

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

Growth Policy Comparison

The following growth policies were evaluated in comparison to Flathead County's Growth Policy; specifically, how the topic of economic development was handled by each:

- Gallatin County (adopted in 2003)
- Lewis & Clark County (adopted in 2004)
- Cascade County (adopted in 2006)
- Butte-Silver Bow County (updated in 2008)

Key elements regarding economic development from each growth policy document reviewed have been summarized below (please reference documents attached, show in bold):

- Gallatin County
 - **See Section 2.3 - Economic Conditions (attached)**
 - Brief history of local economy, changes observed
 - Identifies basic make-up of workforce; employment sectors and rates
 - Identifies intergovernmental agreements (**Section 7.2**) and cooperation as paramount to provide better services, improve economy
- Lewis & Clark County
 - Economy and economic development addressed in three sections: the **executive summary, Chapter I – Introduction and Chapter II – Demographics and Economics (attached)**
 - Chapter II provides historical perspective on demographics and economy;
 - Demographics: summarizes population trends and projections, population distribution and age, racial composition and household size
 - Economics: overview of historic and current employment situation, breakdown of workforce, employment trends, a regional perspective, economic impacts of new housing, income and poverty, education
 - Addresses economic development in four main issue topics:
 - Economic base industries and how to encourage opportunities for expansion
 - The tourism industry
 - Growing industrial development
 - Sports facilities
- Cascade County
 - **See Chapter V - Economic Condition (attached)**
 - Breaks down employment sectors – agricultural, transportation, government, construction, manufacturing and retail trades
 - Identifies economic activities and constraints placed upon them
 - Specific goals and policies related to economic development found in **Chapter II**; maintaining and agricultural economy and strengthening Cascade County's economic well-being.
 - Implementation strategy addresses a variety of resources related to capital improvements financing and tourism development (**Chapter IX**).

- Butte-Silver Bow County
 - **See Chapter 3, Section 1.4 - Economic Conditions and Trends (attached)**
 - Unique in its assessment and incorporation of the tax base for the County, as well as thorough description of economic indicators (beyond simply identifying median incomes and employment sectors)
 - Also unique in **Chapter 3 – Section 2.0 Trends in Local Services and Public Facilities;** each service or facility is assessed for its capacity to accommodate growth and change.
 - Section 2.16 also identifies specific economic development services available to serve the County and its residents, aide in implementing goals and strategies found throughout the document.
 - Further implementation strategies/tools for economic development address in **Chapter 4 – Section 3.2.3** regarding overlays.
 - Goals, policies and implementation strategies specific to economic development are identified in **Chapter 1**, starting on page 1-11 with graphic 2.3; goals encompass diversifying the economy, maintaining a high quality workforce, and creating vibrant historic central business districts.
 - Infrastructure goals and policies in the sections that follow also elude to economic development.