

Goals and Implementation Strategies for 2009 Greene County Comprehensive Plan Update

The following goals and implementation strategies were presented to the public on June 30, 2009 at an open house in the Greene County Office Building.

Goals are represented by a black dot; Implementation Strategies are represented by a white dot.

Education Goals

- Encourage Piedmont Virginia Community College to establish a satellite center in the County
- High school graduates should be either trained for the work place or be prepared to successfully attend institutions of post-secondary education
- All students achieve SOL objectives
- Increase community awareness and support for public education as an essential part of the quality of life.
- Work to achieve parity between the salaries and benefits of Greene County teachers and those in the greater region.
 - Evaluate Greene County public teachers' salaries in comparison with other districts in the region to determine what measures are necessary to reach parity.
- Consider development of a performance incentive system for teacher pay
 - Research current merit pay propositions for the D.C. school district.
- Create volunteer teaching opportunities
- Create a state-of-the-art magnet Vocational Technical center

Agriculture and Forestry Goals

- Investigate County measures to encourage and retain farming and land use operations
 - Maintain land use taxation and promote awareness of tax incentives for farmers.
 - Partner with other organizations to encourage conservation easements for agriculture and forestry.
 - Concentrate future development into growth areas in accordance with land use section of the comprehensive plan.
- Protect forest resources in parallel with protecting agricultural resources

- Encourage and promote specialty and niche farming such as equestrian, vineyard, nursery and greenhouse crop activities.
 - Attract and retain young farmers
 - Partner with the Greene County office of Virginia Cooperative Extension to help recruit young farmers and reduce the barriers to entry inherent to farming in the area.
 - Encourage alternative farming techniques that help protect farmland
 - Find ways to encourage organic and/or hydroponic farming.
 - Achieve recognition of farming and farmers as vital part of the County's future and make them part of tourism
 - Encourage annual events such as the County Fair and the Strawberry Festival.
 - Promote agritourism businesses targeted toward the D.C. metro area.
 - Actively celebrate farming heritage
 - Collect stories from generational farmers to produce a pamphlet or documentary about the area's farming heritage.
 - Support local agriculture through, for example a farmers' market and Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign
 - Grow current farmers' market to a weekly event at a dedicated location from spring through fall season (or possibly year-round) to provide additional retail opportunities for local farmers.
 - Additional need for farmers markets in Stanardsville and Ruckersville for agricultural products as well as crafts.
 - Partner with Piedmont Environmental Council to encourage more Greene County farmers to be listed in the annual Buy Fresh, Buy Local shoppers' guide.
 - Advertise Buy Fresh, Buy Local campaign.
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Community Services Goals

- Support affordable housing initiatives in the County
 - Coordinate affordable housing needs with the Count's housing arm, Skyline Community Action Program
- Encourage more private medical facilities in the County, including comprehensive walk in and emergent health care services
 - Work with Martha Jefferson Hospital and UVa. Medical Center to offer medical services and facilities in the County

- Study feasibility of branch library in Ruckersville
 - Coordinate with the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library System to assess feasibility of Ruckersville branch library.
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Economic Development Goals

- Create incentives for development in preferred commercial growth areas
 - Consider establishing a fund to assist small business start-ups
 - Investigate the Community Development Block Grant opportunities for business district revitalization
- Support commercial growth in Ruckersville, Stanardsville and the Route 29 corridor from Ruckersville to Corner Store.
 - Develop a detailed plan for the Ruckersville area that addresses the special issues of this area (traffic and access, new road construction, transit opportunities, multi-use facilities, architectural standards, utilities)
- Enhance image of Greene County as a business-friendly location
 - Continue to support of Economic Development Authority activities, to include a Directory of Local Businesses and Economic Development Plan.
- Support rural broadband service to all portions of the County
 - Coordinate with other localities in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District to identify and secure funds necessary for Count-wide service
- Coordinate targeted areas of commercial development with adequate infrastructure: water, sewer and transportation
 - Study the feasibility of an adequate utilities ordinance
 - Work with utility executives and other service providers to help ensure their plans support the needs of Greene's economic development
- Balance the need for increased economic development with controlled residential development and proffer acceptance
 - Encourage mixed-use development in growth areas that offers commercial, office and residential development
- Recruit businesses that have well-paying positions and provide services that are missing in the community
- Improve attractiveness and accessibility on the Route 29 corridor

- Coordinate future land use and transportation improvements with economic development opportunities on the Route 29 corridor
 - Consider developing an architectural review board to assist the County and development community in setting voluntary standards for new development and re-development
 - Identify and develop an economic anchor in Stanardsville that increases foot traffic.
 - Coordinate with the Town of Stanardsville and STAR
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Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Goals

- Manage growth so that it does not outstrip infrastructure and resources, including emergency services and sheriff's department
 - Expand emergency services through grants
 - Support volunteers with paid fire and rescue staff, when required, to assure adequate 24-hour coverage
 - Recognize volunteers and recruit new volunteers
 - Ensure well coordinated emergency response and disaster management planning
 - Ensure law enforcement officers and emergency services providers have County-wide broadband coverage
 - Research feasibility of a satellite sheriff station on Route 29 in Ruckersville
 - Maintain adequate School Resource Officers to safeguard school facilities and grounds as well as to spearhead community involvement in safety training and intervention
 - Establish a Public Schools Safety Advocacy group, including parents, administrators, teachers, and law enforcement officials.
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Natural Resources and Environment Goals

- headwaters of key rivers and tributaries
 - Limit the use of septic systems on slopes of 25% or greater
 - Establish "riparian buffers" around streams to protect valuable surface water resources
 - Consider adopting Watershed Protection Design Standards
 - For developments of 10 or more homes, require a hydrological study to demonstrate that the groundwater supply is sufficient to support the development

- Prior to issuing a building permit in areas not served by central water, require landowner to demonstrate that the well provides adequate water
 - Enact measures to protect Greene County's irreplaceable natural resources and become a model County for natural resource stewardship
 - Consider the adoption of a Mountain Protection Plan
 - Discourage road construction on slopes of 15% or greater. Permitted roads should follow the natural topography
 - Discourage excessive changes to the existing topography or tree cover, particularly in designated growth areas
 - Encourage dark sky protection through an ordinance that shields exterior lighting and aims fixtures downward
 - Encourage open space dedication, riparian buffers, pervious surfaces and other best management practices
 - Seek voluntary proffers for open space dedication, riparian buffers, limits to pervious surfaces and similar practices
 - Follow the recommendations of the County Green Infrastructure Plan
 - Encourage the voluntary dedication of land in conservation easements or Agricultural and Forestal Districts
 - Create governmental and public awareness of the importance of preserving natural resources while accommodating residential growth
 - Enact natural resource protection measures through development standards
 - Encourage cluster development in rural areas so that residential development protects the site's sensitive natural resources
 - Minimize impact and preserve aesthetics of the rural countryside by buffers and natural vegetation screening
 - Inventory and protect ecologically sensitive areas, including land to protect habitat and others necessary to enact a Green Infrastructure Plan
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Parks and Recreation Goals

- Create a County park in Ruckersville
 - Consider siting off Rt 29 South at Antiques Mall
 - Connect a community park in Ruckersville with a hike/bike trail following the recommendations of the County green infrastructure plan
 - Planning should move quickly before growth in development makes land acquisition difficult.

- Secure grant money for property acquisition (see funding opportunities in this chapter of the draft 2009 Comprehensive Plan)
 - Support the development of a public swimming pool or swimming at water impoundment
 - Consider including pool with community park in Ruckersville area, or neighborhood park in Stanardsville.
 - Include swimming in plans for water impoundment
 - Inform residents of programs
 - Conduct County-wide mailing
 - Continue posting current opportunities for involvement on County web site in order to inform all Greene County residents of recreational activities
 - Have flyers available in libraries, schools, and other strategic locations.
 - Provide information for outdoors activities, such as hiking, hunting, and fishing (in cooperation with VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.)
 - Provide additional activities for children and teens
 - Grow existing sports programs and create new programs as demand allows.
 - Encourage “pocket parks” and interconnected trails in new neighborhoods
 - Inform developers that proffers of small parks and trails would meet the communities goals.
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Solid Waste Goals

- Maximize recycling of solid waste materials, to reach a minimum recycling rate of 25%, by providing a full range of options that are easily accessed by County residents
 - Establish a household composting program on a regional basis in partnership with the TJPDC
 - Examine the feasibility of establishing recycling collection sites ni additional locations in the County.
 - Participate in the region’s household hazardous waste collection days
 - Publicize the importance of participation in household hazardous waste collection days
 - Promote recycling and proper solid waste disposal through advertising and through education
 - Continue to manage and operate the solid waste facility efficiently and within budget goals
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Tourism Goals

- Preserve important scenic, historic and cultural resources as crucial to tourism
 - Coordinate the preservation of important scenic, historic and cultural resources with the County's future land use plan and appropriate ordinances
 - Provide information for residents and visitors about local events
 - Develop and keep up-to-date county-wide tourism website
 - Create an active registry of establishments where tourists can stay and develop a system for managing reservations centrally
 - Create informational maps for tourists and citizens on hiking, biking, scenic drives and other tourist activities and sites
 - Establish and fund an organizational structure to plan, implement and coordinate tourism activities,
 - Establish a Visitors' Center in Ruckersville
 - Generate new tax revenue as well as increased business and employment opportunities related to tourism
 - Promote agri-tourism, eco-tourism and niche farming opportunities
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Water and Wastewater Goals

- Establish a safe and reliable water supply to meet the projected needs for business and residential growth through 2050
- Investigate alternative options for public water supply, including the construction of a water impoundment, to meet projected demands for the next twenty five years or more.
 - Move forward with a plan for water impoundment sooner rather than later
 - Continue utilizing all potential groundwater sources
- Promote water conservation
 - Encourage rainwater harvesting (rain barrels), abandoned well capping, green roofs where possible.
- Protect valuable water resources through education and implementation of riparian (rivers and streams) buffers
- Provide adequate water pressure and supply for Stanardsville
- Ensure the integrity of wastewater treatment facilities through comprehensive system upgrades, including the Town of Stanardsville

- Direct residential and commercial growth to designated areas by proactively planning and constructing services which will be restricted to those identified areas
 - Develop residential and business growth in higher density areas where adequate sewer supply is provided
- Utilize public/private partnerships to assist in funding wastewater treatment system construction