

IX. GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

A. INTRODUCTION

This Plan is an official public document prepared and recommended by the County Planning Commission and adopted by the Board of Supervisors and serves as a general, long-range, policy and implementation guide for the County representatives and citizens regarding the overall growth and development of the County.

The Plan covers a wide range of issues and addresses concerns that are envisioned for the future of Southampton County. It is important to note that these issues and concerns will be greatly influenced by the County Board of Supervisors and other governing authorities and agencies. Over time, factors relating to the implementation of and need for the Plan may change and thus the goals and objectives should mirror such shifts.

The overall goals of the Plan should be taken into consideration when deciding what actions to take in the short term planning process. A solid foundation needs to be built so that the future decisions and actions can rest securely on this foundation and result in a strong and fortified Plan. The goals and objectives are broad in their wording so that there can be room to modify and adapt to the situations that are evolving in the County, its surrounding areas, the State and even world-wide.

As stated in the 1995 Comprehensive Plan, the General Goal of the Comprehensive Plan is to: "Enhance the lives of the people of Southampton County by protecting the natural environment, encouraging the adequate economic base, harmonious arrangement of land uses, and the provision of public services and facilities efficiently and economically."

B. GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The Comprehensive Plan's goals and implementation strategies are to be integrated into the county-wide planning process to help enhance desirable development practices for future growth. The goals and strategies for their implementation delineated in the Comprehensive Plan will also help to determine the future prosperity and general well-being of the citizens of Southampton County. It is critical that goals reflect the perceived needs and desires of the citizenry based on past and current situations in the County and projections of future conditions and needs. The failure to implement well-conceived goals is a prime cause of many problems faced by counties today.

To facilitate the understanding of goals and implementation strategies, the terms used in this document are defined as follows:

GOALS: Long-range community aspirations for significant positive gains that should be achieved by the County. These serve to establish the future direction of the County.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES: Guidelines for action which direct the accomplishment of goals and enable the County to respond to a wide range of problems as they arise.

The Comprehensive Plan's implementation strategies will be more specific than its goals. They will delineate the steps to achieve County goals. These planning concepts are essential components of this Comprehensive Plan.

Eighteen issue areas have been identified. These are: agriculture and forestry, citizen participation, community appearance, community facilities and services, county management and administration, economic and industrial development, education, fire and rescue services, growth management and county planning, history and culture, housing, intergovernmental relations, natural environment, population, public safety and law enforcement, recreation, transportation, and water and wastewater. The goals for each of the issue areas follow. These help governmental decision-makers define the character and scope of public interest and concern. They aid understanding of how various local activities fit into the context of the public interest for the County. This compendium does not dictate to local officials actions that must be taken and as such is not binding, but rather sets forth positive suggestions that can be both a yardstick for measuring the effectiveness of present planning activities and a foundation for future planning efforts.

1. Agriculture and Forestry

GOAL: Ensure the preservation and development of progressive, alternative, and environmentally compatible agriculture, forestry, and related industries as important economic components of Southampton County.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Support research into diversifying cropland production.
- b. Identify productive land that could be classified as economically productive.
- c. Support and encourage the use of U.S. Soil Conservation Service Best Management Practices to protect productive agriculture lands.
- d. Support the reforestation of clear-cut timber lands and rely on the Virginia Department of Forestry to give guidance and advice.
- e. Support the reforestation of clear-cut hardwood forests using hardwood planting.
- f. Support the recruitment and siting of environmentally compatible industry and commercial establishments in areas that are already similarly developed or in public or private industrial parks to minimize the sacrifice of prime agricultural land for such development.
- g. Support programs and initiatives to protect prime agricultural land.
- h. Support programs and initiatives to improve agricultural education and forestry management education in the public school system and encourage the

- development of vocational education programs and facilities to support existing agricultural and timber-related industries.
- i. Support programs and initiatives that protect ecological and otherwise fragile areas for open space, forestry, and agricultural uses.
 - j. Designate flood hazard areas for open spaces, forestry, water, and agricultural uses.
 - k. Evaluate current restrictions on activities allowed by right in agricultural/forestal zones to allow for the changing industry of modern agriculture and forestry to thrive.
 - l. Consider definitions of agricultural production that allow farmer entrepreneurs flexibility in exploring farm-based income opportunities.
 - m. Support programs and initiatives of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service and local community college system designed to provide continuing adult education to agriculture professionals and the general public.
 - n. Support efforts to develop creative programs to supply local labor during times of need.
 - o. Support local, State, and Federal policies which favor the agricultural industry.
 - p. Support efforts to develop alternative uses for farm buildings and equipment.
 - q. Seek grants and assistance from USDA marketing services and other sources to study markets and marketing opportunities.
 - r. Support efforts to obtain assistance from Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) in developing or expanding market opportunities and technology for locally grown commodities including timber products.
 - s. Partner with the Virginia Department of Transportation to plan for and provide, as practicable, transportation infrastructure needed to deliver successfully products to desired markets.
 - t. Support the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service's research in developing alternative sources of farm-based income.
 - u. Support programs and initiatives designed to foster and promote existing agricultural businesses.
 - v. Support programs and initiatives designed to provide a positive environment for the continuation of the family farm institution.
 - w. Coordinate efforts of local economic development and agriculture agencies to provide solutions and encourage the agriculture economy.
 - x. Delineate agriculture/forestal and rural residential zones on future land use and zoning maps.
 - y. Study requiring cluster subdivision development in agricultural/forestal areas.
 - z. Study mechanisms whereby voluntary agricultural and forestal districts may be assembled.
 - aa. Encourage the donation of conservation easements and communicate the benefits of these programs to landowners.
 - bb. Consider support of programs and initiatives by private and public organizations to purchase development rights.

- cc. Support programs and initiatives to educate current and potential residents about the importance of agriculture to the County and State and warn potential non-farm rural residents of potential inconveniences of living within rural Southampton County.
- dd. Consider amendments to the subdivision ordinance to allow one access point per subdivision in agricultural/rural residential zones off County and State roads.
- ee. Continue to require that the developer provide a hard surface road into subdivision developments.
- ff. Consider making companies and individuals with a Forest Management Plan (including reforestation) eligible for differential tax assessment to encourage continued agricultural production and discourage residential subdivision in agricultural areas.
- gg. Consider deferring property tax payments until after harvest of forest products.
- hh. Consider incentives to plant hardwood such as allowing deferment of taxes on hardwood stands for the time period after the typical pine harvest until hardwood harvest.
 - ii. Encourage the proper utilization and care of natural resources and open space through reasonable County ordinances and local grants for the enjoyment of rural and non-farm residents of Southampton County.
- jj. Support programs and initiatives to educate the public about the agriculture industry's stewardship of natural resources.
- kk. Consider adoption and enforcement of recommendations made by the Virginia Division of Forestry and its committees in order to manage the production, harvesting, and marketing of our timber resources.

2. Citizen Participation

GOAL: Ensure that Southampton County citizens have the opportunity to be informed fully and involved in the governing of their County.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Develop an ongoing public information program to communicate County news to citizens on a regular basis.
- b. Plan and implement County Day for the public.
- c. Utilize available means to communicate more fully with citizens.
- d. Charge Board of Supervisors members and County staff to be available to civic and community groups for speaking occasions.
- e. Use County Day as a means to recruit volunteers for committees and special projects.
- f. Charge department heads with the responsibility for keeping their respective advisory boards active.
- g. Charge advisory boards to follow the policy guidelines of their respective departments and the County.

- h. Actively recruit people to serve on boards and committees.
- i. Utilize the news media to publicize the activities of Southampton County government.
- j. Consider setting aside time at Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission meetings for general citizen input.
- k. Develop a County website.

3. Community Appearance

GOAL: Ensure Southampton County is a place where citizens are responsible for and can expect a community and environment which is clean and aesthetically pleasing.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Develop a strategy to deal effectively with troublesome situations such as buildings that are left unattended in a dilapidated state.
- b. Continue enforcement procedures to eradicate further troublesome properties such as dilapidated buildings and parking lots.
- c. Develop a program to recognize positive actions leading to significant rehabilitation and/or improvement of properties and buildings in Southampton County.
- d. Support and encourage highway beautification programs such as Adopt-a-Highway.

4. Community Facilities and Services

GOAL: Ensure an equitable system of community facilities, public services, and utilities that is consistent with citizens' needs while recognizing Southampton County's financial constraints.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Encourage adaptive and shared use/reuse of community facilities by two or more government agencies and by public and private sectors.
- b. Coordinate the plans for utilities, sewers and water, to foster the basic development objective of the Comprehensive Plan to concentrate urban development in planned locations.
- c. Recognize the need for provision of utilities in areas planned for industrial development as a part of the economic development program.
- d. Support the development of programs designed to enhance the quality of educational services available for all residents.
- e. Support the establishment of community-oriented programs which are focused on more complete use of school facilities.

- f. Develop a program to inform the needy of the availability of social services.
- g. Support social service programs which tend to reduce dependency upon the government and which encourage individuals and families to be self-sustaining.
- h. Involve the Planning Commission in the development and implementation of a capital improvements plan to ensure that community facilities are scheduled in a manner compatible with the financial capability of the County.
- i. Support efforts to improve the state of health of all citizens.
- j. Support better coordination and consolidation of existing health facilities.

5. County Management and Administration

GOAL: Ensure that citizens of Southampton County have confidence in a County government committed to continued efficient management.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Continually review the efficiency and effectiveness of County operations.
- b. Involve the County Administrator and department heads in discussions of initiatives to improve efficiency.
- c. Review County policies and update when necessary.
- d. Continually review and scrutinize County funding sources and uses (expenditures).
- e. Coordinate and prioritize capital needs.
- f. Develop personnel contingency plans.
- g. Annually review and update long-range plans.
- h. Study ways to distribute the tax burden more fairly and equitably.
- i. Seek additional revenue sources that ease the dependence on real property tax.
- j. Consider employing differential assessment based on land use in order to tax more accurately according to the cost of services incurred.

6. Economic and Industrial Development

GOAL: Ensure moderate, steady growth in population and employment and diversify and expand the Southampton County's economic base by providing a broad range of employment and commercial opportunities in a manner consistent with the goals and guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Continue the economic development program with the City of Franklin as a joint effort.
- b. Encourage residential development in the recommended areas so as to create a residential mass and an effective consumer market that will attract more retail or service businesses to Southampton County.
- c. Provide in appropriate locations in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan adequate utilities and public services as they relate to the economic development program.
- d. Seek a diverse employment base through the economic development program, while emphasizing the value of local agricultural and forest products.
- e. Encourage the employment of qualified local residents in County programs and projects.
- f. Encourage job training programs, re-education programs, and skills training utilizing local educational facilities.
- g. Plan for a balance of public and private capital investments which will promote the economic well-being of the County and comply with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.
- h. Support the funding of State and Federal programs and agencies which are sources of financial and management assistance to counties for the purpose of economic development.
- i. Encourage and guide industrial growth to the Industrial Park.
- j. Recommend other areas to be used for industrial purposes to provide for orderly development of industrial activities and to increase the value of the industrial sector.
- k. Continue efforts to attract additional industry, while placing emphasis upon retaining the industrial firms which are located in Southampton County.
- l. Encourage functional, safe, convenient, and attractively designed commercial areas.
- m. Encourage the proper planning and timing of industrial and commercial development to coincide with the provision of public services and utilities such as water distribution and treatment, sewage collection and treatment, and the collection and disposal of solid waste.
- n. Encourage existing highway commercial areas to expand parking and loading facilities and improve attractiveness and traffic flow.

- o. Recommend areas to be used for commercial purposes to provide for orderly development of commercial activities and to increase the value of the retail sector.
- p. Support the provision of adequate housing to meet the needs of employees of businesses and industry.
- q. Support educational programs to aid in developing skills for the unemployed and underemployed citizens of the County.
- r. Support agencies and programs which provide mechanisms for attracting economic development.
- s. Examine the vocational-educational facilities and encourage availability of career planning programs in order to upgrade the quality of the labor force.
- t. Utilize capital improvement programming to locate utilities and community facilities so they are attractive to industry.
- u. Ensure that public and private groups responsible for economic growth within the County are in general agreement as to the direction the County should take in pursuing economic development.
- v. Support the recruitment and siting of environmentally compatible industry and commercial establishments in areas that are already similarly developed or in the Industrial Park to minimize the sacrifice of prime land for such development.
- w. Pursue infrastructure improvements through cooperative relationships utilizing resources of the towns, City of Franklin, and the State.
- x. Develop expansion and growth measures in collaboration with the Economic Development Corporation.
- y. Seek opportunities to strengthen County leadership on economic development issues.
- z. Sponsor and conduct a forum for area political leadership and citizens to address economic development.
- aa. Review zoning regulations toward the goal of promoting development where desired.
- bb. Identify additional methods such as grants and incentives for encouraging economic and industrial development.
- cc. Encourage attendance by local officials at appropriate schools and seminars, including regional economic development meetings, relating to overall economic development.

7. Education

GOAL: Ensure the provision of and access to comprehensive and innovative state-of-the-art educational facilities, opportunities, and programs for Southampton County residents.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Support the development of programs designed to enhance the quality of educational services available for all residents of the County.
- b. Support the establishment of community-oriented programs which are focused on more complete use of school facilities.
- c. Support programs and initiatives to provide adequate education and school facilities.
- d. Support expanded vocational training within the school system.
- e. Support programs and initiatives to expand and enhance local, post-secondary education opportunities.
- f. Support programs and initiatives to increase opportunities for continuing education and vocational education.
- g. Periodically review the goals and objectives of the Southampton County School Division and promote cooperation and open dialogue between the citizens, the School Division, and the Board of Supervisors.
- h. Seek ways to utilize the school system to promote and enhance economic and industrial recruitment activities.

8. Fire and Rescue Services

GOAL: Ensure the provision of efficient and effective fire and rescue services to the citizens of Southampton County.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Support strategies to attract and retain emergency medical service volunteers.
- b. Study alternative ways to supplement volunteer rescue and fire departments.

9. *Growth Management and County Planning*

GOAL: Ensure that future development occurs in an efficient and serviceable manner which is protective of Southampton County's predominantly rural character.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Encourage the development of residential communities, commercial concentrations, and industrial uses where services and facilities that are required for such development are located.
- b. Preserve the best agricultural land and protect it from uses adverse to agriculture, when sites are available for such nonagricultural uses.
- c. Protect nonfarm development from the adverse impacts of intensive agricultural uses.
- d. Discourage the subdivision of property and the construction of houses in areas that will result in the loss of valuable farmland and interfere with agricultural practices on adjacent farmland.
- e. Encourage commercial uses to group together, at intersections along the major thoroughfares, rather than scatter randomly along either the major thoroughfares or other County roads.
- f. Improve the quality of development and redevelopment through improved site planning and design standards.
- g. Preserve the unique character of the County's rural areas.
- h. Choose locations for industries according to the requirements of the industry, some of which cannot be known in advance, but generally with attention to availability of transportation facilities and utilities and compatibility with existing and future development in the surrounding area.
- i. Utilize the comprehensive planning process logically and consistently to manage and guide growth and development.
- j. Guide and support sound and attractive land use development that will result in the least possible adverse fiscal and environmental impact.
- k. Formulate plans to promote efficient use of land, energy and natural resources.
- l. Encourage development which is compatible with the population densities and reasonable rates of growth and available resources.
- m. Emphasize community planning and industrial development that is designed to economize the costs of roads, utilities, and land use.
- n. Provide tools, methods, and techniques for planners and decision-makers to develop a comprehensive and long-range plan for environmental concerns.
- o. Recognize the importance of utilities, schools, and other community facilities in encouraging proper development.
- p. Make planning and development decisions that account for the special characteristics and identity of each community.
- q. Encourage innovative design proposals which complement natural and man-made features.

- r. Encourage the preservation and protection of lands needed in the future for roads, parks, schools, and other public facilities in private development plans.
- s. Encourage efforts to provide a better understanding of the relationship between land uses and environmental quality.
- t. Collect and update data related to the environment and land uses that will be useful in developing regulations or policies that preserve environmental quality.
- u. Monitor and support or oppose, as necessary, actions and programs at the Federal, State, regional, and local levels which:
 - i. Guide land development in the unincorporated portion of the County;
 - ii. Effect the capability to raise revenue for locally initiated services and facilities; and
 - iii. Could be facilitated by interjurisdictional contracts to provide services to growth areas.
- v. Enact land use regulations to ensure that land uses are compatible with land capabilities and with each other.
- w. Identify environmental standards, including air and water quality criteria, against which infrastructure and land use plans and decisions can be evaluated.
- x. Encourage the provision of adequate services and facilities in residential developments by enforcing the subdivision ordinance and study amendments to the subdivision ordinance as may be necessary to ensure the provision of such services and facilities.
- y. Support the planned unit development concept in growth areas.
- z. Utilize the zoning ordinance to direct intensive land use development areas where the efficiency of transportation systems, utility services, and community facilities will be maximized and their costs minimized.
- aa. Discourage the development of conflicting land uses in adjacent areas that would prevent proper land development.
- bb. Encourage the continued development of low-density (acreage tracts) rural residential subdivisions in the rural areas and encourage medium-density and high-density development (multi-family) in areas that are already densely developed and already zoned residential.
- cc. Encourage continuing coordination and cooperation among public and private agencies regarding development policies, programs and projects.
- dd. Maintain a continuing program of public communication in order to keep County development policies before the citizens.
- ee. Study the adoption of highway corridor overlay zoning districts as may be necessary.
- ff. Study the development of a rural residential zone to encourage mini-farms (five acres or more) in the County.
- gg. Study the adoption of communications tower siting regulations.
- hh. Support regional community development goals and regional cooperation when deemed to be in the best interests of Southampton County.
- ii. Encourage residential and industrial development in planned development areas.

- jj. Encourage the provision of water, sewer, and residential services within planned development areas to funnel growth into these areas.
- kk. Encourage members of the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals to participate in applicable State sponsored certification programs.

10. History and Culture

GOAL: Ensure the identification and preservation of areas and properties of historic and cultural significance in Southampton County.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Support programs and initiatives that preserve important historic, archaeological, and scenic assets of the County.
- b. Support programs and initiatives that guide development so as to protect historic and potentially historic properties and perpetuate cultural heritage.
- c. Support historic preservation committees or societies.
- d. Pursue additional grant funding to complete a survey of architecturally and historically significant structures and sites.
- e. Coordinate housing code enforcement/redevelopment projects with the State to ensure that any significant architectural details or buildings are identified and preserved.
- f. Coordinate public works projects with the State to ensure the identification and preservation of significant archaeological sites.
- g. Support historic preservation districts and commissions in the County and seek financial and technical assistance to study the development of zoning regulations which would include historic areas.
- h. Consider the development of historic districts and ordinances.
- i. Encourage efforts to maintain and repair historic structures in the County.
- j. Study regulations to require that redevelopment efforts be consistent with the historic preservation strategies contained in this plan.
- k. Promote heritage tourism as an industry in the County.

11. Housing

GOAL: Ensure the development of residential areas in Southampton County that offer a variety of housing densities, types, sizes, costs, and locations to accommodate existing and future needs.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Recognize the need for and encourage the development of low-cost housing and high-density housing.
- b. Plan for urban housing, single-family housing on smaller lots, apartments and townhouses, and mobile home parks in the towns or near the towns where urban services and utilities are available. Discourage such housing in outlying areas.
- c. Encourage construction of nursing homes and housing for the elderly and handicapped.
- d. Encourage the rehabilitation of rural housing in poor condition and offer assistance to the towns for in-town rehabilitation programs.
- e. Discourage residential development in areas dominated by environmentally sensitive features or agricultural operations.
- f. Encourage the conservation of the County's housing that is sound and advocate repair and/or rehabilitation of the deteriorating housing stock.
- g. Encourage the development of an adequate supply and range of quality housing in order that all County residents might live in decent, safe, and sanitary units.
- h. Encourage the use of Federal and State housing assistance for new construction and rehabilitation projects.
- i. Encourage an overall county-wide balance in the construction of new housing types in a variety of price ranges.
- j. Provide appropriate areas for manufactured home park development and review County ordinances to ensure that manufactured homes remain a source of good quality housing in the County.
- k. Continue to enforce regulations that require future expansions to mobile home parks which were constructed prior to the adoption of regulations to meet current standards.

12. Intergovernmental Relations

GOAL: Ensure that the citizens of the Southampton County area see local governments working together for the achievement of common goals.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Conduct regular meetings involving the Board of Supervisors and the towns' councils and Franklin City Council, to promote cooperation.
- b. Meet with the Franklin City Council semi-annually for a non-agenda dinner meeting.
- c. Support all joint town(s)/County and City/County efforts and publicize these efforts and achievements.
- d. Consider formal resolutions to show support of towns' and Franklin's activities and positions on issues.
- e. Consolidate services and funding where and when practicable.
- f. Continue prioritizing agency activities and funding requests within the framework of purpose, beneficiaries, and local government responsibility.
- g. Encourage attendance by County officials at town(s) and City meetings and invite town(s) and City officials to County meetings.
- h. Exchange meeting agendas with the town(s) and Franklin.

13. Natural Environment

GOAL: Ensure that Southampton County's natural resources are protected and preserved and that the environmental quality of the County is improved while the wise use of nonrenewable resources and the preservation of open spaces and the natural environment continue.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Support programs and initiatives that protect through all reasonable means the valuable asset of the beauty of our countryside from needless damage and defacement.
- b. Encourage careful management of all the natural resources of the County to enhance both the environment and the economic base of the County. The production of field crops, the raising of animals, the production of trees as a crop, as well as preservation of wildlife and natural beauty should be recognized as elements of the management program.
- c. Support programs and initiatives that protect and conserve the fragile groundwater resources, as well as the rivers, streams, aquifers and wetlands within the County.
- d. Support programs and initiatives that protect the land capable of producing good crops, peanuts in particular.

- e. Support programs and initiatives that protect and promote the scenic and recreational value of the County's waterways and wetlands for use by County residents and recreational visitors from outside the County.
- f. Support programs and initiatives that encourage County agricultural interests to produce a greater variety of crops in order to increase overall economic stability as prices for particular crops fluctuate.
- g. Support programs and initiatives that manage County forests to provide the best combination of recreational uses, wildlife habitat, and forest products production.
- h. Support programs and initiatives that reduce and work towards elimination of the pollution and wasteful use of air, water, soil, and other natural resources in cooperation with State agency and the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service.
- i. Support programs and initiatives that protect and conserve surface and groundwater resources.
- j. Support programs and initiatives that eliminate waste and unnecessary destruction of plant life and encourage revegetation practices.
- k. Enforce zoning and subdivision regulations and support State and Federal programs and regulations intended to protect water quality.
- l. Seek ways to effectively utilize natural resources, such as the County's rivers, to attract tourists.

14. Population

GOAL: Ensure that population growth is consistent with County goals to sustain the viability and vitality of Southampton County and to access more of the shared revenue sources which are based on population.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Support programs and incentives to achieve moderate steady growth in population and employment and to diversify and expand the County's economic base by providing a broad range of employment and commercial opportunities within the guidelines of the County's overall land use plan.

15. Public Safety and Law Enforcement

GOAL: Ensure Southampton County is a place where citizens and visitors can enjoy a drug-free and safe environment in which to live.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Charge the Sheriff to remain active in the identification and surveillance of areas where crime occurs and maintain an active plan to address what is identified.
- b. Continue a drug officer position to intensify the campaign against drugs and drug sources.
- c. Designate neighborhoods for active community policing.
- d. Continue to assess crime fighting funding opportunities.
- e. Maintain a public attitude of zero-tolerance for illegal drugs and a constant goal for getting illegal drugs out of Southampton County.
- f. Incorporate a random drug-testing program in the County's personnel policy.
- g. Build relationships with all segments of the legal and law enforcement community in Southampton County to address and enhance enforcement efforts at combating drugs and crime.
- h. Share common concerns with other agencies and principals regarding law enforcement and court proceedings.
- i. Include community safety strategies in monthly department head meetings.
- j. Seek Sheriff's Department input concerning current and anticipated space needs.

16. Recreation

GOAL: Ensure the provision of recreational opportunities which will serve Southampton County citizens and visitors while preserving open spaces.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. In conjunction with other jurisdictions, governmental agencies, and organizations, encourage efficient and imaginative use of recreational resources and facilities available to the County.
- b. Encourage the development of sound, planned, and desirable commercial recreation sites in the County.
- c. Conserve unique natural features, scenic areas, and appropriate historic sites for the benefit and enjoyment of the public.
- d. Evaluate existing local hunting laws and regulations and the enforcement of same.
- e. Support enforcement of hunting laws and regulations along the roadside.
- f. Encourage the private development of entertainment facilities such as public golf courses, movie theaters, arcades, bowling alleys, and skating rinks.
- g. Seek State and Federal grants to provide recreational facilities to County residents.

- h. Appoint a parks and recreation task force to study and report on recreational opportunities and needs of all segments of the County's population.
- i. Support efforts to preserve lands along rivers and waterways for passive recreational uses.

17. Transportation

GOAL: Ensure that Southampton County's transportation system is planned and constructed so as to provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods throughout the County.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Plan roadway development to support and enhance the Comprehensive Plan.
- b. Encourage limited access management along principal corridors; discourage strip development on secondary corridors.
- c. Recognize and promote the value of rail and water transportation and encourage improvement of such facilities.
- d. Support State transportation policies which improve the appearance, safety, and capacity of the major thoroughfares and the secondary system, and promote the completion of projects supported by the County.
- e. Support State highway policies which relieve present traffic congestion through the provision of adequate facilities and levels of service.
- f. Discourage unnecessary traffic in residential areas in order to reduce noise, litter, and safety hazards.
- g. Encourage the planning and evaluation of the County's transportation system in terms of the user's convenience, cost, travel time, safety, preference, and the substantial effect which transportation facilities have on social, economic, and environmental goals.
- h. Encourage the construction or improvement of transportation facilities that blend into the natural landscape by taking advantage of scenic vistas, topography, and other natural features.
- i. Encourage cooperation at all levels of government in the placement of major transportation facilities so as to serve and strengthen, rather than disrupt, communities.
- j. Develop land use controls which promote sound land use without jeopardizing the function of high-speed thoroughfares.
- k. Support the development of public and/or private transportation and/or ride-sharing services when and where needed and feasible.
- l. Support the development of existing rail and air facilities and encourage the development of additional rail and air service.
- m. Support transportation improvements that provide an economical, safe, and efficient means for the movement of people and goods within the County and between the County and other parts of the region.

- n. Integrate the County's transportation recommendations with the Six-Year Secondary Maintenance and Construction Fund Program administered by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).
- o. Integrate the County's transportation recommendations with the Ten-Year Primary Projects Listing Report administered by the VDOT.
- p. Support special transportation services for citizens of the County (elderly and handicapped) who are in need of such programs.
- q. Locate land uses generating high volumes of vehicular traffic near roads capable of handling additional traffic volume.
- r. Involve the Planning Commission in review of the six-year VDOT plan.
- s. Participate in annual VDOT primary road allocation hearings.
- t. Apply for Transportation Enhancement Act (TEA-21) grants as may be necessary.
- u. Work with the VDOT to upgrade and improve the transportation system throughout the County.
- v. Continue participation, as economically feasible, in the VDOT revenue sharing program to accelerate the completion of secondary road projects.
- w. Support programs and initiatives to pave unpaved roads in the County.

18. Water and Wastewater

GOAL: Ensure the development of water and sewer systems within Southampton County to serve designated growth areas and planned residential, commercial, and/or industrial developments.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- a. Emphasize the importance of adequate water and sewer systems for proper land use development.
- b. Periodically review the County's master water and sewer plans.
- c. Provide administrative and financial policy guidelines for planning and extending utilities.
- d. Support programs and initiatives to minimize pollution of surface and ground water.
- e. Establish policy guidelines and basic criteria to deal with water quality and/or supply problems.
- f. Continue to seek regional cooperation to correct water and sewer system deficiencies and promote expansion of existing facilities and/or construction of new facilities that meet common needs.
- g. Support the recruitment and siting of environmentally compatible industry and commercial establishments in areas that are already similarly developed.
- h. Seek State and Federal grant monies to implement the recommendations for improvements cited in this plan and other water and sewer plans developed for or by the County.

- i. Encourage public and private interests to design new water or sewer systems for individual communities and independent subdivisions to accommodate future growth.
- j. Study regulations to require the set-aside of reserve drainfield areas.
- k. In conjunction with the Health Department, study alternatives to mitigate the effects of septic system failures, such as community awareness campaigns and periodic pump-out requirements.
- l. Consider options to provide water and wastewater from Sedley to Franklin.
- m. Consider options to work with water and wastewater providers (such as the Hampton Roads Sanitation District and the Sussex Service Authority) to provide such services along the U.S. 460 corridor.
- n. Consider amendments to the subdivision ordinance to encourage the provision of public water and wastewater lines in new developments.
- o. Consider cooperative agreements with towns and other providers of water and wastewater to extend lines into the County to meet development needs.

C. GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Southampton County can use several additional general implementation strategies to better chances of achieving its goals with respect to the issue areas identified.

General implementation strategies include:

- a. Improve communication between residents and elected officials.
- b. Assist the County's communities and rural neighborhoods in dealing with their problems – particularly with regard to services for which the County is responsible or over which it has influence.
- c. Improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy in delivery of governmental services.
- d. Stimulate citizen participation in County affairs through early involvement in both the definition of problems and the development of plans and policies for solutions.
- e. Encourage the County government to relate capital improvement programming directly to the Comprehensive Plan and to adopt the practice of budgetary and capital improvement programming.
- f. Maintain a planning staff to assist the Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, and County Administrator.
- g. Provide assistance to various County departments, agencies, or organizations in preparing applications for State and Federal funds.
- h. Promote actions which result in land use patterns consistent with principles of economics, planning, and resource conservation.
- i. Develop controls, standards, and land management practices which reduce and prevent pollution, soil erosion, and stream degradation.
- j. Inform County residents of the prolonged effects resulting from demands being placed on finite, natural resources.

- k. Integrate County development with the applicable local, regional, State, and Federal policies and planning projects.
- l. Maintain contact with all agencies engaged in planning involving Southampton County and encourage the inclusion of the County's goals in their plans.
- m. Support the Comprehensive Plan in accordance with the adopted goals by:
 - maintaining and updating the Plan;
 - compiling new information having an effect on the plans under consideration by the Southampton County Planning Commission, and
 - providing guidance in Plan interpretation or refinement.
- n. Enforce the Uniform Statewide Building Code.
- o. Enforce the erosion and sediment control ordinance.
- p. Enforce the subdivision ordinance.
- q. Amend the subdivision ordinance, as necessary, to ensure orderly development.
- r. Enforce the zoning ordinance.
- s. Amend the zoning ordinance, as necessary, to ensure orderly development.
- t. Develop a recreational facilities plan.

