

CHAPTER 3

ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Introduction

“The development of a community takes place over a long period of time and the forces which cause growth or decline are not often noticed until significant directions have been established. Even in communities where little change seems to be occurring, the existing infrastructure ages, economic and social factors continue to change, and community concerns evolve. Long-range community planning addresses this slow and eventual change by establishing a framework within which a community can direct its growth and change.”¹

This chapter presents the issues, goals, and strategies of community planning in Charlotte County. The terms issues, goals, and strategies are defined as follows:

- Issues – The broad area or overall topics of community interest
- Goals – The desired results to be reached
- Strategies – The philosophy and methodology for reaching the goal

The initial issues, goals, and strategies of the comprehensive plan were developed by the four sub-committees of the Joint Comprehensive Plan Committee in 2006, and were based on the trends and implications analysis (Chapter 2), in accordance with the plan’s overall goal (Figure 3). From these issues, goals, and strategies, a list of actions were developed that, if pursued, would move the County towards the goals set forth in the plan (see Chapter 6).

During the 2011 and 2016 comprehensive plan reviews, the Planning Commission used the updated data and figures in Chapter 2 and the Appendix to reevaluate the associated trends and implications. The issues, goals, and strategies (Chapter 3) were then amended to reflect newly identified trends and implications. Finally, the Planning Commission reassessed the action list, bringing the recommended actions in line with the goals and strategies.

¹ *Comprehensive Plan, Mathews County Virginia*, June 26, 2001. Page 3:1.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY - ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Issue	Goals	Strategies
<p>Preservation of economically viable agriculture and forestry industries in Charlotte County</p>	<p>Preserve the productive agriculture and forest land and facilities in Charlotte County</p> <p>Preserve economically viable agriculture and forestry enterprises in Charlotte County</p>	<p>Continue to promote public support for agriculture and forestry, including awareness of and tolerance for the normal side-effects of agricultural activity, through school programs and community education</p> <p>Ensure that water quality and use plans protect agriculture and forestry lands and provide water for new types of crops in the future</p> <p>Ensure that county land use policies protect existing agriculture and forestry activities, and will encourage the orderly and responsible growth of animal and plant industries</p> <p>Include rural enterprises and farm-based businesses in economic development efforts</p> <p>Participate in private, state, and federal programs to protect and enhance agriculture and forestry land, production, and interests</p> <p>Aid agricultural and forestry enterprises in identifying grant opportunities that will increase productivity and create new opportunities</p> <p>Encourage and participate in the development of crops and agricultural activities that will help ensure the future success of local farms</p>

CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY - ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Issue	Goals	Strategies
<p>Need for more quality jobs in economically viable businesses (including agriculture & forestry)</p>	<p>Expand employment opportunities in both new and existing county businesses</p>	<p>Maintain strong long and short term planning and coordination efforts</p> <p>Provide and support the development of the infrastructure necessary to support economic growth and development</p> <p>Maintain a strong integrated development, marketing, and incentive program for new and existing businesses</p> <p>Maintain a continuing workforce education and training program, including assistance to persons with disabilities</p> <p>Include tourism, rural enterprises, farm-based businesses, and small businesses in the economic development effort</p> <p>Work with other localities to encourage economic development and new enterprises in the region that will provide new opportunities for Charlotte County citizens</p>

<p>Quality of life in Charlotte County</p>	<p>Protect and improve the quality of life in Charlotte County</p>	<p>Include quality of life cost-benefit evaluations in the planning process</p> <p>Recognize and protect the rights of adjacent property owners</p> <p>Promote appropriate land and natural resource use throughout the county</p> <p>Promote the development and retention of retail establishments and service industries in the towns and surrounding areas</p> <p>Encourage the establishment of economically viable rural businesses in order to help preserve rural land and quality of life.</p> <p>Preserve and protect the county's unique natural & historic resources</p>
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CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY - ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Issue	Goals	Strategies
Energy supply for Charlotte County homes and businesses	Provide sufficient, appropriate, and affordable energy supplies for Charlotte County homes and businesses	<p>Encourage the provision of adequate, affordable energy to Charlotte County</p> <p>Encourage the use of economically viable alternative energy sources</p>
More efficient use of Charlotte County's resources	Expand the responsible use of existing agricultural, forestry, mineral, and natural resources and products in Charlotte County	<p>Expand the use of by-products of agricultural and commercial activity</p> <p>Promote appropriate land and natural resource use throughout the county</p>

CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
LAND USE AND HOUSING - ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Issue	Goals	Strategies
Land Use	Ensure the optimal and balanced use of Charlotte County’s land and natural resources to benefit citizens, businesses, and government organizations now and in the future	Update and utilize the county’s Strategic Policy, Comprehensive Plan, Water Supply Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, federal 100-year floodplain maps, and state dam inundation zone maps to guide growth and development Maintain strong long and short term planning and coordination efforts
	Preservation of land and vegetation	Support natural resources protection practices Participate in private, state, and federal programs to protect and preserve land and vegetation
	Preservation of county air quality	Maintain a strong county and town planning effort Coordinate with local, regional, state, and national agencies Maintain a strong strategic planning effort Support natural resources protection practices
Land Use	Preservation and enhancement of county scenic vistas	Maintain a strong county and town planning effort Coordinate with local, regional, state, and national agencies Maintain a strong strategic planning effort Support natural resources protection practices

CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
LAND USE AND HOUSING - ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Issue	Goals	Strategies
Quality of life in Charlotte County	Protect and improve the quality of life in Charlotte County	<p>Include quality of life cost-benefit evaluations in the planning process</p> <p>Recognize and protect the rights of adjacent property owners</p> <p>Promote appropriate land and natural resource use in all county areas</p> <p>Preserve and protect the county's unique natural & historic resources</p>
Town/County Adjacent Area Planning	Proper coordination and planning for best land use and facilities now and in the future	<p>Maintain a strong county and town planning effort</p> <p>Coordinate with local, regional, state, and national agencies</p> <p>Maintain a strong strategic planning effort</p>
Housing	Adequate, safe, and affordable housing with a wide range of housing choices for all county citizens, including the disabled and elderly	<p>Establish policies that will guide future housing construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition to benefit all citizens in all areas of the county, including specific emphasis on meeting the current and future needs for affordable housing and housing for the elderly and disabled</p> <p>Improve the condition of existing housing units by participating in housing improvement programs and pursuing grants for housing rehabilitation and modification, and for community improvements</p>

CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
PUBLIC SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND TRANSPORTATION - ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Issue	Goals	Strategies
Emergency services	Effective and efficient emergency services for all county areas	Coordinate analysis, planning, purchasing, and operations Maintain an Emergency Operations Plan Provide sufficient funding Aid emergency service organizations in identifying grant opportunities Assist in volunteer recruitment efforts Ensure adequate, dependable emergency communication coverage is available throughout the County Utilize grants to enhance services
	Mitigation of potential future problems	Participate in preparedness planning Train sufficient number of personnel Maintain a Hazard Mitigation Plan Utilize grants to enhance services and address potential problems

CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
PUBLIC SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND TRANSPORTATION - ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Issue	Goals	Strategies
Law Enforcement	Effective and efficient law enforcement service for all county citizens	Participate in local, regional, state, and national planning Expand operational capabilities Continue jail operations Provide sufficient funding Provide for and train a sufficient number of personnel Ensure adequate, dependable emergency communication coverage is available throughout the County Utilize grants to enhance services
	Mitigation of potential future problem	Participate in preparedness planning Train sufficient number of personnel Utilize grants to enhance services and address potential problems

CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
PUBLIC SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND TRANSPORTATION - ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Issue	Goals	Strategies
<p>Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Road - Rail - Other 	<p>Sufficient, appropriate, cost-effective facilities and resources for current and future needs, including needs of elderly and persons with disabilities</p>	<p>Participate in the VDOT planning process</p> <p>Participate in VDOT's Smart Scale funding process</p> <p>Participate in local and regional planning processes</p> <p>Participate in the rail planning process</p> <p>Participate in the air transportation facilities planning process</p> <p>Utilize grants</p>
<p>Public buildings and sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schools - Community facilities - Historic/tourism sites - Solid waste handling - Law enforcement - Emergency services - Health services - Social services - Business parks - Town facilities - Parks and recreation - Communication towers - Libraries 	<p>Adequate, cost-effective, and accessible facilities to meet organizations' and citizens' needs now and in the future</p>	<p>Coordinate with all county organizations and town councils</p> <p>Coordinate with regional, state, and national organizations</p> <p>Coordinate with citizen groups and organizations</p> <p>Maintain a strong strategic planning effort</p> <p>Update the County Comprehensive Plan as changes occur</p> <p>Construct cost-effective efficient buildings when new facilities are required</p> <p>Utilize grants</p> <p>Find ways to utilize or repurpose vacant buildings</p>

CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
PUBLIC SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND TRANSPORTATION - ISSUES, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Issues	Goals	Strategies
Water and Wastewater	Protection of county watersheds and water supplies	Maintain a strong county and town planning effort (Charlotte County Water Supply Plan) Coordinate with local, regional, state, and national agencies Maintain a strong strategic planning effort Support natural resource protection practices Protect and preserve the watersheds of dams that are, or may be, used for municipal water supplies
	Adequate quantity of high-quality water to meet current and future needs in a cost-effective manner	Maintain a strong county and town planning effort Coordinate with local, regional, state, and national agencies Maintain a strong strategic planning effort
	Adequate wastewater treatment to meet current and future needs in a cost-effective manner	Maintain a strong county and town planning effort Coordinate with local, regional, state, and national agencies Maintain a strong strategic planning effort