

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Henrico County Vision 2026 Comprehensive Plan* (the Plan) is an over-arching guide for the future development of Henrico County. It is a long-range vision, with goals and objectives to reflect the community's values and needs. The Plan combines assessments and recommendations on a broad spectrum of topics and functions of the county that are essential to the continued health and vitality of the community.

The county's previous comprehensive plan included the *2010 Land Use Plan*, the *2010 Major Thoroughfare Plan* (transportation), and the *2015 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan*. With the *Henrico County Vision 2026 Comprehensive Plan* these components, as well as chapters addressing public facilities, natural resources and community character, have been updated simultaneously and coordinated into an inclusive and unified document.

THE PROCESS

The *Henrico County Vision 2026 Comprehensive Plan* represents the culmination of a multi-year effort by the Henrico County Planning Department with assistance from the consulting firm McBride Dale Clarion, along with sub-consultants Kimley-Horn, TischlerBise, Greeley and Hansen and the Survey Evaluation and Research Laboratory at Virginia Commonwealth University. In addition, a Technical Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from several different county agencies, assisted in developing and reviewing the many components of the Plan.

Public participation was an important component of the *Henrico County Vision 2026 Comprehensive Plan* process. The Planning Department made a concerted effort to provide multiple opportunities to solicit citizen input. A dedicated website was established early in the process, allowing users to review available information and provide feedback directly to the Planning Department. A statistically valid community survey was developed and sent to a random sample of property owners to explore opinions and preferences of county residents regarding a variety of Comprehensive Plan issues and topics. Through a series of community open houses and town hall style meetings, major components of the Draft Plan were introduced and discussed. Joint work sessions between the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors were held throughout the planning process and members of the public were invited to attend. Prior to official public hearings, full-size, color copies of the Draft Future Land Use Map were inserted into 45,000 copies of the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Over 600 interested citizens attended the various meetings and provided more than 765 comments, including 81 requests for changes to the Future Land Use and Major Thoroughfare Plans.

THE CHAPTERS

The document is organized into twelve (12) chapters. Chapter 1 (Introduction to the County) provides a brief history of the county and its development while Chapter 2 (Overview of the Plan) establishes the purpose and legal basis of the Plan. Chapter 3 (Henrico Today) offers a brief overview of the existing conditions within the county as

well as forecasts used to drive Plan recommendations. Chapter 4 (Vision, Goals and Objectives) presents the vision, goals and objectives, creating a framework or overarching vision for the Plan. Chapter 5 (Land Use) introduces the future land use designations for the county as well as development policies and density recommendations. The chapter also presents Keystone Policies, which identify the desired development character for the land use designations and function as guiding policies for development. Chapter 6 (Community Character) describes the appropriate character for a range of development types, from rural, low-intensity conservation to suburban and urban. Chapter 7 (Planning and Economic Focus Areas) identifies areas of the county requiring additional planning attention. The chapter also discusses the county's Enterprise Zone and identifies Prime Economic Development sites. Guidance on protecting, preserving and conserving the county's environmental resources is provided in Chapter 8 (Natural Resources). Chapter 9 (Parks, Recreation, Open Space, & Cultural Resources) contains an update of the 2015 Recreation and Parks Plan and includes a summary of the existing facilities and policies guiding their development. The chapter also addresses the county's efforts toward historic and cultural resource protection. Existing transportation facilities and service levels are identified in Chapter 10 (Transportation). The need for future network improvements coordinated with the Future Land Use Map recommendations are identified on the 2026 Major Thoroughfare Plan Map. Chapter 11 (Public Facilities and Utilities) identifies criteria for the assessment of potential future locations for public facilities and utilities including schools, police, fire/rescue, libraries and water and sewer. Finally, Chapter 12 (Implementation) identifies the various actions necessary to carry out the recommendations of the Plan. This includes a matrix where responsible parties and the timeframe for completion are identified.

MAPS

This document contains a series of maps, which are a vital part of the *Henrico County Vision 2026 Comprehensive Plan*. These visual images provide supplemental information that may otherwise be difficult to describe in written text. Due to the scale at which they are printed, the maps are for general planning purposes only. Specific questions regarding the information contained in the maps should be directed to the Henrico County Planning Department.

APPENDICES

In addition to the text and maps, the Plan also contains several appendices, which provide supplemental information about the background and process involved in developing the Plan. Included in the Appendices are the results of research performed on demographics and housing affordability, as well as specialized information on the transportation network. Although the Appendices was not adopted as part of the official *Henrico County Vision 2026 Comprehensive Plan*, they contain important information that may be of interest to the reader of the document in helping to understand and interpret the Plan.