



NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

# OUTREACH SUMMARY

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JANUARY 2020 // PREPARED BY THE BERKLEY GROUP



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# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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## Introduction

The Northampton County Comprehensive Plan represents the guiding policy framework for the future of the County. The plan articulates the community's long-range vision and provides a series of goals, strategies, and maps to guide decision making on topics such as land use, transportation, and community facilities.

State code requires that the Comprehensive Plan be reviewed every five years and updated as needed. Keeping the plan up to date ensures that it reflects the most current areas of need and the most accurate vision for the future.

In September 2019, Northampton County began the process of reviewing and updating its Comprehensive Plan. Northampton County is committed to ensuring that the Comprehensive Plan update reflects the community's desired path for the future. As such, the Comprehensive Plan is being updated through a citizen-focused, collaborative community outreach process between residents, businesses, elected and appointed officials, and County staff. This document summarizes the results of the community outreach efforts, which will serve as the backbone for 2020 Comprehensive Plan.

## Activity Overview

To draft a Comprehensive Plan that is representative of the entire community, public input was gathered through a series of workshops, phone interviews, community representative meetings, and a public survey. This section provides an overview of the outreach activities undertaken as part of the community engagement process.

### Public Vision Workshops

Public vision workshops were held at 7:00 PM on Monday, September 9, 2019 at five locations - one in each magisterial district. Locations and participation information is provided in the table below.

District	Meeting Location	Attendees
District 1	Trinity United Methodist Church - Cape Charles	43
District 2	Cheriton Fire Hall	11
District 3	Northampton Fire & Rescue Fire Hall - Nassawadox	10
District 4	Northampton High School Cafeteria	30
District 5	Occohannock Elementary School - Exmore	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>

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The public vision workshops were widely advertised throughout the county, including:

- Ads in the Eastern Shore Post (August 30 and September 6 editions),
- Radio ads on WESR from August 22 to September 9,
- Publication in the Shoreline newsletter of Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore,
- Flyers posted in the County Administration Building and post offices,
- Flyers distributed by members of the County's Planning Commission, and
- Online notice posted on the County's website from August 22.



The public workshops, facilitated by the Berkley Group, opened with a brief introduction explaining the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan, followed by an overview of the update process.

Next, attendees were asked to break out into small groups to identify strengths, challenges, and what the county's vision should be. Each topic was given 15 minutes for group discussion. At the end, the small groups were asked to summarize and report out their results. The complete compiled results are provided in Appendix A.

## Topic-Focused Workshop

A second workshop was held on November 19, 2019, at Northampton County High School. Nearly 60 individuals participated in the workshop, which was focused on gathering community input regarding open space, traffic, economic development, and other land use related issues. Participants were asked to identify areas appropriate for development, areas of heightened congestion and methods to improve traffic flow, opportunities for alternative transportation and active and passive recreation, and areas to prioritize for preservation area. In all, nine groups presented their ideas and goals for the future of Northampton County. The results of this meeting are provided in Appendix B.





## Phone Interviews and Community Representative Meetings

Community Representative meetings with community representatives were held on Tuesday, September 10, 2019. Interviews were conducted with individuals representing groups such as the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the Soil and Water Conservation District, the county departments, residents and citizens, business owners, town representatives, and other citizen groups. Meetings were set by the county administrator's office; however, there was no county staff present at community representative discussions. These meetings provided focused input from a cross-section of diverse interests, which included:

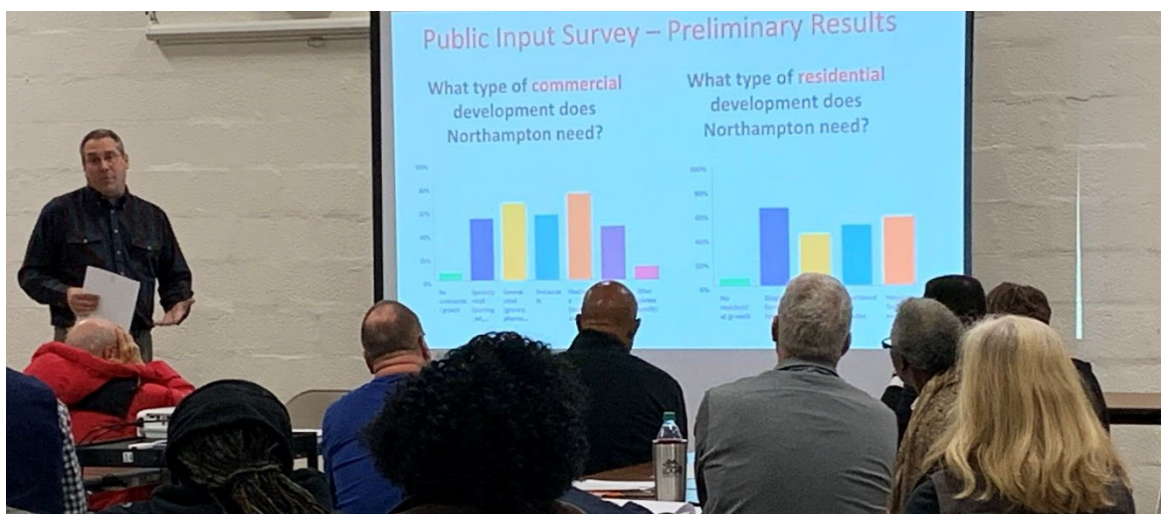
- Real estate
- Agriculture
- Aquaculture
- Minority church
- Education (students, teachers, administrators)
- Commissioner of Revenue
- Local business owners
- Chamber of Commerce
- Citizen Interest Groups
- Natural Resource Organizations

Notes from these meetings are provide in Appendix C.

## Community Survey

An online and hard copy survey, available in English and Spanish, was distributed throughout the County from September 30, 2019 to January 1, 2020 to gather input about community needs, strengths, concerns, and desires.

Nearly 900 individuals took the survey and provided their thoughts on topics such as housing, employment, education, and economic development. The input gathered in this survey was kept anonymous and provided a vehicle for citizens to share their both their concerns and their praises for Northampton County. This invaluable information will help guide the update process. Results are tabulated in Appendix D.





## Outreach Results Summary

Thanks to the enthusiastic participation by the citizens of Northampton and its towns, the Berkley Group gathered critical information about preferences, visions, concerns, and potential solutions. This section contains a high-level summary of input received to date, with more detailed notes provided in the appendices.

It should be noted that the information provided here is taken directly from the community input that the team received. Although wording may be adjusted to clarify and synthesize related feedback, the underlying ideas are those of the Northampton community.





## Public Vision Workshops: Strengths and Challenges

Participants in the public vision workshops were asked to think about their community's top three to five strengths and top three to five challenges. They were then asked to rank those answers in order of importance to the group. Though answers were largely varied, some of the ideas overlapped across groups.

The word clouds below depict the strengths and challenges shared in the public vision workshops. The larger the size of the word or phrase, the more often it was repeated across groups. These items should serve as a crux for recognizing areas of improvement and celebrating community successes.

### Strengths

Workshop participants (21 different groups spread across Northampton) listed some variation of nature, natural resources, or the environment as one of Northampton's top strengths. Natural resources was interpreted by some participants as pertaining to the unique wildlife of the County while others listed the Chesapeake Bay and other water sources specifically. As reflected in the center of the word cloud below, the rural character of Northampton County was listed frequently as one of the top strengths as well. Other common strengths across the groups included a caring, participatory community, diversity and inclusion, tourism and the aqua- and agriculture industries, and the County's history and heritage.

### Strengths



Every community has its own share of challenges to balance its strengths. During the public vision workshop, citizens were asked to share what they felt to be the top three to five challenges facing the community. The groups were more varied in their answers to this question, but three general themes were evident across groups: affordable housing, education, and employment. Also among the top answers were: poverty and economic disparity, healthcare, and quality access to the internet. The relative lower consensus on the challenges facing the County is reflected in the more diffuse word cloud below, compared to the answers given for the strengths question.

[illegible]

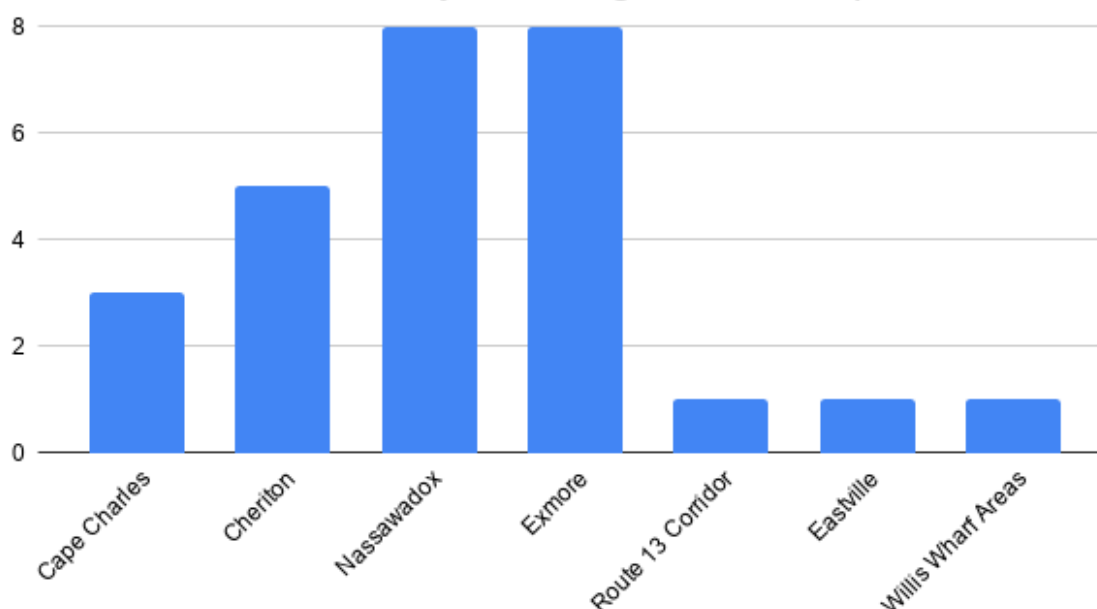


## Topic-Focused Workshop

### *What areas are most ready for change and development?*

The topic-focused public workshop asked citizens of Northampton to consider development, congestion, alternate transportation and recreation, and preservation in the county. Many ideas were shared and discussed by the nearly 60 individuals who attended the session. The public workshop revealed two areas that residents felt were most ready for change and development: Nassawadox and Exmore. The full results from this workshop can be found in Appendix B. The chart below displays the frequency of the areas selected by residents as most ready for change and development.

What areas are most ready for change and development?



### *What areas are in need of improvement?*

Attendees were also asked to review a map of Northampton County and mark locations using different colored markers to identify areas in need of improvement. Areas of focus are summarized below.

#### Biking and Pedestrian Accommodations:

- Sidewalk improvements in Hare Valley and Cheriton.
- Sidewalks and handicap accessibility along Route 13 in Exmore.
- Expanding and improving existing bike paths and sidewalks, particularly in major towns.
- A pedestrian bridge across Route 13 in Cape Charles.

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary



- A reduction in the speed limit in the Hare Valley/Bayside road area for pedestrian and bicyclist safety

## Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Facilities:

- A strong desire for Rails-to-Trails projects in the county, with one group targeting the Weirwood to Bayford road area.
- Better publicization of existing trails and other recreation opportunities.
- Additional greenway trails to the north end of the county.
- A general need for active recreation facilities in the county, with emphasis at Machipongo Middle School, Nassawadox, and Cape Charles.
- Additional public water access point, including docks, ramps, and beaches, as well as improvements to existing access points.
- YMCA or other similar indoor recreation facilities.
- Planning of activities to utilize existing public recreation facilities.



*Example map from one of the topic-focused groups exercises*

## Vehicular Movement/Circulation:

- Congestion at Food Lion at Cape Charles.
- Congestion in Cape Charles in general during tourist season.
- Congestion on Route 13. (Note: Opinions differ as to whether the county should limit development along the corridor or not.)
- Congestion near the Eastville Rural Health System/
- Unnecessary congestion due to the frequency of stoplights in Exmore.

## Potential Development Areas:

- Water and sewer infrastructure improvements in Cape Charles/Cheriton and Nassawadox/Exmore.
- Broadband expansion throughout the county and to rural areas.
- Redevelopment in Nassawadox and repurposing of buildings in Exmore.
- Better design on traffic and traffic buffers in Cape Charles, Nassawadox, and Exmore.



## Community Representative Meetings and Phone Interviews

The community representative meetings and phone interviews echoed similar feedback to the responses collected through other community outreach forums.

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***"We are a rural coastal gem."***  
*-Community Representative*

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Affordable housing and economic development were two areas of common concern among community representatives with a focus on the need for workforce and multifamily housing and a desire for development that balances growth with environmental protection.

Public services and facility maintenance were two other frequent areas of discussion. Public access to recreational assets was identified as a driver for economic development, especially in the tourism industry and in attracting new residents to Northampton.

Additionally, access to healthcare and limiting commercial and residential growth to already built-out areas, like towns and along Route 13, were discussed multiple times across interviews.

The full notes from these meetings and interviews can be found in Appendix C. Other observations include:

- Road maintenance and pedestrian/bicycle access
- Protection of single-source aquifer
- Environmental resiliency
- Preservation of historic resources
- Congestion along Route 13
- Reduce barriers to business establishment and growth
- Cultural diversity
- Rails to Trails



## Public Survey Results

Nearly 900 individuals answered the online and hardcopy survey between September 30, 2019 and January 1, 2020. In all, 14 questions were asked. Ninety-six (96) percent of respondents completed the entire survey, which took an average of just over 5 minutes to finish. The majority of responses came in November, with just under 400 completed surveys.

A quarter of those surveyed are between the ages of 60-69 while over half of all survey takers are at least 50 years of age. Most survey responders are residents of Northampton. Almost 28 percent of responders have lived in Northampton for 40 or more years while just over 21 percent have lived in the community for 10 to 19 years. A wide geographical variety of respondents took the survey with a plurality (29.12 percent) of respondents living in or around Cape Charles. Almost half of all respondents also work in Northampton County, while a quarter of all respondents are retired. The full results from the public survey can be found in Appendix D.



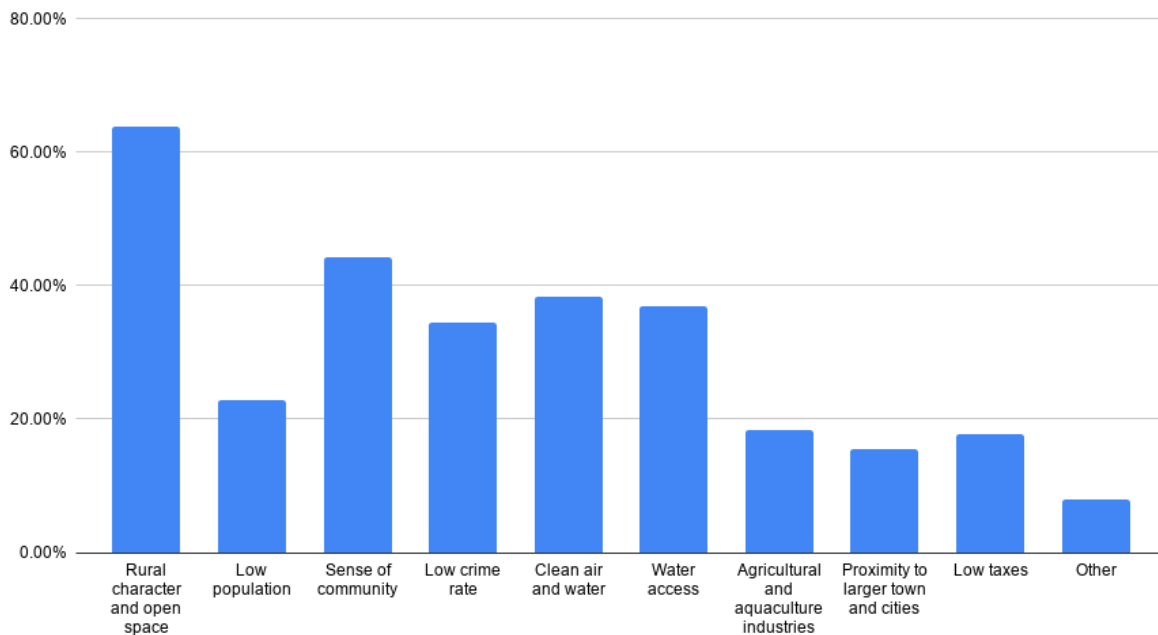
# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary



## *What Do You Like Best About Living in Northampton?*

Northampton County has much to offer its residents and visitors. In the public survey, citizens were asked to choose up to three things they liked best about living in Northampton. Though there were many options to select from, three things stood out from the rest. Northampton residents chose rural character and open space as the best thing about living here. Following this, sense of community and clean air and water were the next two most frequently selected options.

What are the things you like best about living in Northampton?

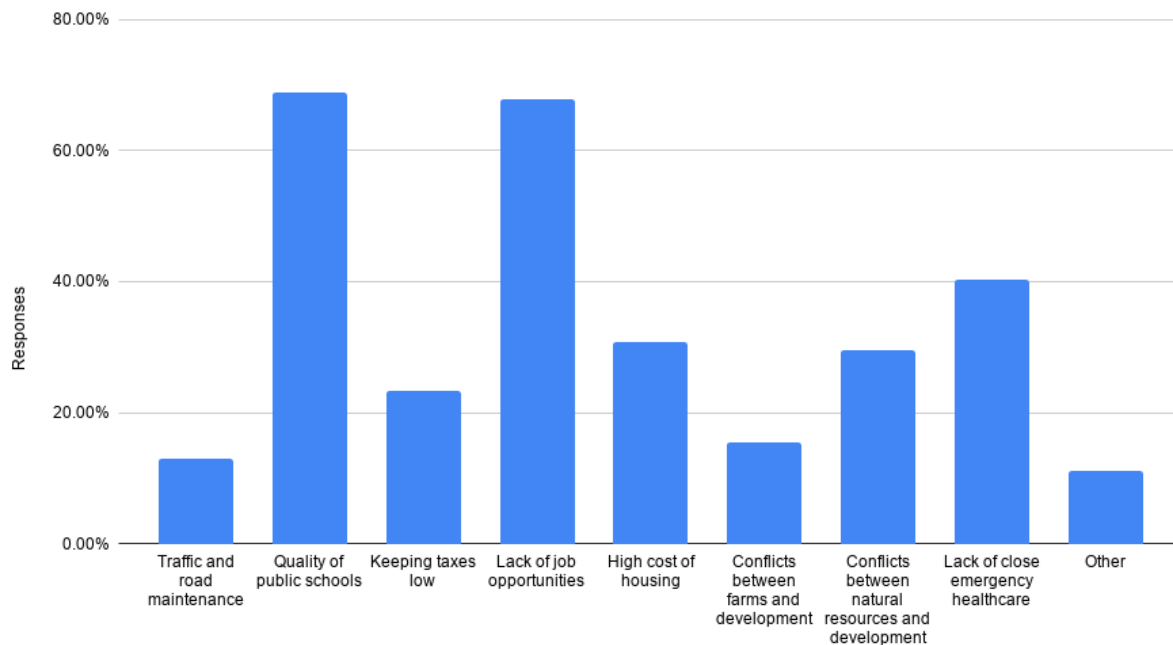




## *What Concerns You the Most About Northampton's Future?*

Just as people have different things that they like best about living in Northampton, they also have different concerns for the future. Quality of public schools and lack of job opportunities were the top areas of concern identified in the community survey. Lack of close emergency healthcare and high cost of housing are also important concerns to the community.

What concerns you the most about Northampton's future?



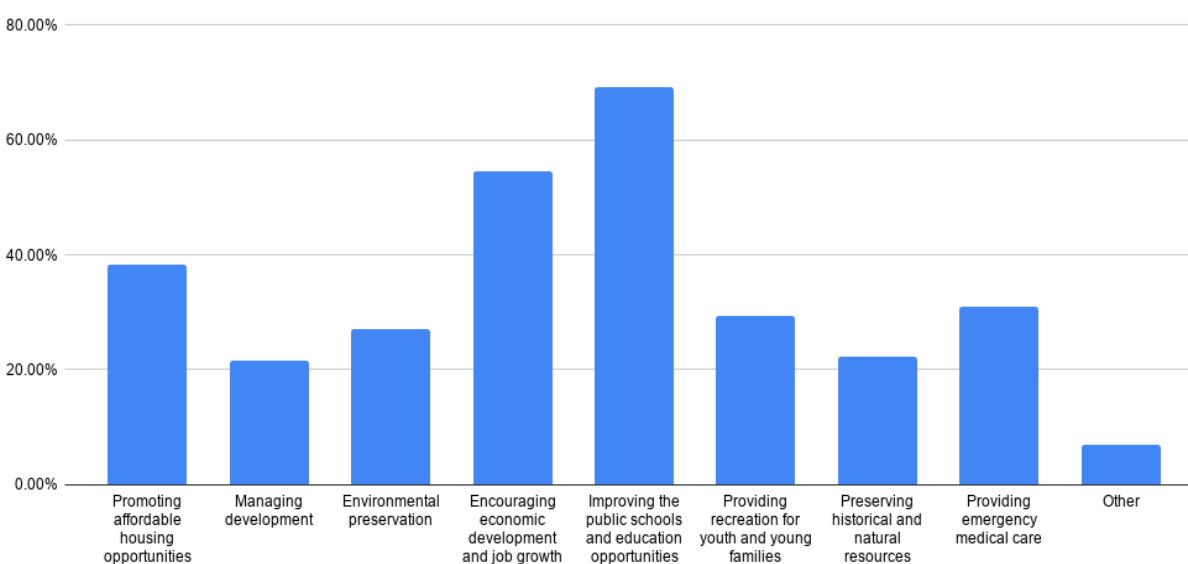
# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary



## *What Should Northampton Focus on as it Plans for the Future?*

Citizens identified a wide variety of focus areas for the County, but two focus areas stood out prominently from the rest: improving the public schools and education opportunities and encouraging economic development and job growth. Promoting affordable housing and providing recreation for the youth and young families were also two widely selected options. These focus areas should be used to guide future development in the Comprehensive Plan. The bar chart below displays the findings from the public survey.

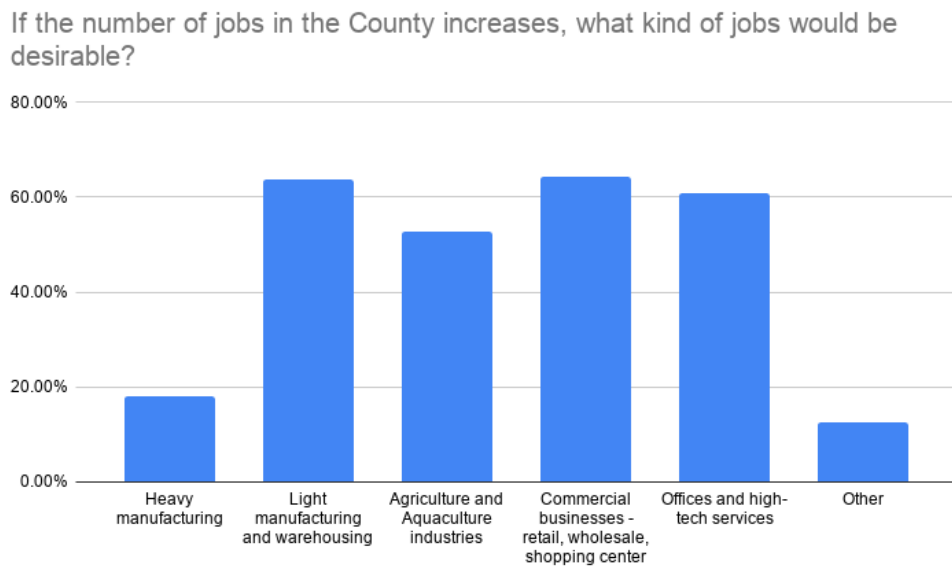
What should Northampton focus on as it plans for the future?





## *If the Number of Jobs Increases in the County, What Kind of Jobs Would be Desirable?*

The survey asked respondents to consider what kind of jobs would be most desirable if the number of jobs were to increase in the County. Commercial businesses and light manufacturing were selected the most, at nearly the same rate. Offices and high-tech services and jobs in agriculture and aquaculture were also widely selected. Only slightly above 10 percent of respondents favored heavy manufacturing for job growth in the County, likely reflecting the desire to keep Northampton County rural in nature and limit impacts on the environment and the community.

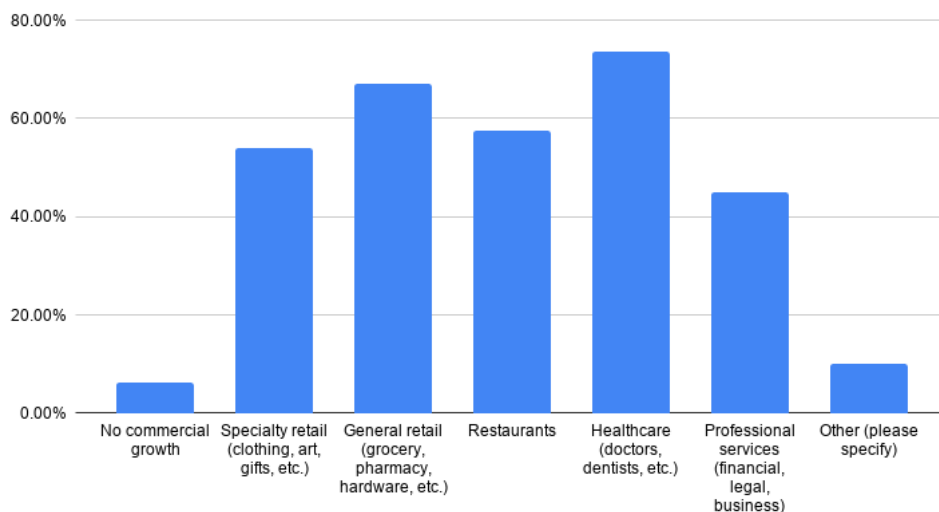




## *What Type of Commercial Development Would be Desirable?*

Most survey respondents seem to desire most types of commercial development. The most desired commercial development types are in the healthcare field and in general retail. The next two most desired development, restaurants and specialty retail (including clothing, art, and gift shops) are followed by professional services. Only a small percentage of respondents desired no commercial growth whatsoever.

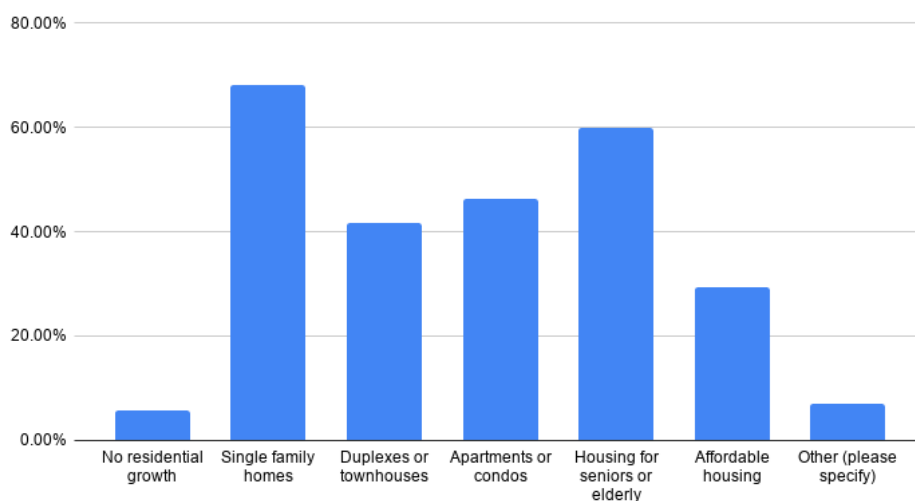
What types of commercial development would be desirable?



## *What Types of Residential Development Would be Desirable?*

Turning to housing, survey respondents were asked to identify what types of residential development would be desirable in Northampton. Respondents strongly favored single family homes and housing for seniors or elderly over all other choices. Apartments or condos and duplexes or townhouses were also favored by the community, with affordable housing chosen by nearly 30 percent of respondents.

What types of residential development would be desirable?



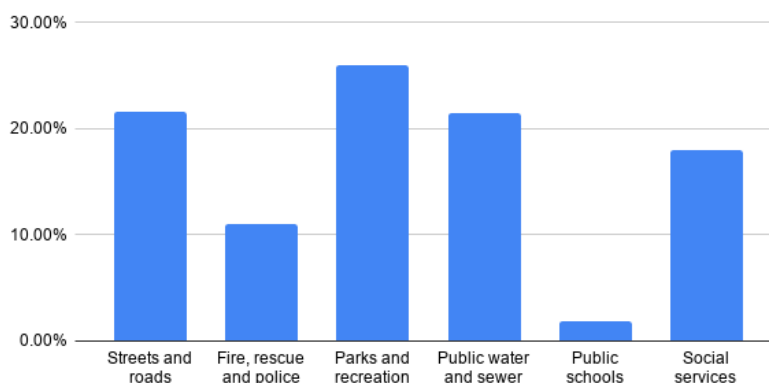


## *What Should Northampton's Priorities be for Improving Public Facilities and Services?*

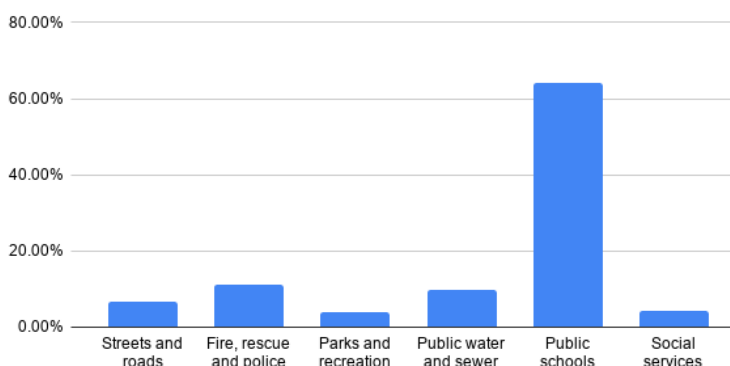
This question asked respondents to consider the County's priorities for improving public facilities and services by ranking them on a priority scale of 1-6, with a "1" representing top priority and a "6" representing the lowest priority. This method of gathering feedback gives respondents the opportunity to weigh the community's needs and make a difficult choice between priorities. In a perfect world, counties would be able to fund and prioritize all public services. However, this question recognizes the realities of making sure every dollar is allocated in the most appropriate manner, reflecting the community's biggest needs.

Overwhelmingly, survey respondents prioritized public schools over all other facilities and services. Nearly 65 percent of respondents selected public schools as the number one priority for Northampton. Fire, rescue and police was the next highest selected top priority at slightly over 11 percent. The option most chosen as the lowest of the six possible priority areas was parks and recreation, with 26 percent of respondents.

What should Northampton's priorities be for improving public facilities and services? (Lowest ranked priority)



What should Northampton's priorities be for improving public facilities and services? (Number one priority)

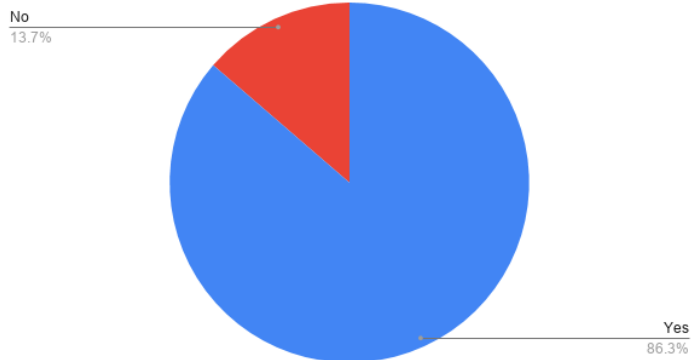




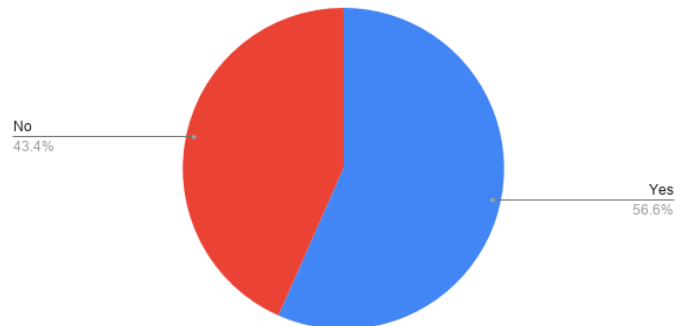
## *Is Reliable Internet Available at Your Residence?*

Survey respondents were asked two questions about internet service: Is internet available at your residence? Is internet service sufficient for your daily needs. Most respondents answered that internet is available at their residence, but just over half of respondents said it was sufficient for their daily needs.

Is internet available at your residence?



If internet service is available at your residence, is it sufficient for your daily needs?





## Priority Areas Emerging from Conversations

Based on the input gathered through the community outreach activities, a list of top priorities for Northampton County began to emerge. The top priorities listed below are those that were identified regularly in workshops, phone interviews and community representative meetings, and in the public survey.

- Education
- Economic Development
- Housing
- Recreation and Public Facilities
- Land Use and Development
- Transportation
- History

These top priorities will help guide the focus of the Comprehensive Plan update and will continue to be explored as the plan is drafted.

## Next Steps

Throughout 2020, the Berkley Group will work with Northampton County staff and Planning Commission to articulate the community's overarching vision and draft goals and policies that support that vision. Additional community outreach meetings may also be used, as needed, to keep the community informed and engaged as plan development progresses.

Citizens and community representatives are encouraged to stay involved through this process and visit the [website](#) for more information.



## Appendix A. Public Vision Workshop

Northampton Comprehensive Plan Workshop Notes  
September 9, 2019

- I. Discuss the top strengths of the community (3-5) items and list in order of importance to the group.
  - A. EX 1
    1. Natural resources
    2. Sufficient water resources managed properly
    3. Rural Nature- Wildlife unique to the bay
    4. Migratory Flyway unique for birds/butterfly
    5. Community fosters small business development & entrepreneurs
    6. Additional strengths:
      - a) Have maintained rural character of rte 13 so far
  - B. EX 2
    1. Natural Environment
    2. Aquaculture industry
    3. Agriculture
    4. Community connection
    5. Potential for customer base through tourism and proximity for North-South travel thoroughfare
  - C. EX 3
    1. Rural setting
    2. People
    3. Natural resources
    4. People
    5. Access to urban areas
  - D. C 1
    1. Natural resources
    2. Economic
    3. Clean groundwater
    4. History preserved
    5. Additional strengths
      - a) Open spaces
  - E. C 2
    1. Coastal environment and nature



2. Aquaculture, agriculture and tourism
3. Cohesive sense of community
4. Affordability
5. Cultural heritage
6. Additional strengths
  - a) Well-documented historical records

### F. N 1

1. Strong sense of community
2. Knowing community leaders/officials
3. Safety
4. Natural environment
5. Clean water

### G. N 2

1. Strong agricultural economy
2. Rural lifestyle
3. Natural beauty/environment
4. Rural, yet accessible to an urban area

### H. N 3

1. Diversity
2. Community Interest and Participation
3. Rural nature of the county
4. Diversity
5. Tourism
6. Additional:
  - a) Entrepreneurial/small business

### I. E 1

1. Community Character
2. Natural Beauty
3. Natural Preserved Land
4. Outside Recreational Opportunities
5. Abundance of Chicken Houses

### J. E 2

1. Active caring citizens that participate in government
2. Natural beauty of our county
3. 2009 Comprehensive Plan and Zoning
4. Rural character
5. Migrant labor force and diverse population
6. Additional:



- a) Eco tourism
- b) Cultural history
- c) Low crime rate
- d) Fertile business environment

### K. E 3

- 1. Quality of life
- 2. Geographical nature
- 3. Culture of enterprise
- 4. Respect for history

### L. E 4

- 1. Supportive communities
- 2. Diverse rural economic base
- 3. Natural beauty
- 4. Natural resources
- 5. Rural character coupled with proximity to urban support

### M. E 5

- 1. Natural Resources
- 2. Hospitable, Welcoming
- 3. Jobs available fit our local industries
- 4. Rural lifestyle
- 5. Attractive to retirees
- 6. Additional
  - a) Tourism
  - b) 2009 Comprehensive Plan

### N. E 6

- 1. Agriculture
- 2. Aquaculture
- 3. Ecotourism
- 4. Additional
  - a) Rural, small town character
  - b) Coastal location

### O. CC 1

- 1. Rural small-town community culture
- 2. Scenic small towns and unspoiled open farms and forest
- 3. Active coastal research
- 4. Pristine saltwater ecosystems
- 5. State park and wildlife refuge

### P. CC 2



1. Beauty of natural environment
2. Tourism destination
3. Sense of community
4. Agriculture and Aquaculture
5. Transportation

Q. CC 3

1. Unspoiled beauty
2. Small town friendly feel
3. Aquaculture and agriculture
4. Arts and culture

R. CC 4

1. Unique natural environment
2. Slower pace
3. Rural community
4. Aquaculture and small agriculture
5. Cultural arts

S. CC 5

1. Diverse population
2. Rural character
3. Abundant land and maritime resources
4. Scenic beauty
5. Relaxed lifestyle

T. CC 6

1. Sense of place and honoring our past
2. Rural character
3. Our history and heritage
4. Sense of community
5. Water beach opportunities to enjoy nature



- II. Discuss the top challenges facing the community (3-5) items and list them in order of importance to the group.
  - A. EX 1
    - 1. Convince large property owners to maintain property
    - 2. Affordable housing
    - 3. Revitalization of existing buildings instead of building new
    - 4. Maintain vigilance of seaside out to the barrier islands
    - 5. Maintain development only
    - 6. Additional challenges:
      - a) Encouraging tourism
      - b) Encouraging education, both academic and vocational
      - c) Encouraging good internet service
  - B. EX 2
    - 1. Public access to water
    - 2. Lack of jobs/workforce development
    - 3. Lack of affordable housing
    - 4. Turning down economic development opportunities
    - 5. Internet
    - 6. Blight
    - 7. Additional challenges
      - a) Opioid/drugs
      - b) Persistent poverty
      - c) Infrastructure
      - d) Healthcare access
  - C. EX 3
    - 1. County government pushes back on new initiatives
    - 2. Lack of employment opportunities
    - 3. New business startup resistance
    - 4. School system broken
    - 5. No incentive to return when kids grow up and leave – Declining population
    - 6. Additional Challenges
      - a) Lack of services
  - D. C 1
    - 1. Affordable housing and workforce housing
    - 2. Healthcare
    - 3. Coastal resilience improved
    - 4. Jobs



5. Education- underfunded teachers and infrastructure
6. Additional challenges
  - a) Feel strongly about income disparity and lack of commercial infrastructure

### E. C 2

1. Employment opportunities/workforce skills/training
2. Public education K-12
3. Revenue
4. Poverty and lack of affordable housing for local workspace
5. Tolls on bridge tunnel
6. Additional challenges
  - a) Protecting the environment
  - b) Chicken houses use a lot of water

### F. N 1

1. Lack of living wage employment opportunities for high school graduates and head of households
2. Dependence on one aquifer
3. Sewage disposal solution (for industry)
4. Transportation
5. Lack of multicultural relationships

### G. N 2

1. Real estate based revenue
2. Sea level rise
3. Infrastructure
4. Sole source aquifer
5. Employment and sustainable/living wage
6. Affordable housing
7. Declining/aging population
8. Geographic isolation

### H. N 3

1. Need for managed growth
2. Lack of money
3. Lack of healthcare opportunity
4. Lack of infrastructure and broadband
5. Fair and equal representation
6. Additional
  - a) Need more evaluation of current success and building on the same



### b) Better cooperation between groups

#### I. E 1

1. Water Quality
2. Ground Water Preservation
3. Wealth Disparity
4. Quality of Education
5. Missing opportunity to attract mid-to-high income residents

#### J. E 2

1. Broadband
2. Technological Training
3. Affordable housing
4. Infrastructure funding
5. Implementation of a green initiative

#### K. E 3

1. Responsible Economic Growth
2. Education/Workforce Development
3. Poverty
4. Healthcare
5. Aging Population

#### L. E 4

1. Public School System
2. Broadband
3. Low paying jobs
4. Income disparity
5. Urgent care

#### M. E 5

1. Poverty
2. Education challenges stifle young immigration
3. Declining population
4. Sole source aquifer
5. Retain protective setbacks for industrial poultry
6. Additional

### a) Insufficient county involvement

#### N. E 6

1. Population decline
2. Economic opportunity
3. Education
4. Affordable housing for residents



- 5. Additional
  - a) Strict zoning
  - b) Low environmental impact expansion/opportunities to prevent hurting existing successful industries

O. CC 1

- 1. Public schools are weak in funding
- 2. Reaching diverse population in public forums
- 3. Shortage of local healthcare providers
- 4. Economic disparity of local populations
- 5. Need for economic development and tax base growth

P. CC 2

- 1. Education
- 2. Access to healthcare
- 3. Local urban opportunities
- 4. Technology infrastructure
- 5. Housing stock

Q. CC 3

- 1. Protecting aquifer and land
- 2. Education
- 3. Healthcare
- 4. Broadband
- 5. Poverty
- 6. Attracting young families

R. CC 4

- 1. Education
- 2. Poverty and economic development
- 3. Broadband
- 4. Jobs
- 5. Healthcare
- 6. Affordable housing
- 7. Consistent enforcement of laws and regulations
- 8. Growing new population

S. CC 5

- 1. Debt
- 2. Schools
- 3. Healthcare
- 4. Employee availability
- 5. Affordable housing



6. Additional
  - a) Technical education
  - b) Water quality
  - c) Resiliency planning
  - d) Transportation
  - e) Protection of town edge

## T. CC 6

1. Economic development
2. Schools
3. Medical and emergency services
4. Workforce housing
5. Job opportunities
6. Additional
  - a) Climate impact
  - b) Clean water supply
  - c) Development
  - d) Racial and economic disparities



- III. What should be the County's Vision Statement?
- A. EX1
    - 1. The current Northampton County Vision Statement in its entirety
  - B. EX 2
    - 1. NoCo is a livable community that values our rural character while prosperous, cohesive and environmentally sensitive
  - C. EX 3
    - 1. Create a positive approach to economic development that provides opportunity for residents to prosper
  - D. C 1
    - 1. Northampton County is a rural community with well-preserved history, open spaces, small towns, rich natural resources, clean groundwater and unique economic opportunities.
  - E. C 2
    - 1. Protect the rural character, cultural heritage and scenic beauty of the county. Provide environmentally sustainable economic opportunities and the education and training necessary to support them
  - F. N 1
    - 1. As citizens of Northampton County we will protect the character of our community and natural environment while supporting sustainable business growth for small business and larger industry where citizens and families can thrive
  - G. N 2
    - 1. We support economic growth that utilizes and protects our natural resources
  - H. N 3
    - 1. Northampton County will find opportunities and ideas that enhance the vision and build on our natural beauty and diverse community
  - I. E 1
    - 1. Improve educational quality and economic opportunities while preserving the cherished quality of life of our community including water quality and preservation of natural resources.
  - J. E 2
    - 1. We are an inclusive, caring community exhibited by volunteerism and kindness
  - K. E 3



1. Northampton County promotes agriculture, aquaculture, tourism, compatible industries, and a rural culture of enterprise. We protect and enhance our fragile environment, natural resources and rural character while encouraging environmentally compatible economic growth and improvement to the cultural and socio-economic education and well-being of its citizens both present and future. We are a community that is a place of opportunity for all.

L. E 4

1. Preserving our rural landscape while creating a more vibrant supportive community.

M. E 5

1. Continue the 2009 statement

N. E 6

1. To accommodate and guide growth to create a stronger, vibrant county that preserves our rural, coastal, small town character

O. CC 1

1. No answer

P. CC 2

1. No answer

Q. CC 3

1. Concise and achievable

R. CC 4

1. General agreement with current vision statement
2. Environmental laws that protect our existing and sustainable industries

S. CC 5

1. Too long
2. Intelligent growth
3. Stewards of environment

T. CC 6

1. For Northampton County to be a place where all residents are respected and valued; can work and earn a living wage, obtain a quality education, have access to medical services and where all residents are encouraged to fully engage in the community and appreciate all Northampton County has to offer.

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan

## Community Outreach Summary

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- IV. List three goals to support this Vision
  - A. EX 1
    - 1. Good, responsible zoning based on the comprehensive plan
    - 2. Board of Supervisors that is responsive to citizens
    - 3. Attract quality educators
  - B. EX 3
    - 1. Loosen zoning regulations
    - 2. Embrace new ideas when presented
  - C. EX 4
    - 1. Loosen zoning regulations
    - 2. New ideas
  - D. C 1
    - 1. More participation
    - 2. Funding
  - E. C 2
    - 1. Increase revenue sources
    - 2. Business friendly- broadband expansion
    - 3. Protect health and safety of county residents
  - F. N 1
    - 1. The County will support renewable energy business initiatives
    - 2. Create infrastructure for treating sewage through most of the county
    - 3. Affordable vocational training
  - G. N 2
    - 1. Identify areas of economic growth
    - 2. Attract competitive employment opportunities
    - 3. Expand employment base
  - H. N 3
    - 1. Education
    - 2. Business recruitment
    - 3. Long term capital improvement program and solicitation of public-private partnerships
  - I. E 1
    - 1. Improve infrastructure
    - 2. Good land use planning and zoning
    - 3. Tax incentives to encourage full time residents
    - 4. Cosmetic improvements to Route 13 corridor viewsheds
  - J. E 2



1. Protect our natural resources and rural character
  2. Promote early childhood education and community involvement
  3. Land use and economic plan compatible with the community vision
  4. Transparency and Responsiveness
- K. E 3
1. Protect water quality and rural character
  2. Responsible economic development
  3. Celebrate successes
  4. Improve Governing processes to achieve goals
  5. Stellar educational institutions
  6. Encourage full-time residents
- L. E 4
1. Broadband
  2. School investment
  3. Protection of our Natural Resources
- M. E 5
1. More county encouragement for public participation
  2. Education
- N. E 6
1. No answer
- O. CC 1
1. Balance conservation and preservation against the need to create a more vibrant economy
- P. CC 2
1. Significantly improve K-12 education
  2. Comprehensive Plan to improve health care
  3. Improve technology infrastructure
- Q. CC 3
1. Protect the environment
  2. Education
  3. Attract and retain young families
- R. CC 4
1. Maintain current zoning laws to protect existing industries
  2. Broadband
  3. Affordable workforce housing
- S. CC 5
1. Get grants



2. Editor for length of statement
3. Plan for priorities to bring businesses to the shore
4. Improve vocational training

T. CC 6

1. Schools
2. Economic development
3. Workforce housing



## Appendix B. Topic Focused Workshop

### Northampton Comprehensive Plan Workshop Notes

Northampton High School Cafeteria 16041 Courthouse Road, Eastville, VA

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

#### Group 1:

#### Map Exercise

1. Notes on redevelopment or new development areas:
  - a. *Areas most ready for change and development:*
    - i. Cape Charles/Cheriton and Nassawadox/Exmore
  - b. *Types of development that are preferred for each area:*
    - i. Cape Charles/Cheriton - Commercial and service development, water/sewer infrastructure improvements, increased pedestrian, bike, and golf cart accessibility, and transportation options
    - ii. Nassawadox/Exmore - Water/Sewer infrastructure improvements, multi-family housing options, commercial and service development, expanding broadband access to rural areas
2. Notes on identified congestion areas:
  - a. *Areas of county where movement of autos is of greatest concern:*
    - i. Cape Charles Food Lion, Eastville Rural Health System location along Route 13, and Nasawadox stop light
  - b. *Suggested Improvements:*
    - i. Connect Food Lion with Bayside Road for southbound traffic
    - ii. Construct a feeder road to connect the health facility to Courthouse Road
    - iii. Implement a redlight warning signal in Nassawadox.
  - c. *Areas of county where movement of bikes/pedestrians is of greatest concern:*
    - i. Cape Charles Food Lion and Exmore Shopping Centers
  - d. *Suggested Improvements:*
    - i. Connect Food Lion with Bayside Road for southbound traffic
    - ii. Install crosswalks/crossing signals near the Shore Plaza shopping center
3. Notes on alternative transportation/recreation areas:
  - a. *Areas identified for improvements to the following infrastructures:*
    - i. Sidewalks - Hare Valley, Bayside Road, Shore Plaza shopping center in Exmore

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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- ii. Bicycle Lanes - Implementing railroad 'rails to trails' throughout the county
  - iii. Greenway Trails - Implementing railroad 'rails to trails' throughout the county
  - iv. Active Recreation Facilities - Machipongo Middle School, Nassawadox, and Cape Charles
4. Notes on the county's top preservation goal:
- a. *Area identified as highest priority for preservation:*
    - i. Seaside Road; Oyster and Willis Wharf Villages
  - b. *Reasons:*
    - i. Scenic views, protection of research and aquaculture facilities, and presence of wildlife migration corridors
5. Note any other items of concern:
- a. Importance of establishing infrastructure that won't pollute or waste land and water, inactive aquaculture rebar
  - b. Preservation of sole source aquifer

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan

## Community Outreach Summary

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### Group 2:

#### Map Exercise

1. Notes on redevelopment or new development areas:
  - a. *Areas most ready for change and development:*
    - i. Nassawadox and Exmore
  - b. *Types of development that are preferred for each area:*
    - i. Nassawadox - Redevelopment
    - ii. Exmore - Redevelopment and absorb growth, repurpose buildings rather construct new ones, Water/Sewer infrastructure improvements.
2. Notes on identified congestion areas:
  - a. *Areas of county where movement of autos/pedestrians/bicycles is of greatest concern:*
    - i. Cape Charles Food Lion, Bike trail/Capeville Road intersection, Stone Road, and other cycling routes in the area.
  - b. *Suggested Improvements:*
    - i. Install stop light warning signals and pedestrian crossing signals near the Cape Charles Food Lion intersection and on Route 13 at Exmore, install enclosures at bus stops along existing bike trails and consider expanding service coverage, extending/improving existing bike lanes.
3. Notes on alternative transportation/recreation areas:
  - a. *Areas identified for improvements to the following infrastructures:*
    - i. Publicize existing trails and bicycle routes
    - ii. Water access points throughout the area
    - iii. Establish a community center at a local middle school
    - iv. Greenway Trails - Better publicize existing trails and other recreational opportunities in the area
    - v. Active Recreation Facilities - Constructing additional and improving existing public water access points in the area, including docks, ramps, and beaches.
4. Notes on the county's top preservation goal:
  - a. *Area identified as highest priority for preservation:*
    - i. All areas on the Chesapeake Bay and sea sides of the county
  - b. *Reasons:*
    - i. All development in these areas should be carefully done to preserve them; Restrict development in flood and erosion prone areas.
5. Note any other items of concern:

## Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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- a. Lack of high-speed broadband in the area is a problem with no viable plans or solutions in sight
- b. Need for "Trades" workforce development in the area in professions such as carpentry, HVAC, auto mechanics, etc.

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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## Group 3:

### Map Exercise

1. Notes on redevelopment or new development areas:
  - a. *Areas most ready for change and development:*
    - i. Cape Charles/Cheriton and Nassawadox/Exmore
  - b. *Types of development that are preferred for each area:*
    - i. Exmore/Cheriton - Improved water and sewage infrastructure/solutions
    - ii. Cape Charles/Nassawadox/Exmore - Better designed traffic flows and buffers
2. Notes on identified congestion areas:
  - a. *Areas of county where movement of autos/pedestrians/bicycles is of greatest concern:*
    - i. Exmore, new health center, and Cape Charles/Cheriton stoplights
  - b. *Suggested Improvements:*
    - i. Reduce the number of stoplights in Exmore, redesign the ingress/egress of the health center, and implement safety improvements at Cape Charles/Cheriton stoplights
3. Notes on alternative transportation/recreation areas:
  - a. *Areas identified for improvements to the following infrastructures:*
    - i. Sidewalks - Hare Valley, Cheriton need sidewalk improvements/expansions and street lights that are dark sky compliant.
    - ii. Greenway Trails - Implementing railroad 'rails to trails', especially Weirwood to Bayford Rd.
    - iii. Active Recreation Facilities - Support YMCA development in the area and develop middle school recreation area.
4. Notes on the county's top preservation goal:
  - a. *Area identified as highest priority for preservation:*
    - i. Environmentally sensitive areas in the county, single source aquifer
  - b. *Reasons:*
    - i. Protect recharge area for water (single source), restrict building in flood prone areas, and maintain wildlife habitats.
5. Note any other items of concern:
  - a. Consider the effects of industrial farming upon the environment and water/coastal resilience
  - b. Prioritizing affordable housing over transient (like Air B&B)
  - c. Improving electrical grid structure with a redundant source

## Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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- d. Working with incorporated towns in the county to address a variety of local issues
- e. Aside from infrastructure, improving access to healthcare is also of concern

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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## Group 4:

### Map Exercise

1. Notes on redevelopment or new development areas:
  - a. *Areas most ready for change and development:*
    - i. Areas close to incorporated town edges in the county, particularly Nassawadox and Exmore.
  - b. *Types of development that are preferred for each area:*
    - i. Nassawadox/Exmore - Livable communities – Repurpose Nassawadox infrastructure to include workforce housing, waste treatment/water management, and build up retail space in the area.
2. Notes on identified congestion areas:
  - a. *Areas of county where movement of autos/pedestrians/bicycles is of greatest concern:*
    - i. Cape Charles stoplights,
    - ii. Bikes crossing Route 13 from bike trail,
    - iii. Traffic/congestion problems at the new Rural Health Center,
    - iv. Exmore.
  - b. *Suggested Improvements:*
    - i. No sidewalks along Route 13 in Exmore is an issue, as is the lack of pedestrian crossings where handicap people routinely cross intersections that have no crossing signals.
3. Notes on alternative transportation/recreation areas:
  - a. *Areas identified for improvements to the following infrastructures:*
    - i. Greenway Trails - Implementing railroad 'rails to trails' throughout the county, add more Greenway trails to the north end of the county and improve existing pathways.
4. Notes on the county's top preservation goal:
  - a. *Area identified as highest priority for preservation:*
    - i. Water/aquifer
  - b. *Reasons:*
    - i. Limited resource, non-recoverable if not managed properly, availability is lifeblood to the community, including preserving the working waterfront.
5. Note any other items of concern:
  - a. Public beach north of Eastville,



- b. Water access points are limited ( Bayford is the only launching point for Nassawadox Creek).

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan

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### Group 5:

#### Map Exercise

1. Notes on redevelopment or new development areas:
  - a. *Areas most ready for change and development:*
    - i. Cheriton and Exmore
  - b. *Types of development that are preferred for each area:*
    - i. Cheriton - Independent water/sewer, broadband, housing
    - ii. Exmore - Water/Sewer infrastructure, revitalize downtown (more pedestrian friendly access around Route 13, commercial areas in Exmore and Cheriton).
2. Notes on identified congestion areas:
  - a. *Areas of county where movement of autos/pedestrians/bicycles is of greatest concern:*
    - i. Cape Charles (Food Lion in particular) and Exmore, especially during the summer months when congestion is greatest.
3. Notes on alternative transportation/recreation areas:
  - a. *Areas identified for improvements to the following infrastructures:*
    - i. Community College remote facility as a remote jobs and training center
    - ii. Active Recreation Facilities - YMCA and indoor facilities
4. Notes on the county's top preservation goal:
  - a. *Area identified as highest priority for preservation:*
    - i. Conserving the entire natural resource of the Eastern Shore
  - b. *Reasons:*
    - i. Preserving the integrity of the water,
    - ii. Supporting agriculture and aquaculture,
    - iii. No development in any other areas than the incorporated Towns of Cape Charles and Exmore.
5. Note any other items of concern:
  - a. Schools in need of repair/ need acceptable infrastructure
  - b. Universal broadband access

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Group 6:

## Map Exercise

1. Notes on redevelopment or new development areas:
  - a. *Areas most ready for change and development:*
    - i. Nassawadox,
    - ii. Exmore,
    - iii. The Route 13 corridor
  - b. *Types of development that are preferred for each area:*
    - i. Redevelop the Exmore area where the K-Mart shopping center used to be
    - ii. Revitalize Nassawadox hospital area.
2. Notes on identified congestion areas:
  - a. *Areas of county where movement of autos/pedestrians/bicycles is of greatest concern:*
    - i. Cape Charles (Seasonal),
    - ii. Cape Charles Food Lion,
    - iii. Exmore (Silver Beach stoplight)(pedestrian accessibility),
    - iv. Nassawadox stoplight (pedestrian accessibility).
3. Notes on alternative transportation/recreation areas:
  - a. Need a public recreation center and senior daycare services.
4. Notes on the county's top preservation goal:

—
5. Note any other items of concern:

—

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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## Group 7:

### Map Exercise

1. Notes on redevelopment or new development areas:
  - a. *Areas most ready for change and development:*
    - i. Eastville,
    - ii. Exmore,
    - iii. Nassawadox
  - b. *Types of development that are preferred for each area:*
    - i. Basic services such as childcare and laundry facilities,
    - ii. Jobs and additional housing
2. Notes on identified congestion areas:
  - a. *Areas of county where movement of autos/pedestrians/bicycles is of greatest concern:*
    - i. Traffic lights in Exmore and at Cape Charles Food Lion,
    - ii. Eastville Rural Health System location along Route 13
3. Notes on alternative transportation/recreation areas:
  - a. *Areas identified for improvements to the following infrastructures:*
    - i. Sidewalks/Trails - Need improvements/expansions in major towns in the area, evaluation of sidewalk/bike path in Cheriton and Eastville in particular, for "livable communities".
    - ii. Priorities should include:
      1. Movement of bikes and people in the area,
      2. Installing crosswalks and crossing signals,
      3. Expanding and improving existing bike paths and sidewalks.
4. Notes on the county's top preservation goal:
  - a. *Area identified as highest priority for preservation:*
    - i. Aquaculture areas -  
Oyster, Willis Wharf, and Cherrystone Inlet
    - ii. Nature preserves
5. Note any other items of concern:



## Group 8:

### Map Exercise

1. Notes on redevelopment or new development areas:
  - a. *Areas most ready for change and development:*
    - i. Cape Charles/Cheriton,
    - ii. Exmore,
    - iii. Nassawadox,
    - iv. Willis Wharf
  - b. *Types of development that are preferred for each area:*
    - i. Water and sewer infrastructure improvements,
    - ii. Affordable housing opportunities,
    - iii. Living wage jobs.
2. Notes on identified congestion areas:
  - a. *Areas of county where movement of autos/pedestrians/bicycles of greatest concern:*
    - i. Exmore
    - ii. Route 13 corridor in general
  - b. *Suggested Improvements:*
    - i. Route 13 should remain a rapid transit corridor and commercial development along the road should be restricted; For example, there are too many stop lights in Exmore that impede traffic flow.
3. Notes on alternative transportation/recreation areas:
  - a. *Areas identified for improvements to the following infrastructures:*
    - i. Improve public transit system,
    - ii. Complete existing bike trails in the area,
    - iii. Construct a pedestrian bridge across Route 13 at Cape Charles;
    - iv. Create a northern beach/swimming pool.
4. Notes on the county's top preservation goal:
  - a. *Area identified as highest priority for preservation:*
    - i. Single-source aquifer
  - b. *Reasons :*
    - i. Limited resource,
    - ii. Protect recharge spine,
    - iii. Monitor withdrawal.
5. Note any other items of concern:



- a. Sea level rise

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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Group 9:

## Map Exercise

1. Notes on redevelopment or new development areas:
  - a. *Areas most ready for change and development:*
    - i. Cheriton
    - ii. Nassawadox
  - b. *Types of development that are preferred for each area:*
    - i. Facilities for vocational training/ schooling for professions such as HVAC services, auto mechanics, plumbing, etc.
    - ii. Need for a sports complex in the area, as well as recreational facilities for children/teenager activities.
2. Notes on identified congestion areas:
  - a. *Areas of county where movement of autos/bicycles/pedestrians is of greatest concern:*
    - i. Cape Charles Food Lion,
    - ii. Cape Center,
    - iii. Hare Valley/Bayside Road,
    - iv. Planned Rural Health Center in Eastville,
    - v. New Royal Farms
  - b. *Suggested Improvements:*
    - i. Connect Food Lion lot to Route 13 (South Bayside Road) and end development right on the highway to relieve congestion,
    - ii. Install caution signs at Cape Center and increase the length of the deceleration lane there,
    - iii. Expand/improve existing biking and pedestrian infrastructure,
    - iv. Reduce the speed limit in the Hare Valley/Bayside Road area (north of Nassawadox) to make it safer for cyclists and pedestrians.
3. Notes on alternative transportation/recreation areas:
  - a. *Areas identified for improvements to the following infrastructures:*
    - i. We feel there are more important issues; We already have Kiptopeke State Park, Indian Town, Savage Neck Dunes Wildlife Refuge, Brownsville, etc. Plan activities to utilize these existing areas.
4. Notes on the county's top preservation goal:
  - a. *Area identified as highest priority for preservation:*
    - i. Preserve the Chesapeake Bay and seaside by following existing rules and regulations that are set in place to protect the Eastern Shore,
    - ii. Maintain rural nature of the area.



5. Note any other items of concern:



## Appendix C. Stakeholder Meetings and Phone Interviews

Meetings conducted September 10, 2019

*\*The notes here are a compilation of numerous separate interviews. They contain the opinions of individuals and do not represent the policies or goals of Northampton County or any other group.*

### Meeting with: Commissioner of the Revenue

#### Positives

- A safe community that is peaceful and quiet
- Close knit community feel – you know your neighbor
- An asset of water that attracts people
- Transit bus for seniors
- Traffic is manageable. Weekends during the tourist season can be busy but that is okay because of the bonuses that come with it.

#### Challenges

- Internet
  - Lack of service is a barrier to businesses especially on Rt. 13
  - Lack of service and slow service has prevented the sale of homes
- Business
  - Not enough variety of businesses
  - Salaries are low and do not support the citizens' needs
  - Businesses are closing because of a lack of year-round customer base
- Housing
  - Not enough homes that are affordable
  - Single parents and those with low wages can not afford owning or renting homes

#### Goals and Other Thoughts

*"We should be investing in ourselves."*

- Highest priority should be jobs for young people that provide a living wage and will encourage the youth to stay in the county.

## Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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- A Recreation Center for youth that is affordable to all families.
- Water and Sewer to encourage businesses
- Incentives for small businesses to help them start-up or expand
- Extension of bus routes to make it more convenient for seniors and those without transportation
- An urgent care facility that can provide weekend and late-night emergency care



## Meeting with: Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore (CBES)

### *Positives*

*"We are a rural coastal gem."*

- Sense of community
- Aquaculture and family farms
- Beautiful viewshed
- History
- Tourism
- Varied art community

### *Challenges*

- Balancing the protection of natural and cultural resources with economic development
- Housing
  - Affordability - vacation rentals are driving price up
  - Quantity available because taken by vacation rentals
- Education needs to be a quality that will encourage new businesses and will prepare the next generation
- Broadband is close but we need to tap in and expand it

### *Goals and Other Thoughts*

- Unification and buy-in of industries and community groups
- Protect the industries that are here now, sustain aquaculture, protect the water
- Carefully consider new development before approval
- Encourage affordable and workforce housing
  - Build relationships
  - Seek grants
- Keep growth in and around towns
- Avoid growth on Route 13 so we can keep traffic flow
- Encourage small businesses and entrepreneurship
- No value in poultry houses. They deplete water and provide few jobs.

## Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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- Medical/emergency care is needed

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## Meeting with: Chamber of Commerce

### *Positives*

- Safe area
- Small town life but accessible to city life
- Scenic and beautiful
- Hubs and towns without urban sprawl

### *Challenges*

- Younger generation does not stay
  - Need industry and varied jobs
  - Salaries are low
- Affordable housing
- Sustaining jobs year-round instead of just during tourism times
  - Stores can't stay open
  - Residents have only seasonal work
- Water and sewer issues
  - Need additional service to bring in industry
- Reliable workforce

### *Goals and Other Thoughts*

#### *"Shop Local."*

- Promote our strengths
- Maintain the accessibility of the area
- Housing and a school system that suit new businesses and reduce employment turnover
- Broadband for businesses and students
- Encourage the use of local businesses especially in the off season



## A Minority Church Leader's Perspective:

- The comprehensive plan process should engage with churches. This may be the best method of reaching the African American community
- This community does not feel represented in County government at present
- The African American community is primarily interested in schools and jobs
- Seasonal employment is not good enough
- Deputies and teachers make similar salaries, making it hard to live in the County
- The County is not business-friendly, putting up hurdles to jobs and investment
- Affordable housing is a need
- Trade education is also a need
- It would go a long way if the Board of Supervisors were to meet at an African American church to engage this community
- Churches do not have the resources to conduct community programs

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### A Real Estate Perspective:

- Environmental preservation in the County is already assured by the 60,000-70,000 acres owned by the Nature Conservancy as well as state parks lands and easements placed on privately owned lands.
- While preservation is laudable these lands produce the side effect of depressing the County's tax base.
- The County is financially well-managed but needs to grow its commercial tax base.
- Commercial growth done correctly can produce jobs and tax revenue.
- The current economy based on tourism, agriculture, and aquaculture are not enough to sustain local needs, in part because agriculture and aquaculture products leave the County on a wholesale basis, producing little tax revenue.
- While artisans and seasonal businesses are great, feels they are not enough to provide for the County's needs.
- There is a need for hotel rooms
- There is a need for jobs that provide a family-sustaining wage and benefits
- The Comprehensive Plan should recognize a need for some measure of commercial growth
- Northampton County should be open for business
- There is currently too little land zoned C-1
- Potential investors face rezoning, SUP, etc. that chases them away to invest in other places
- Route 13 sees huge numbers of travelers. Must find ways to capitalize on travelers.
- County's expenses should rest on a commercial tax base rather than be carried by farmers and homeowners.
- Highway safety is used as an argument against growth, but it is possible to have both.
- Older plans proposed select nodes of commerce. Would like to see this concept revived.
- Former CPAC group made up of farmers, businesses, schools, etc. was grant funded to examine just the economic portions of the Comp Plan.
- There is a need to connect with disenfranchised people in the County



## An Agriculture Perspective:

- Worried about the future of local agriculture
- There was a time when a family could live and farm on 350 acres. Today you may need 2000+ acres to get by.
- Need farm and residential tax relief
- Major crops are corn, soybeans, and wheat, while County once grew much more diverse products
- Would like to see a viable agricultural community
- The County taxes farm machinery at higher rates than do neighboring jurisdictions
- There is a need for value-added industries that process local agricultural products here
- There are too many zoning hurdles to farming and supporting industries
- County does not have a tractor dealer to support farmers
- County has a reputation as being an impossible place to build such that investors don't even inquire any more.
- Potential locations for farm-supportive industry include former industrial land behind OBS and former KMC cannery site in Cheridan
- Senses no appreciation for agriculture in the community
- County does have an Ag Fair - last 3 years, which has been a good event.
- Despite the public fear of chicken houses finds that existing rules essentially prohibit them already and they are not a viable investment anyway

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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## A Public Schools Perspective:

The comprehensive plan input meeting with Northampton Public Schools involved three subgroups – administration, teachers, and students.

## School Administration Perspective:

- See community, friendliness, and tourism as community strengths
- See talent drain, shrinking school system, affordable housing, commuting distance, jobs, and teacher retention as challenges
- School system must hire 25-35 new teachers per year.
- Starting teacher salary is around \$38,000 per year.
- Best local students leave the County and do not return – a talent drain
- Teachers are not able to find housing.
- While tourism is great, tourists compete with teachers for housing
- There are no apartments or other affordable housing options in the County
- The County school system loses students to home schooling, private schools, and Virginia Beach
- County needs middle class jobs and affordable housing
- Would like to see hubs of housing and employment near the county's school sites, especially near Cape Charles
- County should have a dedicated economic development officer to recruit businesses
- High school needs \$29-30 million in renovations
- Elementary schools will need renovations in the next 10-15 years as well
- Income statistics in the County are skewed by retirees and second homeowners, which hurts school funding formulas
- The real income of public-school families is much lower

## Perspective of Five Teachers:

- Housing and healthcare are major challenges for students
- More businesses are needed, particularly ones with jobs
- Transportation barriers are also significant; the bridge tolls are unaffordable to many
- Public transit services need to be expanded

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- There is a teacher and bus driver deficit; some buses run two routes which results in delays for students
- Salaries are not competitive within the region (they are among the lowest, if not the lowest)
- New capital improvements are needed - the high school has many needs with areas that are unsafe and equipment that is inoperable; the elementary schools are also 25+ years old and aging; middle school classrooms are a separate portion of the high school and comprised of 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders, however "middle schoolers" are integrated with high school students
- The community college needs to develop more post-secondary programs for the trades including automotive, carpentry, and construction
- Broadband coverage has improved but homework is still a significant challenge for students who don't have home access
- Resident access to the mainland is limited due to the cost, particularly for low-moderate income residents
- Teachers have a hard time getting students to focus on big picture and their futures due to their daily hardships; low-moderate income barriers are significant for a high percentage of students
- There are many capital improvement needs
- Some of the personal relationships between the school board and county supervisors are too "cozy"; the Board of Supervisors and School Board don't appear to get along as elected bodies though
- The School Board seems to be myopic and closed minded
- The composite index is skewed (due to the number of second homes and high income residents with no children) and creates a significant financial hardship for the county's funding for its schools
- Perception of distrust with the county
- Citizens are under-engaged; need to be more transparent

### Perspective of Four High School Students:

#### *Positives*

- Close community
- Nature
- Potential

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan

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- Seniors can take college courses
- Students received laptops

### *Challenges*

"Wouldn't want my kids to go to this school!"

- School
  - Safety
    - Areas are condemned
    - Supplies and science lab equipment do not work properly
  - Education
    - Caliber of teachers is poor
    - Materials are old and outdated
    - No classes with "life value" to provide a trade or a focus
- Poverty
  - Few job opportunities
  - Low pay
  - Seasonal jobs
  - Expensive

### *Goals and Other Thoughts*

- Everyone wants to leave because there is nothing here, few job options after college
- Better infrastructure to encourage growth of businesses
- Fix old buildings or rebuild to improve and encourage options in other towns
- Improve quality of life for young people with things to do

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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Meetings conducted November/December 2019

*\*The notes here are a compilation of numerous separate interviews. They contain the opinions of individuals and do not represent the policies or goals of Northampton County or any other group.*

## Meeting with: Cape Charles Town Planner

### Challenges/Opportunities:

- Town edge properties up to Rt. 13
- Consider an entrance corridor overlay district on Route 184 from Route 13 to Town limits.
- Bay Creek was purchased by Preserve Communities
  - 3000 homes planned at build-out (long horizon)
- Rails to Trails from Food Lion to Shanty; grant fell through; ANPDC; there is a bike-ped advisory committee
  - Local and regional support Nassawaddox to Hallwood corridor. County owns the railroad.
- Water/sewer – critical infrastructure; partnership opportunities; Bay Creek will upgrade the sewer plant; should extend along Rt. 13 for both counties; Exmore may privatize
- Schools – public, Broadwater or Christian; definite challenge
- Affordable housing is a challenge (in Cape Charles)
  - Multifamily options are viable options and needed

### Other Observations

- VDOT owning the roads (in town) is a challenge; sidewalk improvements are needed
- Broadband is improving
- Coastal resiliency should be a focus

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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## Meeting with: Virginia Outdoors Foundation

### Challenges/Opportunities:

- Youth need to learn a skill while in school to utilize after graduation
- Northampton has limited economic opportunities
- Water, Sewer and Broadband will lure businesses
- Limit curb cuts and provide deceleration lanes on Route 13 for safety
- Sea level rise needs to be considered with development projects and zoning
- Concentrate growth around the towns
- Working waterfront communities need to be grouped together for zoning and treated differently than other areas

### Other Observations

- Every 5 years the bridge toll will increase 10%

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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## Meeting with: Soil and Water Conservation District educator

### Challenges/Opportunities:

- Keep growth around towns and minimize development on Route 13
- Consider the aquifer and ground water recharge when considering development and growth
- Need an urgent care or tele-med center - could possibly be located at old hospital
- Old Middle school should be utilized more
  - Telework center
  - Recreation programs
  - Fix kitchen for use by farmers and those that want to sell food items or a Meals on Wheels type program
- Community college needs to partner with the schools to provide CNA, truck driving and other licensed skills

### Other Observations

- 81% of students are economically disadvantaged



## Meeting with: Residential Contractor; Shore native

### Challenges/Opportunities:

- More difficult to get permits approved and takes longer time in County – environmental regs.
- Access to healthcare
  - Hospital closed ~3 years ago
  - Population moving to Onancock and Accomack closer to healthcare services
  - Rural Health is consolidating Franktown and Bayside clinics in Eastville – further widening gap for access in northern part of County
- Water & Sewer Infrastructure – need to upgrade/expand/extend services around towns; is essential.
- Housing – affordable housing is a tough issue; housing needed for teachers
  - Multifamily would be well-received to diversify housing stock and provide affordability (especially for teachers)
- Schools – enrollment is down; need to consider building new (replacement) schools – last built in '79; teacher retention is a problem due to salaries
- Workforce development – difficult to find workers in construction industry; 1/3 are Hispanic
  - Support Community College for vocational training programs
  - High school needs to emphasize more trades and coordinate with community college
  - Construction, agriculture and aquaculture need a labor supply on the Shore
  - Skilled laborers are aging out
- Fire/Rescue – recruitment and retention; county has had to absorb responsibilities due to shrinking volunteer companies.
- Transportation:
  - Star Transit provides valuable service to residents
  - Roadway maintenance is being neglected (particularly to “neck” communities)
  - Interface with water and land transportation
    - Channels not dredged and markers removed; access to creeks is difficult and unsafe

## Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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- COE program where property owners shared cost pro rata for dredging but was not implemented due to stalemate with Corps and Board

### Other Observations

- Cape Charles is growing; Northampton north of Eastville has not changed much

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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## Meeting with: Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Council

### Challenges/Opportunities:

- Enhancing eco-tourism should be a focus
  - Need improved public access points
  - Improving boat access at Oyster
  - Oyster boardwalk at the landfill is a good opportunity
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation is a great resource
- Keep the CBPA regulations on the seaside to protect water quality and economic development
- Groundwater quality and quantity is a primary issue
  - A saltwater intrusion study is being performed; \$200k study commissioned by the Governor's office (via ANPDC)
  - Sea level rise and resiliency report due Jan/Feb 2020
  - Desalinization needs to become a prominent discussion and focus area
- Poverty is a major issue that needs to be addressed
  - There is a need for subsidized housing; locations need to be identified
  - There is a need for subsidized utilities for qualifying households (Clean water revolving loan fund – grants?)
  - USDA study documents the needs and the strong correlation with minorities
  - Infrastructure is a critical component needed to provide such housing (water and sewer)
- Public education is a major concern
- Economic development needs to be strategic and not a “linear city” along Rt. 13
- Land use should focus on the zoning code
  - Emphasis on process, equity and conformance with the Comp Plan
  - Cluster or conservation subdivisions should be enabled/created
  - No poultry operations should be permitted in the County
  - The Future Land Use Map should guide zoning and not mirror the zoning map

### Other Observations

## Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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- [www.birdingeasternshore.org](http://www.birdingeasternshore.org) is a good resource; funded by the County



## Meeting with: Nature Conservancy

### Challenges/Opportunities:

- Need to continue public access to the character of the county
  - Bike trails
  - Paved launches for boats and kayaks
  - Walking and hunting
- Support maintaining the buoys
- This year started allowing ecotourism on the barrier islands - tourism and especially ecotourism is a big thing for the Eastern Shore
- Providing program for students and teachers through a grant in hope to support and educate about aquaculture and clean water - want teachers to be retained here
- Resiliency is a concern with sea level rise - want to protect marshes as water moves inland and to help move structures/communities to safety
  - Federal programs available for adopting plans

### Other Observations

- DEQ conducted a coastal zone economy study - a good resource for information

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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## Meeting with: UVA Coastal Research Center

### Challenges/Opportunities:

- Towns located on waterfront
- Infrastructure needs to be along Rt. 13 (highest ground), including major facilities but would not encourage strip malls
  - Hamlets are a challenge
- Evaluate the preservation of historic resources v. new development
  - Heritage tourism is an opportunity - Eyreville Plantation, Eyre Hall, Custis Tombs
  - State archeologist is a good resource
- Through traffic on Rt. 13 is bad and will get worse; need to have more destination points in the county
- Trail by the landfill - there is a grant to restore it
- Nassawattox has good frontage on 13 and infrastructure in place
- Target industries that are appropriate to the county's resources and geography
- Virginia Coastal Policy Center is a resource (William & Mary)
  - Examine ag zoning and opportunities to enable bottom-up retreat via zoning (move upland) - consider smaller lot size for this type of move because of affordability

### Other Observations

- Coastal resilience maps are a great and reliable resource
- Schools are a big issue



## Meeting with: Commercial Aquaculture

### Challenges/Opportunities:

- Northampton County has the largest hard clam industry in the world
  - VIMS documents the numbers in their latest report
  - The consistency and quality of the seaside water is the best in the country
  - Low salinity has been hard on the Bayside due to heavy rains – harms clams more than oysters but numbers are down for both
- Hamlets need to have more flexibility in zoning for access to water (e.g., lower setbacks; exemptions for aquaculture structures)
  - Willis Wharf and Oyster are the two primary areas of concern
- The 150' buffer on the seaside should not be eliminated (CBPA regulations)
  - talk of this buffer reduction to allow for more dense development closer to the water is contrary to the need for upland retreat and encroaches on the aquaculture industry
  - Cheriton leadership has promoted the concept
- There is widespread support for clean water
- Northampton county should focus on its successes
- No poultry operations should be permitted in the County

### Other Observations

- Recommended speaking with local watermen

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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## Meeting with: Exmore Manager and Zoning Administrator

### Challenges/Opportunities:

- Town edge is primary concern
  - Public safety resources are the main issue, land use as well
- Develop the towns and leave the county open
- No loosening of zoning regulations for poultry operations
- Town is a major provider of utilities
  - Should have a land use influence on the town edge where utilities are provided
- Future development should focus on traffic concentrations
  - Cape Charles at Rt. 13 has 8,000 vehicle trips/day
  - Exmore at Rt. 13 has 18,000 vehicle trips/day
  - Only at Rt. 13 has 20,000 vehicle trips/day
- Town is looking at its water/sewer system
  - HRSD v. privatization
- Workforce housing is needed – public safety, teachers

### Other Observations

- County has too many zoning classifications
- Town comp plan by ANPDC is a good reference document

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan

## Community Outreach Summary

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### Phone interview with: Business Owner; retiree

First year in business. Interested in pursuing eco-tourism industry and initiatives in Northampton County.

#### Challenges/Opportunities:

- Feels there is a distinct difference between north portion and south portion of county; Eastville is the dividing line
- Challenges working with county to develop eco-tourism industry
  - County says eco-tourism is promoted
  - Tried to establish a water take-in and county rejected; then tried to utilize the public boat ramp, and initially denied, but reluctantly agreed
  - If ecotourism is to be promoted, purveyors need better understanding where they can/cannot provide this service
  - Zoning needs to be clearer for property owners to understand and county officials to enforce/regulate
- Business has become a "community hub" in Janesville
- Closing December through March because customer base is not present
- Great relationship with Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce



## Phone interview with: Local Waterman

- Working Waterfronts are disappearing due to regulations – limited leases and waterfront housing restricting the use
- Route 600 should be fixed and maintained for local traffic to avoid Route 13 during congested times
- Pollution needs to be kept down – chicken houses are a concern and should not be allowed in the county
- Affordable housing is a problem, \$1,000 a month rent is not affordable
- Northampton could use an Ag Complex similar to Accomack with freezers for the watermen and facilities for farmers. It needs to be on a smaller scale so that a single waterman and farmers can afford
- Tourism is a plus for the watermen, we use tourism to boost sales



## Phone interview with: Small business owner; retired Planning Commissioner

- Schools are important for the community but have several problems
  - The facilities are in poor condition
  - The current educational programs are not working, children are not learning how to read and are pushed through
  - Need competitive wages for teachers to come and to stay
- Poverty level is high, statistics may show it is up but that is retired citizens that have moved here are skewing the numbers, the poverty is generational – a cycle from parents to children
- Workforce housing is needed, there are few rentals or buying options for the working class
- Labor force is low and there appears to be low incentive to work
- We need multifamily and senior living facilities
- Churches and volunteers are a strong help in the community providing food banks and afterschool programs
- "Tourism has been a boom but also taken away resources"



## Phone interview with: Local Waterman

- Oyster and clamming are losing ground by homeowners and regulations
- License requirements make it difficult to go from one seafood to another
- The Accomack facility is costly to operate and not enough product to keep it going, it might be closing



### Phone interview with: Commercial seafood industry

- Chesapeake Bay restrictions have hurt narrow strips of land, need industrial exemptions for seafood operations and large-scale farming
  - Have to keep the same footprint of a building that was built in 1940, leaves no room for growth or change
  - Disturbance restrictions are counterproductive when it is hard to disturb and replant but easy to till everything for gardening
- Waterfront landowners are taking oyster leases and making it hard for waterman to make a living
- Northampton County has opportunities and we need to make the best of what we have by changing as necessary and not trying to freeze exactly as we are
- Promote experiences and what we have to offer – allow a wider variety of uses like seafood tasting rooms
- Schools bring businesses
  - Invest in our schools so that teachers and students want to be there
  - Promote and hire within for buy-in, retainment and understanding of the local culture
  - Supply affordable housing and good wages for teacher retainment
- Northampton appears trashy – enforce rules about junk cars and trash piles
- African American culture needs to be promoted more
- Grocery stores should buy from local farmers and supply local produce etc.
- Exmore could be created into a teacher town – supply affordable housing, resources, retail and teachers will have comradery and want to stay
- Why can't we be a Nantucket?

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan

## Community Outreach Summary

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### Phone interview with: Non-profit business CEO; Shore native

County needs to be more business friendly, lower barriers; increased partnership with the community college; workforce development; affordable housing for working class; lots of turnover in the education system

Eastern Shore has many positive qualities – public beach in Cape Charles; agriculture and aquaculture

Northampton High School needs to be improved - \$28M improvements is a good start but will the citizens really see the benefit of the improvements; needs to be apparent to the public

Community College – new President Jim Schafer; Peggy Kellam, Director of Development; partner with Wallops; meeting with high schools regarding dual enrollment

Recreation opportunities for children needs to be expanded – arcade; public swimming pool; engaging youth including sports but reaching beyond; if they are connected to the Shore then they will come back

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan

## Community Outreach Summary

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### Phone interview with: Bayview Citizens for Social Justice

BCSJ founded to oppose the regional prison to be located in Bayview (1994-95); taken on a broader social agenda since then; displacement issue was a major concern; formed broader alliances to learn more about issues and stop the location

After the prison issue failed, attention turned toward improving quality of life for the Bayview area; another valuable learning experience; joined Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore; attended all Board of Supervisor meetings for a year (another learning experience)

Diverse groups and interests; still one of the poorest counties in the state; poverty is largely a state-of-mind and is like a cancer to a community

Bayview's biggest issue is racism and classism; neglected by middle and upper class blacks as well as whites; it's a mindset and misrepresentation of the community; elected officials have not been helpful and don't give equal representation

Education is a major barrier - not a good quality education; not relevant to current issues

County's revenue needs to be focused more on education and equal impact to the county's different communities

Participation from the black community is low due to past experiences; lack of results; misrepresentation; need all the ingredients to have a successful recipe

The Bay-Bridge Tunnel is a significant cultural barrier to low income residents (\$28/day)

You need to know how to utilize the resources you have, or they are worthless to the community. If residents don't use them, someone will to their benefit.

Comp Plan needs to define affordable housing and work force housing as well as poverty; The Recession brought the middle class housing issues to light; good housing impacts working class people too; comp plan changes need to be transparent; if you want open space then you need to restrict subdivisions; AFD rules need to be enforced or they will be abused; need to enforce what you say you're going to do; lot of lost trust in the plan due to contradictions, lack of enforcement and consistency.

Sea level rise needs more attention; the environment is changing and that needs to be accounted for

Historic resources need to be protected too, equally. Need to plan the future without past biases.

Diversity is the key to a good plan along with effective implementation.

Rt. 13 needs to be protected from too many driveways, traffic lights, and strip development; it can become a major barrier between bayside and seaside; strategic overpasses may be needed

## Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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Agricultural practices and alternatives need to be explored; for example, are solar farms good for the land and community; any control of off-shore wind or mining/oil drilling; what is possible and can be controlled; private airstrips are another example

Electricity supply, water supply and other resource constraints need to be accounted for; short-term and long-term impacts need to be accounted for in each land use decision

SWOT analysis was done in 1980's, 90's and then again in 2018 and many things had changed indicating more interest in participation and moving the county forward. An excellent opportunity to move forward in a positive way.

Use a Bayview area church for future public meeting

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan

## Community Outreach Summary

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### Phone interview with: Small business owner; former Cape Charles PC member

Survey flawed – no construction skills listed; too quick; Hispanic responses were very similar to overall responses

Econ Dev – century of animosity between the town and county; cultural roots – ag/aquaculture has high numbers but relatively few jobs; town development will have more employment opportunities; 200 acres in town designated for commercial growth; guide growth to towns and not along 13 (it's the main water recharge area); Wastewater treatment plan is key – 250,000 gal/day can be discharged into the bay – the more development is concentrated in the town, the greener it is.

Wallops is a globally important resource that Northampton County should take advantage; space station resupply occurs from Wallops; 100 acres of developable land next to the harbor; rocket bodies currently only go through MD; state level issue that could be addressed – RR use; harbor use; Baldwin property has potential regardless of historic issues with past zoning requests – need to support efforts to draw the aerospace industry (R&D, manufacturing, etc.); Northampton is a pristine place to live (no chicken farms)

Need to focus on Economic Development in smart ways – do not allow higher density in flood prone, coastal areas. Protect the coastline. Better jobs and a vision to have better jobs. High tech is critical for future community success!

Dominion windfarm is an opportunity to create a resupply business; County should be connecting with Dominion to prepare; the deep water harbor is an asset; Harbor District zoning is being amended to be more accommodating; marine resupply as a use has the least number of permitting barriers – another good Econ Dev target.

Education system needs to improve to support economic development. High tech businesses are attracted to a good school system; improvements to Broadwater are needed to attract high tech and initially boost econ dev which will, in turn, positively impact public schools. Public school children and families are not invested in education due to their economic situation. If you fix the families, then you fix the schools.

Sea level rise and stormwater could have a negative impact on the town's economy which will profoundly impact the county. Town and county should cooperate on sustainability efforts for mitigate flooding. Ad hoc RAFT committee member – lots of untapped resources; more focused effort to protect Cape Charles in order to retain the income. Good marketing tool – safe from floods, safe investment. County should take a leadership role.

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan

## Community Outreach Summary

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Additional notes (submitted via email):

- 1) Flooding of the waterfronts and low lying areas will occur more frequently as the seas rise and extreme storms become the norm. Our goal as a community should be to limit growth in flood zones, especially commercial development, and to maintain good drainage in our more densely populated areas. Coastal resilience, in all of its aspects, should be built into our Plan.
- 2) DO NOT PAVE OVER OUR AQUIFER RECHARGE ZONE. Plan for commercial development off Rt. 13. Always protect our drinking water before bowing to commercial interests.
- 3) Funnel commercial and workforce housing developments into towns or areas that have a wastewater treatment facility. Build in Cape Charles, or near the proposed regional wastewater system in northern Northampton if that ever actually happens (but not on the highway).
- 4) Treat Cape Charles as if it is a part Northampton County. This means WORKING WITH TOWN OFFICIALS to create a community that potentially benefits everyone in the county. The longstanding disharmony between the town and county governments is dysfunctional and needs to stop.
- 5) Keep the Town Edge zones so towns can have a say in what happens around them.
- 6) FOCUS STRONGLY ON IMPROVING ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE in Northampton. Many senior citizens may have to move because the hospitals are so far away, and there are so few general practitioners.
- 7) Create incentives for developers to build workforce housing. Integrate a mixture of housing types. Affordable housing should be mixed with workforce and market rate housing.

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan

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### Phone interviews with: Mayors

Cheriton – Larry LeMond

Population of just under 500 people; friendly town; lots of elderly people that can be resistant to change; no water or sewer; 1 ½ block downtown business area; do have some folks moving to Cheriton from Cape Charles; no real estate tax (\$30/vehicle); meals tax

Utilities would be beneficial, especially wastewater; well water seems to work fine; Hampton Roads Authority is a good option to pursue; town joined by resolution at its November 2019 meeting (unanimous)

Park is a good amenity; community attraction and site for activities.

Rail trail could benefit the town; about ½ mile from the downtown; seems like widespread support for the idea in the county

Protecting nature is a primary concern – tourism, agriculture and aquaculture are the three primary legs of the economy

Growth along Rt. 13 clustered in certain areas would be good

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan

## Community Outreach Summary

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Nassawadox - Patricia (Patsy) Stith

Vision is to have no more derelict rundown structures in town; need to demolish those structures; need financing

Want an attractive, well-kept town with sidewalks, a park, utilize and enhance the multi-use recreation field; other courts, swimming pool, playground; town landscaping

Hospital/Medical Center - convert to apartments; veterans; VA clinic; downstairs could be commercial or civic; workforce housing; rooftop garden or commercial

Once RR has permission to abandon RR property - landscaping, farmer's market, picnic shelter; steam powered sawmill - events, utilization of all the vacant buildings in that area

Rogers Drive - empty field; under contract; vacant building on hospital property that could be renovated

Movie theatre; indoor entertainment; miniature golf

Passed a resolution to be taken in by HRSD; Riverside owns the treatment plant (hospital); town is responsible for connection of new system

Nursing home or assisted living center

Library expansion - facilities and programming

Get people outside and into the community!

Food processing from organic or other gardening or produce

Recycling on the Shore as feasible



## Appendix D. Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Survey Results

Survey Conducted: September 30, 2019-January 1, 2020

Total Responses: 852

*Question 1:* What are the things you like best about living in Northampton? (check the three that are most important to you)

a. Rural Character and Open Space	544
b. Low Population	194
c. Sense of Community	377
d. Low Crime Rate	293
e. Clean Air and water	327
f. Water Access	314
g. Agricultural and Aquacultural Industries	157
h. Proximity to Larger Town and Cities	132
i. Low Taxes	151
j. Other	67
i. Top Answers	
1. The Beach	3
2. Nature/Natural Resources	10
3. Family	5

*Question 2:* What concerns you the most about Northampton's future? (check the three that are most important to you)

a. Traffic and Road Maintenance	109
b. Quality of Public Schools	584
c. Keeping Taxes Low	197
d. Lack of Job Opportunities	574
e. High Cost of Housing	261
f. Conflicts Between Farms and Development	131
g. Conflicts Between Natural Resources and Development	250
h. Lack of Close Emergency Healthcare	341
i. Other	94
i. Top Answers	
1. Chicken Houses	7
2. Water	3
3. Business Losses/No Development	5
4. Affordable Housing	11

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan

## Community Outreach Summary

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*Question 3:* What should Northampton focus on as it plans for the future? (check the three that are most important to you)

a. Promoting Affordable Housing Opportunities	322
b. Managing Development	181
c. Environmental Preservation	227
d. Encouraging Economic Development and Job Growth	457
e. Improving the Public Schools and Education Opportunities	580
f. Providing Recreation for Youth and Young Families	247
g. Preserving Historical and Natural Resources	186
h. Providing Emergency Medical Care	259
i. Other	58
i. Top Answers	
1. Broadband/Internet	5
2. Agriculture/Farming	2

*Question 4:* If the number of jobs in the County increases, what kind of jobs would be desirable? (choose all that apply)

a. Heavy Manufacturing	151
b. Light Manufacturing and Warehousing	533
c. Agriculture and Aquaculture Industries	442
d. Commercial Businesses- Retail, Wholesale, Shopping Center	539
e. Offices and High-Tech Services	510
f. Other	104
i. Top Answers	
1. Skilled Trades	3
2. Science/Research	5
3. Entrepreneurs/Small Businesses	4
4. Tourism	12
5. Renewable Energy	2

*Question 5:* What types of commercial development would be desirable? (choose all that apply)

a. No Commercial Growth	51
b. Specialty Retail (Clothing, Art, Gifts, Etc.)	450
c. General Retail (Grocery, Pharmacy, Hardware, Etc.)	559

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary



d. Restaurants	480
e. Healthcare (Doctors, Dentists, Etc.)	614
f. Professional Services (Financial, Legal, Business)	375
g. Other	85
i. Top Answers	
1. Entertainment	5
2. Recreation	7
3. Affordable Housing	2

*Question 6:* What types of residential development would be desirable? (choose all that apply)

a. No Residential Growth	47
b. Single Family Homes	568
c. Duplexes or Townhouses	347
d. Apartments or Condos	386
e. Housing for Seniors or Elderly	498
f. Affordable Housing	245
g. Other	58
i. Top Answers	
1. Assisted Living Facilities	3
2. Infill of Existing Development	4

*Question 7:* What should Northampton's Priorities be for improving facilities and services? (rank these in order of priority from 1-6 with 1 being your top priority and 6 being your lowest priority)

a. Rank 1 (Highest Priority)	
i. Streets and Roads	55
ii. Fire, Rescue, and Police	93
iii. Parks and Recreation	31
iv. Public Water and Sewer	80
v. Public Schools	529
vi. Social Services	35
b. Rank 2	
i. Streets and Roads	103
ii. Fire, Rescue, and Police	151
iii. Parks and Recreation	130
iv. Public Water and Sewer	140
v. Public Schools	134
vi. Social Services	165
c. Rank 3	
i. Streets and Roads	143

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ii. Fire, Rescue, and Police	196
iii. Parks and Recreation	145
iv. Public Water and Sewer	131
v. Public Schools	60
vi. Social Services	148
d. Rank 4	
i. Streets and Roads	159
ii. Fire, Rescue, and Police	163
iii. Parks and Recreation	147
iv. Public Water and Sewer	137
v. Public Schools	46
vi. Social Services	171
e. Rank 5	
i. Streets and Roads	185
ii. Fire, Rescue, and Police	129
iii. Parks and Recreation	156
iv. Public Water and Sewer	158
v. Public Schools	39
vi. Social Services	156
f. Rank 6 (Lowest Priority)	
i. Streets and Roads	176
ii. Fire, Rescue, and Police	91
iii. Parks and Recreation	214
iv. Public Water and Sewer	177
v. Public Schools	15
vi. Social Services	148

*Question 8:* What is your age?

a. Under 20 Years	35
b. 20 to 29 Years	56
c. 30 to 39 Years	120
d. 40 to 49 Years	108
e. 50 to 59 Years	135
f. 60 to 69 Years	215
g. 70 to 79 Years	121
h. 80 Years of Over	28

*Question 9:* If you are a resident of Northampton, how long have you lived in the County?

a. Under 5 Years	135
b. 5 to 9 Years	66

# Northampton County Comprehensive Plan Community Outreach Summary

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c. 10 to 19 Years	175
d. 20 to 29 Years	87
e. 30 to 39 Years	98
f. 40 or More Years	225
g. I Do Not Live in Northampton	32

*Question 10:* Which best identifies the geographical area in which you live?

a. In or Around Exmore	137
b. In or Around Nassawaddox	98
c. In or Around Eastville	156
d. In or Around Cheriton	99
e. In or Around Cape Charles	237
f. Other	87
i. Top Answers	
1. In or Around Machipongo	21
2. In or Around Cheapside	3
3. In or Around Birdsnest	6

*Question 11:* Which best describes your location of employment?

a. At Your Home in Northampton	47
b. In Northampton	387
c. In Accomack	49
d. Another Virginia Area	28
e. Outside of Virginia	12
f. Student	27
g. Retired	214
h. Unemployed and Over 18 Years	15
i. None of the Above	17
j. Other	22
i. Top Answers	
1. Self-Employed	4

*Question 12:* Is internet available at your residence?

a. Yes	706
b. No	112

*Question 13:* If internet is available at your residence, is it sufficient for your daily needs?

a. Yes	462
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b. No	354
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*Question 14:* Is reliable cell phone service available at your residence?

a. Yes	604
b. No	214