

GLOUCESTER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VISION for 2035

Founded in 1651, Gloucester County has a rich and varied history that includes Werowocomoco, the cultural and political center of the Powhatan Confederacy; Revolutionary War battlefields; and the homes of Dr. Walter Reed, and early civil rights activist T.C. Walker. Today, Gloucester citizens enjoy the beauty of a rural Virginia countryside, while remaining within a short commute of the activities and shopping opportunities offered by metropolitan Hampton Roads.

Moving towards the future, Gloucester will benefit from steady and consistent economic growth enabled by a robust infrastructure, business-friendly government and a top-notch public education system. Gloucester's citizens will enjoy a wealth of recreational activities, shop locally at numerous and varied markets and stores, and have access to county-based, world-class health care. Gloucester will offer all the amenities of modern life, while continuing to surround its citizens with the tranquility of rural and waterfront living.

Gloucester is, and will continue to be, "The Land of the Life Worth Living."

Gloucester Enjoys a Diverse, Thriving Economy

Gloucester County has become the destination of choice for entrepreneurs looking for a qualified and stable workforce, affordable real estate, and a relaxed and fulfilling lifestyle.

- Gloucester businesses are enabled by low taxes and an accommodating and collaborative regulatory environment.
- The Highway 17 Corridor contains business parks offering white-collar companies spacious and well-appointed offices supported by a robust fiber-optic broadband network.
- Numerous industrial parks have been developed off the highway, providing light industries with the infrastructure and space needed for rapid growth.
- Gloucester, the historic home of the Chesapeake Bay watermen, has become the East Coast hub for a burgeoning aquaculture industry.
- Gloucester's combination of numerous retail businesses, best-in-state medical facilities and unlimited outdoor recreational activities, attracts thousands of customers daily from the surrounding counties of the Middle Peninsula.

Education

Gloucester County provides the opportunity for all of its citizens to have a quality education.

- The collaborative relationship between the Board of Supervisors, School Board, and citizens ensures the availability of a superior lifetime education for everyone.

- The County offers quality education in academic, technical, vocational and life skills.
- Gloucester high school graduates are well-prepared for either workforce entry or continuing on to a higher education.

Infrastructure

Gloucester County has efficient and strategically placed roads, water, sewer, broadband, and natural gas that supports desired business growth and a high quality of life.

- Universal broadband access provides citizens with an opportunity to work where they live and supports the growth of home-based entrepreneurs.
- A Second Crossing over the York River provides easy access for customers and tourists in the Williamsburg area to the shops and attractions of Gloucester County.
- Cooperative efforts with VDOT and regional agencies have provided Gloucester with an expanded transportation infrastructure, including well-maintained rural roads and numerous bicycle paths, pedestrian walkways, and alternative transportation options.

Human Services

Gloucester County, through a combination of government, commercial and volunteer programs, ensures that the needs of its citizens – children, adults and the elderly – are met.

- Several adult community centers provide the opportunity for Gloucester citizens to age in place, to be cared for locally near their homes and families.
- Continued investment in Gloucester facilities results in Walter Reed Hospital becoming the Middle Peninsula Regional Medical Center, providing world-class health care to all the residents of the Middle Peninsula.
- The combination of numerous, active charitable organizations, the inherent, giving spirit of the Gloucester citizens, and supplemental assistance from state and local government, ensures that our most needy citizens - the homeless, indigent, disabled – are never alone and never without help.

Housing and Land Use

Gloucester County maintains its essential character as a rural county while offering diverse housing opportunities that include a range of multi-family and single family homes that meet the needs of singles and families of all ages and incomes.

Natural and Recreational Resources

Gloucester County is unique among its peers because of the abundance and diversity of its natural resources, including clean protected waterways, forested landscapes, wildlife, and the longest coastline in the state of Virginia.

- An expansive and well-maintained park system provides numerous recreational opportunities for Gloucester citizens and visitors, including sports venues, hiking, hunting, boating and fishing.
- Active protection and conservation measures ensure a healthy ecosystem that will attract new residents and businesses, as well as enhance tourism.
- Well-equipped marinas and boat ramps throughout the County ensure recreational boaters easy access to Gloucester's numerous waterways and the Chesapeake Bay.
- Gloucester's Werowocomoco National Park attracts thousands of visitors annually to the premier Native American historical site on the East Coast.

Governance

Gloucester County focuses on finding and implementing the leanest form of government to minimize impediments to economic development and take advantage of collaborative processes, shared services, and other cost effective measures for the maximum benefit of its citizens.

- Taxes are maintained at the lowest practical levels that still provide essential, quality services.
- Gloucester County has a transparent, responsive, and forward-thinking government that encourages an informed and participatory citizenry.