided lots) in the Town's ETJ, which equals 36,657 people when fully developed. The platted area within the ETJ is approximately 15 percent built-out, which equals 5,542 people currently living in the ETJ. Furthermore, the remaining residential area of the ETJ has 1,630 acres and has not been platted. It is anticipated, as shown in **Table 6-1**, that this land will produce 7,009 lots/homes and approximately 19,599 people who will reside in these units. Therefore, 56,256 people could potentially live within the Town's current ETJ, and this number added to the build-out population within the Town limits equals 90,077 persons.

# GROWTH POLICIES

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The importance of Town planning can never be understated. The future of Little Elm will be shaped with the policies and recommendations developed in this *Comprehensive Plan 2008*. Based on this Plan, decisions will be made that will influence many aspects of the Town's built and social environments.

What should Little Elm do to help build a great environment for its citizens and business? The following growth policies are intended to help the Town plan for growth and accommodate new development. For example, the provision of adequate public facilities is a primary quality of life indicator for municipalities across Texas. Planning should help anticipated community issues and search for a way to address them before the larger issues are created.





## *Population Projections and Related Service Needs*

Increased demand for all types of land uses must be taken into account when planning for the growth of a community and in the development of a *Future Land Use Plan*. Such increased demand for land use is inevitable with population growth. The population projections contained within this chapter help form the foundation of establishing how much land should be allocated to particular types of land use. Analyzing past growth trends within the Town, as well as the growth trends of surrounding communities, helps to predict what Little Elm can expect in terms of future population growth. Population projections are subject to the ever changing political and market environments and are generally revised and updated on a regular basis in communities across the country.

***Policy GP.1: Conduct an annual review of population projections and make adjustments as necessary. (Reference: Goal G.18)***

**Sub-Policy GP.1.1:** Encourage Town departments to participate in regular planning efforts to evaluate their ability to meet or exceed future demands for service.

**Sub-Policy GP.1.2:** Ensure that all Town departments, services, and facilities expand with population growth to provide equal or increased level of services.

**Sub-Policy GP.1.3:** Use the latest growth rates and population projections for future planning needs.

**Sub-Policy GP.1.4:** Encourage all Town departments to investigate the need for future expansion when involved in the budgeting process.

**Sub-Policy GP.1.5:** Consider development impacts on Town transportation infrastructure.

**Sub-Policy GP.1.6:** Promote various mobility options, as appropriate, per the anticipated land use.

**Sub-Policy GP.1.7:** Provide quality library services/facilities and expand services/facilities as the Town grows and matures.

## *Infill Housing Development Incentives*

Infill housing development can assist in improving existing areas of the Town. The promotion of infill housing is considered a win-win situation for Little Elm inasmuch as it:

- Reduces the Town's infrastructure costs (it is less expensive for the Town to provide a connection to an existing line in a developed area than to construct a line for an individual user);
- Provides a mechanism for increasing the population within the Town; and
- Revitalizes older areas of the Town.

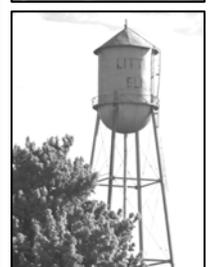
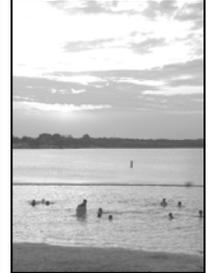
Developing on a vacant or redevelopment (razed) lot may be perceived as having an increased risk, particularly early on in long-term redevelopment projects. Communities can assist in making infill development or redevelopment an increasingly attractive option for potential homebuilders by rezoning adjacent, non-residential parcels to protect residential development from inappropriate commercial land use and by waiving development-related fees. Additionally, policies to streamline the regulatory process of development have been developed by some communities. For example, communities can promote infill by identifying areas where vacant lots are available for infill development and which that have ready access to infrastructure.

*Policy GP.2: Provide incentives and various land use options to encourage infill development and redevelopment. (Reference: Goal G.19)*

Sub-Policy GP.2.1: Encourage underperforming retail centers to be redeveloped with residential uses (including townhomes and patio homes) and neighborhood retail and commercial uses, such as a coffee shops, bakeries or restaurants.



At Legacy and Custer Road in Plano, this was an underutilized retail-zoned parcel that was redeveloped with new patio homes. (Conceptual Plan from *Joint Retail Study, 2002, Townscape, Inc.*)





## *Infill Development Standards*

An important issue for Little Elm is to ensure that the remaining vacant properties or infill development is consistent with the Town's vision and is designed to coordinate and connect with the existing surrounding developments. Generally, citizens in the areas surrounding an infill site desire to have the infill match the character of the existing area. For the purpose of this section, infill development refers to small lot developments (e.g., a home site in an existing neighborhood) or to larger sites that cover several acres along a major roadway (e.g., retail site).

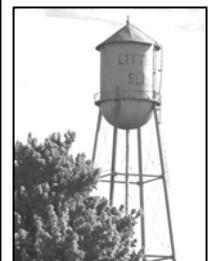
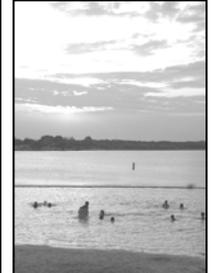
How can infill be designed to coordinate with the existing areas? One solution is to incorporate access from existing developments into infill development. This solution can have two positive aspects. First, connecting these developments would allow people access between the two areas. Second, people would be encouraged to walk or bike in between the areas and thus reduce some automobile trips. This concept is becoming more desirable in Texas, since pedestrian and bicycle connections have only recently begun to increase in importance and more and more citizens are asking for ways to get around their communities without the need of an automobile. These connections would help further a positive neighborhood and community feel.

*Policy GP.3: Implement standards to ensure consistent design for infill development and redevelopment within existing neighborhoods. (Reference: Goal G.19)*

*Sub-Policy GP.3.1:* Ensure all infill development connects to the existing network of streets, sidewalks, hike and bike paths, and bike lanes.

## Updated Infrastructure Master Plans

Planning for and providing infrastructure (i.e., water, wastewater, and drainage systems) is perhaps one of the most important things a town or city can provide its citizens. Citizens should be secure in the knowledge that they can rely on their local government to ensure that there is adequate water and wastewater capacity for the current population, as well as for future growth. Furthermore, an adequate drainage system that prevents stormwater from posing major problems to citizens and their homes should be provided.



*Policy GP.4: Ensure the Thoroughfare, Water, and Wastewater Master Plans are updated regularly and modified as necessary (e.g., service area modifications or population changes). (Reference: Goal G.20.B)*

Sub-Policy GP.4.1: Create and maintain a detailed listing of streets needing repair, general maintenance, and mitigation of drainage problems.

Sub-Policy GP.4.2: Implement and update, when necessary, the wastewater treatment improvement plans.

Sub-Policy GP.4.3: Assess the benefits and disadvantages of annexing Paloma Creek, Valencia, Spiritas, and other utility districts at the time permitted through their respective agreements.



## *Adequate Water Supply & Conservation*

As recent droughts across Texas and the county have revealed, the need to ensure an adequate water supply is an important community goal. Communities are now taking a proactive role in helping to educate people about the value of water. Locally, Little Elm receives its drinking water supply from North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). NTMWD surface water supplies are Lavon Lake, Lake Texoma, and Jim Chapman Lake. In early 2005, the north Texas region entered into a drought that lasted until the spring of 2007. During this time, NTMWD responded by implementing a Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan, which had several implications such as lawn watering restrictions. The Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan was enforced until July 2007, when all of the NTMWD reservoirs returned to conservation levels.



*Policy GP.5: Ensure that the Town has an adequate water supply.  
(Reference: Goal G.20.E)*

Sub-Policy GP.5.1: Promote water conservation measures.

Sub-Policy GP.5.2: Educate the public about methods for conserving water.

Sub-Policy GP.5.3: Work collaboratively with the local school districts to educate students about water conservation.

Sub-Policy GP.5.4: Promote the use of drought-tolerant landscaping, such as xeriscaping, rain and freeze irrigation sensors, and evapotranspiration (ET)-based irrigation.

## Safe Town Environment

People desire to live in a place where they feel safe. The safety of themselves, family members, friends, and personal belongings are all concerns of the average citizen. Safety is an ambiguous word and is hard to define. Because people are different, the feeling of safety is not universal and is difficult to apply to a large population. However, there are basic steps the Town can take to ensure the general safety of the community is maintained or improved as the Town continues to grow.



*Policy GP.6: Strive to provide a safe Town environment. (Reference: Goal G.21)*

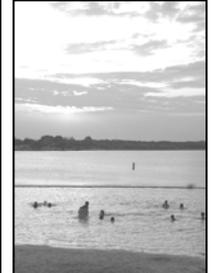
Sub-Policy GP.6.1: Ensure that the needs of all Town departments associated with public safety are being monitored and addressed.

Sub-Policy GP.6.2: Maintain public safety staffing and service ratios consistent with the Town's growth.

Sub-Policy GP.6.3: Solicit input from residents regarding public safety concerns.

Sub-Policy GP.6.4: Develop and/or implement an emergency management plan.

Sub-Policy GP.6.5: Ensure outdoor warning sirens can be heard throughout Town.





## *Law Enforcement*

Police service is an extremely important factor in assessing a community's quality of life. Safety is often a prime consideration for people when deciding where to establish a home. A high crime rate (or perception of crime) can cause people to decide not to locate in a particular area. Conversely, a low crime rate can be an attractor for population growth.

The Police Department is a valuable asset to any community. The service this department provides directly influences a person's feeling of safety and their actual physical safety. With police vehicles driving the streets of the community, the Police Department is one of the most visible and recognizable staffing groups within the Town.

*Policy GP.7: Establish and maintain an exceptional level of service for law enforcement as growth-related demands for service occur. (Reference: Goal G.21)*

*Sub-Policy GP.7.1:* Maintain and enhance the Police Department's community policing initiatives in order to maintain an environment in which residents, employees, and visitors feel safe and secure.

*Sub-Policy GP.7.2:* Maintain an accepted ratio of sworn officers to the Town's population.

*Sub-Policy GP.7.3:* Evaluate responses to emergency and non-emergency calls.

*Sub-Policy GP.7.4:* Analyze increased calls for service.

*Sub-Policy GP.7.5:* Improve officer safety through additional training.

*Sub-Policy GP.7.6:* Increase neighborhood watch programs.

*Sub-Policy GP.7.7:* Initiate a citizen's police academy.

*Sub-Policy GP.7.8:* Initiate a crime victims' assistance program.

*Sub-Policy GP.7.9:* Continue expansion of other community service programs.

## Fire Protection Services

Like police service, fire service is important to local quality of life. In addition to fighting fires, a community's fire personnel are often called on to provide emergency medical service (EMS), alongside police and traditional ambulance services. Fire services and facilities are therefore a significant element and one of municipalities' main functions – ensuring the public's health, safety, and welfare.



***Policy GP.8: Ensure an excellent level of fire protection services. (Reference: Goal G.21)***

***Sub-Policy GP.8.1:*** Continue to deliver programs of service for life safety, public education, fire prevention, fire suppression, fire investigation, technical rescue, emergency medical care, hazardous materials, and disaster management that are consistent with community needs, and create/implement any other needed programs of service.

***Sub-Policy GP.8.2:*** Provide excellent and up-to-date equipment to all fire stations.

***Sub-Policy GP.8.3:*** Continue to provide fire and life safety education to all Town citizens.

***Sub-Policy GP.8.4:*** Solicit input from residents to determine their safety concerns.

***Sub-Policy GP.8.5:*** Provide timely information to the citizens concerning emergency situations.

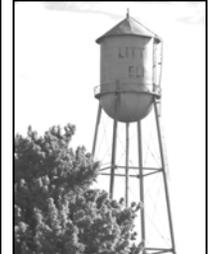
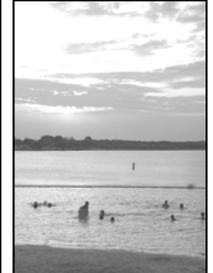
***Sub-Policy GP.8.6:*** Operate an efficient and modern emergency operation center.

***Sub-Policy GP.8.7:*** Maintain an efficient but adequate standard of response coverage and effectiveness.

***Sub-Policy GP.8.8:*** Continue to manage the Fire Department in a way that continuously improves levels of service to the community and other elements of local government.

***Sub-Policy GP.8.9:*** Provide the highest level of training available to the department.

***Sub-Policy GP.8.10:*** Promote and maintain the volunteer program.





## Communication

How can citizens become and stay connected to their local government? How can the Town communicate with residents about important issues? More and more people are knowledgeable about technology and commonly use multiple forms of communication, such as email and voicemail. This change in society has and will continue to influence the way communities communicate with their citizens. Now, instead of people physically mailing municipal bills or driving down to the municipal building to pay a bill, people can pay their municipal bills over the internet in many communities. Plans and other documents that were once stored on shelves or had to be purchased are now available for download via the internet or can be sent over email. New communication opportunities will undoubtedly arise and could be used to improve the communication between citizens and their community.



*Policy GP.9: Explore methods to create and improve communication between citizens, Town officials, and employees. (Reference: Goal G.22)*

*Sub-Policy GP.9.1:* Investigate developing free wireless network areas (e.g., Wi-Fi hotspots) for businesses and citizens.

*Sub-Policy GP.9.2:* Examine the feasibility of an affordable Town-provided internet service.

*Sub-Policy GP.9.3:* Offer access to Town services (e.g., water, municipal court, library, etc.) via the internet.

*Sub-Policy GP.9.4:* Allow citizens and businesses to obtain information, provide input, and use services through a variety of communication methods.

## Public Input

All levels of government need to be responsive to their citizens. The democratic freedoms enjoyed in the United States, Texas, and Little Elm are established on the will of people to be governed. It is important for a government, notably a municipality, to seek out and understand the needs and desires of its citizens. Local government must attempt to be inclusive of as many people as possible. Often public meetings are poorly attended by the public, due to numerous reasons. However, if more people are aware of what is occurring in their government, some people may decide to get involved and provide their much-needed input. The local government needs the input of their citizens to help inform elected officials (e.g., Town Council), appointed officials (e.g., Planning and Zoning Commission), and staff of what the community desires to be and to accomplish.



*Policy GP.10: Actively engage and listen to the public to discover the community's needs. (Reference: Goals G.21 & G.22)*

Sub-Policy GP.10.1: Use the Town's website to solicit community input.

Sub-Policy GP.10.2: Use the Town's Library to solicit community input via a survey and/or suggestion box.

Sub-Policy GP.10.3: Use the mailings to solicit community input, if financially feasible.

Sub-Policy GP.10.4: Use electronic signs, either at Town Hall, at entryways into the community, or at random locations to notify the public, if financially feasible.

