

A NORTH STAR FOR
CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATIONS

2014


SHENANDOAH
COUNTY

A FUTURE TOGETHER
LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR A NEW BEGINNING

YOUR ROLE IN OUR
COUNTY'S FUTURE

QUICK REFERENCE

This handbook provides everything you need to succeed as a conservation organization in Shenandoah County. After hearing from over 2,500 people and engaging thousands more we as a community have a Plan for action to make our future a reality. Here's what you'll find:

General Layout and Vision of the Plan (pgs 4–5):

Understand why this handbook helps you and the Plan's vision statement.

Who Uses the Plan (pgs 6–7):

Discover the role conservation organizations play in implementation.

Ensuring Land Preservation Aligns with the Plan (pgs 8–9):

An overview on how to ensure preservation work aligns with the Plan.

Future Land Use Map (pgs 10–11):

A visual representation of planned land uses over the next 20 years.

Future Community Needs in Mind (pgs 12–13):

Learn how to ensure preservation is mindful of future community needs.

Community-Led Initiatives (pg 14):

Ideas on how to partner with local residents and groups for action.

Collaboration & Engagement (pg 15):

How to work with departments and organizations to amplify your impact.

Public Engagement & General Layout of the Plan (pgs 16–17):

Overview on the engagement that made this plan and the overall framework.

Tools to Use the Plan (pgs 18–19):

Access the resources needed to utilize the plan effectively.

Towns, Villages, and Hamlets (pgs 20–21):

Information on what and where these places are and their planned futures.

Six Big Ideas (pgs 22–23):

An outline of the county's six foundational concepts.

The 11 Chapters & the Future (pgs 24–25):

An overview of the 11 chapters and the five year implementation periods.

Key Terms and Contacts (pgs 26–27):

A glossary of important terms and a directory of key contacts.

WHY THIS HANDBOOK MATTERS TO YOU

We have a mutual need: protecting what makes this County special.

For conservation organizations, that means preserving natural spaces, maintaining clean water, and safeguarding the scenic landscapes and wildlife that define Shenandoah County. For the County, it means supporting your work while balancing the need for smart investment in towns, villages, and hamlets.

So how can we work together to protect what we cherish while building for the future?

This handbook is the answer.

By using the strategies in these pages, you'll discover how to align your efforts with Shenandoah County's vision, prioritize resources, and amplify your impact. Together, we can ensure Shenandoah County remains a place where nature, agriculture, and community thrive.

Why This Handbook Matters:

- **Preserve What Matters Most:** Align with County goals for efficiency
- **Work Smarter:** Leverage tools to identify priority areas for conservation.
- **Build Stronger Partnerships:** Collaborate to amplify your efforts.
- **Balance Needs:** Align preservation efforts with community needs.

Why It's Worth Aligning with the Plan:

By aligning your work with the Comprehensive Plan, you can:

- **Preserve More, Faster:** Focus on priority areas identified in the plan to maximize conservation impact efficiently.
- **Access New Funding:** Unlock grants, TDR programs, and other financial incentives for preservation projects.
- **Leverage Additional Resources:** Collaborate with local leaders, organizations, and residents to multiply your efforts.
- **Earn Community Trust:** Align your work with the County's vision to gain stronger support and engagement from the public.

By aligning with the Comprehensive Plan, your efforts will achieve greater results while contributing to the County's shared vision for the future.

THIS PLAN IS OUR NORTH STAR

The Shenandoah 2045 Comprehensive Plan is our community's north star, guiding us to the future.

Our Vision for 2045 is to strictly adhere to the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan in order to maintain the rural aspects and the character of Shenandoah County so it continues to be –

1. A responsible steward conserving, preserving, and protecting our environmental, recreational, historic, cultural, and scenic resources for residents and visitors; and
2. A unique place to live with responsible policies, public services, and quality education that enhance the quality of life and promotes appropriate growth within and limits growth outside our towns, villages, and hamlets so that agricultural areas and other open green spaces remain a predominant feature of the landscape; and
3. A great place to work encouraging entrepreneurship, innovative and appropriate businesses and industries with a versatile trained workforce and varied jobs that pay a competitive wage; and
4. A collaborative community that continues to work with private and public entities to ensure Shenandoah County is healthy and vibrant.

Our Greatest Challenges Over The Next 20 Years:

1. Accountability.
2. Stopping suburban sprawl to protect the view and access to the natural beauty that attracts people here.
3. Protecting our water resources while promoting growth.
4. Providing accessible quality public education and community resources built for the 22nd Century while the population lives in a low-density setting.
5. Growing a local economy along with similar outside businesses in a market with neighboring growth centers.
6. Promoting and protecting farming as an occupation while encouraging tourism-based farming.
7. Providing a transportation system built for the 22nd Century.
8. Addressing the decline of participation in civic and community organizations and services.
9. Providing a County that is healthy, affordable, and livable for people of all backgrounds, ages, and incomes.
10. Promoting community-based redevelopment while preventing gentrification.

WHO WILL USE THE PLAN?

In order for the Plan to be a success, we need to build A Future Together with a variety of stakeholders that helped to create and inform the plan.



ELECTED OFFICIALS

Elected leaders are key to upholding the plan as they must commit to the plan's goals and objectives. It's vital they adopt and consistently apply the plan in land use and policy decisions, leading the way in realizing the vision to ensure responsible, community-focused growth.



DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Department and agency leaders should know the plan well, aligning their strategies and actions with its recommendations. Their involvement in systematic planning and area-specific initiatives is crucial for the plan's implementation.



DEVELOPERS & INVESTORS

Developers and investors should refer to the plan for land use, connectivity, and development guidance. It offers insights on preferred development forms and community-building, crucial for growth that aligns with our character and rural heritage.



COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Community organizations should actively engage in strategies and advocate for the plan's recommendations. Their involvement is crucial in implementing actions as part of community-led initiatives which helps to ensure community-driven progress.



THE PUBLIC

Residents of Shenandoah County are essential to the success of Shenandoah 2045. Staying informed and involved, assisting in strategy implementation, and providing feedback ensures the plan remains relevant and meets the community's evolving needs.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

Your Role in using the Plan:

As conservation organizations, your work is essential to achieving Shenandoah 2045's goals for preserving the county's natural resources, open spaces, and rural character. By aligning your efforts with the Plan, you help safeguard the landscapes that define our community. Through advocacy, collaboration, and hands-on projects, your work ensures a thriving rural future for the County. How you can take action to fulfill the plan's vision:

Ensure Land Preservation Aligns with the Plan:

When preserving land, use Shenandoah 2045 as a guide to identify priority areas that protect critical resources and align with community needs. Refer to tools like the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) to prioritize open spaces that offer the most benefit to the county's long-term goals.

Preserve with Future Community Needs in Mind:

Preservation efforts should account for future needs, such as space for recreation, trails, or new agricultural uses. Land preserved today should continue to serve the evolving needs of Shenandoah County while maintaining its rural character.

Support and Implement Community-Led Initiatives:

Partner with residents and local groups to implement projects like tree planting, stream clean-ups, and habitat restoration. These community-led efforts foster a shared sense of responsibility for the land and help strengthen connections between people and the environment.

Enhance Collaboration and Engagement:

Work closely with departments, businesses, and other organizations to pool resources and amplify your impact. Host workshops and events to educate residents about the benefits of conservation.

Your Next Steps:

1. Review the Plan for strategies that match your organization's goals
2. Partner with local departments and organizations to coordinate efforts
3. Advocate for support to build momentum for shared projects.

ENSURE LAND PRESERVATION ALIGNS WITH THE PLAN

When preserving land, use Shenandoah 2045 as a guide to identify priority areas that protect critical resources and meet community needs. Refer to tools like the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) to prioritize open spaces that offer the most long-term benefits for Shenandoah County. The following is a review decision table staff may use to determine if your proposal is in alignment with the plan:

#	Question	Yes	No
1	Is the request in line with the Future Land Use Map (FLUM)?	Proceed	Consider Denial
2	Is the request in line with the Long Range Change Map (LRCM)?	Or can advance goals or solve a problem, or not addressed -Proceed	Consider Denial
3	Provides public access via trails, water access, or viewpoints in alignment with the Plan?	Or not impacted. -Commend and proceed.	Request including
4	Does the property protect critical water resources, such as rivers or aquifers?	Or not impacted. -Commend and proceed.	Suggest protecting
5	Is the land connected to existing protected areas or open spaces?	Commend and proceed.	Explore linkages
6	Will it protect productive farmland?	Commend and proceed.	Suggest protecting
7	Could the project support future agricultural needs with a degree of flexibility?	Commend and proceed.	Suggest amending
8	Could the project support future recreation, trails, or community gathering spaces?	Commend and proceed.	Suggest amending
9	Will the land preserve scenic views or rural character?	Commend and proceed.	Suggest amending
10	Preserves/enhances historical, scenic, cultural resources?	Commend and proceed.	Suggest amending
11	Aligned with transportation/recreation goals?	Commend and proceed.	Suggest amending
12	Aligned with most questions?	Consider approval.	Consider Denial

Conservation Decision Checklist Based on the 11 Chapters

1. Historical, Cultural, & Scenic Resources

- Will the land preserve historic landmarks, cultural sites, or scenic views?
- Does it protect areas proposed for future national scenic/recreation areas?
- Does it provide opportunities for cultural or historical interpretation?

2. Water Resources

- Does the preservation protect resources such as rivers, streams, or floodplains?
- Are measures in place to maintain water quality and manage stormwater?

3. Agricultural, Forestal, & Geological Resources

- Is the property valuable for agriculture, forestry, or geological preservation?
- Does it protect prime farmland, forested areas, or geological features?

4. Economic Development

- Does preserving this land support agritourism, outdoor recreation, or forestry?
- Is the property not listed on the FLUM or LRCM for future business/industry?

5. Housing

- Is the land not located in a Town, Village, or Hamlet and viable for housing?
- Could the preservation be combined with a Transfer of Development Rights?

6. Community Services & Facilities

- Does the land have potential to host community spaces, like gathering areas?
- Could it help reduce strain on public services by preventing sprawl?

7. Education

- Can the land be used for educational purposes in the future?
- Is the land not proposed to be the site of a future school or education facility?

8. Health

- Does the preservation improve public health by offering space for recreation?
- Is the land not proposed to be the site of a future hospital or medical facility?

9. Emergency Services, Infrastructure, & Technology

- Will the site allow for future infrastructure or technology (broadband, cellular)?
- Is the land preservation aligned with emergency access or safety needs?

10. Recreation

- Does the land offer opportunities for future recreational uses?
- Does it protect areas proposed for future local, state, or national parks?
- Will it include public access per trails, viewpoints, and water access in the Plan?

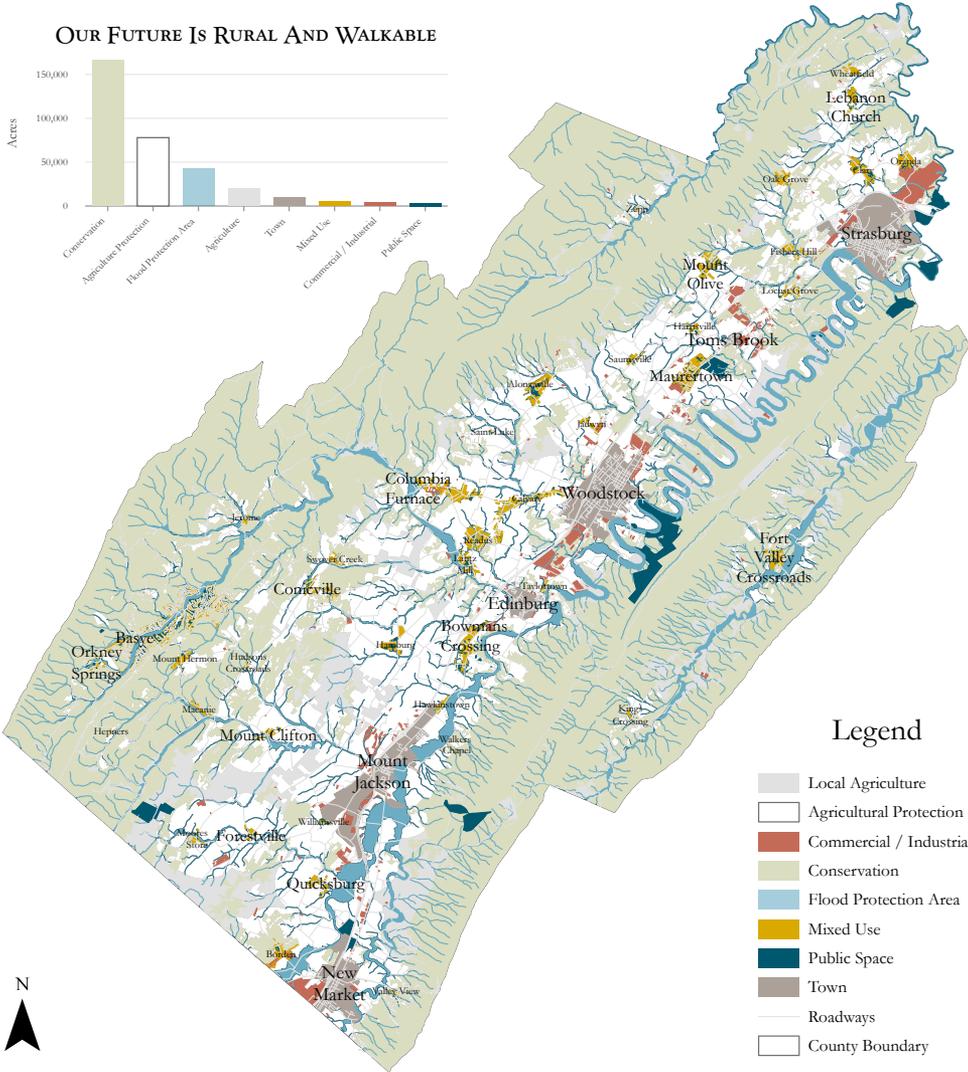
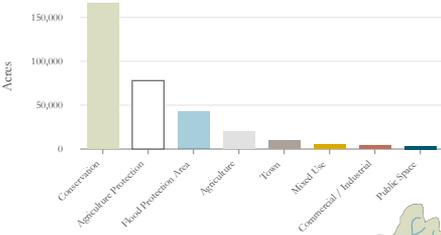
11. Transportation

- Does the preservation provide opportunities to expand pedestrian/bike routes?
- Could the land support future transportation needs, like scenic byways or connections to existing networks such as adopted master street plans?

A Future Land Use Map shows how a community plans to use its land over the next 20 years. It outlines spaces for homes, businesses, parks, and more, reflecting the community's vision. In Shenandoah County, the focus is on staying rural, with four zones to protect natural resources and promote agriculture. We also support industry and commerce, while investing in our Towns, Villages, and Hamlets to diversify the tax base. Service provisions are most available in Towns with the villages of Basye, Orkney Springs, and Maurertown following.

FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF SHENANDOAH COUNTY

OUR FUTURE IS RURAL AND WALKABLE



Legend

- Local Agriculture
- Agricultural Protection
- Commercial / Industrial
- Conservation
- Flood Protection Area
- Mixed Use
- Public Space
- Town
- Roadways
- County Boundary



Source: Shenandoah County GIS, Virginia Employment Commission, State Of Virginia
 Date: 2-22-2024
 Author: Tyler Hinkle, AICP

Use Descriptions

Conservation

These are forested lands including the National and State Forests but also 100 acre or more tracts of forest throughout the County conserved for scenic appeal, rural homes, and the creation of wood related products.



Agricultural Protection

Imagine open fields with cows, crops, apple trees, and other agriculture. These lands are just outside Towns, Villages, and Hamlets and the most productive places for agriculture. We want to keep it that way.



Local Agriculture

These are farms far away from any settled place with soils that may not be the best for farming. But these areas make for excellent larger scale operations as well as the homesteader who might want to live in the countryside.



Commercial / Industrial

These lands are either already being used for commercial or industrial purposes or have been identified as key sites due to poor agricultural soils, close proximity to existing businesses, or access to public water and sewer.



Mixed Use

Imagine your favorite downtown, a quaint street with various shops, places to eat, or even the quiet residential street with your neighbors on their front porches waving at you as you walk by. We want that experience here.



Public Space

These are your parks, schools, government centers, but also your semi-public third spaces like churches, Ruritan Clubs, and other non-profits where you can enjoy the outdoors or the comradery of community.



Flood Protection Overlay District

These are lands listed on FEMA floodplain maps, in the breach area of dams, and 100 feet from streams. These areas make for great agricultural fields, parks, and other uses that don't invest in new structures due to flooding.



PRESERVE WITH FUTURE COMMUNITY NEEDS IN MIND

Preservation today shapes the opportunities of tomorrow. Land set aside now should support the evolving needs of Shenandoah County, such as recreation areas, agricultural uses, or trails that connect communities. Additionally, severed land rights through preservation can be leveraged in programs like Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) to promote investment in designated towns, villages, and hamlets. This approach ensures the county's rural character is maintained while balancing preservation and development.

Challenges to Consider

1. Adapting to Changing Community Needs
 - Rigid preservation may limit future uses for recreation, agriculture, business, or housing. Flexible approaches ensure land continues to serve community priorities through focusing on the impacts on the built environment rather than land uses.
2. Preparing for Evolving Agricultural Market
 - The needs of farmers and agricultural markets are constantly changing. Preserved land should support future uses such as agritourism, crop diversification, or indoor farming initiatives while ensuring productive soils and sensitive water areas are protected from any impervious surfaces.
3. Leveraging Funding Through TDR
 - Severed development rights from preserved land can be applied to areas where housing or infrastructure is needed, ensuring preservation supports community investment where it is needed. This also ensures that landowners who place land in a permanent conservation easement can be paid upfront through a TDR program.
4. Ensuring Accessibility and Connectivity
 - Preserved land should connect parks, trails, and communities, supporting both recreation and wildlife corridors and remaining in alignment with identified improvements in the Comprehensive Plan.

Realizing Future-Focused Preservation:

1. Flexible Farmland Preservation Examples:

- A property conserved for its prime soils could also generate TDR credits, allowing developers to build affordable housing in designated towns or villages.
- A farm reserves the right for additional impervious coverage in the event that a poultry house, greenhouse, or future agricultural structure is needed to sustain the farm.

2. Connecting Trails and Open Spaces Examples:

- A property in a battlefield area is preserved to and ensures the landowner can continue farming the property, but also works in a low impact trail that allows heritage tourists to view the historic landscapes that were integral in a battle.
- A farm near a stream stacks their financial benefits with stream bank exclusion and a conservation easement. Since they're not using the land near the stream they provided the ability for a future trail or fishing access area to ensure future generations can enjoy the water.

3. Multi-Use Preservation for Recreation and Education Examples:

- Land with scenic views is protected but also developed for walking trails, wildlife observation points, and outdoor educational programs.
- A historic property in a village is protected but is flexible on the uses allowed in the structure to accommodate future community needs.

4. Maximizing Financial Benefits Example:

- A 100 acre farm in a rural area of the County has the right to build up to 200 houses, but the farmer only needs 3 for future family members. The farmer participates in a TDR program where the land is placed into a permanent conservation easement, but the landowner is paid a certain amount for the value of the remaining 97 housing rights which both benefits the farmer for receiving funding upfront and the community for moving those housing units into a Town.

Actionable Steps:

1. Ensure the land is in compliance with the comprehensive plan.
2. Design preservation projects to allow for future uses like trails, education spaces, or farm innovations.
3. Use social media and newsletters to promote your initiatives, highlight completed strategies, and invite community participation.

SUPPORT AND IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVES

Building Shenandoah County's future is a shared responsibility. Community-led initiatives are essential for achieving Shenandoah 2045's goals, from improving recreation spaces to preserving open lands. By organizing projects that align with the Plan, you can empower residents to take ownership of their community while ensuring lasting benefits.

Steps to Support and Implement Community-Led Projects:

- **Identify Opportunities for Engagement**
Use Shenandoah 2045 to find strategies that match your organization's goals, such as restoring natural habitats or improving water quality.
- **Partner with Local Groups and Volunteers**
Work with local clubs, schools, or civic groups to organize projects and recruit volunteers for activities like clean-ups or plantings.
- **Provide Tools and Education**
Supply resources like native plants, equipment, or instructional materials to ensure participants can contribute effectively.
- **Celebrate Success and Share Results**
Highlight completed projects through photos, events, or social media to show the impact of the community's work.

Actionable Steps for Conservation Organizations:

- **Coordinate Volunteer Events:** Organize hands-on projects like tree planting or stream clean-ups.
- **Engage Local Groups:** Partner with schools, Scouts, or civic organizations to recruit and inspire participants.
- **Highlight Achievements:** Share project outcomes with the community to foster pride and momentum.

Example: A community is concerned about the nearby stream. A conservation org works with the local school and Scouts to organize a clean up day then coordinates with the County for stream bank restoration.

ENHANCE COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Collaboration is essential to achieving Shenandoah 2045's goals. By working closely with departments, businesses, and other organizations, conservation groups can pool resources, share expertise, and tackle larger projects that benefit the entire community. Hosting workshops and events also plays a key role in educating residents about the importance of conservation and inspiring them to take part in preserving Shenandoah County's open spaces and natural resources.

Key Steps to Amplify Collaboration and Engagement

1. Partner with Departments and Businesses
 - Collaborate with local departments on shared goals, such as water conservation, habitat restoration, or trail connections.
 - Partner with businesses to secure funding or in-kind contributions for projects like tree planting or clean-ups.
2. Organize Workshops and Events
 - Host hands-on workshops to teach residents about conservation techniques, such as rain barrel installation or native plant gardening.
 - Organize community events like clean-up days or tree planting to foster local involvement.
3. Share Resources and Tools
 - Work with partner organizations to share tools like equipment, grant resources, or educational materials.
 - Create and distribute simple guides or videos to help residents engage with conservation projects
4. Educate and Inspire the Public
 - Use events, newsletters, and social media to highlight the benefits of conservation and invite the community to participate.
 - Share success stories from completed projects to build momentum and demonstrate the value of collaboration.

Actionable Steps for Effective Communication

1. Coordinate with Partners: Work with local businesses, schools, and departments to combine efforts and resources.
2. Host Public Events: Plan workshops or community gatherings to engage residents and build awareness.
3. Highlight Collaborative Success: Share updates and achievements to encourage continued partnerships.

A COMMUNITY BUILT PLAN



INFORM
2021-2022



COLLABORATE
2022-2023



EMPOWER
2023-2024

How Was The Public Involved?

The comprehensive plan was created with extensive input from over 2,500 community members, local businesses, and stakeholders over a five year process with early preparation beginning in 2019. Engagement included a survey garnering 970 opinions, four years of in-person engagement over over 30 events and meetings, a monthly radio show, and numerous mailing and social media campaigns. This Plan reflects our shared vision for Shenandoah County's future, aiming to balance growth with preservation. Unlike communities that hire consultants, the Plan was crafted by the Citizen's Advisory Committee, a group of 13 County residents, based on all of the public input they had heard, discussions with staff, and collaborative reconciliation meetings between the CAC, PC, and BOS.

Why Have A Plan?

Each locality in the State of Virginia is required to have a Comprehensive Plan per Section 15.2-2223 of the Virginia Code. We also rely on our plan in order to garner funds to repair roads, bridges, and sidewalks and in order to justify grants for improvements to major public services be it personnel or buildings and ensure our community's voice is heard.

How Does The Plan Interface With Other Aspects?

Shenandoah County's vision for 2045 is closely linked to various plans, policies, and ordinances. The Plan outlines the vision for the future, while zoning and subdivision ordinances ensure its implementation. Additionally, the Plan details the community's infrastructure needs, with the financing outlined in a Capital Improvement Plan, which is a long-range, unfunded budget for desired improvements.

Is This Our First Plan?

Shenandoah County has been actively planning for its future since 1973, and this is our fourth comprehensive plan.

Does This Tie Our Hands?

No, not financially or politically but it is a guide for us as we move into the future.

A PLAN FOR ACTION

CHAPTER VISION

GOALS

1

2

3

4

5

OBJECTIVES



STRATEGIES



ACTIONS



Nearly 250 years ago a man stood up in a church a few blocks down from the County Government Building. He told his congregation that to everything there is a season, a time to pray and a time to fight. We as a community in adopting this plan accept the truth that there is a time to plan and a time to act, and that time is now. Our action plan seeks to make this belief a reality through taking large ideas from very general vision statements and narrow them down through goals and objectives to strategies and detail oriented actions as seen in the diagram to the left.

ORGANIZATION

This plan is one of five documents that guide the County.

1: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

An aspirational visionary guide made from two documents:

THE REPORT

This document summarizes 5 years worth of reports, meetings, workshops, and conversations into a succinct, big idea focused document.

THE ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan lays out the vision for each chapter, goals to accomplish that vision, along with objectives, strategies and actions.

2 & 3: ZONING & SUBDIVISION

Specific rules that can be enforced on how land is used.

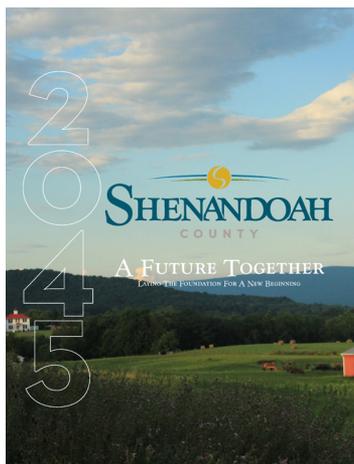
4: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Five year financial plan for new buildings and equipment.

5: BUDGET

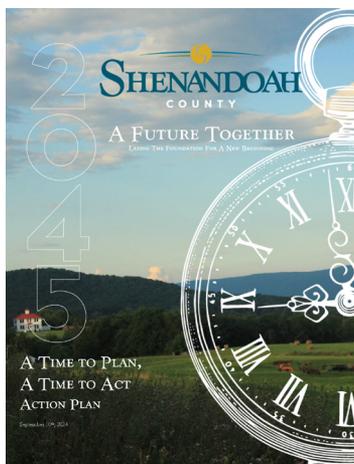
Annual plan on how to finance County operations.

TOOLS TO USE THE PLAN



The Report

The *Shenandoah 2045 Report* is a strategic tool for anyone looking to act in the county by providing a comprehensive vision for Shenandoah County's future. It sets out the community's long-term goals and values, such as balancing growth with the preservation of rural and agricultural character. No matter your background, The Report helps you understand the overarching priorities of the county and ensures your projects align with community expectations. You can use the report to inform your proposals, validate decisions, and demonstrate that your actions support the county's long-term vision. It serves as a guiding document to keep projects on track with broader community goals, making it useful for planning, investment, and collaboration.



The Action Plan

The Action Plan is a hands-on guide for taking concrete action in Shenandoah County. For those looking to implement projects—whether in infrastructure, business, or community services—this document breaks down the broad vision of the report into specific, actionable steps. If you are involved in executing a project, the Action Plan provides clear goals, strategies, and timelines to follow, ensuring that your actions contribute directly to county priorities. It gives you the roadmap for implementation, such as the exact strategies to improve housing, transportation, or environmental sustainability. This tool allows you to move from planning to action, ensuring that your efforts are aligned with County visions and making it easier to measure success.

Tools On The Website

The Toolkit (This document!)

There are five other documents just like the one you are looking at right now! We have broken the Comprehensive Plan down into digestible parts based on the user groups. You can choose to consume the information either in a static print version like this, or check out our more dynamic online storymap. Either way we hope these documents make it easier for us to build A Future Together and act.



The Policy Map

The policy map takes all of the maps from The Report and The Action Plan and puts them in one accessible and interactive space. It also provides each chapter's maps and information in individual formats with extra data that did not fit into the Comprehensive Plan such as dynamic data updated regularly from the Census Bureau so its easier to base decisions on adopted maps and updated data.



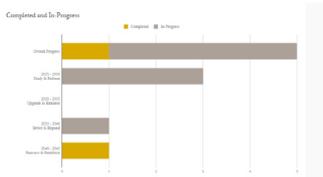
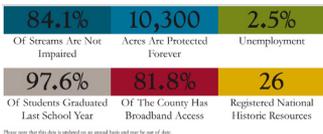
The Data Dashboard

The data dashboard serves the role a traditional comprehensive plan would serve in many communities, which is being a report on multiple data points. The difference in the dashboard and a static report document is this is updated regularly by various sources including the Bureau of Labor Statistics and VDOT. Examine data per chapter or larger land use data in the main data dashboard.



The Progress Tab

Our number one concern for the future was to hold ourselves accountable. We hope to do this and keep everyone updated with our progress tab which has key indicators for each big ideas as well as a progress chart showing the status of implementation. Note that this information is expected to be updated annually so there may be some tasks completed that have not made it onto our progress tab yet.



AN ANCESTRAL SOLUTION TO A COMMON THREAD

For sixty years Shenandoah County has been wrestling with one common thread which weaves throughout time: Suburbanization. While the emphasis on the loss of rural land due to suburbanization has always been a concern, the greater threat is the loss of a sense of community and place. This means that the solution to this common thread is not to cut all development off entirely but rather to rethink the form that development takes so we build more places for people. We find that solution by looking to the past to help us with the present.

When our ancestors first stepped foot in Shenandoah County they laid out their new communities based on where they came from. These places were naturally dense, walkable, and had a variety of different uses with a hard edge to the working lands. This model both protected productive agricultural lands and made the most use of land which the community invested infrastructure.



Woodstock founder from Zweibrücken, GER



Strasburg founder from Strasbourg, FR



Toms Brook founder from Steinweiler, GER



Conicville & Orkney Springs founders from Zurich, Switzerland



New Market founder from London, UK



Mt Jackson founder from Sandwich, UK



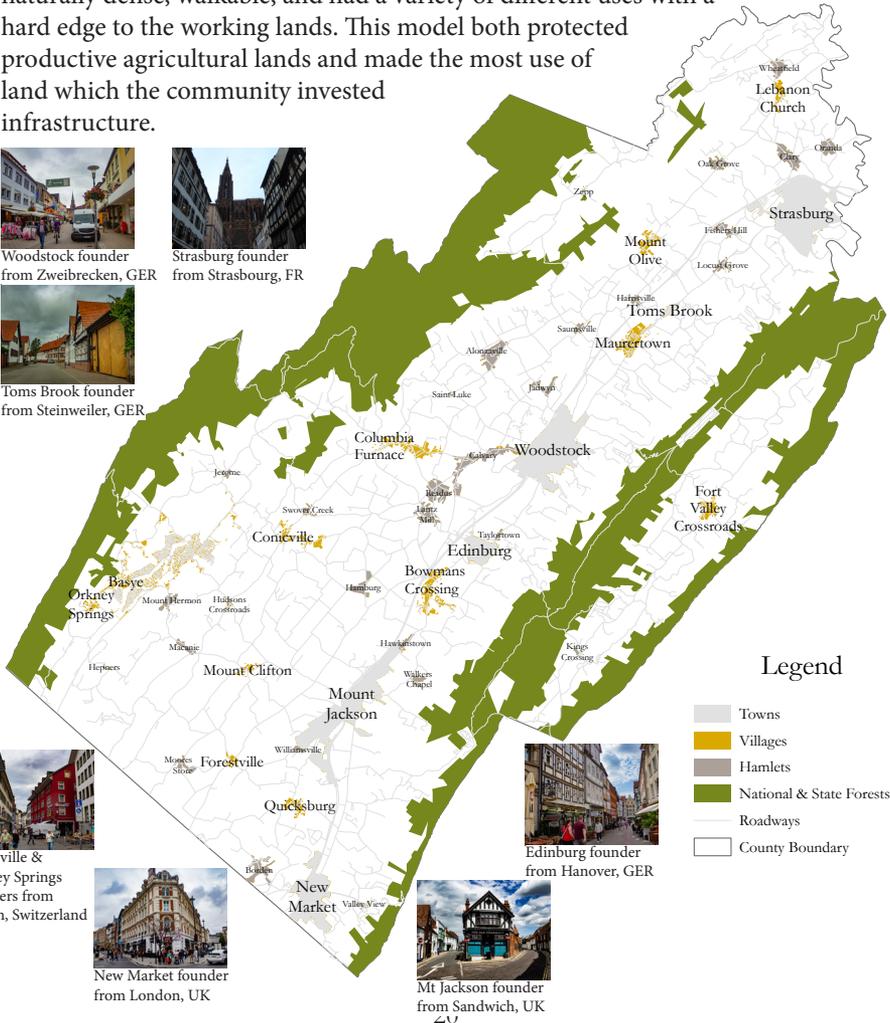
Edinburg founder from Hanover, GER



Woodstock founder from Zweibrücken, GER



Strasburg founder from Strasbourg, FR



Legend

- Towns
- Villages
- Hamlets
- National & State Forests
- Roadways
- County Boundary

WHAT ARE VILLAGES AND HAMLETS?

A **VILLAGE** is an established neighborhood standing free in the countryside. The strong center of a village can usually be attributed, not to the population, but to its location on a transportation corridor and presence of more than one third space.

A **HAMLET** is a neighborhood in the making. Standing free in the countryside, by virtue of its location away from transportation, the hamlet has a weak center not due to its population but the lack of multiple third spaces or a strong sense of community.

A First Place is our home. A Second Place is our workplace. Third places are where you find locals and strangers like a:



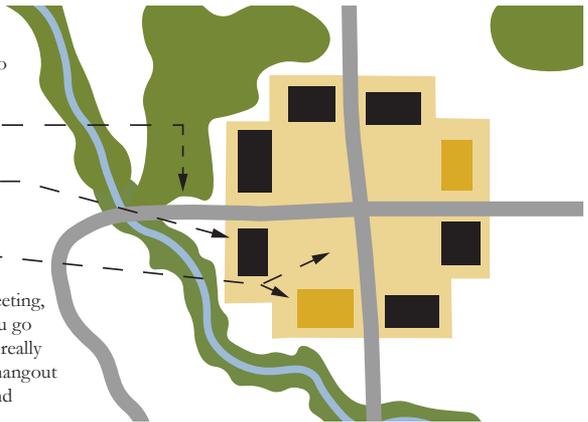
“(Imagine) eight houses are forming a square in the middle of a crossroad. So here we have a...”

Communication Route —

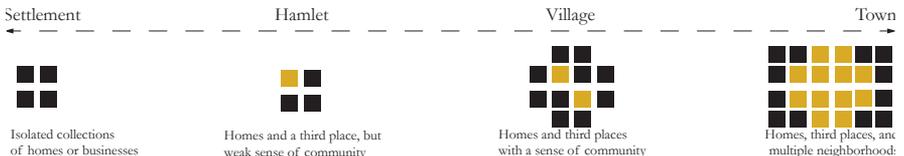
Private Spaces —

Public Spaces —

where we can have a meeting between inhabitants and strangers. And this meeting, is the beginning of civilization... If you go (on vacation) and find places that you really like, it will be places that have a local hangout and strangers together.” Peter Elmlund



Shenandoah County has 6 incorporated towns, 12 villages, and 36 hamlets. Our Towns started as hamlets then grew into villages. Some villages incorporated as Towns, such as Mount Pleasant which in 1826 became the Town of Mount Jackson. These places didn’t take up much land, were close to water, existed at the crux of trade routes, and were both markets and homes for the farmers. As we look to the future investment in our community we can look to the past to see how we built these places people already live and enhance them.



WHAT ARE THE 6 BIG IDEAS?

Our Six Big Ideas are the framework for Shenandoah 2045. These are core aspects of all chapters of the Action Plan and cover a variety of topics from land use to the economy and more. This framework helps facilitate all partners and stakeholders in the big picture vision we as a community have for the next twenty years.

A **CONCEPT** is a step down from a **BIG IDEA** and outlines the general approach we want to take to making the vision of the Plan a reality. These are the core values that will guide us based on the goals and objectives of the Action Plan.

A **PROPOSAL** is a step down from a **CONCEPT** and generally outlines how we could realistically implement the vision of the plan. These are the general ways we can implement the vision for the future based on the specific strategies and actions from the Action Plan.



We respect that **WATER IS LIFE**. We are committed to cherishing our water for the next generation. Knowing that clean and abundant water is finite but also vital for agriculture, economic growth, and overall well-being.



LAND IS VALUABLE to us. We keep our countryside beautiful and productive, balancing growth with preservation. Thriving farms, bustling downtowns, and scenic landscapes ensures land for generations to enjoy.



Our community is **ACTIVELY CONNECTED**. We've nurtured a community reflecting our values and actively connected with the places we live and work through streets, trails, and programming for a healthy life.



We invest in the next generation and our workforce with **QUALITY EDUCATION**. Education is the key to the next generation being prepared for the future and ensuring our workforce is versatile with market shifts.



We pride ourselves on **DEPENDABLE SERVICES**. Healthcare, public safety, and infrastructure are our backbone. Every resident feels supported and valued with these dependable services.



Our community believes **THE PAST INSPIRES THE FUTURE**. We cherish our history and learn from it. By combining old lessons with current knowledge, we make wise plans to create a better tomorrow.

CONCEPT

PROPOSAL

- A. Next Generation Foundation
- B. Community Action
- C. Lasting Infrastructure

- I. Reform Codes
- II. Conduct Studies
- III. Invest Today

- A. Maximizing Land Productivity
- B. Small Town Feel
- C. Preserving Our Landscapes

- I. Reform Codes
- II. Invest Downtown
- III. Protect Farmland

- A. Personal Freedom
- B. Culture Of Physical Activity
- C. Community Connectivity

- I. Reform Codes
- II. Enhance Connections & Spaces
- III. Community Programming

- A. Evolving Education Infrastructure
- B. Community Opportunities
- C. Workforce Readiness

- I. Quality Infrastructure
- II. Early Childhood Development
- III. Bridge Education & Workforce

- A. Integrated Service Delivery
- B. Health & Safety
- C. Dependable Infrastructure

- I. Update County Systems
- II. Reduce Healthcare Barriers
- III. Future Infrastructure

- A. Study First, Act Next
- B. Data-Driven Decisions
- C. Be Inspired

- I. Conduct Studies
- II. Integrate Data
- III. Style Guide

The Action Plan is split into eleven chapters, a summary of them is below:

Chapter I: Historical, Cultural, & Scenic Resources

These resources will be preserved and researched to be made readily available to the public.

Chapter II: Water Resources

Water is finite and we will work to ensure quality and quantity of it with suitability/sustainability.

Chapter III: Agricultural, Forestall, & Geological Resources

Priority on protecting and properly utilizing these resources intrinsically and economically.

Chapter IV: Economic Development

Public & private sectors collaborate for a supportive business environment and workforce readiness.

Chapter V: Housing

Everyone will have access to adequate housing.

Chapter VI: Community Services And Facilities

Easy access to county services and facilities, in person or online, to satisfy their personal/business needs.

Chapter VII: Education

All will have chance to a well-rounded education with applied learning and performance skills.

Chapter VIII: Health

All must have access to affordable health care within 15 minutes from home by combination of private & public.

Chapter IX: Emergency Services, Infrastructure, & Technology

Provide an integrated, responsive, and secure technology environment for exceptional county services.

Chapter X: Recreation

Access to natural resources for recreational pursuits shall be sustained and expanded.

Chapter XI: Transportation

Have quality transportation systems that are safe, efficient, and modern systems built for the 22nd century.

THE FUTURE WON'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT

We respect that change takes time. Our action plan is split into time periods with acronyms associated with the periods explained below. We do this as we understand that improving our community is not just one action but a sequence of actions that build off of each other with each making life slightly better.

2025 - 2030
STUDY &
REFORM



We start by studying changes to keep our land, water, and communities safe and beautiful and invest properly. This includes zoning and other reforms on how land can be used to protect our farms, nature, and water. We're studying ways to help our community grow, so we set ourselves and the next generation up for success by having the information we need to act while responding to existing needs.

2030 - 2035
UPGRADE
&
ENHANCE



During this phase, we concentrate on upgrading existing infrastructure and buildings, enhancing the quality of living and working environments across our county. We will focus on modernizing our educational facilities, roads, and public spaces, to meet the community's needs. We also aim to support our local economy by fostering job creation in key sectors.

2035 - 2040
INVEST &
EXPAND



During this phase, we're focusing on building new infrastructure to better serve our community. This includes adding connections like trails and streets, utilities, and facilities that will make us stronger. We're also expanding the services we provide, making sure they're more dependable for all. This is about enhancing our way of life, and preparing for the future.

2040 - 2045
REASSESS
&
REINFORCE



As this plan nears its end, we enter a crucial phase of reassessment and reinforcement. This period calls for a collective reflection on our achievements and the challenges ahead, ensuring our infrastructure and services are robust and reliable. We'll focus on strengthening the foundation laid so we are ready for the future.

2045 - 2072
PLAN &
ASPIRE



Beyond this plan, as we move from 2045 to 2072, we approach a significant milestone: the 300th anniversary of Shenandoah County's founding. This period represents the start of a new beginning, where we, as a community, will have laid the groundwork for future prosperity. It's a time for collective visioning, preparing for future challenges and opportunities.

KEY TERMS & CONTACTS

Acronym	Full Name
All Towns	New Market Mount Jackson Edinburg Woodstock Toms Brook Strasburg
BOS	Board of Supervisors
CA	County Administration
CD	Community Development
CL	County Library
CLG	Certified Local Government
CLUM	Current Land Use Map
COR	Commissioner Of The Revenue
CT	County Treasurer
DHR	Virginia Department of Historic Resources
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
FLUM	Future Land Use Map
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GP	General Properties
HR	Human Resources
IT	Information Technologies
Landfill	County Landfill
NSVRC	Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission
P&R	Parks and Recreation
PC	Planning Commission
SCPS	Shenandoah County Public Schools
SD	Sanitary Districts
SS	Social Services
TED	Tourism and Economic Development
VCE	Virginia Cooperative Extension Office
VDH	Virginia Department of Health
VDOT	Virginia Department of Transportation
VH	Valley Health

Email	Phone Number
n.garrison@newmarketvirginia.com	540-740-3432
ohilton@mountjackson.com	540-477-2121
town@shentel.com	540-984-8521
agrisdale@woodstockva.gov	540-459-3621
ljgcurrie@yahoo.com	540-436-8000
wcoggsdale@strasburgva.com	540-465-9197
See County Administration	
afauber@shenandoahcountyva.us	540-459-6165
lhancock@shenandoahcountyva.us	540-459-6185
swhitesides@countylib.org	540-984-8200
See Virginia Department of Historic Resources	
See Community Development	
mhockman@shenandoahcountyva.us	540-459-6170
cgeorge@shenandoahcountyva.us	540-459-6180
stephanie.williams@dhr.virginia.gov	804-482-6446
rhondaw@shenandoahcountyva.us	540-459-6101
See Community Development	
cway@shenandoahcountyva.us	540-459-6198
See County Administration	
jmongold@shenandoahcountyva.us	540-459-6160
it@shenandoahcountyva.us	540-459-6280
ahounshell@shenandoahcountyva.us	540-984-8573
bdavis@nsvregion.org	540-636-8800
jhoover@shenandoahcountyva.us	540-459-6777
See Community Development	
masheppard@shenandoah.k12.va.us	540-459-6222
pfelling@shenandoahcountyva.us	540-459-7491
beth.delullo@dss.virginia.gov	540-459-6226
jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us	540-459-6227
raclark@vt.edu	540-459-6140
todd.lam@vdh.virginia.gov	540-459-3733
matthew.smith@VDOT.virginia.gov	540-534-3210
jcraig@valleyhealthlink.com	540-459-1100

