# Shenandoah 2045
# A FUTURE TOGETHER

FIRST DRAFT

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# VISION 2045

The following Vision Statement describes in a broad sense what we as a county want to be by the year 2045. It is based on a consensus of resident and visitor input and a realistic projection of current socio-economic trends. The Vision Statement provides the framework for formulating a codified set of policies and ordinances for Shenandoah County for the unforeseeable 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 living wage; and
4. A collaborative community that continues to work with private and public entities to ensure Shenandoah County is healthy and vibrant.

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# OVERARCHING CHALLENGES

**Comprehensive Plans are a balancing act, finding the right way to make sure everyone is heard, their needs are met, and a general agreement can be found. We foresee ten major challenges that Shenandoah County will struggle to balance in 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.

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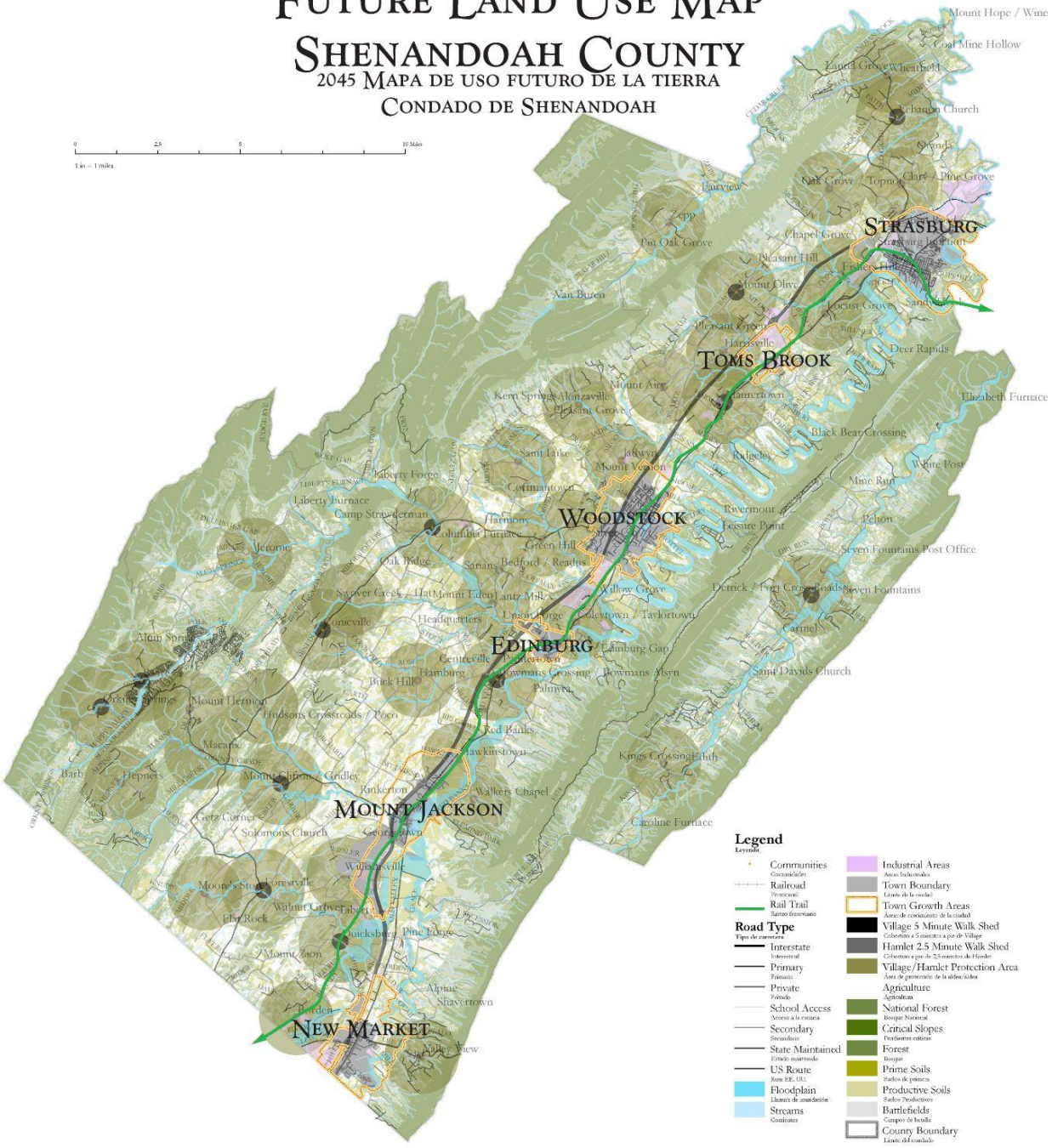
# FUTURE LAND USE MAP



# Chapter 1: Historical, Cultural And Scenic Resources

**VISION:**

The vast historic, cultural and scenic resources of Shenandoah County shall continually be preserved, researched, documented, archived and objectively interpreted, providing educational resources made readily available to the public.

**RELATIONSHIP OF THE VISION TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

The county's historical, cultural, and scenic resources play an important role in Shenandoah County being a great place to work, live, recreate, and thrive. Retaining and enhancing our community's character and sense of place requires preservation and objective historically accurate interpretation of those resources.

By the year 2045 the following Goals and Objectives shall be completed through the Strategies and Actions herein detailed:


**Goal 1.1**
**Information and educational opportunities will be readily available.**
Objective 1.1.1: Records updated.
Objective 1.1.2: Public information.
Objective 1.1.3 K-12 Education
Objective 1.1.4 Supporting Archives
Objective 1.1.5 Digitize documents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**Goal 1.2**

**The protection of important lands and landscapes as well as opportunities for public enjoyment of them will increase.**

- Objective 1.2.1: Viewpoints protected.
- Objective 1.2.2: Landscapes and viewsheds protected.
- Objective 1.2.3: Access increased.
- Objective 1.2.4: Development considers historic context.
- Objective 1.2.5: Signage and facilities.

**Goal 1.3**

**Important historic buildings and structures will be renovated, restored, and protected and used as models for future development.**

- Objective 1.3.1: Structures protected.
- Objective 1.3.2 Incentivize restoration.
- Objective 1.3.3: Pattern Book to inform development.
- Objective 1.3.4: Zoning Standards.
- Objective 1.3.5: Support adaptive reuses.

**Goal 1.4**

**Artifacts, archeological sites, and other historical and cultural assets will be protected for future generations.**

- Objective 1.4.1: Artifacts and sites identified.
- Objective 1.4.2: Museums and displays.
- Objective 1.4.3: Resources protected.
- Objective 1.4.4: Landowners informed.
- Objective 1.4.5: Artwork preservation.
- Objective 1.4.6: Preservation of former native communities.
- Objective 1.4.7: Preservation of former black communities.
- Objective 1.4.8: Preservation of the history and culture of enslaved peoples.

**Goal 1.5**

**The County will be the destination for Heritage Tourism.**

- Objective 1.5.1: Support events.
- Objective 1.5.2: Support local.
- Objective 1.5.3: Enhance destinations.
- Objective 1.5.4: Package experiences.
- Objective 1.5.5: Support multimedia.

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Objective 1.5.6: Souvenirs and brand.
Objective 1.5.7 Access to genealogical resources.

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**Goal 1.1**

**Information and educational opportunities will be readily available.**

Objective 1.1.1: Records updated.

Records and documentation on all historic resources will be updated. Historical resources includes: Native American village sites, enslaved peoples sites and cemeteries, battlefield areas, and structures significant to the formation and story of Shenandoah County.

Objective 1.1.2: Public information.

The public will have access to information on our historic, cultural, and scenic resources.

Objective 1.1.3 K-12 Education

Students will have the opportunity to learn about Shenandoah County's history as part of their educational experience.

Objective 1.1.4 Supporting Archives

The County Archives will be supported, sufficiently funded, and staffed so they are easily accessible by all.

Objective 1.1.5 Digitize documents

Digitize documents and records for increased accessibility and preservation, ensuring that important historical and cultural resources are available to all.

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**Goal 1.2**

**The protection of important lands and landscapes as well as opportunities for public enjoyment of them will increase.**

Objective 1.2.1: Viewpoints protected.

Areas for scenic and historical viewpoints will be continuously identified and protected throughout the county.

Objective 1.2.2: Landscapes and viewsheds protected.

Historic and scenic landscapes and viewsheds will be protected from development and land conservation.

Objective 1.2.3: Access increased.

Where feasible, the County will work to assist partners or secure on their own, trails, pull offs, and public access areas in key areas.

Objective 1.2.4: Development considers historic context.

Review of development proposals will consider the impact on surrounding Historic, Cultural, and Scenic Resources.

Objective 1.2.5: Signage and facilities.

Improve public enjoyment and appreciation of important lands and landscapes through the installation of signage and facilities that provide educational information, wayfinding, and amenities.

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**Goal 1.3**

**Important historic buildings and structures will be renovated, restored, and protected and used as models for future development.**

Objective 1.3.1: Structures protected.

Historic buildings and structures will be protected and renovated.

Objective 1.3.2 Incentivize restoration.

Connect landowners to incentives for renovating, restoring, and protecting historic buildings and structures.

Objective 1.3.3: Pattern Book to inform development.

A Pattern Book of key architectural styles and the quality of materials used in historical construction in the community will be developed and continuously updated to inform development.

Objective 1.3.4: Zoning Standards.

Zoning standards for structures and landscaping will be updated to be in line with the historic, cultural, and scenic assets of the community.

Objective 1.3.5: Support adaptive reuses.

Important historic buildings and structures will be adaptively reused, providing new functions while preserving their historic and architectural character, and serving as models for sustainable and responsible development practices.

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**Goal 1.4**

**Artifacts, archeological sites, and other historical and cultural assets will be protected for future generations.**

Objective 1.4.1: Artifacts and sites identified.

Artifacts, archeological sites, and other historical and cultural assets will be continually identified and documented.

Objective 1.4.2: Museums and displays.

Artifacts, archeological objects, and other historical and cultural assets belong in museums and displays so they may be viewed, interpreted, and researched.

Objective 1.4.3: Resources protected.

Historic resources will be protected from development.

Objective 1.4.4: Landowners informed.

Landowners of identified artifacts, archeological sites, and other historical and cultural assets will be notified and thereby encouraged to take responsibility for maintaining their respective areas and to avail these sites for approved further exploration.

Objective 1.4.5: Artwork preservation.

Artwork, including paintings, sculptures, and other forms of visual art, will be identified, documented, and protected for future generations.

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Objective 1.4.6: Preservation of former native communities.

Earthworks and artifacts from former native communities will be identified, documented, and preserved, and efforts will be made to ensure that they are not disturbed or destroyed by development or other activities.

Objective 1.4.7: Preservation of former black communities.

The history and cultural heritage of former black communities will be identified, documented, and preserved, and efforts will be made to ensure that their stories are told and their contributions to society are recognized.

Objective 1.4.8: Preservation of the history and culture of enslaved peoples.

The history and culture of enslaved peoples will be identified, documented, and preserved, and efforts will be made to ensure that their stories are told and their contributions to society are recognized. This will include preserving historic sites, artifacts, and other tangible and intangible cultural heritage associated with slavery.

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**Goal 1.5**

**The County will be the destination for Heritage Tourism.**

Objective 1.5.1: Support events.

Support ongoing and new events that relate to Heritage Tourism.

Objective 1.5.2: Support local.

Support local artisans, crafters, and restaurants as they are anchors for the identity of Shenandoah County and its Towns, Villages, and Hamlets.

Objective 1.5.3: Enhance destinations.

Enhance destinations that tourists and locals visit to explore the heritage of the County and their own genealogical heritage, so the existing and new destinations are more attractive to visit.

Objective 1.5.4: Package experiences.

Make it easier for individuals to visit heritage tourism events, sites, and venues by providing a space where experiences can be packaged or planned together.

Objective 1.5.5: Support multimedia.

Support multimedia productions which would shine a light on the heritage tourism assets of the County.

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Objective 1.5.6: Souvenirs and brand.

Support the creation of souvenirs for heritage tourism sites as well as brand related materials for sale for tourists and locals.

Objective 1.5.7 Access to genealogical resources.

Increase public access to genealogical resources such as historical records and archives for research and personal discovery.

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# Chapter 2: Water Resources

**VISION:**

Shenandoah County will be a good steward by recognizing water is finite and will work to ensure good quality and quantity of this resource, while protecting its suitability/sustainability for all uses and healthy living aquatic ecosystems.

**RELATIONSHIP TO THE VISION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

Through our plan, our county will allow and provide a safe and healthy place to live, work and recreate in, on or around water while also providing healthy water to drink and consume, whether in the towns or rural areas.

By the year 2045 the following Goals and Objectives shall be completed through the Strategies and Actions herein detailed:


**Goal 2.1**
**Groundwater resources will be protected.**
- Objective 2.1.1 Protect sinkholes.
- Objective 2.1.2 Safe wells.
- Objective 2.1.3 Proper wastewater disposal.
- Objective 2.1.4 Protection of well recharge areas.
- Objective 2.1.5 Limit fractures.
- Objective 2.1.6 Reduce chemical leaching.

**Goal 2.2**
**Surface water resources will be protected.**
- Objective 2.2.1 Best Management Practices.


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Objective 2.2.2 No impaired streams.
Objective 2.2.3 Enforce Erosion and Sediment Control Laws.
Objective 2.2.4 Enforce Stormwater Laws.
Objective 2.2.5 Protection from flooding.
Objective 2.2.6 Protection of headwaters.
Objective 2.2.7 Protection of sensitive waters.
Objective 2.2.8 Standards for aquaculture.
Objective 2.2.9 Protect springs.
Objective 2.2.10 Restore aquatic ecosystems.

**Goal 2.3**
**Our infrastructure will support adequate recreation and consumption of water.**
Objective 2.3.1 Improved access points.
Objective 2.3.2 Prevent degradation.
Objective 2.3.3 Blueways and Greenways.
Objective 2.3.4 Upgrade utility infrastructure.
Objective 2.3.5 Grow where infrastructure exists.
Objective 2.3.6 Support DWR stocking of waters.

**Goal 2.4**
**Information on the water resources of the County will be readily available.**
Objective 2.4.1 Quantity Assessment.
Objective 2.4.2 Land Use Patterns.
Objective 2.4.3 Regional Water Plan Updated.
Objective 2.4.4 Support WRAC.
Objective 2.4.5 Information for public action.
Objective 2.4.6 Public education.
Objective 2.4.7 Support well and septic testing.
Objective 2.4.8 Conduct studies.

**Goal 2.5**
**Plan for drought conditions**
Objective 2.5.1 Educate the public.
Objective 2.5.2 Water conservation.
Objective 2.5.3 Water reserves.
Objective 2.5.5: Monitor water usage.

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**Goal 2.1**

**Groundwater resources will be protected.**

Objective 2.1.1 Protect sinkholes.

Sinkholes will be protected.

Objective 2.1.2 Safe wells.

Wells will be protected to ensure safe drinking water

Objective 2.1.3 Proper wastewater disposal.

All wastewater, septic systems, and alternative sewage systems will be properly maintained

Objective 2.1.4 Protection of well recharge areas.

Areas that provide recharging of public and communal wells will be protected and improved to ensure rapid recharge of our groundwater resources.

Objective 2.1.5 Limit fractures.

There will be an attempt to limit the number of new fractures in our bedrock due to human intervention.

Objective 2.1.6 Reduce chemical leaching.

We will reduce the amount of chemical leaching into our groundwater resources.

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**Goal 2.2**

**Surface water resources will be protected.**

Objective 2.2.1 Best Management Practices.

Encourage farmers and landowners to utilize best management practices and other measures to keep non-point source pollution out of our surface waters.

Objective 2.2.2 No impaired streams.

Support state and local efforts to delist all streams listed as impaired by DEQ

Objective 2.2.3 Enforce Erosion and Sediment Control Laws.

Require that state erosion and sediment control laws be followed on construction sites to keep sediment from fouling surface waters.

Objective 2.2.4 Enforce Stormwater Laws.

Require that state storm water runoff laws be followed on construction sites to prevent flooding of downstream properties.

Objective 2.2.5 Protection from flooding.

Residents, businesses, and visitors will be protected from flooding.

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Objective 2.2.6 Protection of headwaters.

Headwaters of streams will be protected to mitigate the impact of cloudbursts and flash flooding as well as to improve water quality.

Objective 2.2.7 Protection of sensitive waters.

Sensitive waters such as wetlands, marshes, swamps, and other native habitats will be protected.

Objective 2.2.8 Standards for aquaculture.

There will be standards for aquaculture to ensure it does not further impair our waters but is still a productive and viable process.

Objective 2.2.9 Protect springs.

Our springs will be protected with public access increased where appropriate to further embrace and cherish our restorative springs.

Objective 2.2.10 Restore aquatic ecosystems.

Restore the natural balance and health of aquatic ecosystems through various conservation and restoration efforts, such as reducing pollution, reintroducing native species, and preserving habitats.

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**Goal 2.3**

**Our infrastructure will support adequate recreation and consumption of water.**

Objective 2.3.1 Improved access points.

Expand and improve the number of boat launches and fishing locations along the North Fork of the Shenandoah River and other appropriate streams and that these locations are properly maintained.

Objective 2.3.2 Prevent degradation.

Ensure that public access to surface waters does not degrade surface waters or harm private landowners.

Objective 2.3.3 Blueways and Greenways.

There will be an interconnected system of blueways and greenways throughout the County which connect to larger regions.

Objective 2.3.4 Upgrade utility infrastructure.

We will have up to date utility infrastructure to ensure the safety of its users and the longevity of the systems.

Objective 2.3.5 Grow where infrastructure exists.

We will promote growth where infrastructure already exists and make the best use of existing infrastructure before building additional pipe or new facilities.

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Objective 2.3.6 Support DWR stocking of waters.

We will continue to support and enhance the stocking by DWR of our public waters.

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**Goal 2.4**

**Information on the water resources of the County will be readily available.**

Objective 2.4.1 Quantity Assessment.

Complete an assessment of the quantity of ground and surface water needed to sustain Shenandoah County's current and future needs

Objective 2.4.2 Land Use Patterns.

Evaluate Shenandoah County's current land use patterns and water impoundments to ascertain the current supply level and better understand how this supply can be enhanced in the future (for example improvement to impoundments or new impoundments or by enhancing groundwater recharge through improved land use Best Management Practices).

Objective 2.4.3 Regional Water Plan Updated.

Update the 2006 Shenandoah Valley Water Resources Strategic Plan

Objective 2.4.4 Support WRAC.

Maintain the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) as an advisory body to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors

Objective 2.4.5 Information for public action.

Information on how the public can take action to improve and protect our water resources will be readily available.

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Objective 2.4.6 Public education.

Information on improving and protecting our water resources will be public education opportunities will be readily available to everyone and worked into the public schools' curriculums.

Objective 2.4.7 Support well and septic testing.

We will continue to support and increase access to well and septic testing.

Objective 2.4.8 Conduct studies.

Conduct groundwater and surface water studies to better understand the quality, quantity, and location of such resources.

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**Goal 2.5**

**Plan for drought conditions**

Objective 2.5.1 Educate the public.

Educate the public about the need to conserve water and provide ways to do so on a continuing basis in order to create a water conservation ethic in the county.

Objective 2.5.2 Water conservation.

Set guidelines for water conservation.

Objective 2.5.3 Water reserves.

There will be adequate water reserves to prepare for times of drought.

Objective 2.5.4: Implement water-efficient technologies.

Encourage the adoption of water-efficient technologies and practices in households, businesses, and agriculture to reduce water usage and increase water conservation.

Objective 2.5.5: Monitor water usage.

Develop a system for monitoring water usage in the county to identify areas where water conservation efforts are needed, track progress towards meeting water conservation goals, and make data-driven decisions about how to allocate water resources during times of drought.

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# Chapter 3: Agricultural, Forestal, And Geological Resources

**VISION:**

Shenandoah County will be a good steward by placing a high priority on protecting and properly utilizing its agricultural, forestal, and geological resources, recognizing the irreplaceable value they have both intrinsically and economically for this county.

**RELATIONSHIP OF THE VISION TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

Shenandoah County is a primarily rural and agricultural county by design. We will continue to promote prosperous and efficient means of growth in agricultural and forestal dynamics while maintaining a proper balance of its natural geological resources.

By the year 2045 the following Goals and Objectives shall be completed through the Strategies and Actions herein detailed:


**Goal 3.1**

**Agriculture will continue to grow in a safe and efficient manner.**

- Objective 3.1.1 Productive lands and soils.
- Objective 3.1.2 Incentives to farming.
- Objective 3.1.3 Local foods.
- Objective 3.1.4 Agribusiness.
- Objective 3.1.5 Indoor Agriculture.
- Objective 3.1.6 Autonomous agriculture.


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Objective 3.1.7 Support co-ops.
Objective 3.1.8 Prepare for blight and invasives.
Objective 3.1.9 Prepare for emerging crops.

**Goal 3.2**
**Protect forested areas throughout the county from conversion to other uses.**
Objective 3.2.1 Educate landowners.
Objective 3.2.2 Small forests.
Objective 3.2.3 Protection from wildfires.
Objective 3.2.4 Establish Big Schloss National Recreation / Scenic Area
Objective 3.2.5 Support Additional Public Forests.
Objective 3.2.6 Support local wood products.
Objective 3.2.8 Support sustainable forestry.

**Goal 3.3**
**Geological resources will be balanced between use and preservation.**
Objective 3.3.1 Quarries as assets.
Objective 3.3.2 Protect caves.
Objective 3.3.3 Protect former mines.
Objective 3.3.4 Protect iron furnaces.
Objective 3.3.5 Preserve fossils.
Objective 3.3.6 Be aware of fault lines.
Objective 3.3.7 Protect critical slopes and ridgelines.
Objective 3.3.8 Protect sensitive karst formations.

**Goal 3.4**
**Local efforts will be made to lessen air pollution and improve visibility.**
Objective 3.4.1 Reduce vehicle emissions.
Objective 3.4.2 Efficient Buildings.
Objective 3.4.3 Carbon sequestration.
Objective 3.4.4 Renewable energy.
Objective 3.4.5 Promote sustainable practices.

**Goal 3.5**
**Wildlife will be protected for enjoyment and hunting by future generations and sustainable ecosystems.**
Objective 3.5.1 Protect wildlife habitat cores and corridors.

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Objective 3.5.2 Implement wildlife crossings.
Objective 3.5.3 Expand public access to hunting and fishing.
Objective 3.5.4 Support private hunting and fishing.
Objective 3.5.5 Protect endangered and threatened species.

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**Goal 3.1**

**Agriculture will continue to grow in a safe and efficient manner.**

Objective 3.1.1 Productive lands and soils.

Development, including large scale renewable energy sources, will be directed away from productive agricultural lands and soils.

Objective 3.1.2 Incentives to farming.

Provide financial incentives to farming and farmlands.

Objective 3.1.3 Local foods.

Promote locally grown foods to be consumed locally.

Objective 3.1.4 Agribusiness.

Strengthen agriculturally related businesses and industries.

Objective 3.1.5 Indoor Agriculture.

Plan for controlled environment (indoor) agriculture or large greenhouse complexes to produce crops.

Objective 3.1.6 Autonomous agriculture.

Autonomous agriculture will be a viable option for all farmers in the County.

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Objective 3.1.7 Support co-ops.

Support the retention, expansion, and creation of co-ops throughout the County and greater Shenandoah Valley region.

Objective 3.1.8 Prepare for blight and invasives.

Continue to prepare and share information on blight and invasives as issues arise.

Objective 3.1.9 Prepare for emerging crops.

Continue to prepare and share information on emerging crops with their pitfalls and potentials so our farmers are prepared to transition to new crops if needed.

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**Goal 3.2**

**Protect forested areas throughout the county from conversion to other uses.**

Objective 3.2.1 Educate landowners.

Educate owners of woodland on how to better manage their forests to reach their goals

Objective 3.2.2 Small forests.

Encourage interested owners of small contiguous woodlots to work with DoF or certified consulting foresters to manage their combined larger woodland for timber production.

Objective 3.2.3 Protection from wildfires.

Protect residents from wildfires.

Objective 3.2.4 Establish Big Schloss National Recreation / Scenic Area

Support the establishment of Big Schloss National Recreation / Scenic Area.

Objective 3.2.5 Support Additional Public Forests.

Where appropriate, support the establishment of additional lands for State and National Forests as well as County Forests.

Objective 3.2.6 Support local wood products.

Support the use of local wood to develop products and amenities.

Objective 3.2.7 Control of invasive species.

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Monitor, prepare, and limit the expansion of invasive species in forested areas.

Objective 3.2.8 Support sustainable forestry.

Support the retention and expansion of sustainable forestry operations.

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**Goal 3.3**

**Geological resources will be balanced between use and preservation.**

Objective 3.3.1 Quarries as assets.

Quarries will be leveraged as assets in a safe and efficient manner.

Objective 3.3.2 Protect caves.

Caves will continue to be protected from degradation and where appropriate opened to the public.

Objective 3.3.3 Protect former mines.

Former mines will continue to be protected from degradation and where appropriate opened to the public or reused for other purposes.

Objective 3.3.4 Protect iron furnaces.

Former mines will continue to be protected from degradation and where appropriate opened to the public or provided with some form of historic interpretation.

Objective 3.3.5 Preserve fossils.

Fossil deposits will continue to be protected from degradation, where appropriate opened to the public, and samples preserved in museums and displays.

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Objective 3.3.6 Be aware of fault lines.

Landowners living on fault lines will be made aware of the risks and responsibilities they hold and attempts will be made to limit impacts to fault lines.

Objective 3.3.7 Protect critical slopes and ridgelines.

Areas with critical slopes and ridgelines will be protected from development which would otherwise ruin or impair such resources.

Objective 3.3.8 Protect sensitive karst formations.

Areas with sensitive karst formations such as sinkholes should be protected from development or other impacts.

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**Goal 3.4**

**Local efforts will be made to lessen air pollution and improve visibility.**

Objective 3.4.1 Reduce vehicle emissions.

It is recognized that much of the air pollution in Shenandoah County flows in from sources outside of the county and from traffic on I-81; however, efforts will be made locally to reduce air pollution generated within the county.

Objective 3.4.2 Efficient Buildings.

Support the renovation and development of more energy efficient buildings.

Objective 3.4.3 Carbon sequestration.

To reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere, methods should be taken to sequester carbon through biological methods.

Objective 3.4.4 Renewable energy.

To reduce the dependence on pollution generating energy sources, small-scale renewable energy should be an option for all landowners and large-scale renewable energy facilities should be safely and appropriately sited.

Objective 3.4.5 Promote sustainable practices.

The public should have access to information on sustainable practices they can take.

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**Goal 3.5**

**Wildlife will be protected for enjoyment and hunting by future generations and sustainable ecosystems.**

Objective 3.5.1 Protect wildlife habitat cores and corridors.

Important wildlife habitat cores and corridors as well as their edges will be protected from development and enhanced for greater functionality.

Objective 3.5.2 Implement wildlife crossings.

To reduce wildlife related crashes, we will implement safe wildlife underpass and overpass crossings and redirect wildlife to such crossings.

Objective 3.5.3 Expand public access to hunting and fishing.

Support the expansion of existing and establishment of new public access to hunting and fishing.

Objective 3.5.4 Support private hunting and fishing.

Private landowners will be supported in their right to hunt and fish on their own property.

Objective 3.5.5 Protect endangered and threatened species.

Endangered and threatened species will be protected from development and other human intervention that could be detrimental to the species.

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# Chapter 4: Economic Development

**VISION**:

A comprehensive and collaborative partnership among all public and private local, regional, and statewide economic development entities to provide current and future Shenandoah County businesses an environment to thrive and grow; and to ensure current and future County residents with the opportunity to benefit from economic growth through personal gain and enhanced quality of life.

**Relationship to Comprehensive Plan vision**:

Maintain the rural integrity of Shenandoah County while ensuring it as a great place to work through the development of creative workforce development opportunities and supporting existing local industry and business sectors including the growth of agribusiness.

In the year 2045, the following Goals and Objectives shall be completed through the Strategies and Actions herein detailed:

**Goal 4.1**
**Students and the local workforce will have the opportunity to be prepared for well-paid employment or further training / education.**

- Objective 4.1.1: Information on options
- Objective 4.1.2: Improve fluency.
- Objective 4.1.3: Increase mentorships.
- Objective 4.1.4: Increase spaces.
- Objective 4.1.5: Vulnerable populations.

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**Goal 4.2**

**We will be the destination for agribusiness, hospitality, and tourism opportunities.**

- Objective 4.2.1 Support agricultural character.
- Objective 4.2.2: Market and invest in recreation.
- Objective 4.2.3: Attract tourism and hospitality businesses.
- Objective 4.2.4: Continue to support authentic experiences.
- Objective 4.2.5: Market the Shenandoah County brand.

**Goal 4.3**

**Attract and retain key target industries and businesses.**

- Objective 4.3.1 Market sites
- Objective 4.3.2 Site readiness
- Objective 4.3.3 Relevant targets
- Objective 4.3.4 Support assets
- Objective 4.3.5 Infrastructure that enables expansion.

**Goal 4.4**

**Foster a welcoming environment that will attract and retain employment opportunities.**

- Objective 4.4.1: Clear permitting process.
- Objective 4.4.2: Welcome new technologies.
- Objective 4.4.3: Welcome creativity.
- Objective 4.4.4: Quality of life.
- Objective 4.4.5: Supportive environment for entrepreneurs.

**Goal 4.5**

**Downtowns will be the most active, profitable, and invested in areas.**

- Objective 4.5.1 Public investment.
- Objective 4.5.2 Connect activity areas and amenities.
- Objective 4.5.3 Private investment.
- Objective 4.5.4 Market and brand downtowns.
- Objective 4.5.5 Events and activities downtown.

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**Goal 4.1**

**Students and the local workforce will have the opportunity to be prepared for well-paid employment or further training / education.**

Objective 4.1.1: Information on options

Information on options for employment, training, and mentoring will be clear and available.

Objective 4.1.2: Improve fluency.

There will be opportunities to improve one's fluency in specialty skills.

Objective 4.1.3: Increase mentorships.

Students, residents, visitors, and employees will have the opportunity to serve as mentors and mentees for a range of skill opportunities.

Objective 4.1.4: Increase spaces.

Every Town and Village will have access to spaces for adult education.

Objective 4.1.5: Vulnerable populations.

There will be a pathway for vulnerable populations to be prepared for the workplace.

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**Goal 4.2**

**We will be the destination for agribusiness, hospitality, and tourism opportunities.**

Objective 4.2.1 Support agricultural character.

Foster a community that supports our productive agricultural character, so we continue to be an attractive place for tourists to visit.

Objective 4.2.2: Market and invest in recreation.

Recreational resources and amenities will be clear to residents and visitors, and such resources will be invested in and expanded.

Objective 4.2.3: Attract tourism and hospitality businesses.

Grow and retain the number of tourism and hospitality businesses in key locations.

Objective 4.2.4: Continue to support authentic experiences.

Preserve and promote local cultural and historical assets, while ensuring that tourism and hospitality offerings remain genuine and reflective of the community's unique character.

Objective 4.2.5: Market the Shenandoah County brand.

Develop and carry out a cohesive and effective marketing strategy to promote the County's brand as having unique agricultural, hospitality, and tourism offerings to a wider audience.

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**Goal 4.3**

**Attract and retain key target industries and businesses.**

Objective 4.3.1 Market sites

Industrial and Business Parks, and future industrial and business land designated on the Future Land Use Map, will be marketed to valuable employers.

Objective 4.3.2 Site readiness

Work with landowners in key locations to ensure their sites are ready for a company to expand or locate there.

Objective 4.3.3 Relevant targets

Continuously keep on with market trends and local strengths to ensure that target industry sectors are updated and relevant.

Objective 4.3.4 Support assets

Continuously keep up with existing local businesses and industries and the needs and demands they have for remaining here or expanding their operations.

Objective 4.3.5 Infrastructure that enables expansion.

Develop and promote specialized infrastructure or business parks that are tailored to the needs of specific industries or sectors.

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**Goal 4.4**

**Foster a welcoming environment that will attract and retain employment opportunities.**

Objective 4.4.1: Clear permitting process.

Ensure there is a clear and easy to understand permitting process throughout the County.

Objective 4.4.2: Welcome new technologies.

Encourage new entrepreneurs, businesses, and industries using new technologies.

Objective 4.4.3: Welcome creativity.

Encourage creative economy-based entrepreneurs, businesses, and industries.

Objective 4.4.4: Quality of life.

People will want to work here because of a high quality of life.

Objective 4.4.5: Supportive environment for entrepreneurs.

Create a supportive and collaborative environment that encourages entrepreneurship and the growth of small businesses in the county.

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**Goal 4.5**

**Downtowns will be the most active, profitable, and invested in areas.**

Objective 4.5.1 Public investment.

There will be public investment in water, sewer, sidewalks, lighting, and facades.

Objective 4.5.2 Connect activity areas and amenities.

Connect villages and hamlets to each other, our Towns, and other assets and amenities.

Objective 4.5.3 Private investment.

Remove barriers and support private investment in our downtowns.

Objective 4.5.4 Market and brand downtowns.

Develop and implement a strategic marketing and branding plan to promote downtown areas and attract investment and visitors.

Objective 4.5.5 Events and activities downtown.

Create a sense of community and engagement in downtown areas by coordinating and facilitating public events and activities, such as street festivals, concerts, and farmers markets.

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# Chapter 5 Housing

**VISION:**

Everyone will have access to adequate housing.

**RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

Access to adequate housing across all population demographics (such as age, disability or mobility issues, location, employment and income) within the county is essential to having a life-long home for all residents to achieve the vision of a unique place to live and a great place to work.

By the year 2045 the following Goals and Objectives shall be completed through the Strategies and Actions herein detailed:


**Goal 5.1**
**Information on affordable housing and housing overall will be made publicly available.**
- Objective 5.1.1 Define Affordable Housing
- Objective 5.1.2 Inventory Affordable Housing
- Objective 5.1.3 Staff support
- Objective 5.1.4 Updating ordinances.
- Objective 5.1.5 Building plans

**Goal 5.2**
**Housing will be equally available to all income levels, ages, and backgrounds.**
- Objective 5.2.1 Mixture of housing types
- Objective 5.2.2 Identify shortfalls
- Objective 5.2.3 Senior housing development areas
- Objective 5.2.4 Housing for youth and young adults


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Objective 5.2.5 Housing of all ages in the Towns

**Goal 5.3**

**Residential growth will occur in the towns and in villages where public facilities are available per the Future Land Use Map.**

Objective 5.3.1 Inclusive residential growth

Objective 5.3.2 Middle housing

Objective 5.3.3 Public water and sewer

Objective 5.3.4 Information on workforce housing

Objective 5.3.5 Workforce housing

**Goal 5.4**

**All residents should have decent, safe and sanitary housing in good repair.**

Objective 5.4.1 Public information

Objective 5.4.2 Improving deficient housing

Objective 5.4.3 Housing those in crisis.

Objective 5.4.4 Increase availability of affordable housing.

Objective 5.4.5 Resources to those in crisis.

**Goal 5.5**

**Save historic buildings and utilize vacant ones.**

Objective 5.5.1 Work with Towns

Objective 5.5.2 Work with private sector

Objective 5.5.3 Preservation zoning.

Objective 5.5.4 Outreach and education.

Objective 5.5.5 Incentive programs.

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**Goal 5.1**

**Information on affordable housing and housing overall will be made publicly available.**

Objective 5.1.1 Define Affordable Housing

To better understand the term "affordable housing" and the relationship of type of housing availability to affordability, the County needs to know the income levels of all residents, their location in the County, and the available housing stock by type and location in the County.

Objective 5.1.2 Inventory Affordable Housing

An inventory of the number of affordable housing units per income group should be accessible by the public.

Objective 5.1.3 Staff support

Staff will be provided support to inform elected officials when changes and demands in the regional and local housing market may impact the affordability of housing for county residents.

Objective 5.1.4 Updating ordinances.

The County should continually review ordinances and search for added opportunities to add inventory and affordability to the local housing inventory to meet the demands of the changing real estate and retail housing market.

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Objective 5.1.5 Building plans

The County will keep an updated set of pre-approved building plans that would allow for the expedition of new housing construction in specified growth areas on the Future Land Use Map.

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**Goal 5.2**

**Housing will be equally available to all income levels, ages, and backgrounds.**

Objective 5.2.1 Mixture of housing types

Promote a mixture of housing types to meet the affordability of varying income levels.

Objective 5.2.2 Identify shortfalls

Identify shortfalls in certain housing types and location.

Objective 5.2.3 Senior housing development areas

There should be clear areas for the development of senior housing.

Objective 5.2.4 Housing for youth and young adults

There should be more housing opportunities for youth and young adults.

Objective 5.2.5 Housing of all ages in the Towns

The Towns should be coordinated with to allow housing for all ages in areas appropriate in the Towns.

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**Goal 5.3**

**Residential growth will occur in the towns and in villages where public facilities are available per the Future Land Use Map.**

Objective 5.3.1 Inclusive residential growth

Residential growth will include all levels of affordability.

Objective 5.3.2 Middle housing

Middle housing types should be encouraged.

Objective 5.3.3 Public water and sewer

Residential growth should be tied to public water and sewer availability.

Objective 5.3.4 Information on workforce housing

Identify industry or employment specific housing availability and affordability based on location and available wage information in support not only of housing goals but support for employment goals and overall county economic development goals.

Objective 5.3.5 Workforce housing

Work in cooperation with county and town officials and employers to determine and identify housing type and affordability solutions.

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**Goal 5.4**

**All residents should have decent, safe and sanitary housing in good repair.**

Objective 5.4.1 Public information

Information on resources for housing improvements will be shared with the public.

Objective 5.4.2 Improving deficient housing

Support the improvement of deficient housing stock.

Objective 5.4.3 Housing those in crisis.

Assist those in crisis of not having housing or on the verge of losing decent, safe, and sanitary housing to be housed in an adequate home.

Objective 5.4.4 Increase availability of affordable housing.

Promote the development of mixed-income communities to ensure that low-income residents have access to safe, decent, and affordable housing in neighborhoods with access to jobs, transportation, and other amenities.

Objective 5.4.5 Resources to those in crisis.

Develop and implement supportive housing programs that provide stable and safe housing options for homeless individuals and families, and provide them with access to necessary services such as healthcare, mental health support, job training, and other resources to help them transition out of homelessness.

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**Goal 5.5**

**Save historic buildings and utilize vacant ones.**

Objective 5.5.1 Work with Towns

The County will work with each Town to encourage the redevelopment of buildings.

Objective 5.5.2 Work with private sector

The County will work with private sector developers or outside not for profit agencies.

Objective 5.5.3 Preservation zoning.

Implement zoning regulations that encourage the preservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings and the conversion of vacant properties into mixed-use developments that provide affordable housing, retail, and public amenities.

Objective 5.5.4 Outreach and education.

Create public outreach and education programs that highlight the value of historic preservation and the potential uses of vacant properties, and engage residents, stakeholders, and local businesses in the planning and implementation of preservation and adaptive reuse projects.

Objective 5.5.5 Incentive programs.

Provide incentives such as tax credits, grants, and low-interest loans to property owners to rehabilitate historic buildings and reuse vacant properties for residential, commercial, and community purposes.

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# Chapter 6: Community Services And Facilities

**VISION:** County residents shall have easy access to community services and facilities – in person or online – in order to satisfy their personal, family or business needs.

**RELATIONSHIP TO THE VISION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:** Community services are a major element in day-to-day living in the County, where residents use or interact with community services and/or use community facilities in their normal routines every day. Making certain they have access to those resources – in person or online – is vital to ensuring the County is a great place to live and work.

By the year 2045 the following Goals and Objectives shall be completed through the Strategies and Actions herein detailed:


**Goal 6.1**
**Public information will be clearly shared with and be accessible to all the public.**
- Objective 6.1.1: Comprehensive public information strategy.
- Objective 6.1.2: County updates to be public.
- Objective 6.1.3: Regular training and education.
- Objective 6.1.4: Multilingual capabilities.
- Objective 6.1.5: Public forums.


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**Goal 6.2**

**Our communities will have robust Capital Improvement and Service Improvement Plans and will use a diverse range of financial funding sources for public improvement.**

- Objective 6.2.1: Updated CIP.
- Objective 6.2.2: Consistency of County and Town CIPs.
- Objective 6.2.3: Joint County and Towns SIP.
- Objective 6.2.4: School CIP and SIP
- Objective 6.2.5: Modern data analysis.
- Objective 6.2.6: Grants.
- Objective 6.2.7: Public-private partnerships.
- Objective 6.2.8: Implement land value capture.
- Objective 6.2.9: Diversify tax sources.
- Objective 6.2.10: Bonds for long-term investments.

**Goal 6.3**

**Support and encourage/recruit services that benefit the public.**

- Objective 6.3.1: Database on services.
- Objective 6.3.2: Increase restaurant opportunities.
- Objective 6.3.3: Increase grocery store opportunities.
- Objective 6.3.4: Increase entertainment opportunities.
- Objective 6.3.5: Increase business incubation spaces.
- Objective 6.3.6: Strategic development.

**Goal 6.4**

**Provide quality trash and recycling services throughout the County.**

- Objective 6.4.1: Quality convenience sites.
- Objective 6.4.2 Reduce non-trash.
- Objective 6.4.3: Quality landfill
- Objective 6.4.4: Enhance education.
- Objective 6.4.5: Clean up littered areas.

**Goal 6.5**

**There will be library services and public or privately owned semi-public gathering spaces in every Town and village.**

- Objective 6.5.1 Town Halls.
- Objective 6.5.2 Social Halls.
- Objective 6.5.3 Remote library services
- Objective 6.5.4 Invest in existing libraries.

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Objective 6.5.5 Encourage free little libraries.

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**Goal 6.1**

**Public information will be clearly shared with and be accessible to all the public.**

Objective 6.1.1: Comprehensive public information strategy.

Develop and implement a comprehensive public information strategy that identifies the types of information to be shared, the methods for sharing that information, and the target audience for each type of information including multilingual services.

Objective 6.1.2: County updates to be public.

News on actions by County officials, departments or personnel will be regularly disseminated to the public through multiple media outlets, including social media.

Objective 6.1.3: Regular training and education.

Provide regular training and education for government staff on effective communication strategies and best practices for sharing public information, as well as the importance of transparency and accountability in government.

Objective 6.1.4: Multilingual capabilities.

Expand multilingual capabilities of government staff, departments, and services through increased access to training, technology, and additional resources.

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Objective 6.1.5: Public forums.

Expand access to open spaces, or agoras, both physical and digital for the public to openly discuss and provide feedback on information and ongoing events and projects.

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**Goal 6.2**

**Our communities will have robust Capital Improvement and Service Improvement Plans and will use a diverse range of financial funding sources for public improvement.**

Objective 6.2.1: Updated CIP.

The County will maintain a current and thorough Capital Improvement Plan ("CIP").

Objective 6.2.2: Consistency of County and Town CIPs.

The County will assist each Town to ensure their CIPs are current and thorough and are not contradictory to that of the County.

Objective 6.2.3: Joint County and Towns SIP.

The County and Towns will jointly maintain a current and thorough Service Improvement Plan ("SIP")

Objective 6.2.4: School CIP and SIP

The County and Towns will work with the Shenandoah County Schools system to ensure their CIPs and SIPs are all consistent and updated.

Objective 6.2.5: Modern data analysis.

The County will maintain a modern method to analyzing the data for CIP's and SIP's with the use of Capital Impact Models, Service Impact Models, Fiscal Impact Models, and other useful data analysis and collection tools.

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Objective 6.2.6: Grants.

Seek Grant Funding

Objective 6.2.7: Public-private partnerships.

Encourage the use of public-private partnerships ("PPP") to fund public facilities and services.

Objective 6.2.8: Implement land value capture.

Implement strategies of land value capture to ensure benefits of private investments are captured and put towards funding public improvements which will in turn spur more private investments.

Objective 6.2.9: Diversify tax sources.

Diversify the sources of various taxes and the types of taxes that fund public improvements.

Objective 6.2.10: Bonds for long-term investments.

Utilize bonds to fund long-term investments.

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**Goal 6.3**

**Support and encourage/recruit services that benefit the public.**

Objective 6.3.1: Database on services.

Develop and maintain database on local private service and goods providers and make that information available to the public.

Objective 6.3.2: Increase restaurant opportunities.

Grow and retain local restaurant options while limiting or preventing further chain restaurants.

Objective 6.3.3: Increase grocery store opportunities.

Grow and retain grocery store options of a variety of kinds, sizes, and types.

Objective 6.3.4: Increase entertainment opportunities.

Encourage new and retain existing entertainment options in key locations.

Objective 6.3.5: Increase business incubation spaces.

Encourage new and retain existing business incubation spaces in key locations.

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Objective 6.3.6: Strategic development.

Development will occur in areas that meet the time access requirements set by the public and build on to existing public and private investments per the Future Land Use Map.

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**Goal 6.4**

**Provide quality trash and recycling services throughout the County.**

Objective 6.4.1: Quality convenience sites.

The County will provide quality convenience sites for the disposal of trash and recycling throughout the County.

Objective 6.4.2 Reduce non-trash.

Reduce the amount of recyclable, reusable, and compostable items from entering the landfill.

Objective 6.4.3: Quality landfill

The County will provide a quality and safe landfill for the disposal of trash.

Objective 6.4.4: Enhance education.

Enhance education about the importance of recycling and waste reduction, providing information on what can and cannot be recycled, and promoting best practices for reducing waste.

Objective 6.4.5: Clean up littered areas.

Identify and clean up dump sites, waterways, roadsides, and other areas of litter throughout the county.

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**Goal 6.5**

**There will be library services and public or privately owned semi-public gathering spaces in every Town and village.**

Objective 6.5.1 Town Halls.

Support the maintenance, expansion, and establishment of Town Halls with meeting spaces in each Town and large villages.

Objective 6.5.2 Social Halls.

As volunteer organizations, religious followings and other community-based groups dwindle, social halls that remain open should be supported. For those that close, the buildings and structures should be converted into new viable semipublic use and not fall into disrepair.

Objective 6.5.3 Remote library services

Bring library services to more remote areas of the County.

Objective 6.5.4 Invest in existing libraries.

Invest in the expansion of the resources and size of existing libraries.

Objective 6.5.5 Encourage free little libraries.

Encourage the creation and retention of free little libraries throughout the County.

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# Chapter 7: Education

VISION:

All Shenandoah County residents will have the chance to attain a well-rounded education that encompasses applied learning and performance skills to ensure fulfilling careers and contribute to the civic and economic progress of our community.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE VISION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Supplying appropriate educational facilities will ensure the County can provide all levels of education to develop skills within our community. Further, by providing quality educational opportunities we can assure that the County will be a great place to live and work.

By the year 2045 the following Goals and Objectives shall be completed through the Strategies and Actions herein detailed:

**Goal 7.1**

**All public education facilities will be up to date and have adequate space and equipment.**

- Objective 7.1.1 Rehabilitate facilities.
- Objective 7.1.2 Modernize facilities.
- Objective 7.1.3 Expand with the population.
- Objective 7.1.4 Remove temporary spaces.
- Objective 7.1.5 Adequate size of facilities.
- Objective 7.1.6 Space for disabled students.
- Objective 7.1.7 Space for specialty professionals.

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Objective 7.1.8 Office space.

Objective 7.1.9 Security.

**Goal 7.2**

**Support our educators to ensure our residents continue to have access to quality instructors and staff.**

Objective 7.2.1 Professional development.

Objective 7.2.2 Regionally competitive salary and benefits.

Objective 7.2.3. Access to affordable housing.

Objective 7.2.4 Foster community partnerships.

Objective 7.2.5 Continue a supportive work environment.

Objective 7.2.6 Good instructor and guardian relationships.

Objective 7.2.7 Support appropriate discipline.

Objective 7.2.8 Crisis management employees.

Objective 7.2.9 Career preparation professionals.

**Goal 7.3**

**We will support and promote the arts in all its forms and provide high-quality arts education opportunities for all residents.**

Objective 7.3.1 Artistic centers.

Objective 7.3.2 Partner with outside organizations.

Objective 7.3.3 Market events.

Objective 7.3.4 Increase community programming.

Objective 7.3.5 Increase access to arts education.

**Goal 7.4**

**We will support and promote technical, vocational, and critical education and training opportunities for all residents.**

Objective 7.4.1 Additional classrooms.

Objective 7.4.2 Continued workforce outreach.

Objective 7.4.3 Access to internships.

Objective 7.4.4 Partner with outside organizations.

Objective 7.4.5 Increase transportation to votech.

Objective 7.4.6 Night school

Objective 7.4.7 Remove location barriers.

Objective 7.4.8 Critical skills.

Objective 7.4.9 Technology courses.

Objective 7.4.10 English as a second language.

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Objective 7.4.11 Foreign languages.
Objective 7.4.12 Higher education opportunities.
Objective 7.4.13 Market opportunities.

**Goal 7.5**

**We will provide a strong foundation for all students by supporting education at a young age in Shenandoah County.**

Objective 7.5.1 High-quality early childhood education programs for all.
Objective 7.5.2 Quality trained instructors.
Objective 7.5.3 Seamless transition.
Objective 7.5.4 Guardian involvement.
Objective 7.5.5 Establish partnerships.
Objective 7.5.6 Healthy policies and practices.
Objective 7.5.7 Gather information.

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**Goal 7.1**

**All public education facilities will be up to date and have adequate space and equipment.**

Objective 7.1.1 Rehabilitate facilities.

Rehabilitate or remodel facilities to replace worn out items and reshape space to meet current requirements.

Objective 7.1.2 Modernize facilities.

Modernize facilities to ensure the current standards for structure, education, technology, and environment are met.

Objective 7.1.3 Expand with the population.

Expand for student body growth and maintain an acceptable capacity.

Objective 7.1.4 Remove temporary spaces.

Removal of outdated, temporary classroom space

Objective 7.1.5 Adequate size of facilities.

Address overcrowding and ensure schools are of adequate size to provide for the safety of students and provide outdoor play areas, bus loading and unloading, parking facilities, and cafeterias for students, staff, and visitors.

Objective 7.1.6 Space for disabled students.

There will be proper and adequate space and equipment for disabled students.

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Objective 7.1.7 Space for specialty professionals.

There will be adequate space for specialty professionals such as mental health staff and counselors.

Objective 7.1.8 Office space.

There will be adequate space for offices for school staff.

Objective 7.1.9 Security.

All facilities will be properly safe and secure.

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**Goal 7.2**

**Support our educators to ensure our residents continue to have access to quality instructors and staff.**

Objective 7.2.1 Professional development.

To retain instructors and staff and allow them to grow, they should have access to professional development opportunities and be commended and compensated for such growth.

Objective 7.2.2 Regionally competitive salary and benefits.

Instructors and staff will be paid regionally competitive salaries and benefits that are relevant to the time and updated appropriately.

Objective 7.2.3. Access to affordable housing.

Every instructor and staff member will be able to afford housing in the County.

Objective 7.2.4 Foster community partnerships.

Develop and grow partnerships in the community with businesses, organizations, and local governments so the community, students, and school instructors and staff are more familiar with each other and respect each other more.

Objective 7.2.5 Continue a supportive work environment.

Support and commend instructors and staff through a supportive work environment as well as administratively.

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Objective 7.2.6 Good instructor and guardian relationships.

There will be good working relationships between instructors and guardians.

Objective 7.2.7 Support appropriate discipline.

Instructors and staff will be supported in the appropriate discipline of misbehavior.

Objective 7.2.8 Crisis management employees.

Instructors, staff, and students will be supported in crisis with appropriate employees for the situation including mental health counselors, psychologists, School Resource Officers, mediators for student disagreements and fights, and other related professionals.

Objective 7.2.9 Career preparation professionals.

Instructors and staff will be supported by professionals who will guide and advise students on career development and preparation, so they better understand and respect the value of the instructors and staff.

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**Goal 7.3**

**We will support and promote the arts in all its forms and provide high-quality arts education opportunities for all residents.**

Objective 7.3.1 Artistic centers.

Provide space for artistic performances and shows across the County.

Objective 7.3.2 Partner with outside organizations.

Partner with outside organizations to increase access to courses, performance spaces, and programming.

Objective 7.3.3 Market events.

Market ongoing and new events in and around the community.

Objective 7.3.4 Increase community programming.

Increase the number of community programming events and opportunities for the arts.

Objective 7.3.5 Increase access to arts education.

Expand existing and implement new opportunities for arts education.

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**Goal 7.4**

**We will support and promote technical, vocational, and critical education and training opportunities for all residents.**

Objective 7.4.1 Additional classrooms.

Additional classroom space will be provided for vocational Career and Technical Vocation education programs.

Objective 7.4.2 Continued workforce outreach.

Continued development of Workforce Outreach.

Objective 7.4.3 Access to internships.

Students will have access to internship opportunities.

Objective 7.4.4 Partner with outside organizations.

Partner with outside organizations to increase access to existing and new training programs.

Objective 7.4.5 Increase transportation to votech.

Invest and support in connecting residents with votech opportunities in and outside the County with shared transportation.

Objective 7.4.6 Night school

Allow for schools to be used in the evenings and nights for the instruction of vocational education.

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Objective 7.4.7 Remove location barriers.

Remove barriers votech training organizations locating in the County such as reforming zoning.

Objective 7.4.8 Critical skills.

Expand learning opportunities to increase critical knowledge, skills, and credentials.

Objective 7.4.9 Technology courses.

Provide learning opportunities in the use of computers and related technology.

Objective 7.4.10 English as a second language.

English as a second language learning opportunities will be easily available to all residents.

Objective 7.4.11 Foreign languages.

Foreign language learning opportunities will be easily available to all residents.

Objective 7.4.12 Higher education opportunities.

There will be greater access to higher education opportunities for all residents.

Objective 7.4.13 Market opportunities.

Market career and training opportunities for both students and residents so they are more aware of the opportunities available to them.

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**Goal 7.5**

**We will provide a strong foundation for all students by supporting education at a young age in Shenandoah County.**

Objective 7.5.1 High-quality early childhood education programs for all.

All children will have access to high-quality early childhood education programs, such as pre-school and Head Start, that promote social-emotional, cognitive, and physical development for all including those from low-income families, children of color, children with disabilities, and children with limited English proficiency.

Objective 7.5.2 Quality trained instructors.

Professional development opportunities and resources for early childhood educators to ensure they have the knowledge, skills, and support needed to provide effective instruction and support for young learners emphasizing cultural competency, trauma-informed care, and evidence-based teaching strategies that support the development and well-being of all children.

Objective 7.5.3 Seamless transition.

We will establish partnerships between schools, families, and community organizations to create a seamless transition between early childhood education programs and elementary schools.

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Objective 7.5.4 Guardian involvement.

To provide opportunities for guardians to engage in their children's education, such as guardian education classes, family literacy programs, home visitation programs, guardian-child playgroups, and guardian-teacher conferences.

Objective 7.5.5 Establish partnerships.

Establish partnerships between schools, families, and community organizations that promote early literacy development, including partnerships with public libraries, community-based organizations, and businesses that support early learning.

Objective 7.5.6 Healthy policies and practices.

Promote policies and practices that support the well-being and healthy development of young children, including policies that address food insecurity, housing instability, and access to health care services.

Objective 7.5.7 Gather information.

To promote a culture of continuous learning and improvement, we will regularly assess the quality and effectiveness of early childhood education programs and implementing evidence-based practices to enhance student outcomes including data on student outcomes and family engagement, to inform continuous improvement efforts.

DRAFT

# Chapter 8: Health

**Vision:** County residents will have access to affordable health care through a combination of private and public providers but where services are scarce, emergency services will be no less than 15 minutes away.

**RELATIONSHIP TO THE VISION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:** Health care is central to residents' quality of life. Good health care reflects the Comprehensive Plan's call for "policies and public services that enhance the quality of life" and provides the building blocks to a well-trained workforce and stable community.

By the year 2045 the following Goals and Objectives shall be completed through the Strategies and Actions herein detailed:


**Goal 8.1**
**Children will grow up in safe, stable, and nurturing environments.**
- Objective 8.1.1 Raise awareness.
- Objective 8.1.2 Support parents and guardians.
- Objective 8.1.3 Stop ongoing abuse or neglect.
- Objective 8.1.4 Supportive communities.
- Objective 8.1.5 Strengthen and expand resources.


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**Goal 8.2**

**The county will be known for its healthy lifestyle.**

- Objective 8.2.1 Preventative care.
- Objective 8.2.2 Causes of poor health.
- Objective 8.2.3 Healthy food for all.
- Objective 8.2.4 Basic needs met.
- Objective 8.2.5 Culture of physical activity

**Goal 8.3**

**Critical medical services will be available 24/7.**

- Objective 8.3.1 Emergency medical services.
- Objective 8.3.2 Urgent care.
- Objective 8.3.3 Build capacity in existing places.
- Objective 8.3.4 Care for domestic violence victims.
- Objective 8.3.5 Birthing in Shenandoah County.

**Goal 8.4**

**Access to medical care will be accessible and affordable to all.**

- Objective 8.4.1 Information easily accessible.
- Objective 8.4.2 Affordable insurance.
- Objective 8.4.3 Free/community clinics.
- Objective 8.4.4 Telehealth availability.
- Objective 8.4.5 Provide options.
- Objective 8.4.6 Strategic development
- Objective 8.4.7 Training available.
- Objective 8.4.8 Shelter is health care.

**Goal 8.5**

**Mental health services are readily available, including those for addiction services.**

- Objective 8.5.1 Availability throughout the day.
- Objective 8.5.2 Access throughout County.
- Objective 8.5.3 Connect with public transportation.
- Objective 8.5.4 Support in schools
- Objective 8.5.5 Telehealth.
- Objective 8.5.6 Care for homeless.
- Objective 8.5.7: Living near mental health resources.

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**Goal 8.1**

**Children will grow up in safe, stable, and nurturing environments.**

Objective 8.1.1 Raise awareness.

Raise awareness and commitment to promote safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.

Objective 8.1.2 Support parents and guardians.

Change social norms to support parents and positive parenting.

Objective 8.1.3 Stop ongoing abuse or neglect.

Children have a right to environments which are not abusive or neglectful.

Objective 8.1.4 Supportive communities.

Foster supportive community environments for children to grow up in.

Objective 8.1.5 Strengthen and expand resources.

Strengthen and expand resources and services for at-risk children and families.

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**Goal 8.2**

**The county will be known for its healthy lifestyle.**

Objective 8.2.1 Preventative care.

Emphasize prevention as central tenet of health care

Objective 8.2.2 Causes of poor health.

Reduce negative health outcomes.

Objective 8.2.3 Healthy food for all.

Increase access to healthy foods for all residents and visitors.

Objective 8.2.4 Basic needs met.

Residents do not have to choose between paying rent, or medicine to pay for food or other necessities.

Objective 8.2.5 Culture of physical activity

Create a community-wide culture of physical activity and outdoor recreation, promoting regular exercise and healthy lifestyle habits to improve overall health and well-being in the county.

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**Goal 8.3**

**Critical medical services will be available 24/7.**

Objective 8.3.1 Emergency medical services.

Emergency medical services will be available within a 15-minute response time.

Objective 8.3.2 Urgent care.

Urgent care services will be available 24/7 in key locations around the county.

Objective 8.3.3 Build capacity in existing places.

Encourage the establishment of "minute clinic" style services at existing local and commercial pharmacies, local schools, and existing medical facilities.

Objective 8.3.4 Care for domestic violence victims.

Victims of domestic violence (women, men, and children) are entitled to receive immediate rescue and attention, including access to emergency health care and shelter services.

Objective 8.3.5 Birthing in Shenandoah County.

Families have access to a full spectrum of child health care.

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**Goal 8.4**

**Access to medical care will be accessible and affordable to all.**

Objective 8.4.1 Information easily accessible.

Information will be readily available on reduced or free cost health services, including dental care.

Objective 8.4.2 Affordable insurance.

Local insurance providers, including Medicare and Medicaid, will allow for affordable medical care.

Objective 8.4.3 Free/community clinics.

Expand and improve opportunities provided by free / community clinics.

Objective 8.4.4 Telehealth availability.

Community health providers will collaborate on providing internet-based face-to-face medical advice.

Objective 8.4.5 Provide options.

Residents can choose homes close to major medical care.

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Objective 8.4.6 Strategic development

Development of new housing more than a 15-minute drive from a bricks-and-mortar medical center or hospital facility will be limited.

Objective 8.4.7 Training available.

There will be opportunities to train as a medical care worker.

Objective 8.4.8 Shelter is health care.

Promote access to safe, affordable, and stable housing for all residents to improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities.

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**Goal 8.5**

**Mental health services are readily available, including those for addiction services.**

Objective 8.5.1 Availability throughout the day.

On-site intake is available throughout the day, every day.

Objective 8.5.2 Access throughout County.

Intake offices are located throughout the county.

Objective 8.5.3 Connect with public transportation.

Public transporation stops at mental health care locations.

Objective 8.5.4 Support in schools

All schools have on-site mental health counselors on a daily basis.

Objective 8.5.5 Telehealth.

Mental health services can be provided to the patient on-site or by teleconference. In-home service is available on an as-needed basis.

Objective 8.5.6 Care for homeless.

The homeless receive specialized care.

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Objective 8.5.7: Living near mental health resources.

Residents can choose housing within an 18-minute drive of a bricks and mortar mental health care facility.

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# Chapter 9: Emergency Services, Infrastructure, And Technology

**Vision:**

Provide an integrated, responsive, and secure technology environment that advances and supports exceptional county services, support, innovation, and resident care.

## RELATIONSHIP TO THE VISION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Reliable and effective emergency services, infrastructure, and technology are necessary to protect county constituents as well as conserve local environmental, recreational, and cultural resources. Lastly, an interconnected and modern infrastructure promotes collaboration and partnerships between private and public entities.

By the year 2045 the following Goals and Objectives shall be completed through the Strategies and Actions herein detailed:


**Goal 9.1**
**Shenandoah County will lead the State in the adoption and implementation of 4th Industrial Revolution Technologies**
- Objective 9.1.1 Comprehensive integration plan.
- Objective 9.1.2 Public Private Partnerships.
- Objective 9.1.3 Collaboration with key stakeholders.
- Objective 9.1.4 Encourage investment.
- Objective 9.1.5 Supportive regulatory environment.
- Objective 9.1.6 Educational programs.
- Objective 9.1.7 Promotion and attraction.


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Objective 9.1.8 Innovation hubs.
Objective 9.1.9 Modern IT standards
Objective 9.1.10 Increased public awareness.

**Goal 9.2**
**We will invest in infrastructure for the 22nd century.**
Objective 9.2.1 Invest in latest FCC cellular standards.
Objective 9.2.2 Latest FCC internet standards.
Objective 9.2.3 Integrate AI in everything.
Objective 9.2.4 Energy independence and redundancy.
Objective 9.2.5 Modernize water infrastructure.
Objective 9.2.6 Advanced waste management.
Objective 9.2.7 Ensure infrastructure is resilient.
Objective 9.2.8 Natural gas pipelines to remain safe.
Objective 9.2.9 Invest in smart infrastructure.
Objective 9.2.10 Digital integration with physical reality.
Objective 9.2.11 Advanced software for government functions.

**Goal 9.3**
**Fire and Rescue Services will be the best in the State.**
Objective 9.3.1 Comprehensive fire prevention program
Objective 9.3.2 Increased training and certification
Objective 9.3.3 Upgrade equipment
Objective 9.3.4 Collaboration
Objective 9.3.5 Expand capabilities
Objective 9.3.6 Training facility
Objective 9.3.7 Grants and partnerships
Objective 9.3.8 Strong community relationships
Objective 9.3.9 Comprehensive emergency response plan
Objective 9.3.10 Department policies and procedures

**Goal 9.4**
**Law Enforcement Services will be the best in the State.**
Objective 9.4.1 Increased training and certification
Objective 9.4.2 Upgrade equipment
Objective 9.4.3 Community policing
Objective 9.4.4 Increase training funding

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Objective 9.4.5 Expand capabilities
Objective 9.4.6 Address drug abuse
Objective 9.4.7 Establish partnerships
Objective 9.4.8 Accountability
Objective 9.4.9 Expand outreach
Objective 9.4.10 Review and update policies
Objective 9.4.11 Liaison with local and federal law enforcement

**Goal 9.5**
**The County will be carbon neutral.**
Objective 9.5.1 Carbon reduction plan
Objective 9.5.2. Smart grid system
Objective 9.5.3 Policies and incentives for renewable energy
Objective 9.5.4 Energy efficient public buildings
Objective 9.5.5 Seek funding.
Objective 9.5.6 Plant trees.
Objective 9.5.7 Increase non-motorized transportation.
Objective 9.5.8 New development to be walkable.

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**Goal 9.1**

**Shenandoah County will lead the State in the adoption and implementation of 4th Industrial Revolution Technologies**

Objective 9.1.1 Comprehensive integration plan.

County leadership will develop a comprehensive plan to integrate 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies into the county's infrastructure and agriculture.

Objective 9.1.2 Public Private Partnerships.

County leadership will partner with local businesses, organizations, and educational institutions to promote a skilled workforce with the knowledge and expertise to support the integration of 4IR technologies.

Objective 9.1.3 Collaboration with key stakeholders.

The County will establish and maintain strong relationships with key stakeholders, including local businesses, community leaders, and other government agencies, to share information and resources, and to identify and address challenges and opportunities related to the adoption of new technologies..

Objective 9.1.4 Encourage investment.

County Government will encourage investment, research and development to support 4IR technologies and their application in infrastructure and agriculture.

Objective 9.1.5 Supportive regulatory environment.

The County will create a supportive regulatory environment to encourage the development and adoption of 4IR technologies.

Objective 9.1.6 Educational programs.

The County will partner with regional educational institutions to aid in the development and implementation of educational programs and initiatives to inform the community about the benefits and opportunities of new technologies.

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Objective 9.1.7 Promotion and attraction.

The County will promote itself as a leader in the adoption of 4IR technologies, and work to attract businesses and organizations that are interested in leveraging these technologies.

Objective 9.1.8 Innovation hubs.
Encourage and assist in the establishment of innovation hubs digitally and physically throughout the County to spur discussion on the implementation and advancement of 4IR technologies.

Objective 9.1.9 Modern IT standards

There will be modern, uniform IT standards, as well as a centralized authority to mitigate cybersecurity vulnerabilities across the county government enterprise.

Objective 9.1.10 Increased public awareness.

Create awareness among the County's residents about the community and personal benefits and potential of 4th Industrial Revolution Technologies and encourage their participation and support in the growth of this sector.

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**Goal 9.2**

**We will invest in infrastructure for the 22nd century.**

Objective 9.2.1 Invest in latest FCC cellular standards.

All Shenandoah County residents will have access to the latest FCC regulated communications technology.

Objective 9.2.2 Latest FCC internet standards.

All the County will have access to the most recent FCC standards for broadband internet services.

Objective 9.2.3 Integrate AI in everything.
Work to integrate AI into all government functions, private businesses, and other organizations to increase their capacity and efficiency.

Objective 9.2.4 Energy independence and redundancy.

Create backup systems and redundancies in the electric grid as well as energy generation and storage facilities to prevent power outages and ensure reliable access to electricity for residents and businesses without dependence on external energy producers.

Objective 9.2.5 Modernize water infrastructure.

Upgrade the physical infrastructure of water treatment plants, distribution systems, and storage facilities to improve water quality and ensure reliable access to clean water for residents and businesses.

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Objective 9.2.6 Advanced waste management.

Implement sustainable waste management practices that minimize waste generation, maximize resource recovery, and reduce the environmental impacts of waste disposal by upgrading the physical infrastructure of waste management systems and promoting coordination and consolidation among waste management agencies.

Objective 9.2.7 Ensure infrastructure is resilient.

Improve the physical infrastructure of roads, bridges, and other public structures to make them more resistant to damage from natural disasters or other emergencies.

Objective 9.2.8 Natural gas pipelines to remain safe.

Implement measures to detect and prevent gas leaks, as well as improving the physical infrastructure of the pipelines to reduce the risk of accidents or other incidents.

Objective 9.2.9 Invest in smart infrastructure.

Implement new technology and systems to improve the efficiency of public services and infrastructure, such as transportation, energy, and communication systems as part of the Internet of Things and related efforts.

Objective 9.2.10 Digital integration with physical reality.

Support and make sustained investments in technology infrastructure, digital education and literacy, public space interaction areas, and accessible telehealth and telemedicine services.

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Objective 9.2.11 Advanced software for government functions.

Invest in new software and technology to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government services and functions.

**Goal 9.3**

**Fire and Rescue Services will be the best in the State.**

Objective 9.3.1 Comprehensive fire prevention program

Leadership will develop and implement a comprehensive fire prevention program for the community.

Objective 9.3.2 Increased training and certification

County Government will increase the number of trained and certified firefighters and emergency medical responders.

Objective 9.3.3 Upgrade equipment

Upgrade firefighting equipment and vehicles to ensure they are modern and effective

Objective 9.3.4 Collaboration

Increase the department's collaboration and coordination with other emergency services in the county

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Objective 9.3.5 Expand capabilities

Expand the department's ability to respond to a wider range of emergencies, including natural disasters and hazardous materials incidents.

Objective 9.3.6 Training facility

Establish and maintain a dedicated training facility to ensure firefighters and emergency responders have access to the latest training and equipment.

Objective 9.3.7 Grants and partnerships

Increase funding and support for the department through grants and partnerships with local businesses and organizations as well as the Federal Government.

Objective 9.3.8 Strong community relationships

Establish and maintain strong relationships with community leaders and organizations to better understand and serve the needs of the community.

Objective 9.3.9 Comprehensive emergency response plan

Develop and implement a comprehensive emergency response plan for the county.

Objective 9.3.10 Department policies and procedures

Regularly review and update department policies and procedures to ensure they align with best practices and industry standards.

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**Goal 9.4**

**Law Enforcement Services will be the best in the State.**

Objective 9.4.1 Increased training and certification

Increase the number of trained and certified law enforcement officers in the county.

Objective 9.4.2 Upgrade equipment

Invest in technology and equipment to enhance the department's ability to prevent and investigate crime.

Objective 9.4.3 Community policing

Develop and implement community policing strategies to improve relationships between law enforcement and the community.

Objective 9.4.4 Increase training funding

Increase funding for law enforcement training and professional development opportunities.

Objective 9.4.5 Expand capabilities

Enhance the department's ability to respond to and investigate crimes involving technology, such as cybercrime and internet fraud.

Objective 9.4.6 Address drug abuse

Develop and implement strategies to address drug abuse and addiction in the community.

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Objective 9.4.7 Establish partnerships

Establish partnerships and collaborations with other law enforcement agencies and organizations to share resources and expertise.

Objective 9.4.8 Accountability

Implement policies and procedures to ensure that the department is accountable and transparent to the community.

Objective 9.4.9 Expand outreach

Expand the department's outreach and education efforts to inform the community about crime prevention and safety.

Objective 9.4.10 Review and update policies

Regularly review and update department policies and procedures to ensure they align with best practices and industry standards.

Objective 9.4.11 Liaison with local and federal law enforcement

There will be liaison relationships with local and federal law enforcement entities to enhance information/intelligence sharing regarding threats to local critical infrastructure.

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**Goal 9.5**

**The County will be carbon neutral.**

Objective 9.5.1 Carbon reduction plan

The County will implement a carbon and climate reduction plan.

Objective 9.5.2. Smart grid system

The County will implement a smart grid system.

Objective 9.5.3 Policies and incentives for renewable energy

The County will implement policies and incentives to encourage the adoption of renewable energy technologies sited in appropriate locations per the Future Land Use Map.

Objective 9.5.4 Energy efficient public buildings

The County Government will promote energy efficient buildings.

Objective 9.5.5 Seek funding.

The County will seek funding and other resources to achieve carbon neutrality.

Objective 9.5.6 Plant trees.

Increase the number of trees across the County.

Objective 9.5.7 Increase non-motorized transportation.

Promote modes of transportation that do not rely on motorized vehicles, such as walking, cycling, and public transit.

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Objective 9.5.8 New development to be walkable.

Ensure new developments are designed in a way that prioritizes pedestrian access and safety and occur in areas identified on the Future Land Use Map.

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# Chapter 10: Recreation

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

**RELATIONSHIP TO THE VISION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:** As a way to improve and enhance the quality of life in Shenandoah County, a robust menu of recreational opportunities should be part and parcel of services provided to residents and visitors. Whether set in the grant natural resources of the county, or in indoor recreation facilities, recreation is one of the main reasons people live in Shenandoah.

By the year 2045 the following Goals and Objectives shall be completed through the Strategies and Actions herein detailed:


**Goal 10.1**
**There will be indoor recreation centers for public use.**
Objective 10.1.1: New centers
Objective 10.1.2: Updating existing centers
Objective 10.2.3 Centers to be accessible.
Objective 10.2.4 Local gyms and small centers.
Objective 10.2.5 Specialty centers.


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**Goal 10.2**

**There will be a system of accessible to all interconnected trails and parks throughout the County.**

- Objective 10.2.1: Trails along easement lines.
- Objective 10.2.2: Tuscarora trail.
- Objective 10.2.3: County parks.
- Objective 10.2.4: Local parks.
- Objective 10.2.5: Simplify recreational management.
- Objective 10.2.6: Accessibility
- Objective 10.2.7: Special use parks.
- Objective 10.2.8 Including stakeholders.
- Objective 10.2.9 Increase State Parks
- Objective 10.2.10 Shenandoah National Recreation Area

**Goal 10.3**

**The Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail will be the most popular rail trail in the world.**

- Objective 10.3.1 Including stakeholders.
- Objective 10.3.2 Access to services along the trail.
- Objective 10.3.3 Connect to waterways.
- Objective 10.3.4 Regional connections.
- Objective 10.3.5 Safety measures.
- Objective 10.3.6 Promotion and marketing.

**Goal 10.4**

**The Shenandoah River will be healthy and free of contamination and support interconnected swimming, boating, and fishing access points throughout the county.**

- Objective 10.4.1: Reduce pollution.
- Objective 10.4.2: New access sites.
- Objective 10.4.3: Improve signage.
- Objective 10.4.4: Develop portage sites.
- Objective 10.4.5: Repurpose old quarries.

**Goal 10.5**

**The County will be an attractive and safe place for all residents and tourists alike to visit and recreate.**

- Objective 10.5.1 Reduce dead zones.
- Objective 10.5.2 Engage the public.

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Objective 10.5.3 Promote diversity and inclusion.
Objective 10.5.4 Foster volunteerism.
Objective 10.5.5 Recruit outdoor event planners.
Objective 10.5.6 Support youth sports.
Objective 10.5.7 Support adult sports opportunities.
Objective 10.5.8 Provide and promote classes.

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**Goal 10.1**

**There will be indoor recreation centers for public use.**

Objective 10.1.1: New centers

The county will have new indoor recreation centers using public-private partnerships and public investments.

Objective 10.1.2: Updating existing centers

Public school indoor recreation centers will be brought up-to-date or modernized and properly maintained for public use.

Objective 10.2.3 Centers to be accessible.

Indoor recreation centers should be located in areas and constructed in a way that they are easily accessible to all residents, regardless of age, ability, or income level.

Objective 10.2.4 Local gyms and small centers.

Support the development of smaller, locally owned gyms and fitness centers.

Objective 10.2.5 Specialty centers.

Support existing and new specialty indoor recreation centers such as bowling alleys, climbing gyms, trampoline parks, trapeze parks, ice rinks, esports, and other such centers.

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**Goal 10.2**

**There will be a system of accessible to all interconnected trails and parks throughout the County.**

Objective 10.2.1: Trails along easement lines.

There will be trails along access easement lines. (Repetition of 11.2.7)

Objective 10.2.2: Tuscarora trail.

The Tuscarora Trail will be publicly accessible.

Objective 10.2.3: County parks.

County parks will be in each high school district area.

Objective 10.2.4: Local parks.

Local parks will be in towns, villages and hamlets

Objective 10.2.5: Simplify recreational management.

Simplify management of all parks.

Objective 10.2.6: Accessibility

Improve access to all parks and trails.

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Objective 10.2.7: Special use parks.

There are a variety of special use park areas for specific sports beyond the traditional tennis, baseball, basketball and football.

Objective 10.2.8 Including stakeholders.

Every stakeholder group will have a seat at the table for recreational improvements and expansions.

Objective 10.2.9 Increase State Parks

Increase existing and establish new State Parks in and around the County.

Objective 10.2.10 Shenandoah National Recreation Area

Support the establishment of a Shenandoah National Recreation Area and improve the amenities contained to shine a light on the remarkable and unique recreational values of our region.

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**Goal 10.3**

**The Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail will be the most popular rail trail in the world.**

Objective 10.3.1 Including stakeholders.

Every stakeholder group will have a seat at the table when determining the trail build-out, including development of rules and regulations governing usage.

Objective 10.3.2 Access to services along the trail.

Trail riders should experience variable intervals of services along the trail with first priority given to county businesses and entrepreneurs to provide them.

Objective 10.3.3 Connect to waterways.

Connect trails to waterways where feasible.

Objective 10.3.4 Regional connections.

Where appropriate, connections to nearby regional and interstate trails should be made easy and accessible so users can tie into them without disruption.

Objective 10.3.5 Safety measures.

Prioritize safety measures along the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail to ensure that it is a safe and enjoyable experience for all users.

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Objective 10.3.6 Promotion and marketing.

Invest in promotion and marketing efforts so everyone knows this is the best rail trail in the world.

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**Goal 10.4**

**The Shenandoah River will be healthy and free of contamination and support interconnected swimming, boating, and fishing access points throughout the county.**

Objective 10.4.1: Reduce pollution.

Reduce pollution source points to upgrade the health of the river to provide safe swimming, boating and fishing.

Objective 10.4.2: New access sites.

Establish more/new river and stream access sites.

Objective 10.4.3: Improve signage.

Improve signage along the river

Objective 10.4.4: Develop portage sites.

Develop portage sites around existing dams and between the river and trails.

Objective 10.4.5: Repurpose old quarries.

Work with landowners to repurpose old quarries that have filled with water for recreational use.

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**Goal 10.5**

**The County will be an attractive and safe place for all residents and tourists alike to visit and recreate.**

Objective 10.5.1 Reduce dead zones.

Reduce dead zones in the county, especially in open spaces and parks.

Objective 10.5.2 Engage the public.

Engage the public in rewarding out-of-the-house experiences.

Objective 10.5.3 Promote diversity and inclusion.

Promote diversity and inclusion in recreational activities.

Objective 10.5.4 Foster volunteerism.

Foster volunteerism in environmental activities that improve or maintain the county's natural resources.

Objective 10.5.5 Recruit outdoor event planners.

Recruit outdoor event planners, especially athletic ones, to use Shenandoah County for their setting.

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Objective 10.5.6 Support youth sports.

Provide resources and support for youth sports programs to encourage healthy physical activity and community involvement among young people.

Objective 10.5.7 Support adult sports opportunities.

Prioritize providing opportunities for adults to participate in organized sports and fitness activities.

Objective 10.5.8 Provide and promote classes.

Provide and promote a variety of fitness and wellness classes.

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# Chapter 11: Transportation

**VISION:**

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

RELATIONSHIP TO THE VISION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

To be a great place to live and work we will have a multimodal transportation system that supports our rural character for decades to come. To achieve this, we will be responsible stewards in our transportation investments by collaborating with private and public partners.

By the year 2045 the following Goals and Objectives shall be completed through the Strategies and Actions herein detailed:


**Goal 11.1**
**There will be safe roads for all users with less congestion.**
- Objective 11.1.1 Zero pedestrian deaths.
- Objective 11.1.2 Zero vehicular deaths.
- Objective 11.1.3 Zero animal crashes.
- Objective 11.1.4 Zero potholes.
- Objective 11.1.5 Public safety services.
- Objective 11.1.6 Secondary roads improved.


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Objective 11.1.7 Key gravel roads paved, others protected.
Objective 11.1.8 Record deficiencies.
Objective 11.1.9 Alternative to Rt 11 and I81
Objective 11.1.10 Improve Route 55 Instead Of Corridor H
Objective 11.1.11 Low water bridges
Objective 11.1.12 Improve shoulders and pull offs.
Objective 11.1.13 Gather information.

**Goal 11.2**

**There will be an interconnected system of safe pedestrian and bike trails throughout the County.**

Objective 11.2.1 Connected sidewalk networks.
Objective 11.2.2 Fully separated bike lanes.
Objective 11.2.3 Curb-separated bike lanes.
Objective 11.2.4 Bike lanes.
Objective 11.2.5 Shared streets.
Objective 11.2.6 Connect priority destinations.
Objective 11.2.7 Trails along easement lines.
Objective 11.2.8 Post signs and crossings.
Objective 11.2.9 Safe routes to schools.
Objective 11.2.10 Gather information.

**Goal 11.3**

**Street systems will be complete, safe, and connected for all.**

Objective 11.3.1 Update policy.
Objective 11.3.2 Compatible land uses.
Objective 11.3.3 Appropriate road sizes.
Objective 11.3.4 Traffic calming.
Objective 11.3.5 Improve Street lighting.
Objective 11.3.6 Improve crosswalks.
Objective 11.3.7 Public seating.
Objective 11.3.8 On-street parking.
Objective 11.2.9 Gather information.

**Goal 11.4**

**Our transportation system will support tourism and economic development.**

Objective 11.4.1 Improve industrial and business access.

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Objective 11.4.2 Improve access to nearby communities.
Objective 11.4.3 Establish scenic pull offs.
Objective 11.4.4 Increase access to airports and rail stations.
Objective 11.4.5 Regional trails.
Objective 11.4.6 Remove barriers to downtown.
Objective 11.4.7 Safe freight transport.
Objective 11.4.8 Energy for transportation.
Objective 11.4.10 Gather information.

**Goal 11.5**

**Shared transportation will be a viable option for traveling around and through the County.**

Objective 11.5.1 Expand public transportation.
Objective 11.5.2 Micro-transit options.
Objective 11.5.3 Support transportation sharing.
Objective 11.5.4 Support ride sharing services.
Objective 11.5.5 Support incentives.
Objective 11.5.6 Support private company shared transit.
Objective 11.5.7 Encourage public transit-oriented development.
Objective 11.5.8 Gather information.

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**Goal 11.1**

**There will be safe roads for all users with less congestion.**

Objective 11.1.1 Zero pedestrian deaths.

There will be zero pedestrian deaths.

Objective 11.1.2 Zero vehicular deaths.

There will be zero vehicular deaths.

Objective 11.1.3 Zero animal crashes.

Animal related crashes will be reduced.

Objective 11.1.4 Zero potholes.

Potholes on public roads will be identified and filled on a regular basis.

Objective 11.1.5 Public safety services.

Public safety services will be supported with the equipment and supplies they require to keep roads safe and to clear accidents when they occur.

Objective 11.1.6 Secondary roads improved.

Deficiencies on secondary roads will be improved and reduced.

Objective 11.1.7 Key gravel roads paved, others protected.

Key gravel roads will be prioritized for paving, while other key gravel roads are protected.

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Objective 11.1.8 Record deficiencies.

A record of all road deficiencies will be kept and updated.

Objective 11.1.9 Alternative to Rt 11 and I81

In the event of emergencies or other impactful events there will be a clear alternative route for Route 11 and Interstate 81.

Objective 11.1.10 Improve Route 55 Instead Of Corridor H

Route 55 will be strategically improved instead of implementing Corridor H in the County.

Objective 11.1.11 Low water bridges

Improve transportation safety by constructing bridges that allow vehicles to cross waters during floods, or provide alternative routes for unimproved bridges that may pose a risk to motorists during floods.

Objective 11.1.12 Improve shoulders and pull offs.

Enhance safety and provide more efficient travel on roadways by widening and improving the shoulders and creating additional pull-off areas for drivers to use in case of emergencies or for stopping to take breaks.

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Objective 11.1.13 Gather information.

Consistently update information on road deficiencies in the County.

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**Goal 11.2**

**There will be an interconnected system of safe pedestrian and bike trails throughout the County.**

Objective 11.2.1 Connected sidewalk networks.

Sidewalk networks within Towns, Villages, and Hamlets will be interconnected.

Objective 11.2.2 Fully separated bike lanes.

Develop fully separated bike lanes for roads with a designed speed of 40 mph or more.

Objective 11.2.3 Curb-separated bike lanes.

Develop curb-separated bike lanes to the right of parking lanes for roads with a designed speed of 30-35 mph.

Objective 11.2.4 Bike lanes.

Develop painted bike lanes for roads with a designed speed of 25 mph.

Objective 11.2.5 Shared streets.

Implement shared streets for roads with a designed speed of 20 mph or less.

Objective 11.2.6 Connect priority destinations.

Connect major destinations that pedestrians and bikers tend to travel to or visit.

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Objective 11.2.7 Trails along easement lines.

There will be trails along access easement lines. (Repetition of 10.2.1)

Objective 11.2.8 Post signs and crossings.

Post signs on roads used for walking and biking to alert drivers and implement flashing crosswalks.

Objective 11.2.9 Safe routes to schools.

Provide safe and accessible routes to schools, encouraging active transportation and reducing traffic congestion around school zones

Objective 11.2.10 Gather information.

Consistently update information on pedestrian and bike trails in the County.

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**Goal 11.3**

**Street systems will be complete, safe, and connected for all.**

Objective 11.3.1 Update policy.

Update the County's and Towns' policies and requirements to ensure that new streets built are designed to accommodate all users including street master plans.

Objective 11.3.2 Compatible land uses.

Land uses along streets will support multimodal transportation.

Objective 11.3.3 Appropriate road sizes.

Improve existing streets with road diets to bring them to appropriate sizes and the implementation of bike and pedestrian infrastructure.

Objective 11.3.4 Traffic calming.

Implement traffic calming measures to reduce the designed speed of streets with improvements such as roundabouts, speed humps, and chicanes.

Objective 11.3.5 Improve Street lighting.

Improve and install downcast street lighting where appropriate in Towns, Villages, and Hamlets.

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Objective 11.3.6 Improve crosswalks.

Improve and install crosswalks where appropriate with improvements such as high-visibility markings, adding pedestrian signals, and extending crossing times.

Objective 11.3.7 Public seating.

Improve and install space for public seating for leisure, play, and shared transportation stops.

Objective 11.3.8 On-street parking.

On-street parking will be available in Towns, Villages, and Hamlets.

Objective 11.2.9 Gather information.

Consistently update information on street system issues and opportunities in the County.

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**Goal 11.4**

**Our transportation system will support tourism and economic development.**

Objective 11.4.1 Improve industrial and business access.

Collaborate with VDOT and private landowners to reduce access barriers to industrial and business locations per the Future Land Use Map.

Objective 11.4.2 Improve access to nearby communities.

Increase the number of opportunities residents and tourists have to travel to the County from nearby communities as well as out to such communities.

Objective 11.4.3 Establish scenic pull offs.

Establish pull offs at scenic locations for residents and tourists to be able to stop and take pictures but also allow for vehicles to pass tractors and bicyclists.

Objective 11.4.4 Increase access to airports and rail stations.

Support new connections to nearby airports and rail stations to make it easier for locals and visitors to travel to and from the County.

Objective 11.4.5 Regional trails.

Connect walking, biking, and other trails to regional trails to provide more attractive tourist and recreational packages.

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Objective 11.4.6 Remove barriers to downtown.

Work with VDOT and the Towns to remove barriers to opening businesses and new residences in the downtowns of Towns, Villages and Hamlets such as curb cuts, parking requirements, and zoning restrictions.

Objective 11.4.7 Safe freight transport.

Ensure that the transportation of freight through the County is done safely for the transporters, visitors, and local community.

Objective 11.4.8 Energy for transportation.

Ensure that energy sources for transportation are readily available throughout the County.

Objective 11.4.9 Affordable transportation repair.

Support access to an array of transportation repair providers to ensure it is affordable to all.

Objective 11.4.10 Gather information.

Consistently update information on tourism and economic development transportation issues in the County.

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**Goal 11.5**

**Shared transportation will be a viable option for traveling around and through the County.**

Objective 11.5.1 Expand public transportation.

Expand access to ShenGO and other forms of public transportation throughout the County and region.

Objective 11.5.2 Micro-transit options.

Partner with private organizations to provide shared shuttles and minibuses throughout the County and region.

Objective 11.5.3 Support transportation sharing.

Support the establishment of transportation sharing programs such as Zipcar, Bird, or E-Bikes in the County in the Towns, Villages, and Hamlets.

Objective 11.5.4 Support ride sharing services.

Support ride sharing services to increase the mobility of tourists and locals so they can easily visit destinations out in the county away from public transportation lines.

Objective 11.5.5 Support incentives.

Partner with private companies and public transportation organizations to provide incentives for individuals to use their services.

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Objective 11.5.6 Support private company shared transit.

Encourage and support the development of private companies, such as industries or tourism businesses, having shared transit options for their employees and clients.

Objective 11.5.7 Encourage public transit-oriented development.

Encouraging the development of mixed-use development near public transportation hubs such as the downtowns of our Towns, Villages, and Hamlets.

Objective 11.5.8 Gather information.

Consistently update information on shared transportation performance, issues, and opportunities in the County.

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