INTRODUCTION

Purpose

A Comprehensive Plan is a long-range policy document that guides decision-making and provides direction for growth, development, public services, and infrastructure investments. It serves as a roadmap for future policies, programs, and projects that shape the character of the community and enhance the quality of life for current and future residents. The Plan reflects community values, local priorities, and long-term goals, articulates the Town's vision for the future, and establishes the policy direction needed to achieve that vision. It also provides a framework for decision-making by Town officials, staff, and community partners.

Planning Authority & Requirements

The Code of Virginia grants local governments the authority to plan for the future development of their communities. Pursuant to § 15.2-2223 and § 15.2-2230 of the Code of Virginia, every locality in Virginia is required to adopt a comprehensive plan and review it at least once every five years to ensure it continues to meet the Town's changing needs and priorities.

Planning Process

The Comprehensive Plan was developed through a collaborative, four-phase planning process that combined technical analysis with extensive public and stakeholder engagement. Preparation of the Comprehensive Plan included a community-wide assessment of existing conditions, demographic and community trend analysis, along with surveys, focus groups, community events, and stakeholder meetings to identify the opportunities, challenges, and priorities that shaped the Plan. This information provided the foundation for developing the Plan's goals, objectives, and policies. Throughout the planning process, the Town Council, Planning Commission, Comprehensive Plan Committee, Town staff, residents, businesses, and regional partners contributed valuable input. The process concluded with preparation of the draft Comprehensive Plan, followed by public review, public hearings, and adoption by the Town Council.

Code of Virginia § 15.2-2223

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

The local planning commission shall prepare and recommend a comprehensive plan for the physical development of the territory within its jurisdiction and every governing body shall adopt a comprehensive plan for the territory under its jurisdiction.





Plan Organization

The Comprehensive Plan is organized into a series of planning elements, with each element focusing on a major aspect of the community, such as housing, transportation, infrastructure, economic development, public safety, government, and future land use. Together, these elements provide a comprehensive framework for addressing the Town's long-term needs and guiding future growth and development.

Each planning element contains a set of Goals, Objectives, and Policies (GOPs) that establish the Town's vision and provide direction for future decisions and actions. Goals describe the desired long-term outcomes for the community. Objectives identify the specific areas of focus and measurable milestones needed to achieve those goals. Policies provide guidance and direction for achieving the goals and objectives and for future decision-making.

Each element addresses a specific topic, but all elements are intended to work together. Many community issues are interconnected, and decisions made in one area often influence others. Together, the planning elements provide a comprehensive framework for guiding the Town's future.



Implementation

The Comprehensive Plan establishes the Town's long-term goals, objectives, and policies. Implementation occurs through a variety of tools, including the Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and Town initiatives. These tools translate the Plan's goals, objectives, and policies into projects, programs, regulations, and public investments that help achieve the Town's long-term vision.

Implementation:



Plan Monitoring & Evaluation

The Comprehensive Plan is intended to be a living document that responds to changing community needs, growth patterns, and emerging opportunities. The Town will regularly monitor implementation of the Plan and periodically evaluate its goals, objectives, and policies to ensure they remain relevant, effective, and responsive to the community's evolving needs.

Supporting Documentation

Supporting documents such as additional maps, data, analyses, and survey reports, are compiled in a separate document. These materials may be expanded or updated as new information becomes available to support implementation and future planning efforts.

