

Augusta County's Vision and Key Priorities

Augusta County embraces its enduring rural charm, promotes thoughtful development, and fosters an environment where residents, visitors, and businesses feel valued.

As a way to achieve that vision, this Plan identifies five (5) key priorities, each with their own unique vision and set of goals. The key priorities guide this Plan and will be achieved through concrete, actionable goals, objectives, and strategies.

Balanced Growth: Augusta County commits to a diverse economy by supporting agricultural vitality and aligning residential, commercial, and industrial development with plans, resources, and infrastructure.

Environmental Stewardship: Augusta County preserves its unique natural resources through strategically planned development that maximizes open space and maintains its rural character.

Quality of Life: Augusta County provides residents with a variety of housing, employment, and recreational opportunities and ensures facilities and services are accessible and reflect the mission of each organization or agency.

Sense of Place: Augusta County celebrates the unique traditions and qualities of its rural communities by encouraging and nurturing a strong sense of place, culture, and connection.

Transportation Network: Augusta County prioritizes the safety, efficiency, and accessibility of its transportation network, while respecting the unique character of both developed and rural areas.

The concrete, actionable goals, objectives, and strategies in this Plan are significantly shaped by the four (4) Planning Policy Areas – Urban Service Areas, Community Development Areas, Rural Conservation Areas, and Agricultural Conservation Areas. In order to promote compact, coordinated, orderly, and balanced patterns of development, the Plan clearly distinguishes between Urban Service and Community Development Areas and Rural Conservation and Agricultural Conservation Areas. These designations establish distinct areas for both rural development and denser development, as well as areas for a full range of agricultural and forestal uses. Where Urban Service Areas are intended to accommodate significant residential development, Rural Conservation Areas are recommended for clustered development patterns only. Using a reasonable combination of voluntary and mandatory measures, the goals, objectives, and strategies detailed in this Plan effectively implement the County's vision and key priorities.

Priority and Goal Chart

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| Balanced Growth | Goal 1 | Proactively support and grow agricultural vitality in Augusta County. |
| | Goal 2 | Coordinate commercial, industrial, and residential development with available resources, infrastructure, and growth objectives. |
| | Goal 3 | Facilitate and support the maintenance and development of plans, resources, and infrastructure that are cost-efficient and effective in better serving the community as it continues to grow and develop. |
| Environmental Stewardship | Goal 4 | Preserve the integrity of the County's natural environmental systems for the long-term health and benefit of the community. |
| | Goal 5 | Prioritize preserving open space and farmland to support a community where the access to and protection of unique natural resources promote sustainability and provide lasting benefits for residents, agriculture, recreation, and scenic beauty. |
| | Goal 6 | Energy infrastructure and initiatives in the County will be strategically planned to protect natural resources, adapt to evolving technologies, and meet the community's future needs. |
| Quality of Life | Goal 7 | Ensure an adequate supply of safe, suitable, and affordable housing for all County residents. |
| | Goal 8 | Where feasible per Planning Policy Area designation, ensure residents have access to safe and quality utility services. |
| | Goal 9 | Expand unique and engaging opportunities for residents of all ages to promote community connection, retention, and a sense of value. |
| | Goal 10 | Advance the overall wellness of the County's residents and visitors through well-maintained parks, programs, and services. |
| | Goal 11 | Establish and maintain library facilities that provide efficient, effective, and readily available services to all County residents in accordance with Planning for Library Excellence: Standards for Virginia Public Libraries. |
| | Goal 12 | Ensure that all human services and programs are accessible, inclusive, and of high quality. |
| | Goal 13 | Ensure the efficient and responsive delivery of public safety services. |
| Sense of Place | Goal 14 | Guide long-range planning and development efforts to protect the unique identity of each community in Augusta County. |
| | Goal 15 | Acknowledge and celebrate Augusta County's cultural and historic resources, emphasizing their lasting significance and expanding the ways in which the narrative is shared and embraced by all. |
| | Goal 16 | Ensure residents and visitors can safely access and connect to resources and amenities throughout the County. |
| Transportation Network | Goal 17 | Ensure Augusta County's transportation network addresses congestion, development, and other system demands with user safety as the highest priority. |
| | Goal 18 | Promote and support fixed route and on-demand/paratransit public transit services in Augusta County. |
| | Goal 19 | Recognize non-motorized traffic, such as walking and biking, as essential modes of transportation by enhancing its safety, connectivity, and integration throughout the County. |
| | Goal 20 | Ensure farmers operating farm vehicles and equipment on local roadways have the necessary support and resources to travel safely. |