

# GLOUCESTER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## 1991 ADOPTED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

## NOTES FOR UPDATE

### General Goals

A. To protect the unique character and identity of Gloucester County through careful management of the natural resources and the built environment.

**Comment [D1]:** Moved from Goal C to A – to protect rural character. Added “and the built environment”

B. To manage for and maintain the highest quality of development and design for the future growth of Gloucester County.

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C. To foster and encourage public participation in the planning and decision-making process to ensure that the wishes of the community are translated into appropriate courses of action.

D. To manage for future development that will foster quality growth and encourage economic development that will be compatible with the rural and suburban character of the community and supply job opportunities for the residents of Gloucester County.

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**Comment [D2]:** Combined Goals D and E.

E. To protect and enhance the environmental quality of Gloucester County and the Chesapeake Bay for present and future residents.

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Deleted: <#>To encourage economic development that will be compatible with the physical and social development of Gloucester County.¶

F. To provide a plan for the growth of the County in order to enhance the quality of life for all its residents.

G. Strive for fairness for all members of the community in achieving the Goals and Objectives presented herein.

**Comment [SCNov3]:** Added to acknowledge the need for fairness and balance in decisions

### Land Use Goals

A. To acknowledge the continuation of uses that were established prior to zoning and land use

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controls and encourage development or redevelopment that would make them more compatible with the future land use plan.

B. Assure balanced, desirable, and convenient physical relationships between residential, commercial, industrial and public use areas, both at the neighborhood and County levels.

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C. Protect the environmentally sensitive and ecological integrity of the land in order to meet the needs of the County residents.

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**Comment [D4]:** Separated Land Use Goal B into two Goals using same language.

**Objectives:**

1. To identify adequate and suitable development patterns for safe, orderly and efficient growth.
2. To encourage protection of open space and increased setbacks on public roads as part of development standards.
3. To provide opportunities for public access as part of development standards.

D. To provide for efficient and attractive residential areas with safe and sanitary housing and promote high quality standards of residential development and sound housing for all citizens of the County.

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**Comment [D5]:** Combined Goals C & D

**Objectives:**

1. To establish housing standards, including minimum lot sizes and setbacks, off-street parking, drainage, and landscaping in order to avoid overcrowding and to protect the values of surrounding areas.
2. To encourage placement of mobile homes in well designed mobile home subdivisions or on standard lot size according to the County subdivision ordinance.

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**Comment [D6]:** This goal met through ordinance changes however no new Mobile Home Parks have been created under the new ordinance.

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3. To encourage residential development to locate in designated development districts or Urban Development Area as shown on the future land use plan.
4. To ensure that development shall occur on lots capable of supporting the individual water supply and sewage disposal systems or in areas that have access to central water supply and sewage treatment systems.
5. To ensure that the character of existing residential areas will be preserved by preventing the intrusion of incompatible uses.
6. To encourage new developments that have unique character and architectural diversity.
7. To upgrade, maintain and expand public facilities and utilities in the designated development district.
8. To enforce regulations and codes in order to preserve, enhance, and stabilize existing and future residential areas and to maintain the quality of housing. To update regulations and codes as growth and development patterns warrant.
9. To encourage varying residential densities dependant upon the type of development, location, topography, soils, and degree of improvements.
10. To provide incentives for affordable workforce housing that is safe, decent and sustainable.
11. To ensure that developers of subdivisions provide, where appropriate, streets, drainage facilities, curbs, sidewalks, recreational areas, open spaces, trails, bikeways and other quality of life amenities and private improvements for the health, safety, welfare, and convenience of its citizens.

Deleted: or around designated population centers in the County

**Comment [D7]:** Consideration for the requirements of House Bill 3202 – May want to be more specific – “to encourage higher density residential development in specific development areas to meet the projected residential growth in the County for the next 10 to 20 years.

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**Comment [D8]:** This was meant to provide for mixed developments if compatible.

Deleted: , non-residential

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Deleted: existing service areas

**Comment [D9]:** Added Trails and bikeways and amenities

**Comment [D10]:** Moves objective 1 under Goal D to the combined Goal C & D.

**Comment [D11]:** Deleted - redundant

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Deleted: <#>To promote high quality standards of residential development and sound housing for all residents.¶

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**Objectives**¶

Deleted: <#>To ensure that developers of subdivisions provide, where appropriate, streets, drainage facilities, curbs, sidewalks, recreational areas, open spaces, and other private improvements for the health, safety, welfare, and convenience of its citizens.¶  
<#>To provide for the design of residential and neighborhood developments that are safe and free from incompatible land uses.

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- E. To encourage efficient and attractive commercial development to provide convenient access to goods and services, increase the number of local jobs for County residents, and broaden the economic base of the County.

### Objectives

1. To direct the form of commercial and industrial development of park or campus-like form as opposed to linear or corridor form along County roadways.
2. To require businesses to provide appropriate lighting, drainage, off-street parking areas, and adequate safe access for customers.
3. To encourage existing and non-conforming businesses to remove architectural barriers to the handicapped and elderly.
4. To require commercial and office property abutting residential areas to provide measures designed to reduce detractive impacts and nuisances to the residential areas. Improvements should be sought in existing situations whenever permits are received for expansion or alterations.
5. To provide planned and concentrated areas of commercial uses that provide diverse goods and services in a convenient and efficient manner to County residents at appropriate locations.
6. To consider the locations and design of business areas in relation to vehicular, pedestrian, bicycle and other modes of alternative transportation circulation systems.
7. To support and encourage the design of commercial businesses to be consistent with the County's unique physical characteristics and historic significance.
8. To ensure that adequate land access and utility provisions are made for

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Comment [D12]: Changed adequate to appropriate in consideration of Dark Sky initiative

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commercial development and that such provisions are compatible with other land uses.

9. To encourage existing non-conforming commercial structures and uses to upgrade and improve their structural soundness, aesthetic appearance, circulation systems, and road accessibility.

10. To encourage commercial and recreational uses at appropriate locations along the waterfront and to promote a healthy tourist trade in the County.

F. To maintain present and encourage additional development and employment opportunities

### Objectives

1. To identify and preserve sites having the appropriate topography, geology, accessibility, public utilities, highway access, and relationships to existing or future land uses that are necessary for industrial development.
2. To protect land with unique potential for economic and industrial development from encroachment by other land use activities.
3. To develop an industrial promotion and marketing program in cooperation with existing public and private agencies and utilities to publicize to desirable industries the advantages of locating in Gloucester County.
4. To cooperate with the local and state industrial development authorities in their effort to promote the location of new industry and the preservation, expansion and upgrading of existing industries.

Deleted: retail

**Comment [D13]:** Consideration for Working waterfronts – commercial watermen, marinas, boat repair places, etc. – not just retail and recreational.

**Deleted:** Review of the above Section of Goals and Objectives completed by the Steering Committee at Meeting. Begin Meeting Review here:¶

**Comment [SCNov14]:** Begin November Steering Committee Review.

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5. To encourage commercial recreation, tourism, fisheries and water- and boating-related industries.
6. To encourage and support retention of the agriculture, fishing and forestry industries.
7. To assist private enterprise in creating planned industrial parks.
8. To encourage the use and adaptive re-use of existing and vacant buildings for economic development and employment opportunities.

- G. To encourage the coordination of industrial development with the related development of public utilities and transportation facilities so that public and private programs are directed toward a common goal without duplication of effort.

### Objectives

1. To furnish public utilities in advance, where appropriate, not only to stimulate development, but also to encourage location in suitable areas.
2. To encourage the establishment of attractive, efficient industrial parks with adequate road access and capacity, utilities, service roads, and other supporting services.
3. To direct industries into areas that have access to major transportation routes that will provide rapid and safe movement within the County to sources of supply and distribution of raw material to points outside the County. This should be achieved within the limits of the existing or planned transportation system.

- H. To encourage the establishment of industries that cause minimal negative impacts on the

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environment; to encourage compatible industrial development that will make efficient use of the area's labor force, raw materials and transportation facilities, thereby stimulating employment and investment opportunities in order to stabilize and diversify the economical base.

### Objectives

1. To encourage quality by regulating the design of industrial areas in order to promote and retain high standards of community appearance. Such design should encourage the use of landscape materials, fences, and service drives so that industrial areas be pleasant to work in and are visual assets to the community.
2. To minimize the blighting influence of industrial areas on adjacent and neighboring land uses.

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### Natural Resource Goals

**Comment [SCNov15]:** This Section put off to after review of the Environmental Existing Conditions Section during the December break.

**Deleted:** ¶

<#>To conserve and manage Gloucester County's natural resources and community assets.¶

¶

**Objectives**¶

<#>To protect Gloucester County's groundwater, surface water, rivers, bays, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay from pollution, sedimentation, or depletion.¶

<#>To protect our wetlands and natural resources from unnecessary destruction due to increased drainage, filling, or construction that would hamper vegetation, water storage, erosion control, or support of plant and wildlife habitats.¶

<#>To conserve prime agricultural and forested lands and guide residential, commercial, and industrial development to areas suitable for urban growth.¶

<#>To cooperate and actively work with local, regional, state, and federal environmental agencies to implement safe and effective programs and policies to protect Gloucester's natural resources.¶

<#>To update and revised local ordinances as needed in order to protect and enhance the County's natural resources.¶

**Comment [SCNov16]:** From Updated Environmental Section (Revised 2001) and additional goals and objectives added by Phil and Anne

### General Goals

- A. Protect and restore Gloucester County's groundwater, rivers, streams and bays (surface waters), and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay from pollution, nutrients, or sedimentation.
- B. Restore Gloucester County surface water quality to numeric limits necessary to meet and maintain uses such as swimming and other water-based recreation, public water supply, and the propagation and growth of aquatic life.
- C. Develop Implementation Plans based on TMDLs to reduce current excess nutrient loads in impaired water bodies and off-set new loads in the future.

### Objectives

1. Continue to work with Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District and extension agents to educate farmers about agricultural best management practices, nutrient management planning and available state and federal cost share programs and encourage farmers to use these tools to improve water quality. (Old)
2. Continue to work with Tidewater Soil and Water Conservation District and extension agents, and other state agencies to educate farmers and homeowners about nutrient management planning including proper fertilizer and pesticide use and efficient irrigation and watering practices to protect surface and groundwater resources. (Old)

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3. Continue to implement the County's growth management strategy to protect open space and groundwater recharge areas through low-density zoning outside the development district and containment of the majority of development where public water and sewer facilities exist or planned. (Old)
4. Continue to work with the State Health Department and other agencies to address concerns regarding failing septic systems and their replacement through alternative designs or connection to sewer. (Old)
5. Work with the State Health Department and other agencies to educate residents about the importance of maintenance of traditional and engineered septic systems. (Sort of Old)
6. Protect open space resources and groundwater recharge areas through use of existing ordinances, development and implementation of an open space or green infra-structure plan, consideration of conservation subdivisions and incentives for open space preservation through the land use tax assessment program, purchase of development rights programs, conservation easements and other land preservation tools (Old)
7. Consider impaired water bodies as the basis for watershed management planning to improve water quality based on the source of the impairment.
8. Consider using overlay districts within impaired watersheds which require additional performance standards to reduce impacts to water quality such as density, location and open space requirements, limits to impervious cover and building setbacks and buffers.
9. Consider benefits that may be achieved in cleaning the Bay when deciding when and where to extend public sewer and water.
10. Consider the direct and long-term impacts to water quality when making decisions

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- regarding capital project and public improvements such as the location of roads, schools, parks and other public facilities.
11. Consider encouraging or requirement nutrient management plans for certain uses such as mixed use developments (PUD), agricultural uses and nurseries, stables, athletic fields, golf courses, parks, and County facilities.
  12. Encourage Low Impact Development storm water planning and design principles on development projects.
  13. Use GIS and Geo-spatial data when evaluating projects relative to the water quality impacts.
  14. Encourage and support aquaculture industry through land use planning that provides for the continuation of these industries by protecting water quality and providing adequate land based facilities to support the industry.
  15. Consider minor revisions to the zoning ordinances that provide more pervious areas for groundwater recharge on commercial site plans. (Old)
  16. Continue existing program of identification and enforcement of illegal dumping. (Old)
  17. Continue to monitor the existing County-owned landfill for compliance with post-closure requirements. (Old)
  18. Continue to work with the state to register existing and proposed Underground Storage Tanks and identify leaking tanks through the building permit process to protect groundwater resources. (Old)
  19. Utilize the Gloucester County Shoreline and Tidal Marsh Inventory completed by VIMS in February 1999 as a tool to evaluate development proposals and permit requests adjacent to shorelines and encourage the use of living shorelines as a stabilization tool. (Old)

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20. Continue to implement runoff controls allowing no net change in runoff at development sites. Drainage techniques normally channel storm water runoff away from the structure and off the site. The volume and velocity of storm water runoff leaving a developed site should be no greater than predevelopment levels, primarily for adjacent property protection and non-source point pollution control. This is currently required on newly developed sites. (Old)
21. Continue grant funded education programs and efforts to educate the public about preservation and protection of the County's natural resources. (Old)
22. Set an example of stewardship through participation in the State's "Businesses for the Bay" program and encourage local business to do the same. (Old)
23. Continue public awareness and community participation programs that promote the County's natural environment and protection of water quality and link community pride with preservation of these resources (i.e. Riverfest, annual community roadside and waterway clean-up programs, public water quality monitoring). (Old)

### Housing Goals

- A. To encourage housing of various types, bedroom mix, and price levels so as to accommodate current and future County residents.

#### Objectives

1. To encourage existing substandard housing be brought up to minimum standards or replaced where renovation

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- is not feasible though available federal, state, or local programs.
2. To explore alternate means of meeting the housing needs of low, moderate, and fixed-income residents.
  3. To consider revisions to the land development and construction codes to reflect new techniques and innovations in order to facilitate housing development, rehabilitation and construction.

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**Comment [SCNov17]:** At the Nov. meeting the Steering Committee decided to postpone these until completion of the Housing Study. Some considerations discussed for the future included:

- Encourage re-use of existing housing stock
- Blight removal of vacant and uninhabitable housing stock
- Provide incentives to upgrade existing substandard homes to meet current standards
- Address workforce and multifamily housing

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### Transportation Goals

- A. To guide the development of the County road system into a network that facilitates safe and convenient local traffic as well as high-speed, long distance traffic.

#### Objectives

1. To work with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to keep it abreast of the changing needs of the County's primarily highways and secondary road systems and to improve the flow of traffic on arterial and major collector streets by identifying needed improvements.
2. To develop long-range transportation plans in coordination with all other development plans.
3. To develop long-range plans, including, but not limited to, identifying and acquiring rights-of-way easements and setbacks for anticipated transportation facilities, alternative routes and connectivity within and through the County, prior to land development so as to minimize land acquisition costs.
4. To provide, where appropriate, adequate buffers to protect adjacent properties from adverse effects of the transportation system.
5. Designate certain roads as greenways to preserve and protect existing rural, historic, scenic or other important character to preserve existing view sheds.
6. To define alternative transportation corridors to facilitate intra-County travel, keeping in mind the problems of channelization on the U.S. Highway 17 corridor.
7. To work to provide all residents safe, and where feasible, multiple access to and from all neighborhoods.

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**Comment [SCNov18]:** Discussion included comments regarding country roads as tourism asset, protecting view sheds through scale of development, need to define greenways and encourage the incorporation of greenways and scenic byways in the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan. Signage was also discussed as an important component of some greenway corridors.

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8. To maintain effective County enforcement of land use ordinances for the efficient and safe use of the roadways within the County.
  9. To encourage effective enforcement of laws affecting the efficient and safe use of roadways within the County.
- B. To work to ensure that industrial, commercial, and residential development result in minimal negative impact on road systems and traffic patterns within the County.

### Objectives

1. To encourage and ultimately require that road systems servicing the new development be constructed to state standards and taken into the state road system for maintenance.
2. To ensure that sound, long-range design standards are followed in all construction of private roadway facilities in the County.
3. To require developers to pay their share of road improvements within their sites and adjacent to them; to encourage developers to proffer their share of off-site improvements in order to serve traffic generated by their sites.
4. To require that state standards for all entrances to primary and secondary roads be met as part of all new construction or major modifications of land use.

- C. Complying with state mandates with regard to Transportation Planning and other Transportation Considerations.

### Objectives

1. Designate Areas of the County as Urban Development Areas to accommodate the majority of population growth.

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<#>To encourage the provision of adequate mobility for all segments of the community.¶

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2. Consider implementation of impact fees using process established in the state code for Impact Fee Service Areas.

- D. To encourage the provision of adequate mobility for all segments of the community.

Comment [SCNov19]: This is one of the broad goals from the joint meeting with the BOS and PC on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

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### Objectives

1. To encourage adequate and accessible transportation for all residents who are physically handicapped and have difficulty finding or using public or private transportation: the handicapped, the elderly, and those of low income.
2. To assist commuters by encouraging the development of parking lots, public information services, and commuter service programs.
3. To encourage the development of innovative and effective means of improving ground, water and air transportation systems.

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### Recreation Goals

- A. To develop and implement a comprehensive recreational program to ensure adequate open space, park and recreational areas, facilities, and activities to serve the leisure time needs of present and future citizens.

#### Objectives

1. To provide for a variety of activities in a County-wide recreational system, devoting areas to specific forms of recreation in proportion to the potential demand.
2. To provide instructional courses to stimulate activity participation, use of facilities, and exposure to new recreational activities.
3. To use the potential of public schools to help meet community recreational needs.
4. To include a variety of programs and activities to meet the needs of special populations groups such as teenagers, the elderly, the disabled, or those who are only able to participate during evening or weekend hours.
5. To coordinate public and private sector efforts in meeting recreational needs; to encourage co-sponsorship of programs and events.
6. To ensure that recognized standards for development of County open space and recreation facilities are used.
7. To acquire park acreage, when possible, that includes structures or sites of historical significance to serve as nuclei of future County parks.

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- B. To place high priority on selective acquisition, preservation, and recreational uses of areas with natural resources.

### Objectives

1. To emphasize the County's water resources, both fresh water and tidal, in recreational planning.
2. To acquire and retain forested land for public use, which is an excellent setting for a variety of outdoor recreational activities.

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- C. To provide the proper legal and financial framework for the provision of park and recreation facilities and programs.

### Objectives

1. To secure local, regional, state, and federal assistance and grant monies, where feasible and appropriate, to assist in the development of recreational opportunities for the County.
2. To consider public – private partnerships to assist in accomplishing recreational goals and objectives.
3. To incorporate into local ordinances provisions requiring the dedication of adequate and suitable park and recreational lands in new subdivisions and planned unit developments and the preservation of flood plains, marshlands and other ecologically significant areas.
4. To commit to the acquisition and development of public recreation sites through the use of the Capital Improvement Program.
5. To use all possible types of incentives, including taxation, easements, public-private partnerships, and other methods to add parkland facilities to the County.

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6. To study the economic impact that the Parks and Recreation Department's service has on the County's economy.

- D. To coordinate open space and park acquisition and development programs so that they are in balance with the pace and direction of development within the County.

### Objectives

1. To acquire recreational sites in advance of development in order to reserve prime sites, achieve flexibility in site selection, and avoid higher land prices in the future.
2. Consider the development of a property acquisition fund (land bank) to acquire land or easements (PDR) to increase land for open space, habitat protection and recreational opportunities.
3. To develop a master site plan for each proposed park site, including school facilities delineating areas of activity, circulation patterns, building locations, parking areas, and other developmental components.

Comment [SCNov20]: Same comment included in natural resources section.

- E. To increase citizen and tourist awareness of recreation opportunities in the community through an expanded program of public relations and contact with other recreationally oriented organizations.

### Objectives

1. To use all available and appropriate means to publicize departmental program services and facilities.
2. To use the Virginia Tourism Corporation to promote local events.
3. Integrate new state park into local recreational planning.

Deleted: State Department of Tourism

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- 4. Support state parks and programs in local programs and publications.
- 5. Work with other groups and agencies for public access for recreational opportunities.

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### Economic Development Goals

- A. To provide a balance economy for future growth.

#### Objectives

1. To encourage the expansion of the local employment base so that County residents have a better opportunity to work in their own County.
2. To encourage the continuation of those industries that are basic to the local economy, including agriculture, fisheries, lumber and wood products, food and kindred products, health care facilities, and service industries.
3. To encourage a diversified industrial base that reflects the effective use of the County's human and natural resources and minimizes the impact of single industry changes or declines in the economy.
4. To encourage cooperation with the County, Economic Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce, and regional industrial associations.
5. To make available the community services and facilities necessary to attract and maintain business and industry.
6. To provide for the most economic and efficient expenditures of public funds for Capital Improvements.
7. To monitor the continuing development of Gloucester in terms of ecological impact, circulation system impact, sewer and water impact, development types and mixes, economic heterogeneity, employment level and diversification, and economic stability.
8. To encourage training and educational programs within the County, including Rappahannock Community College, the

Deleted: Industrial Development

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- High School, Greater Peninsula Work Force Board, and adult education services to stimulate learning and growth to provide additional options for all age groups to live in, work in, and benefit from the County; to encourage continued cooperation among these institutions for the most varied and beneficial educational opportunities for the County.
9. Identify and preserve sites having appropriate topography, geology, public utilities, road access and relationships to existing or future land uses that are necessary for and compatible with economic development.
10. Encourage and permit ~~redundant~~ reliable high speed links to the global internet.
11. Proved streamlined development processes within the County government for projects that promote economic development. Provide County departments the ability to respond quickly to such applications.
12. Support and promote economic opportunities through and related to the research activities of the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS).

**Comment [SCNov21]:** Some of the discussion regarding this objective focused on the lack of training available at RCC and that IRT had workforce issues or difficulty getting qualified workers in the County. The High School has good programs for work force training.

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**Comment [SCNov22]:** This was one of the recommendations of the Gateway Plan. Bioindustrial Development.

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### Public Facilities and Services Goals

- A. To provide for the well-being of all citizens of the County through all necessary and desirable community facilities and services in a manner reflecting both present and future County needs.

#### Objectives

1. To promote efficiency in the County government by providing adequate facilities for general County services and administration.
2. To encourage and provide incentives for development to take place inside service areas of existing and projected public facilities and utilities within the development district in order to minimize the tax burden on local residents and businesses.

- B. To establish a clear set of priorities for services between the County and developer/builder in the planning and programming of every development.

#### Objectives

1. To ensure the acquisition of land for public needs such as parks, schools, roads, open space, and fire and police facilities.

- C. To improve public service and provide beneficial growth patterns so that all citizens are treated equitably.

#### Objectives

1. To plan and develop major public facilities, such as roads, utilities, schools, and passive and active recreational facilities together, rather than on a piecemeal basis.
2. To direct growth in a manner whereby public services can be effectively

**Comment [SCNov23]:** This including a discussion for implementation of this objective for finding a way to reimburse developers for infrastructure installed by the "first one in" and then used by others – such as pump stations and water and sewer lines. This was in the ordinance many years ago, but unless development is taking place quickly, reimbursement may not be that easy because the initial developer may not always be around by the time the next developer comes along...The County has been looking at this option for a while and has not determined the best course of action.

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provided without adversely affecting the general welfare of the community.

- D. To determine water and sewer needs based on existing and future requirements and to develop plans on projected needs and priorities established; to program the development of new and replacement facilities so the funds available may be most economically employed by establishing priorities and development a Capital Improvement Program and an annual Capital Budget; and to satisfy the projected needs by acquiring sites of proper size and location for facilities in advance of urban development.

### Objectives

1. To design and engineer water and sewer supply facilities and lines professionally in order to provide economical and efficient service. Such design should seek to maximize opportunities for increased return on investments through multiple use of facility locations and rights-of-way.
2. To coordinate the plans of existing private utility companies and proposed public facilities so as to minimize waste and duplication of efforts and to create a more efficient distribution of utilities.
3. To plan utilities expansion along lines of desirable growth.
4. To maintain a master plan for the supply and distribution of water and for the collection and treatment of sewage.
5. To secure local, state, and federal assistance, whenever feasible and appropriate, to plan, design, and construct new and replacement water and sewer system improvements.
6. To design both trunk and distribution sanitary sewer system in areas with a known high growth potential in terms of

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- capacity to accommodate future expansions.
7. To plan the size and location of sanitary and storm sewers according to the drainage areas and land uses to be served as shown in this plan.
  8. To program sanitary and storm sewer extensions to developing areas of the County in order to promote balanced and cost-effective growth in the County.
  9. To utilize public sewer water facilities for new development instead of individual systems whenever possible.
  10. To program water main extensions to those developing areas of the County to promote balanced and cost-effective growth.
  11. To design and construct new and replacement water facilities in order to provide adequate fire protection.
  12. To continue to study new sources, as well as look into regional solutions, for the County's future water and sewer supplies.
- E. To promote the general health, safety, and welfare of the lives and property of all County residents.

### Objectives

1. To maintain and enhance existing facilities and equipment.
2. To expand both fire protection and emergency medical service facilities to include substations in areas of greatest population growth as the need arises.
3. To provide effective and adequate police protection for the County.
4. To promote a hygienic environment and high standards of health for all County residents by providing adequate facilities for health care and sound water and sewer systems.

# GLOUCESTER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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5. Encourage systems that decrease environmental impacts.

- F. To provide quality educational facilities to serve citizens of all ages in the most effective, efficient and economical means possible.
- G. To maintain high standards for the library system and to plan for its expansion, accessibility, and improvement as necessary.
- H. To provide for a long-range view of refuse disposal through ecologically-, environmentally-, and economically-sound disposal methods.

### Objectives

1. To encourage recycling and reuse of refuse.
2. To explore a regional approach to refuse disposal to meet the community's needs as well as relieve potential tax burdens on residents.
3. To meet all local, state, and federal health, safety, and environmental protection requirements for refuse disposal.
4. To determine the location of potential solid waste landfill sites to accommodate future growth.
5. To maintain and improve the existing solid waste disposal system; to encourage alternative methods to land filling.

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### Social Services Goals

- A. To provide an effective social service and public assistance system that is designed to meet the basic needs of families who need help. The system shall provide services within the needy family's home community and within an environment that promotes family stability whenever possible.

#### Objectives

1. **Service Programs** – To provide services that provide assessment and delivery of broad services that include intake services, adult services, prevention and support services for families, adult protective services, child protective services, foster care and adoption service, and employment services to meet family needs.
2. **Benefit Programs** – To provide income support benefits to assist families that are unable to provide the necessities of life and maintain minimum standards of health and well-being through their own efforts.
3. **Administration** – To define the mission of the agency; to hire staff and provide resources to accomplish the mission; and to re-evaluate the progress made towards accomplishing the objectives.
4. Encourage public private partnerships to increase availability of social services to residents.
5. Provide a streamlined process for receiving necessary services.

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### Human Resources Goals

- A. To promote equal opportunities in housing, education, employment, and justice.

#### Objectives

1. To increase efforts to upgrade and revitalize the housing, business, educational, and recreational sectors of low-income areas.
2. To ensure safe, sanitary, and structurally sound housing for all sectors of the community.
3. To provide for the literacy of all the citizens of the County.
4. To initiate programs that will encourage the employment of residents, especially the unemployed.
5. To expand efforts to assist the disadvantaged, elderly, and handicapped to allow for their greater participation in all phases of the economy, including, but not limited to, housing, employment, medical services, transportation, internet access and technical resources, and financial aid.
6. To plan, coordinate, and promote viable Human Resource programs with other community agencies.

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# GLOUCESTER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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### Historic, Architectural, and Archeological Preservation Goals

- A. To respect historic and cultural values, including preservation of historic sites and buildings, archaeological and cultural sites representing various periods of architecture and history within the County.

#### Objectives

1. To preserve and maintain structures of significant historical, architectural or cultural value and their immediate environment.
2. To discourage the loss of historic or culturally significant structures through "benign neglect" or natural causes by encouraging and supporting the repair and maintenance of these structures in a stable and secure condition until such time as the owner can restore the structure in a historically compatible means.
3. To encourage the adaptive reuse of historically or culturally significant and sound buildings and structures.
4. To promote the economic benefits of historic resources as a source of community pride, enhancement and as a draw for tourism.

- B. To survey and recognize buildings and sites of historic, architectural, or cultural value.

#### Objectives

1. Develop an inventory of the county's resources using a gradient approach for significance. The inventory should include historical structures and sites, archeological sites, and sites of cultural significance and identify the level of

**Comment [SCNov24]:** The Goals and Objectives for this section were tabled for the next meeting due to time constraints. The possibility of the County cost-sharing with the State Department of Historic Resources for an historic and cultural resources assessment was discussed at the November meeting. The historic committee voted to request the County include the cost share match in next year's budget. Also, the County is considering changes to the historic district ordinance that may result in a new committee.

**Comment [SCJan0825]:** Included the word "cultural" to have the comp plan consider sites that may not be nationally significant or significant on a statewide basis, but is of local significance such as a general store, mill, silo or an old church which provides a locally important landmark or feature that the community wants to preserve.

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**Comment [SCJan0826]:** The idea behind this objective is to secure structures until someone can come along and restore them. In other words put a mechanism in the ordinance to allow the repairs that may not be totally historically compatible, but would protect the structure from further deterioration and would not unnecessarily "harm" the structure for future historically compatible repair of restoration.

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# GLOUCESTER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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- importance from a national, state or local level.
2. To investigate opportunities for funding a complete survey of historical, archeological, and cultural structures and sites. The landmarks would be ranked by priority for preservation or conservation efforts.
3. To establish a program for encouraging or assisting owners of nationally significant historical landmarks to submit applications to the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.
4. To allow development of historic and archeological sites only after screening of the sites by rigorous archaeological methodology consistent with those required for state and federal projects,
5. Promote historic, archaeological and cultural resources through education and identification by signs, markers, maps and other means.
6. Work with state and non-profit agencies to educate historic property owners of the tax incentives available for preserving and restoring historically significant properties.
- C. To encourage compatible development in and surrounding historic areas and buildings.

### Objectives

1. To establish an historical review committee qualified with appropriate credentials to make informed and fair decision regarding impacts to historic structures and sites
2. Based on an inventory of important features, plan for development in the areas surrounding these features through appropriate land use regulations, such as zoning, overlay districts, greenways, and other tools that

**Comment [SCJan0827]:** When referencing local culturally significant sites, the Committee referenced things like country stores, mills, churches, piers and steamboat landings that may have local significance although may not be eligible for the National or State registers.

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# GLOUCESTER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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will protect or enhance the historically or culturally significant features in the context in which the feature currently exists.

3. To involve the Historical Committee in comprehensive planning and the review of rezoning requests, acquisition, and demolition of properties or major changes of sites in and adjacent to historic areas.

**Comment [SCJan0828]:** This objective is meant to encourage the planning of the properties surrounding important features so that their significance is not diminished by inappropriate uses or surrounding development.

- D. To make every reasonable effort to protect and preserve archeological resources affected by or adjacent to any acquisition, stabilization, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, or reconstruction project.
- E. To improve accessibility and levels of use of historic places.

**Comment [SCJan0829]:** Redundant with # 3.

**Deleted: <#>**To provide the Historical Committee with the opportunity to review development plans for projects that are located near historic properties.

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### Objectives

1. To use the possibility of acquiring major historical or archeological sites for public use as museums, tourist attractions, and parkland.
2. To promote tourism of Gloucester's historic landmarks and local contributions to the nation's history.
3. To promote the economic benefits of protecting historic resources for both tourism and for attracting businesses to the community.

**Comment [SCJan0830]:** Protection and promotion of a community's history shows pride in the community which attracts not only tourists, but businesses and residents looking to locate in a community that cares about its past and wants to preserve it. Tourism is the second most economic driver in VA – second only to Agriculture and Forestry.