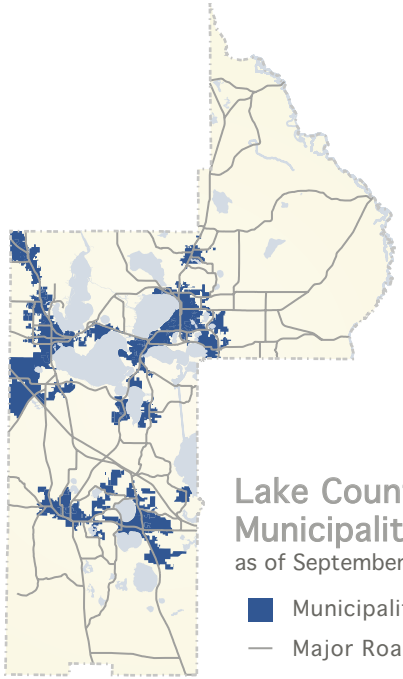
Mutual *Undertaking*



The Department of Growth Management is confronting the challenges of Lake County's expanding population and is working hand-in-hand with the community to plan effectively for the future.

The Department constantly seeks innovative means to *streamline* operations, and its efforts this past year have been especially noteworthy. From implementing more customer-friendly technology to drafting a new comprehensive plan, Growth Management strives to provide citizens with the best possible service in response to their needs.

Lake County tackled an important task this fiscal year by drafting a new comprehensive plan, or "blueprint" for the preservation of land and orderly development of homes and businesses. Required by State law, the comprehensive plan is the foundation for local planning, acting as an outline of the community's vision and *priorities*.

Development of the 2025 Lake County Comprehensive Plan has been a partnership between citizens, municipalities, County Government and other local and regional entities. County staff conducted six regional citizen-input meetings throughout the County in February that attracted 480 participants. Online surveys also gave County planning staff a picture of our communities' *expectations*. By year-end, seven additional public meetings were held to review progress and seek comments.

Expected to be finalized in early 2006, the new plan titled "Planning Horizon 2025" will provide guidelines for policymakers, land managers and land users on how to conserve, rehabilitate or develop an area. Planning Horizon 2025 spells out the goals for efficient transportation, adequate employment, affordable housing, needed capital *improvements* and access to clean air, water and open space for the next 20 years.

To complement the comprehensive plan, the Geographic Information System Division *(GIS)* used the tax parcel layer, created from deeds, plats, legal descriptions and the property appraiser database. From this information, GIS was able to visually depict all bodies of water, road infrastructure, public resource lands and municipal boundaries on a digital Lake County map. Plans were established for future development and *preservation* of more than 198,000 parcels of land.

Some of the greatest changes in Growth Management services originated in the Building Services Division. A year after instituting Web-based permitting, the Division again used technology to provide citizens even more ease of access to services offered. Two new features this year include an electronic review process in conjunction with a new scanning process for permitting applications, and a Web-based, building-inspection process that offers real-time inspection results and field comments. The electronic review process greatly reduces permitting review time by eliminating the transport time required for re-submittals. The online inspection service allows contractors to get inspection results by logging on to the Web rather than visiting the job site or calling the inspector.