

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>A diversified and expanded economic base which provides a broad range of employment and commercial opportunities.</b>
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**Objective:** Maintain and enhance County's economic development marketing program.

Strategies:

- Continue to support economic development marketing organizations, as appropriate, such as the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce, the Patrick County Economic Development Corporation, and the Southern Virginia Partnership.
- Continue to keep the County's Office of Economic Development's marketing materials and information current so that businesses interested in the County can be supplied with up-to-date information for decision-making purposes.
- Focus on recruiting businesses and industries which compliment the strengths of the local economic base and also provide diversity to the local economy.
- Continue to support efforts which promote the county's business and industry such as the annual Business and Trade Expo.

**Objective:** Provide supportive infrastructure and incentives for business and industry attraction, retention, and expansion in the County.

Strategies:

- Initiate development of and pursue funding sources for public water and wastewater systems in areas deemed economically feasible in the Patrick County water and Sewer Facility Plan to meet the needs of existing and planned industrial and commercial growth.
- Continue to promote development of a transportation network that will improve access to industrial sites and link the County with major trade centers.
- Pursue state and federal sources of capital such as the Economic Development Administration, USDA – Rural Development, Virginia Revolving Loan Fund, and Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (Community Development Block Grant Program) to finance projects for promotion of economic development.
- Maintain Redevelopment Area designation in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

- Encourage the development of new small businesses through cooperation with the Longwood Small Business Development Center, USDA – Rural Development, and other sources including local financial institutions.
- Pursue opportunities to participate in programs beneficial to economic growth and development such as the Virginia Enterprise Zone Program, Community Development Block Grant Program, Governor’s Opportunity Fund, and Regional Competitiveness Program.
- Continue to support educational efforts to provide a highly trained and motivated work force.

**Objective: Encourage location of new industries and expansion of existing firms within the County.**

Strategies:

- Continue to promote the Patrick County Business Park.
- Continue on an ongoing basis to identify target industries and businesses and develop a plan to attract them (workforce, infrastructure, tax and economic incentives and benefits, etc.)

**Objective: Promote entrepreneurial development of manufacturing businesses within the County.**

Strategies:

- Assist start-up businesses with information and technical assistance through the Longwood Small Business Development Center.
- Work with local finance and banking community to increase the availability of seed and start-up capital for new and small businesses.
- Promote the utilization of funding assistance programs such as Rural Economic and Community Development’s Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program.
- Acquire/renovate existing buildings for establishing a small business incubator to reduce prohibitive start-up capital and expensive overhead costs.
- Pursue funding for establishing a Microenterprise Program to set up a small business assistance center to provide management assistance, business plan development, marketing guidance, and small loans from a low-interest, revolving loan fund underwritten by local banks.
- Encourage development of private industrial parks.

**Objective: Increase commercial and retail business activity in the County.**

Strategies:

- Revitalize the Central Business District to promote increased commercial and retail activity.
- Pursue opportunities to participate in programs beneficial to Central Business District growth and development such as Virginia’s Main Street Program and the Virginia Enterprise Zone Program.
- Maintain business enhancement program through County Office of Economic Development and provide informational assistance to prospective new businesses.
- Encourage development through private enterprise.

**Objective: Promote and encourage the development of tourism and travel-related industry which compliments the rural, scenic, and historic qualities of the County.**

Strategies:

- Continue to provide new and enhance existing cultural and recreational amenities which complement the rural, scenic, and historic nature of the County.
- Maintain and widely distribute tourism brochure and marketing materials to areas on the eastern seaboard.
- Continue to develop and promote special events and festivals.
- Continue to support development and promotion of the Wood Brothers Racing Museum and Virginia Motorsports Hall of Fame as an interactive state museum for motorsports and its cultural and regional impacts.
- Continue to participate in regional as well as local marketing efforts such as Virginia’s Racing Region.
- Continue to maintain updated marketing materials with the Virginia Department of Tourism.
- Develop scenic byways and welcome signage and information kiosks for tourism development and seek Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA) funds in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Transportation for specific projects.
- Develop and promote driving tours throughout the County.

**Objective: Continue to promote the agriculture and forestry industries as vital parts of the County’s economy.**

Strategies:

- Increase the utilization of the local farmer's market in Stuart.
- Encourage the development of a central distribution point for agricultural goods through truck farming and/or the Southwest Virginia Farmer's Market.
- Attract a poultry processing center to complement the County's large production of poultry.
- Encourage special agricultural events (i.e., Peach and Cabbage Festivals).
- Participate in regional agricultural marketing.
- Continue to support horticulture enterprises such as stock nurseries and Christmas Tree Farms and explore other endeavors such as agritourism, beekeeping, fish farming, cheesemaking, etc. that will benefit both the agriculture and tourism sectors.

## HOUSING

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Decent, affordable, and accessible housing for County citizens, regardless of age, sex, race, marital status, or disability.</b>
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**Objective:** Upgrade or replace substandard housing in the County.

Strategies:

- Pursue grants and loans such as the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Community Development Block Grant program and other programs for the provision of water, sewer, plumbing facilities and street improvements for substandard LMI neighborhoods.
- Find an implementing agency to be the primary assisting agency in rehabilitation of existing housing and promote construction of new, improved housing.
- Provide weatherization for substandard LMI units through programs available through existing human service agencies.

**Objective:** Provide sufficient number of affordable housing units in the County, particularly for low-to-moderate-income persons.

Strategies:

- Pursue grants and loans such as Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Community Development Block Grant Program and other programs.
- Work toward improving water and sewer infrastructure and roads in an effort to provide more opportunities for development of housing.
- Increase homeownership rates for LMI persons through special agencies such as Habitat for Humanity, Veterans Administration, Rural Economic and Community Development.

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>An equitable system of community facilities and services that provides a variety of opportunities for all the County's citizens.</b>
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**Objective:** **Develop and maintain an updated Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in order to schedule and finance necessary public improvements.**

Strategies:

- Encourage adaptive and shared use/reuse of community facilities by two or more government agencies and by public and private sectors.
- Review the performance and effectiveness of existing facilities prior to proceeding with changes or expansion.
- Develop needed facilities in a cost-effect manner, such as giving priority to expanding facilities rather than creating new facilities whenever possible.

**Objective:** **ensure that citizens receive adequate levels of public safety services, including law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency medical services.**

Strategies:

- Maintain a modern emergency services communication network.
- Develop a contingency plan to respond to hazardous materials emergencies in the County.
- Encourage and promote the provision of emergency services by volunteers.
- Continue to support fire, rescue, and law enforcement programs to ensure that service providers are able to meet or exceed professional standards.
- Continue to participate in West Piedmont Law Enforcement Manpower Pool Agreement in conjunction with the law enforcement agencies in the West Piedmont Planning District.
- Continue to participate in West Piedmont Regional Homicide Task Force in conjunction with the law enforcement agencies of the Cities of Danville and Martinsville and Counties of Henry, Pittsylvania, Franklin, and Halifax for the provision of manpower, expertise, and equipment for joint investigative efforts.

**Objective: Meet current and future recreational needs through expanded and improved County Park and recreational facilities and services.**

Strategies:

- Utilize the County's unique features which are available for the enjoyment of all citizens.
- Continue to keep an updated and accurate inventory of recreational facilities and improvements.
- Periodically evaluate the effectiveness of County Parks in meeting recreational needs.
- Continue to utilize volunteers in order to increase manpower at a minimum cost for recreational activities and programs.
- Continue to participate in the Bi-County Commission in conjunction with Floyd County and the National Park Services to guide the development of a proposed combination convention center, mountain industry museum, and theater of Appalachian classics at Rocky Knob on the Blue Ridge Parkway.
- Explore the possibility of construction of an indoor all-season pool at DeHart Park including a gymnasium and locker room for both school activities and general public use.
- Construct an amphitheater to serve as a cultural and entertainment center.
- Develop a recreation park in the Midway section of the County.
- Continue to utilize recreational facilities at County schools, thereby ensuring that ballfields, playgrounds, and facilities for organized recreation are conveniently located for County citizens.
- Seek Federal and State assistance for continue growth and improvement of the County's recreational facilities.
- Take advantage of recreation consultation and workshops offered by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

**Objective: Promote preservation, understanding, and enjoyment of the County's rich and diverse historic and cultural heritage.**

Strategies:

- Identify, map, and promote significant historic and cultural sites in the County.
- Encourage the owners of potentially eligible sites to pursue a Virginia Landmark of National Register designation.
- Publicize historic designation of worth sites throughout the County by signage in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Transportation.
- Develop driving tours of various areas of the County to promote cultural and historic points of interest.

- Continue to offer exhibits of artifacts related to Patrick County history as well as genealogy materials through the Patrick County History Museum located at the Stuart Branch of the Blue Ridge Regional Library.

**Objective: Promote education as a tool of economic development to create a more competitive and well-trained work force.**

Strategies:

- Provide necessary job training and development programs that encourage pride as well as skill in the workplace.
- Continue to promote the partnership between the public sector and industrial leaders to upgrade the skill level of the local work force to enable them to work in a more competitive and technical work environment.
- Continue to achieve high test scores within the County school system.
- Promote the utilization of special training programs through Patrick & Henry Community College and its Center for Business, Industry, and Government (C-BIG) Program.
- Coordinate with Patrick & Henry Community College regarding workforce training needs of new and existing businesses and industries.



## TRANSPORTATION

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Safe and efficient movement of people and goods throughout Patrick County as well as to destinations outside the County including major market centers.</b>
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**Objective:** Improve access to the County through an improved primary highway system.

Strategies:

- Continue to support improvements to existing primary roads including maintenance and general improvements.
- Support efforts for the construction of Interstate 73 on an alignment generally paralleling the existing U.S. Route 220 corridor.

**Objective:** Improve access to the County through an improved secondary highway system.

Strategies:

- Continue to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation's Salem Construction District office for maintenance and improvement of existing secondary roads.
- Continue to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) through their Rural Addition program for inclusion of unpaved roads in the County.
- Continue to seek Virginia Department of Transportation Industrial Access Program funds for eligible industrial development projects/sites.

**Objective:** Encourage utilization of alternative modes of transportation as well as enhancements of aesthetics on transportation corridors.

Strategies:

- Support expansion efforts undertaken at the Blue Ridge Airport.
- Continue to seek Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act funds and VDOT Safety Program funds, as appropriate, for gateway and other eligible improvement projects.

- Encourage private sector initiatives and incentives for the development of ride-sharing programs.
- Continue to support transportation for elderly and disabled residents through PARC Workshop, Southern Area Agency on Aging, and other human service organizations.
- Explore a local shuttle service, funded through grant money, to improve access in/around Stuart for seniors, handicapped, vehicle-less residents.

## UTILITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Provision of utilities for the protection of public health and safety and to improve the quality of life of the County's citizens.</b>
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**Objective:** Management and financial planning of water and sewer in the County.

Strategies:

- Pursue water and sewer grant funds from the Economic Development Administration, USDA – Rural Development, Virginia Revolving Loan Fund, and Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development CDBG Program to finance proposed projects.
- Retrieve periodic updates, as necessary and appropriate, of the 1996 Patrick County Water and Sewer Facility Plan to amend the priorities list due to shifts in needs for various areas of the County and other changing conditions among the County's various communities.

**Objective:** Provide public water and sewer systems to promote economic development and protect the health and safety of County residents.

Strategies:

- Select groundwater sources (wells) as the water source for many of the study areas identified in the Patrick County Water and Sewer Facility Plan rather than surface water due to the relatively low-density development anticipated, the lower capital costs, and lower treatment, operation, and maintenance as compared to a water filtration plant. However, the areas of Patrick Springs, Rich Creek, Nettleridge, Critz, and Route 8 south of Stuart should rely on the South Mayo River as the water source through the purchase of water from the Town of Stuart. The area of Woolwine should rely on the Smith River as its water source.
- Initiate discussion with the Town of Stuart to negotiate an intergovernmental Town's treatment of wastewater from County areas on a bulk basis.
- Seek funding sources to initiate the implementation of the priority projects set forth in the 1996 Patrick County Water and Sewer Facilities Plan and any subsequent amendments to that Plan.

**Objective: Continue to provide for efficient and cost-effective disposal of solid waste for commercial, industrial, and residential users.**

Strategies:

- Conduct an ongoing study and analysis of residential, commercial, and industrial solid waste collection and disposal needs.
- Revisit “green-box program” to reduce dependence on traveling to transfer station.
- Maintain and enhance the County’s recycling program.
- Increase public awareness of solid waste issues through educational and participatory programs.
- Improve enforcement of littering laws and unsecured trash bags on open trucks.
- Empower the Sheriff’s office to crack down on litterers.
- Encourage alternative means (e.g., composting) for disposal of stumps and other types of vegetation.
- Sponsor beautification programs and activities to reduce litter through the Patrick County Litter Control Program.
- Encourage public involvement in cleanup programs such as “Adopt-a-Highway.”
- Enforce the existing litter-control ordinance.

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Preserve and protect the County's natural resources.</b>
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**Objective:** **Protect the County's surface water and groundwater supplies.**

Strategies:

- Work with local farmers, Soil Conservation Service, and Extension Service to attempt to quantify the volumes of water currently used for agricultural uses.
- Assist with public awareness for the need for water quality protection and promotion of the utilization of Best Management Practices.
- Inform both public officials and the public in general about water pollution, particularly nonpoint source pollution from agricultural, forestall, and urban sources.
- Inform and encourage property owners to take advantage of available preservation and conservation measures.
- Minimize runoff and sedimentation associated with development, agricultural, and forestall activities, particularly in areas with steep slopes.
- Support ASCS, SCS, and Department of Forestry programs and policies that promote soil and water conservation and reduce nonpoint source pollution.
- Continue to support the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's water quality monitoring efforts.
- Require evidence of federal wetlands permits as a condition of development approval in areas where wetlands exist.

**Objective:** **Reduce flooding and flood-related problems.**

Strategies:

- Protect the important natural function of floodplains within the County by limiting disturbance and development activity.
- Continue to enforce applicable County, state, and federal regulations within the designated 100-year floodplain.
- Encourage the use of floodway fringe areas for recreational uses, open space, and other non-structural uses.

**Objective:** **Establish programs and support existing programs to reduce the decline of agriculture as a viable sector of the County's economy.**

Strategies:

- Support the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service’s efforts to identify, publicize, and provide technical assistance for alternative agricultural activities which are particularly adaptable and marketable in the County.
- Encourage utilization of Best Management Practices in agricultural activities.

**Objective:** Establish programs and support existing programs to ensure that forestry remains a viable sector of the County’s economy.

Strategies:

- Support the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service’s efforts to identify, publicize, and provide technical assistance for alternative forestall activities which are particularly adaptable and marketable in the County.
- Encourage replanting of forest land to ensure continued production.
- Encourage utilization of Best Management Practices in forestall activities.
- Encourage utilization of the Reynolds Homestead Forest Resources Research Center in Critz, operated through the Virginia Tech College of Forestry and Wildlife Resources, which offers research and demonstrations in timber stand improvement using a variety of cultural techniques.

**Goal:** Encourage increases in land development in accord with both desirable economic development and the preservation of the natural resources and environmental quality of the County.

**Objective:** Encourage industrial parks and sites to be selected in regard to potential for supportive commercial and residential development.

Strategies:

- Refine the County’s Land Use Map to identify industrial sites and locations near but next to residential development areas and commercial development areas using, where possible, agricultural and forestall parcels as buffers.
- Initiate the development of a Vision Plan, by the Planning Commission and Office of Economic Development Corporation, for industrial sites, and park locations for the next twenty-five years.
- Organize location plans for schools, rescue/fire stations, and other related community facilities to focus on maintaining their association with industry, residential clusters, and commercial clusters across the County.

**Objective:** Encourage land development and activities on the land to take place with a focus on minimizing impacts on water quality, erosion and sedimentation, including improper disposal of solid wastes and litter.

Strategies:

- Develop handbook of desired practice of land development in Patrick County associated with posters, placards, and brochures.
- Associate the concept that land use growth with caring and stewardship of the County's lands may accompany future Pride in Patrick campaigns and strategies.
- Develop school awareness program for land development practices and management in concert with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (SCS), the Extension Agency, and the Virginia Farm Bureau.
- Form environmental and good land practices program in association with realtors, developers, builders, and bankers to enhance awareness among professional community associated with land use and land development.
- Develop and preserve land and water resources recommended and developed as a result of watershed studies by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (SCS).
- Encourage land conservation practices that recognize slope factors, soil types, and limitations, vegetation preservation, floodway protection, and protecting the quality of surface and groundwater supplies.
- Explore approaches toward protection of the visual qualities and values of the ridgeline along the County's mountainous area, particularly in vicinity of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

<b>Goal:</b>	<b>Encourage land development in accord with preservation of the rural communities and continued development of rural neighborhood centers while maintaining scenic surround views.</b>
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**Objective:** Maintain the County's support for development-friendly regulation to allow a variety of housing types and commercial development in the establishment of neighborhoods and communities across the County.

Strategies:

- Maintain an up-to-date County subdivision ordinance.

- Provide network of sources for advice to developers, potential homeowners and small businesses to guide them toward best development practices.
- Encourage development to take place in vicinity of the existing communities for the purpose of economical provision of proposed public water and sewer facilities.
- Encourage the development of community activities in or adjacent to the areas where they would primarily serve, such as convenience stores near residential clusters and communities, and agriculturally-oriented enterprises in agricultural areas.
- Research the possibility of “visual blight” ordinance by the County attorney.
- Evaluate and address the issue of poorly maintained properties and trash accumulations that lower property values of nearby properties and have a negative effect on tourism.