

Comprehensive Plan 2040
Your County. Your Vision. Your Future.

Chapter 3

Visions, Goals and Objectives

VISIONS, GOALS & Objectives

★ State Vision

The Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act of 1992 gave new responsibilities to jurisdictions in the State of Maryland to establish priority areas for growth and resource conservation. To provide consistent guidance and minimum standards for land use planning, "Seven Visions" were adopted in the Planning Act of 1992. These Visions were expanded upon in amendments made to the Planning Act in 2000 and 2009. The most current State "visions" are listed below.



Quality of Life and Sustainability:

A high quality of life is achieved through universal stewardship of the land, water, and air resulting in sustainable communities and protection of the environment;



Public Participation:

Citizens are active partners in the planning and implementation of community initiatives and are sensitive to their responsibilities in achieving community goals;



Growth Areas:

Growth is concentrated in existing population and business centers, growth areas adjacent to these centers, or strategically selected new centers;



Community Design:

Compact, mixed-use, walkable design consistent with existing community character and located near available or planned transit options is encouraged to ensure efficient use of land and transportation resources and preservation and enhancement of natural systems, open spaces, recreational areas, and historical, cultural, and archaeological resources;



Infrastructure:

Growth areas have the water resources and infrastructure to accommodate population and business expansion in an orderly, efficient and environmentally sustainable manner;



Transportation:

A well-maintained, multi-modal transportation system facilitates the safe, convenient, affordable, and efficient movement of people, goods, and services within and between population and business centers;



Housing:

A range of housing densities, types, and sizes provides residential options for citizens of all ages and incomes;



Economic Development:

Economic development and natural resource-based businesses that promote employment opportunities for all income levels within the capacity of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities are encouraged;



Environmental Protection

Land and water resources, including the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays, are carefully managed to restore and maintain healthy air and water, natural systems, and living resources;



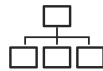
Resources Conservation:

Waterways, forests, agricultural areas, open space, natural systems, and scenic areas are conserved;



Stewardship:

Government, business entities, and residents are responsible for the creation of sustainable communities by collaborating to balance efficient growth with resource protection;



Implementation:

Strategies, policies, programs, and funding for growth and development, resource conservation, infrastructure, and transportation are integrated across the local, regional, state, and interstate levels to achieve these visions.

★ 2023 Comprehensive Plan Vision

To cultivate a sustainable community that embraces a common goal of growth management and resource protection resulting in a variety of opportunities for a diverse population to attain each individuals' needs, goals, prosperity and dreams.

★ Plan Goals and Objectives

Incorporating this Plan's vision, Maryland's State Visions and policies established by past land use plans, the following goals have been identified for this Comprehensive Plan update. These goals and objectives, expanded upon in the Implementation Plan at the end of this document, will be used as a guide for future land use policy in Washington County at all levels of planning.

1

Provide a diverse range of housing for citizens that promote sustainable, livable and affordable housing opportunities.

2

Promote a balanced and diversified economy.

3

Provide a safe, efficient, and interconnected multi-modal transportation system.

4

Maintain policies and strategies that direct growth to areas where the County can provide adequate infrastructure and community resources for existing and future development.

5

Provide residents with a high quality of life through the impactful planning and delivery of fundamental community facilities and services.

6

Enhance the County's rich historic and cultural heritage through land preservation and historic preservation efforts.

7

Provide adequate protections for, and enhanced stewardship of, environmental resources and sensitive areas.

8

Encourage infill development and revitalization of existing communities using context sensitive development strategies to maintain and enhance community character.