CUMBERLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2006-2011

Adopted 9-12-06

CUMBERLAND COUNTY
POST OFFICE BOX 110
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CUMBERLAND, VIRGINIA 23040

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I. Introduction

A. The Comprehensive Plan

The Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan is an official statement of policy, adopted by the Cumberland County Board of Supervisors, providing guidance for the future physical development of all aspects of the County, both public and private.

The Comprehensive Plan serves several functions. Perhaps the most fundamental function is that the Comprehensive Plan is the official vision for the future of the County, as formulated through the collective ideas, opinions and aspirations of the many stakeholders within the county. The Comprehensive Plan describes this vision through its goals and objectives for the future as well as through maps and exhibits.

Comprehensive Plan stakeholders include the County's political leadership, administrative personnel, planning commission, school board, other agencies and organizations with interests in the county, the farming community, the business and industry community, homeowners, property owners, and the citizens in general. Because there are many stakeholders with correspondingly different perspectives, the vision of the Comprehensive Plan is, by necessity, a compromise resulting from reasonable consensus of County stakeholders.

The Comprehensive Plan also serves as a compendium for useful information on the County. This information includes descriptive and statistical information on many different aspects of the County, its lands, its people, and all aspects of its development. This information serves to inventory or document what exists at a given point in time.

Implied by the title, the Comprehensive Plan is general in nature. The Code of Virginia states that the Plan shall *"designate the general or approximate location, character, and extent of each feature shown on the plan and shall indicate where existing lands or facilities are proposed to be extended, widened, removed, relocated, vacated, narrowed, abandoned or changed in use as the case may be."*

The Code of Virginia Section 15.2-2223 further provides that the Comprehensive Plan *"may include, but need not be limited to"* a number of categories of information including:

1. *The designation of areas for various types of public and private development and use, such as different kinds of residential, business, industrial, agricultural, mineral resources, conservation reaction, public service, flood plain and drainage, and other areas;*
2. *The designation of a system of transportation facilities such as streets, roads, highways, parkways, railways, bridges, viaducts, waterways, airports, ports, terminals, and other facilities;*
3. *The designation of a system of community service facilities such as parks, forests, schools, playgrounds, public buildings, and institutions, hospitals, community centers, waterworks, sewage disposal or waste disposal areas, and the like;*
4. *The designation of historical areas and areas for urban renewal and other treatment;*

5. *The designation of areas for the implementation of reasonable ground water protection measures;*
6. *An official map, a capital improvements program, a subdivision ordinance, a zoning ordinance and zoning district maps, mineral resource district maps and agricultural and forestall district maps, where applicable and*
7. *The location of existing or proposed recycling centers.*

In addition the Code of Virginia stipulates that the Comprehensive Plan *"…shall include the designation of areas and implementation of measures for the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of affordable housing, which is sufficient to meet the current and future needs of residents of all levels of income in the locality while considering the current and future needs of the planning district within which the locality is situated."*

Within these broad guidelines, Cumberland County, including the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, has broad discretion to develop and maintain a Comprehensive Plan document that is appropriate to the County's unique characteristics, challenges, aspirations and needs.

B. Enabling Legislation

Virginia law requires that all cities, towns and counties of the Commonwealth of Virginia prepare, adopt and maintain a comprehensive plan. Code of Virginia Section 15.2-2223, states in part:

> *"The local planning commission shall prepare and recommend a comprehensive plan for the physical development of the territory within its jurisdiction and every governing body shall adopt a comprehensive plan for the territory under its jurisdiction."*

Once a comprehensive plan is adopted it is subject to review every five years thereafter. Code of Virginia Section 15.2-2230 states that:

> *"At least once every five years the comprehensive plan shall be reviewed by the local planning commission to determine whether it is advisable to amend the plan."*

C. Developing a New Comprehensive Plan for Cumberland County

The Cumberland County Board of Supervisors adopted its most recent Comprehensive Plan in September of 2000. The plan contains information on land use, population, employment, economic trends and future land use and transportation. In March of 2004, and in response to a request for proposals from the County, The Piedmont Planning District Commission (PPDC) submitted a proposal to revise the County's Comprehensive Plan. In June of 2004, the PPDC was awarded a contract to revise the plan. The PPDC formally dissolved on June 30, 2005, and was replaced on July 1, 2005, by a new organization – the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC).

Through assistance provided by the CRC, the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan was updated in four sections. These four sections are as follows:

Section One:
Introduction
- The Comprehensive Plan
- Enabling Legislation
- Developing a New Comprehensive Plan
- Methods for identifying Issues
- A Brief History of Cumberland County
- Cumberland County Today

Section Two:
Inventory and Analysis: Resources and Trends
- Population
- Education
- Income
- Commutation Patterns
- Employment /Unemployment
- Housing Resources
- Transportation
- Natural Resources
- Community Facilities and Services

Section Three:
Cumberland County Land Use Plan

Section Four:
Goals and Objectives

The following section summarizes the process that was undertaken by the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) and the Cumberland County Planning Commission for the development of the Comprehensive Plan and final adoption by the Cumberland County Board of Supervisors:

- CRC staff held meetings with staff from the Cumberland County Planner's Office and various members of the Planning Commission on the following dates/locations:
    - April 30, 2004, at the CRC office
    - July 19, 2004, at the CRC office
    - March 28, 2005, at the Cumberland County Planning and Zoning Office
    - April 11, 2005, at the Cumberland County Planning and Zoning Office
    - April 25, 2005, at the Cumberland County Planning and Zoning Office
    - October 24, 2005, at the Old Clerk's Office
    - November 7, 2005, at the Old Clerk's Office
    - November 21, 2005, at the Cumberland County Courthouse
    - December 12, 2005, at the Cumberland County Courthouse
    - January 24, 2006, at the Cumberland County Courthouse
    - February 27, 2006, at the Cumberland County Courthouse
    - March 20, 2006, at the Cumberland County Courthouse
    - April 25, 2006, at the Old Clerk's Office

- June 19, 2006 at the Old Clerk's Office
- July 31, 2006, at the Old Clerk's Office

Those present at the meetings discussed issues that should be addressed in the plan, and went over draft sections that were completed.

- Public meetings were held by the Planning Commission on the following dates/locations, to present Plan materials and gather input:
  - November 4, 2004, at the Cartersville Rescue Squad/Community Center
  - November 11, 2004, at the Cumberland Elementary School cafeteria
  - November 18, 2004, at the Cumberland County Rescue Squad/Community Center
  - December 2, 2004, at the Cartersville Rescue Squad/Community Center

- Public hearings were held by the Planning Commission at the Cumberland County Court House on May 16, 2005, and June 13, 2005 to review and adopt the Goals and Objectives section of the plan. The Planning Commission held a public hearing to review and adopt the final plan – which includes the County's land use plan – on August 21, 2006. Announcements for the public meetings and public hearings were published in the *Farmville Herald* and the *Cumberland Bulletin*. Citizens who attended these meetings provided useful input for developing the Comprehensive Plan.

- The Cumberland County Board of Supervisors reviewed and adopted the Goals and Objectives section at a public hearing on July 12, 2005. The Board of Supervisors reviewed and adopted the final plan at a public hearing on September 12, 2006.

- In addition, the Cumberland County Planning Commission held educational work sessions on topics including rural planning, farmland conservation, PDR programs, growth management tools, and methods for creating a sense of place. During these meetings, the Planning Commission reviewed the citizen input and technical information and contributed its own analysis of the issues presented.

D. Methods for Identifying Issues

A range of major issues facing the County now and in the future has been identified. Review and analysis of these issues by the public, the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors provided the basis for establishing planning goals and policies for this Comprehensive Plan. For a more detailed review of all the input received from the issue identification methods, please refer to the Appendix materials.

The major issues outlined in this Plan were identified through the following methods:

1. ***Public Meetings/Hearings*** – Throughout 2004 and 2005, public meetings and public hearings were held for citizens to offer their opinions about the issues facing Cumberland County, and to create a vision for the future of the County. The meetings, which were advertised in local newspapers and radio, were held at

various locations in the County. Please see Appendix III for more information on the public meetings.

2. ***Research and analysis of available technical data*** – The Commonwealth Regional Council collected and analyzed data on Cumberland County. The analyzed elements included land use patterns, environmental features, transportation conditions, population growth trends and capital facility needs. Much of this information is contained in this Plan and has helped to further enhance the understanding of many of the issues identified by local citizens during the other efforts described above.

3. ***Survey of citizen opinion*** – Members of the Planning Commission, along with volunteers from the community, conducted citizen opinion surveys on May 22 and 23, 2006, to gauge public opinion on issues affecting the County. A summary of the survey results can be found in Appendix II.

E. A Brief History of Cumberland County

The history of what is now known to be Cumberland County began in 1748 or 1749 (depending on source), when territories were split off of Goochland and named Cumberland County, in honor of the Duke of Cumberland, the second son of King George II, and a popular English hero of the day. This initial designation of Cumberland County is not the same Cumberland County existing today in shape or land area, but is the first use of the name Cumberland County.

Prior to the formation of Cumberland County and not long after the founding of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in America, in 1607, the Virginia colony was divided into eight counties or shires in 1634. One of those original eight counties was Henrico. At that time Henrico was a vast area and was reported to have a population of only 419 citizens. Henrico County of that time included territories, that were subsequently subdivided to become other counties, including what was to eventually become Cumberland County.

Ninety-three years later, Henrico was divided into two sections, the north part continuing to be known as Henrico County, and the south part being named Goochland County, after William Gooch, the Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia from 1727 until 1749. Goochland County included an indefinitely defined territory but included what is now recognized as Albemarle, Amherst, Appomattox, Buckingham, Cumberland, Fluvanna, Nelson and Powhatan.

After Albemarle was earlier split off from Goochland, what was to be named Cumberland County was split off from Goochland in 1748 or 1749. This initial area to be known as Cumberland County included all of what is today known as today's Cumberland County plus other territories that include today's Powhatan County. This land configuration remained in place until 1777.

In 1777, owing to the *"great inconveniences attending the inhabitants of the county of Cumberland, by the great extent thereof,"* Cumberland was divided into two parts generally

corresponding to two existing parishes. Southam Parish, in the east became Powhatan County. Littleton Parish became Cumberland County.

The following year, in 1778, a small portion of Buckingham County was added to Cumberland County by act of the Virginia General Assembly. With this minor adjustment, the boundaries of modern day Cumberland County were fixed, to define what is known today as Cumberland County.

In the early years prior to the development of formal roads, much of the transportation within the County was water based, with the Willis River and the James River being the main links to points west and east and especially to communities on the Atlantic Ocean.

Early roads followed the ridges and drainage patterns with the destination being the main rivers. Through this early transportation network, export raw materials and produce and import finished goods flowed. Later, by 1776, the old Buck and Game Trail, later called the Carolina Road extended through nearly the length of the County northward towards the nation's capitol in Washington.

Settlement of what is now known as Cumberland County dates to as early as 1723 when Thomas Randolph recorded a patent for 2870 acres on the Willis Creek. More permanent communities soon followed. Along the main roads, there developed a series of taverns offering travelers food, commodities, shelter and social life. These taverns became the nuclei for the first communities in Cumberland County.

One of these taverns was Effingham, located across from the Cumberland Courthouse building. At Effingham in Cumberland Courthouse, Carter Henry Harrison read one of the first calls for the independence in the colonies on April 22, 1776. John Mayo and William Fleming subsequently presented this statement to the Virginia Convention. This initial call for independence, soon joined by other voices, led to the Declaration of Independence. George Walton, born in Cumberland County, signed this seminal document in the history of the United States.

Cumberland Courthouse, the county seat, dates from about 1748, the date when Cumberland County was split off of Goochland County. This community is in the approximate geographic center of the County and has been an important center of activity throughout Cumberland County's history. Cumberland Courthouse village is an unincorporated area, holding no official local government status, and is only generally defined as the developed area around the County governmental center. This community presently has a population of approximately 300 people.

Other notable personalities of the colonial era, including Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and John Randolph, were frequent guests in the tavern in Cumberland Courthouse village. Maquis de Lafayette, noted French military, political and Revolutionary War era leader, also visited this community.

Cartersville, also an important unincorporated village, is located in the northern part of Cumberland County on the James River. Originally the Virginia General Assembly established

the site of Carter's Ferry as a village in 1790. The original village was comprised of 27 acres of land formerly owned by John Woodson and served by a main street called High Street. High Street still exists today, as does the thriving small community.

Just one mile to the southeast of Cartersville on Route 659, the small community of Tamworth was established in about 1792, with the opening of a community store. In the years that followed, a thriving community grew. This store, still remaining today, once housed a post office. The store has been preserved and is currently furnished with antiques and collectables.

Also a small community named Clinton emerged about 1790, at about the intersection of today's Route 60 and Route 654. This community at one time consisted of approximately 30 homes, two stores, a gristmill, carriage shop and four blacksmith shops and a post office.

Both Tamworth and Clinton are still marked on road maps but are all but vanished with only a few of the older structures still standing.

The largest community in Cumberland County today is the Town of Farmville. Farmville, established in 1798, is located on the Appomattox River with portions of the incorporated territories located in both Prince Edward County and Cumberland County. In the year 2000, the Cumberland portion of the Town of Farmville was reported to be 477 persons, while the remaining 6,368 persons were located south of the Appomattox in Prince Edward County.

Farmville is also the largest community in Planning District 14, and home of Longwood University, Southside Community Hospital, the county seat for Prince Edward County, a large historic downtown commercial district, many outlying commercial and industrial developments, and a number of significant residential neighborhoods.

Over the past two hundred plus years, Cumberland County has remained rural in character, with a relatively stable population. The census of 1790, the earliest available, reports that Cumberland County had a total population of 8,153 persons. By 1830 the population had increased to 11,690 persons, the "high water mark" of population. By the 2000 census, the population of Cumberland County was reported to be 9,017 persons.

F. Cumberland County Today

Cumberland County today is one of Virginia's ninety-five (95) counties. It comprises the territories that were settled on as a result of the 1778 act of the Virginia General Assembly adding a small portion of Buckingham County to Cumberland County. In approximate terms, Cumberland County measures 33 miles from the north to the south and 12 miles from the west to the east.

Cumberland County is located in central Virginia with excellent access to several of Virginia's leading cities including Richmond, Virginia's capital city, 50 miles to the east, Lynchburg 60 miles to the west, and Charlottesville 40 miles to the north. The nation's Capital, Washington D.C. is located approximately 120 miles to the northeast.

The County is one of seven (7) counties making up Planning District 14. Formerly known as the Piedmont Planning District, and now known as the Commonwealth Planning District, it is one of 21 planning districts that serve all regions of Virginia. Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward are the other counties in Planning District 14. Currently, all of these counties except for Nottoway are members of the Commonwealth Regional Council.

The current boundaries defining Cumberland County include the Appomattox River on the south, separating Cumberland County from the counties of Amelia and Prince Edward. On the north, the James River separates Cumberland County from the counties of Fluvanna and Goochland. The west and east boundaries separating Cumberland County from the counties of Buckingham and Powhatan are straight surveyed lines not corresponding to physical features. These boundaries contain a land area of 298.5 square miles.

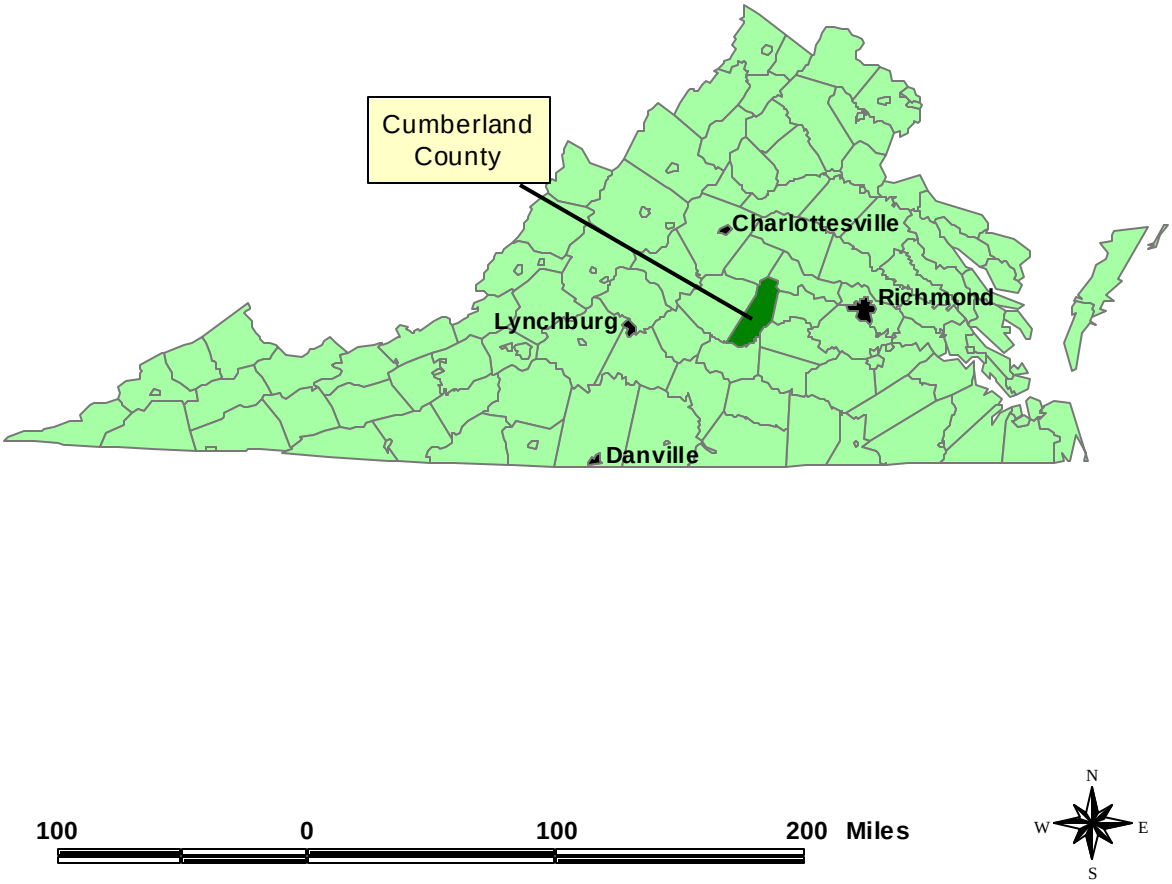
In year 2000, the U.S. Census reported Cumberland County's population to be 9,017 persons. The most recent final estimates (2004) show the population at 9,400 persons. Provisional estimates for 2005 show the population to be 9,500 persons. This results in a population density of 30 persons per square mile, a sparse population when compared with the average density of Virginia at 174 persons per square mile.

Today, the majority (about 71 percent) of Cumberland's workforce works outside of Cumberland County in neighboring jurisdictions. The main work destinations include Prince Edward County (about 18 percent), Chesterfield County (about 13 percent), Henrico County (about 8 percent), the City of Richmond (about 7 percent), Buckingham County (about 7 percent) and Powhatan County (about 6 percent).

Cumberland County's location in the Mid-Atlantic States region, so near to the nation's capital, the Atlantic Ocean, the Port of Hampton Roads, and a significant cluster of the U.S. population, suggests that the County will experience significant population growth in the next two decades.

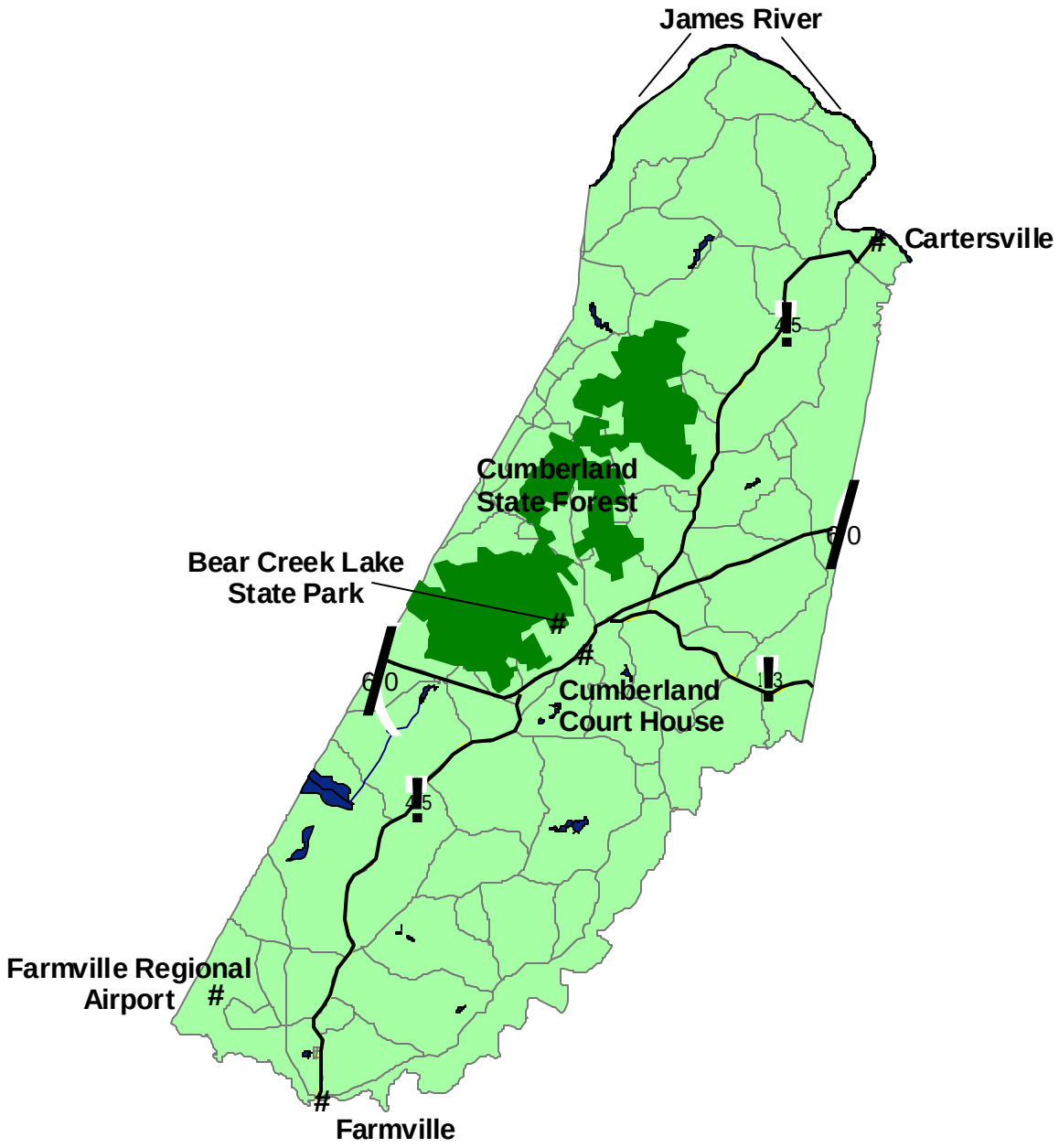
To accommodate this inevitable growth, Cumberland County must determine a vision for the future that reflects the best interests of its citizens. Related goals, objectives and policies will make the vision a reality.

Map I – Location of Cumberland County



Map created by CRC – 10/06

Map II – Cumberland County



Map created by CRC – 10/06

II. Inventory and Analysis

A. Introduction

The County of Cumberland is rural in character, covering an area of 296 square miles, with sparsely developed residences, community businesses and churches, interspersed in a gently rolling, central piedmont landscape. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the total population is 9,017. The County has one (1) incorporated area, the Town of Farmville, which extends into southern Cumberland County.

Cumberland County, largely agricultural, is known for its red clay and climate suited to various crops, traditionally tobacco – which was the County's principal cash crop for years. According to data provided by the Cumberland County Extension Office, chicken and cattle are now the predominate moneymakers for farmers. They accounted for approximately 85% of all agriculture-related revenues in the County in 2002. Agriculture accounts for 61% of all revenue generated in Cumberland County, according to the Extension Office.

The impact of the red clay is seen in the County's architecture. The historic courthouse and many antebellum homes and chimneys were constructed of hand-kilned bricks from native soil.

B. Population

Population analysis often concentrates on increases or decreases in population. Other important factors include changes in characteristics (age, sex and race), rate of growth and the distribution. Population trends affect land use, housing, transportation, education and community development.

Past Population Trends

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Cumberland County has a population of 9,017. The 1990 U.S. Census for the County reported a total of 7,825 persons. This represents a population increase of 1,192 persons or 15.2% since 1990.

The County's population grew at a slightly higher rate than the region and the state as a whole during that time, as shown in Table I. The population of Planning District 14 grew from 84,905 persons in 1990 to 97,103 in 2000 – an increase of 12,198 persons, or approximately 14.4%. The state population increased from 6,187,358 in 1990 to 7,079,030 in 2000, representing an increase of 891,672 persons (also at a rate of 14.4%).

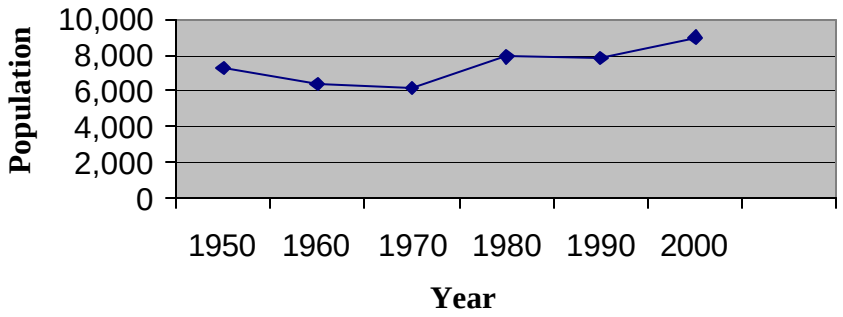
NOTE: Planning District 14, as referenced in tables throughout this section, is comprised of the following counties: Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward.

TABLE I
Past Population Trends
Cumberland County, Planning District 14, State

	CUMBERLAND COUNTY			PLANNING DISTRICT 14			STATE	
Year	**Population**	**Change**		**Population**	**Change**		**Population**	**Change**
1940	7,505	---		89,581	---		2,677,773	---
1950	7,252	- 253 (3.4%)		86,498	- 3,083 (3.4%)		3,318,680	+ 640,907 (23.9%)
1960	6,360	- 892 (12.3%)		80,205	- 6,293 (7.3%)		3,966,949	+ 648,269 (19.5%)
1970	6,179	- 181 (2.8%)		77,060	- 3,145 (3.9%)		4,651,448	+ 684,499 (17.3%)
1980	7,881	+ 1,702 (27.5%)		83,549	+ 6,489 (8.4%)		5,346,818	+ 695,370 (13.0%)
1990	7,825	- 56 (0.7%)		84,905	+ 1,356 (1.6%)		6,187,358	+ 840,540 (15.7%)
2000	9,017	+ 1,192 (15.2%)		97,103	+ 12,198 (14.4%)		7,079,030	+ 891,672 (14.4%)

Source: 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census of Population

CHART I
Cumberland County Population



A comparison of Cumberland County's past population with the surrounding counties is found in Table II. Even though Cumberland's growth rate of 15.2% from 1990-2000 was higher than Planning District 14 and the state as a whole, many of the surrounding counties experienced more significant growth.

When comparing the growth rates for these counties, one should bear in mind that these changes are influenced by geographical factors. For instance, Amelia, Goochland and Powhatan Counties

are experiencing growth as the Richmond metropolitan area moves westward. Fluvanna County and, to a smaller extent, Buckingham County are seeing population growth as a result of their close proximity to Charlottesville.

TABLE II
Past Population
Cumberland County, Surrounding Counties

Place	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	Change 1990 - 2000
Cumberland Co.	7,505	7,252	6,360	6,179	7,881	7,825	9,017	+ 1,192 (15.2%)
Buckingham Co.	13,398	12,288	10,877	10,597	11,751	12,873	15,623	+ 2,750 (21.3%)
Prince Edward Co.	14,922	15,398	14,121	14,379	16,456	17,320	19,720	+ 2,400 (13.9%)
Amelia Co.	8,495	7,908	7,815	7,592	8,405	8,787	11,400	+ 2,613 (29.7%)
Powhatan Co.	5,671	5,556	6,747	7,696	13,062	15,328	22,377	+ 7,049 (46.0%)
Goochland Co.	8,454	8,934	9,206	10,069	11,761	14,163	16,863	+ 2,700 (19.1%)
Fluvanna Co.	7,088	7,121	7,227	7,621	10,244	12,429	20,047	+ 7,618 (61.3%)

Source: 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Population Change Factors

Many factors affect population change. There are three ways in which a locality can experience population increase. The first is through having more births than deaths in a given period of time (See Table III). The second is an increase in immigration into an area. Finally, the most common way is a combination of both factors.

TABLE III
Births and Deaths
Cumberland County, Virginia

Year	Births	Deaths
1990	124	70
1991	107	87
1992	107	75
1993	109	86
1994	108	78
1995	101	93
1996	99	98
1997	112	94
1998	106	98
1999	83	111
2000	90	91
2001	107	68
2002	101	74
2003	100	105

Source: Virginia Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics

From 1990 to 2002, the number of births averaged 104 per year, while the death rate averaged 88 per year. Considering the birth rate average is higher than the death rate average, and expecting an increase in the adult population through an influx of new residents, the County will likely experience an increase in population in future years.

Age and Sex Characteristics

By analyzing the population's gender characteristics and age groupings, it is possible to evaluate the needs for community facility requirements, commercial services and housing demand (See Tables IV and V).

Between 1990 and 2000, there occurred an increase of 167 persons between the ages of 5 and 17 (see Table IV). This groups represents future residents and leaders of the County. Also, there was an increase of 99 persons 60 to 64 years and a similar increase for the 65-to-74 age group.

The proceeding age brackets of 75 to 84 years and 85 years and older increased by six and 21 individuals, respectively. The rise in the number of people 75 and over raises their service demand. For example, the senior population may need additional health care, recreation facilities and low cost housing.

Another important population characteristic is the increase that the County experienced from 1990 to 2000 for persons between the ages of 45 and 54. This group represents an available workforce, as well as major consumers with disposable income. Further, this population segment is often pre- or early retirement, suggesting a future market for senior services. This group increased by 347 persons. The one age group that saw a decline during this period is age 18 to 24. That age group decreased by 39 persons. This could be caused by a number of factors, including children moving away to attend college or to find work.

TABLE IV
Age Characteristics
Cumberland County
1990 – 2000

Age	**1990 Total**	**% of Population**	**2000 Total**	**% of Population**	**Change from 1990 to 2000**
0-4	550	7%	564	6.3%	+ 14 (2.5%)
5-17	1,500	19.2%	1,667	18.5%	+ 167 (11.1%)
18-24	699	8.9%	660	7.3%	- 39 (5.6%)
25-44	2,190	28.0%	2,521	28.0%	+ 331 (15.1%)
45-54	932	11.9%	1,279	14.2%	+ 347 (37.2%)
55-59	380	4.9%	527	5.8%	+ 147 (38.7%)
60-64	361	4.6%	460	5.1%	+ 99 (27.4%)
65-74	680	8.7%	779	8.6%	+ 99 (14.6%)
75-84	413	5.3%	419	4.6%	+ 6 (1.5%)
85+	120	1.5%	141	1.6%	+ 21 (17.5%)
TOTAL	**7,825**	**100%**	**9,017**	**100%**	**+ 1,192**
Under 18 years	2,000	25.6%	2,231	24.7%	+ 231 (11.6%)
65 years and over	1,213	15.5%	1,339	14.8%	+ 126 (10.4%)

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census of Population

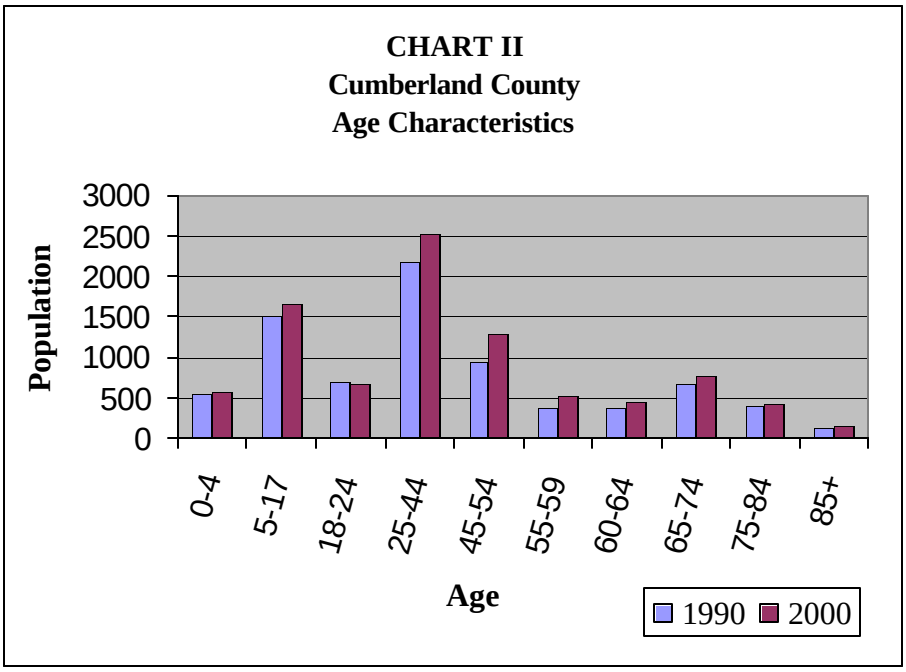
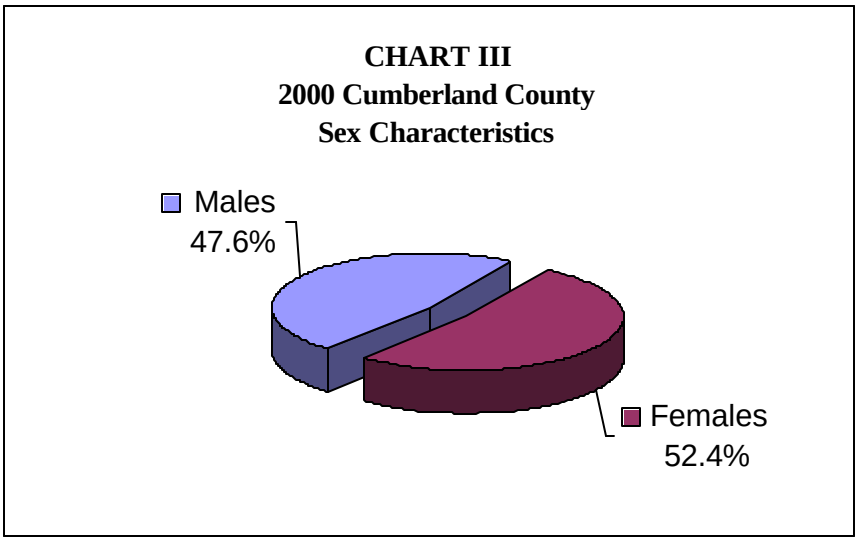


TABLE V
Population Gender Characteristics
Cumberland County

Year	Total	Male	% of Population	Female	% of Population
1950	7,252	3,734	51.5%	3,518	48.5%
1960	6,360	3,188	50.1%	3,172	49.9%
1970	6,179	2,987	48.3%	3,192	51.7%
1980	7,881	3,828	48.6%	4,053	51.4%
1990	7,825	3,788	48.4%	4,037	51.6%
2000	9,017	4,295	47.6%	4,722	52.4%

Source: 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census of Population



Racial Characteristics

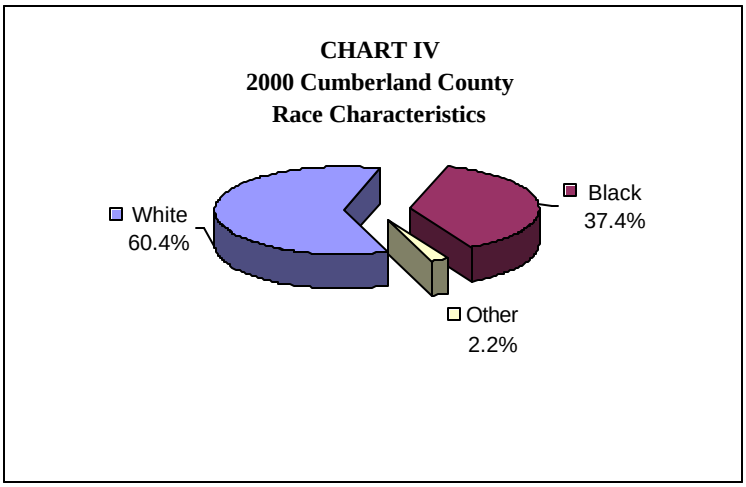
Table VI presents racial characteristics of Cumberland County for 1980, 1990 and 2000. Note the change for persons classified as "other" from the 1980 and 1990 Censuses and the 2000 Census.

TABLE VI
Racial Characteristics
Cumberland County

Year	Total	White	% of Population	Black	% of Population	Other*	% of Population
1980	7,881	4,475	56.8%	3,393	43.1%	13	0.1%
1990	7,825	4,765	60.9%	3,027	38.7%	33	0.4%
2000	9,017	5,444	60.4%	3,376	37.4%	197	2.2%

Source: 1980, 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census of Population

NOTE: In 1980 and 1990 the classification of "other" includes American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, Asian, Pacific Islander and other races not included in the specific categories. In 2000, the classification of "other" includes Indians, Alaska Native, Asian, Pacific Islander groups, other races not included in the specific categories listed, and those persons claiming 2 or more races. Therefore comparisons are unrealistic due to the inclusion of persons claiming 2 or more races in 2000.



Population Estimates

For the purpose of Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan, population estimates developed by the University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center are being viewed (see Table VII). Population estimates for 2001 through 2004 are final estimates, while projections for 2005 are provisional.

TABLE VII
Population Estimates
Cumberland County, Region and State

Locality	2000 Population	2001 Pop. Estimate	2002 Est.	2003 Est.	2004 Est.	2005 (Prov.) Pop. Est.	2000-2005 Change
Cumberland Co.	9,017	9,000	9,200	9,400	9,400	9,500	+500 (5.5%)
Amelia Co.	11,400	11,500	11,800	12,000	12,100	12,100	+700 (6.1%)
Buckingham Co.	15,623	15,600	15,700	15,900	16,100	16,200	+600 (3.8%)
Charlotte Co.	12,471	12,600	12,700	12,500	12,600	12,700	+200 (1.6%)
Lunenburg Co.	13,146	13,100	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,100	0
Nottoway Co.	15,725	15,700	15,600	15,600	15,600	15,800	+100 (0.6%)
Pr. Edward Co.	19,720	20,000	20,200	19,900	20,200	20,400	+700 (3.5%)
Planning District 14	97,103	97,500	98,300	98,300	99,100	99,900	+2,800 (2.9%)
State	7,079,030	7,196,800	7,287,800	7,364,600	7,481,300	7,567,500	+488,500 (6.9%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006.

Population estimates look to the present or the recent past. They are usually more accurate than population projections because they can make use of current indicators – data series like births or licensed drivers that are direct measurements, usually derived from government agency records. The range of statistical methods that can be used to do estimates is consequently greater than the methods available to produce projections.

Starting with a base population using the most recent Census figures (in this case, the 2000 Census), deaths are subtracted from the population and births are added to the population. Estimates of net international migration and net internal migration are added to or subtracted from the population.

Population Projections

Population projections look to the future. They aim to produce a quantity that represents the size of a population one, two, five or ten years from now. As a result, projection quantities like births, deaths and net migration are an integral part of doing a population projection.

Also, most population projections are based on past trends combined with knowledge of prospective activities that may modify those trends. Projections based on past trends tend to be less accurate for areas with smaller numbers of people than for those with larger numbers. Unexpected events can drastically alter a small area's population, while only mildly affecting a larger area's population. For example, if a manufacturing firm locating in Cumberland County created 100 new jobs, it would have a greater impact on the County's rate of population growth than on a larger community (such as the City of Richmond). Such an event, if unanticipated, could affect the accuracy of the County's projections. Another consideration is that the further into the future projections are made, the greater the chance of error. Therefore, periodic reviews of the projections are needed to adjust for changing conditions. The projection of population is essential for determining the land needs for future residential, commercial, industrial and public uses. Also, population projections can provide an indication of needs for community services, such as schools, parks and police protection to serve the future population.

Population projections in Table VIII were prepared by the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC).

TABLE VIII
Population Projections
Cumberland County

Age	**1990(*) Population**	**2000 (*) Population**	**2010 Projection**	**2020 Projection**	**2030 Projection**
Under 5	550	564	581	638	725
5-9	534	654	605	662	725
10-14	585	664	688	686	725
15-19	595	549	664	650	690
20-24	485	460	569	626	630
25-29	549	516	498	638	618
30-34	588	610	569	626	702
35-39	514	723	688	626	773
40-44	539	672	736	698	749
45-49	487	627	771	734	666
50-54	445	652	676	758	714
55-59	380	527	641	782	749
60-64	361	460	688	698	749
65-69	397	414	510	614	737
70-74	283	365	415	602	607
75-79	246	258	316	415	538
80-84	167	161	238	263	369
85+	120	141	244	288	333
TOTAL	7,825	9,017	10,100	11,000	11,800

Note: Subparts may not add to total due to rounding.
Source: Virginia Employment Commission, 2003 (* - U.S. Census figures)

C. Education

As with other localities within the State of Virginia, education continues to be a concern for Cumberland County. However, the County has shown an improvement in the level of education among its adult population.

According to the 1990 Census, only 57.4% of Cumberland County's population 25 years of age and over had at least a high school diploma or GED. By 2000, that figure improved to 63.8 %. Additionally, the County also saw an improvement in the amount of residents 25 years of age

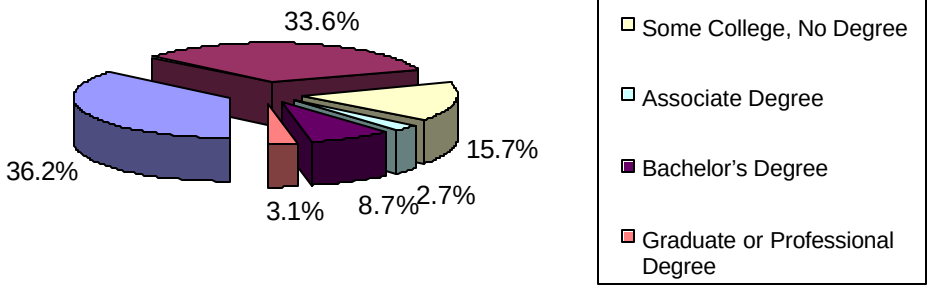
and over that have at least some college education – including a substantial increase in the number of residents with an Associate or Bachelor's degree. A more detailed breakdown of the educational attainment of the population 25 years and over for Cumberland County can be seen in the Table IX:

TABLE IX
Educational Attainment
Population 25 Years and Over
Cumberland County
1990 – 2000

	1990	**% of Population**	**2000**	**% of Population**	**Change from 1990 to 2000**
Less than 9th grade	1,094	21.6%	883	14.3%	- 211 (19.3%)
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	1,077	21.0%	1,354	21.9%	+ 277 (25.7%)
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	1,572	30.6%	2,079	33.6%	+ 507 (32.3%)
Some College, No Degree	665	12.9%	969	15.7%	+ 304 (45.7%)
Associate Degree	146	2.8%	166	2.7%	+ 20 (13.7%)
Bachelor's Degree	371	7.2%	540	8.7%	+ 169 (45.6%)
Graduate or Professional Degree	201	3.9%	192	3.1%	- 9 (4.5%)
TOTAL	**5,126**	**100%**	**6,183**	**100%**	**+ 1,057**

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census of Population

CHART V
Cumberland County Population Education Level



In 1995, the State of Virginia adopted the "Virginia Standards of Learning" (SOLs) for the Virginia Public School System. These guidelines outline the basic knowledge and skills that all Virginia school children should be taught as they progress from kindergarten through the twelfth grade, in the essential academic subjects of English, Math, Science, and Social Studies (history, geography and government). For 2005-2006, the public schools in Virginia have received one of the following ratings:

Fully Accredited – A school is fully accredited if eligible students achieve pass rates or above in all four content areas. Pass rates are 70% in each of the four core academic areas, with the following exceptions (starting with the 2003-2004 school year):

Content Area	Pass Rate
English – 3rd and 5th Grade	75%
History/Social Science – 3rd Grade	50%
Science – 3rd Grade	50%

Schools that meet or exceed the above benchmark pass rates are counted as meeting the State of Virginia's achievement objectives for the year.

Accredited with Warning (in specified academic area or areas) – A school receives this rating if pass rates fail to meet state requirements in one or more academic area. A school may retain this rating for no more than three consecutive years.

Accreditation Denied – A school receives this rating, based on its performance during academic years ending in 2006 and beyond, if it fails to meet the requirements for full accreditation for the preceding three consecutive years or three consecutive years anytime thereafter.

Accreditation Withheld/Improving School Near Accreditation – A school that has never met the requirements to be fully accredited by the end of the 2005-2006 school year and is subject to being assigned a rating of "Accreditation Denied" may apply for this rating, subject to certain conditions. This rating will not be awarded after the 2006-2007 school year.

Conditionally Accredited – This rating applies to new schools that are comprised of students from one or more existing schools. The rating is good for one year, pending an evaluation of the performance of eligible students on SOL tests or additional substitute tests permitted under state regulations.

Cumberland County's Accreditation Status for 2005-2006 is shown in Table X. As can be seen, the County's three public schools meet the established benchmarks in most or all of the content areas. The Elementary School and High School are fully accredited; while the Middle School has one subject area that is close to meeting state benchmarks and has passing scores in the others. It is important to note that the schools excel in math and history.

TABLE X
Cumberland County Public Schools
2005-2006 Accreditation Status
(Based on pass rates from Spring 2005 SOL tests)

School	Grades	English	Math	History	Science	Status
Cumberland Elementary	PreK-5th	85	87	97	80	Fully Accredited
Cumberland Middle	6th-8th	68	92	88	85	Accredited with Warning
Cumberland High	9th-12th	97	85	86	76	Fully Accredited

Source: Virginia Department of Education, 2006

Cumberland County's school accreditation for 2005-2006 is based on student achievement on SOL tests in English, mathematics, history/social science, and science administered during 2004-2005. The results of these tests administered in each subject area are combined to produce overall passing percentages in English, mathematics, history/social science, and science. Examinations are given in grades 3,5,8 and high school.

Accreditation ratings also reflect adjustments made for schools that successfully remediate students who initially fail reading, writing, or mathematics tests. Adjustments also may be made for students with limited English proficiency and for students who have recently transferred into the Public School System. All of these factors are taken into account in calculating adjusted pass rates in each subject area.

Another set of statistics that is important for the County of Cumberland is its dropout rate, total graduate rate and continuing education rate. It is difficult to attract higher-paying industries and businesses within the County if the graduate rate and continuing education rate for the area are not within that of the State's. All business enterprises need labor of suitable quantity, quality and type. A higher skilled and trained labor force attracts higher paying jobs to an area.

As shown in Table XI, Cumberland County has made a substantial improvement (more than 80%) in the dropout rate within the period of 1999-2005. Additionally, the dropout rate and continuing education rate for Cumberland County in 2005 are better than those for Planning District 14 and the State of Virginia as a whole.

TABLE XI Cumberland County Education Data 1999-2000			
PLACE	**DROPOUT RATE (*)**	**TOTAL GRADUATES RATE (**)**	**CONTINUING EDUCATION RATE (**)**
Cumberland	5.01%	57.3%	80.0%
Planning District 14	3.79%	67.0%	76.1%
State	2.52%	76.0%	80.3%
Cumberland County Education Data 2004-2005			
PLACE	**DROPOUT RATE (*)**	**TOTAL GRADUATES RATE (**)**	**CONTINUING EDUCATION RATE (***)**
Cumberland	0.64%	67.6%	81.3%
Planning District 14	1.90%	70.3%	74.0%
State	1.87%	76.7%	79.5%

*** Based on percentage of students in grades 7 through 12 who were enrolled in school sometime during the previous school year but were not enrolled on October 1 of the following school year**
**** Based on percent of ninth grade membership four years earlier.**
***** Based on percent of high school graduates (their plans concerning continuing education)**

Source: Virginia Department of Education, 1999-00 and 2004-05 Annual School Report For Virginia, Richmond, 2001 and 2006.

D. Income

Per Capita Income

The per capita income of local residents is an indicator of the standard living of a locality's citizens and the strength of its economy. The per capita income is the average annual income of each person residing in the locality. Income includes such sources as wages, dividends, pensions, social security benefits and public assistance. A measure of Cumberland County can be seen in Tables XII - XV.

As evidenced in the tables on the next page, Cumberland County's per capita income of $15,103 is better than those for many of the surrounding counties, including Buckingham ($13,669) and Prince Edward ($14,510). Median Household Income for Cumberland ($37,965) also compares favorably with other counties including Buckingham ($29,882) and Prince Edward ($31,301).

TABLE XII
Per Capita Income
Cumberland County, Region and State

Place	1980	1990	2000	% Change 1980-2000
Cumberland	$ 4,630	$ 10,295	$ 15,103	226%
Planning District 14	$ 4,937	$ 9,757	$ 15,337	211%
State	$ 7,563	$ 15,713	$ 23,975	217%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 1980, 1990, 2000.

TABLE XIII
Median Family Income
Cumberland County, Region and State

Place	1980	1990	2000	% Change 1980-2000
Cumberland	$ 12,720	$ 26,566	$ 37,965	198%
Planning District 14	$ 14,200	$ 26,264	$ 38,550	171%
State	$ 20,018	$ 38,213	$ 54,169	171%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 1980, 1990, 2000.

TABLE XIV
Median Household Income
Cumberland County, Region and State

Place	1980	1990	2000	% Change 1980-2000
Cumberland	$ 11,398	$ 22,115	$ 31,816	179%
Planning District 14	$ 12,219	$ 22,071	$ 31,564	158%
State	$ 17,475	$ 33,328	$ 46,677	167%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 1980, 1990, 2000.

TABLE XV
Percentage of Persons Below Poverty Level
Cumberland County, Region and State

Place	1980	1990	2000
Cumberland	24.7%	15.8%	15.1%
Planning District 14	20.2%	17.7%	17.2%
State	11.8%	10.2%	9.6%

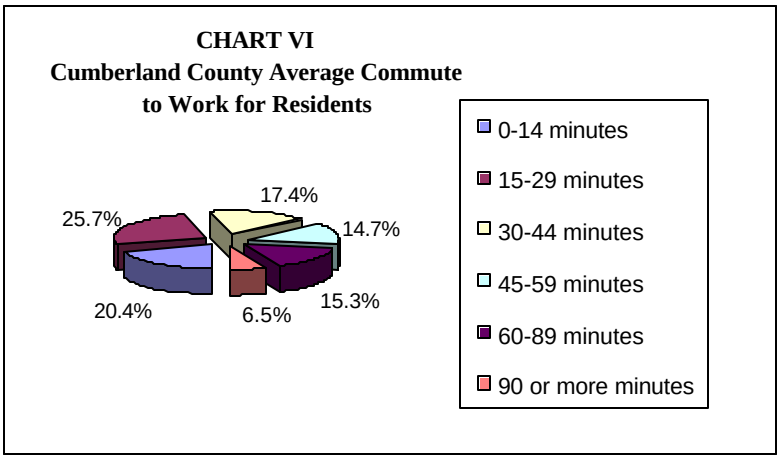
Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 1980, 1990, 2000

As can be seen in Table XV, Cumberland County has a lower poverty rate than Planning District 14 as a whole. Additionally, most of the other individual counties have higher rates than Cumberland County.

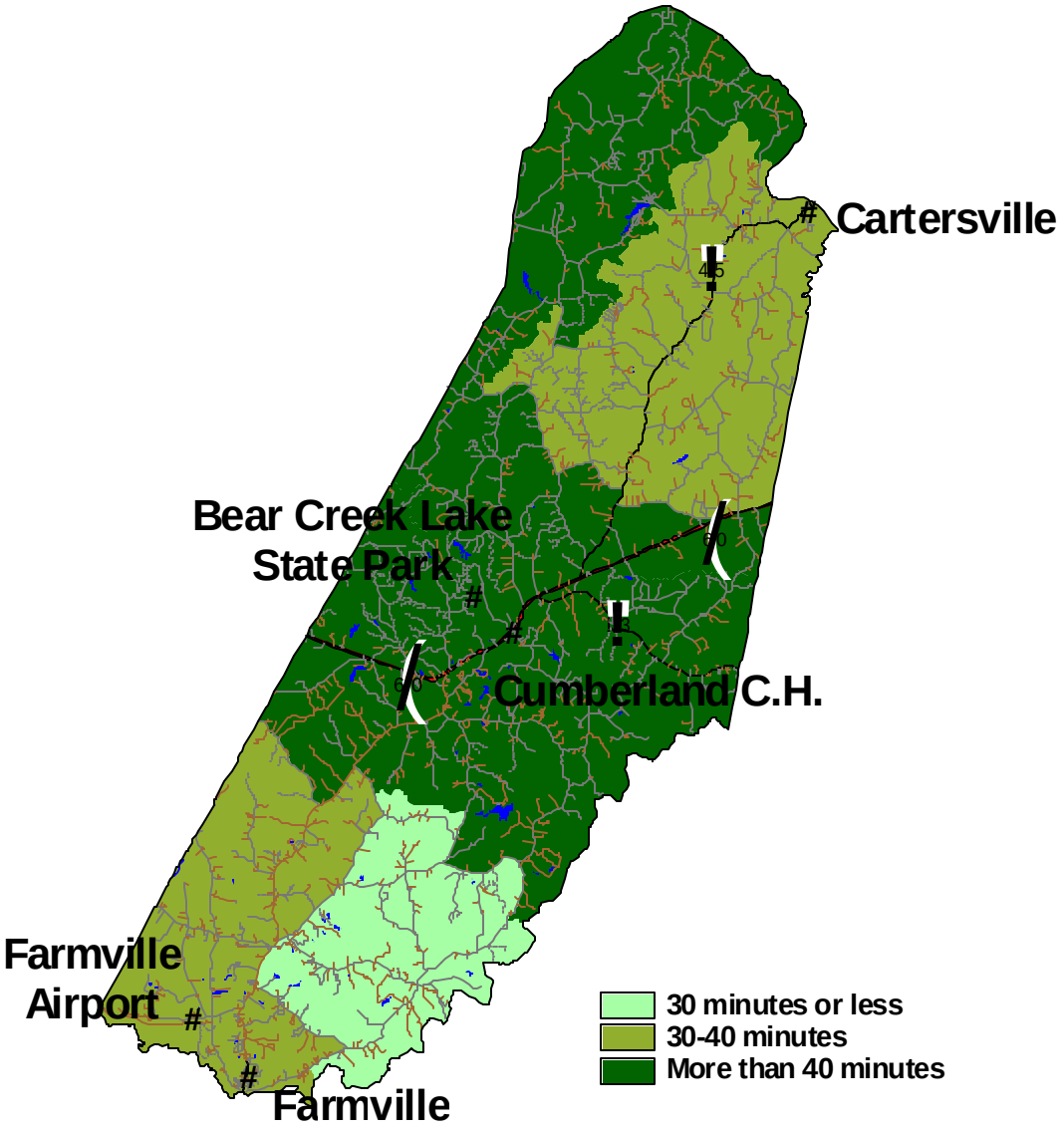
E. Commutation Patterns

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the average commute to work for residents in Cumberland County is just under 37 minutes. Residents in the southeast part of the county have an average commute of less than 25 minutes. Aside from those who work in the county, Cumberland residents commute to Charlotte, Prince Edward, Nottoway, Dinwiddie, Brunswick, Mecklenburg, Halifax, Chesterfield, Albemarle, and Appomattox Counties, among other places.

The County's commutation patterns are illustrated in Chart VI and on Map III. The chart gives a percentage of residents with different travel times to work, while Map I gives an average commute for residents living in different parts of the County.



Map III – Cumberland County Average Commute to Work
(Broken down by Census Block Group)



Source: 2000 U.S. Census **Map created by PPDC: 04/05**

F. Employment/Unemployment

As shown in Table XVI, retail employment was the top industrial and business employment sector for Cumberland County during the 1990 U.S. Census. This industry was a key component for the County's economic base, accounting for 18.7% of the employment for residents in the County. Manufacturing was second on the list, accounting for 12.5% of the total employment for county residents.

The U.S. Bureau of Census defines retail trade as a business engaged in selling merchandise to the general public for personal or household consumption. Retail trade establishments are usually fixed places of business; they are engaged in activities to attract the general public to buy; they buy and sell merchandise and they are considered to be in retail trade.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the top industrial and business employment sector for Cumberland County was educational, health and social services employment. This sector accounted for 19.9% of the total employment for county residents. Retail was second, at 11.7%, and construction third at 11.2%.

The occupation distribution for Cumberland County is shown in Table XVII. The top-ranking category for the County includes Sales and Office occupations. Some of the categories were changed or merged together by the Census Bureau between 1990 and 2000, making exact comparisons difficult in some cases.

TABLE XVI
Business and Industrial Employment of Employed Civilian Population 16 Years and Over
Cumberland County Residents
1990 – 2000

	1990	% of Population		2000	% of Population
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	324	8.9%	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting & Mining	242	6.0%
Mining	7	0.1%			
Construction	361	9.9%	Construction	454	11.2%
Manufacturing, nondurable & durable	455	12.5%	Manufacturing	402	9.9%
Transportation	125	3.4%	Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	231	5.7%
Communications & Other Public Utilities	77	2.1%	Information	63	1.6%
Wholesale Trade	110	3.0%	Wholesale Trade	81	2.0%
Retail Trade	679	18.7%	Retail Trade	474	11.7%
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	105	2.9%	Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, & Rental/Leasing	213	5.3%
Business and Repair Services	107	2.9%	Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation & Food Services	249	6.2%
Personal Services	143	3.9%			
Entertainment & Recreation	28	0.8%			
Health Services	203	5.6%	Educational, Health & Social Services	806	19.9%
Educational Services	436	12.0%			
Other Professional and Related Services	178	4.9%	Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative & Waste Management Services	248	6.1%
Public Administration	299	8.2%	Public Administration	343	8.5%
			Other Services	238	5.9%
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	**3,637**	**100%**	**TOTAL EMPLOYMENT**	**4,044**	**100%**

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census of Population

TABLE XVII
Occupations of Employed Civilian Population 16 Years of Age and Older
Cumberland County
2000

Occupation	Number
Management, Professional & Related Occupations	884
Service Occupations	676
Sales & Office Occupations	1,001
Farming, Fishing & Forestry Occupations	138
Construction, Extraction & Maintenance Occupations	664
Production, Transportation & Material Moving Occupations	681
Total Employment	**4,044**
Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 2000	

Employment in several occupations is expected to decline because of technological advances and other economic factors. Other occupations will decline because they are concentrated in declining industries.

According to the Virginia Employment Commission's Economic Information Services Division, the following will be the fastest growing occupations within the State of Virginia from 2000 to 2010:

- Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food
- Customer Service Representatives
- Registered Nurses
- Retail Salespersons
- Computer Support Specialists
- Cashiers
- General Office Clerks
- Security Guards
- Computer Software Engineers, Applications
- Waiters and Waitresses

Major Employers

Cumberland County's top 12 employers as of the First Quarter of 2004 are shown in Table XVIII.

Table XVIII
Cumberland County Top 12 Employers
Year: 2004, Quarter: 1

Rank	Employer	Type	Employment
1	Cumberland County School Board	Local Government	250-499
2	County of Cumberland	Local Government	50-99
3	Crossroads Services Board, Southside Ent.	Private	20-49
4	Johnny R. Asal Lumber Company	Private	20-49
5	Covance Research Products	Private	20-49
6	Central Piedmont Action Committee	Private	20-49
7	Gemini of Minnesota, Inc.	Private	20-49
8	Human Resources, Inc.	Private	20-49
9	Stop In Food Stores, Inc.	Private	20-49
10	Cumberland Building Supply, Inc.	Private	20-49
11	Cumberland County Dept. of Social Services	Local Government	20-49
12	Appomattox River Company	Private	20-49

Source: Virginia Employment Commission

Below is an historical account of those industrial and manufacturing closings, openings and expansions that have occurred within Cumberland County over the last 10 years:

Greenfront Warehouse/Distribution Center - In May 1997, Green Front Furniture of Farmville purchased the 85,000 square foot (7,905 square meter) shell building in the Riverside Industrial Park located in Cumberland County. The shell building is used as a warehouse/distribution center. The present warehouse used by Green Front Furniture was converted into retail space for the store. It is estimated that the conversion entailed an investment of approximately $3 million by Green Front Furniture. Presently, there are 5 persons employed at the warehouse/distribution center within the Riverside Industrial Park.

Gemini, Inc. - In January 1998, Gemini, Inc. a Minnesota-based sign components manufacturer built a 20,000 square foot manufacturing facility in the Riverside Industrial Park in Cumberland County. The Riverside Industrial Park is a joint venture between the County of Cumberland and the Town of Farmville in neighboring Prince Edward County. The jobs created with the operation are craft-type, not assembly line. Gemini, Inc. manufactures plastic and metal letters for the sign industry. The building was completed in late 1998. The wood-molding department

began operations for plastic lettering in December 1998. The cut out-metal part department began in January 1999, with the plant becoming fully operational in February 1999. Presently, a total of 30 persons are working at the Farmville plant.

Unemployment

Cumberland County's average unemployment rate for 2004 was 3.9%, a slight increase from the 2003 rate of 3.5% (see Table XIX). When comparing the County's 2004 unemployment rate to that of Planning District 14 and the State of Virginia, Cumberland County's is slightly lower than the Planning District and close to the state average.

The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) was the source for the unemployment statistics in this Comprehensive Plan. VEC utilizes the following definitions to determine unemployment rates. The labor force, total persons available for work, is defined as including all persons 16 years of age and older who are actively seeking work or working. Employment includes all persons 16 years of age or older who are working. Unemployment includes all persons 16 years of age and older who have been actively seeking work for 4 weeks. The unemployment figures may be somewhat misleading. Not all unemployed persons are counted by the VEC. Once a person is no longer eligible to receive unemployment due to the expiration of their benefit period, he or she will not be counted as unemployed or part of the labor force. This may cause the unemployment figures to be lower than what they truly are. These persons are considered to be "discouraged workers" or the "underemployed."

TABLE XIX
Annual Average Unemployment Rates
Cumberland County, Region and State

Place	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Cumberland	4.9%	2.8%	2.0%	1.7%	2.2%	2.9%	3.5%	3.9%
Planning District 14	7.0%	4.2%	3.3%	2.9%	3.7%	4.7%	4.9%	4.5%
State	4.0%	2.9%	2.8%	2.2%	3.5%	4.1%	4.1%	3.7%

Source: Virginia Employment Commission, 1997-2004

G. Housing Resources

Adequate, safe and affordable housing is a basic need for a community. Sufficient housing in good condition provides more desirable living conditions and has a higher value.

In addition, adequate housing can be a determining factor in attracting new industry. When industry relocates, it often brings new workers into a community. If sufficient and appealing housing exists, it facilitates the relocation of new personnel.

This section will examine housing in Cumberland County by type, quality, vacancy rate and household characteristics, such as household size and race. Public policies (local, state and federal) that affect the cost and location of housing will also be reviewed. While the provision of housing units is largely the responsibility of the private sector, which includes builders, developers, realtors, bankers and others, there has always been a close interdependence between the public and private sector in meeting the housing needs of a community. An analysis of the above factors should provide a broad base for future decisions. Data from this section was obtained from the 2000 U.S. Census of Population.

Housing Units

The U.S. Census Bureau defines a housing unit as "a single-family house, townhouse, mobile home or trailer, apartment, group of rooms, or single room that is occupied as a separate living quarters or, if vacant, is intended for occupancy as a separate living quarters." Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants do not live and eat with other persons in the structure and which have (1) direct access from outside of the building or through a common hall or (2) complete kitchen facilities for the exclusive use of the occupants. Group quarters such as boarding houses, jails, dormitories and hospitals are not counted as living units.

Table XX shows that housing units in Cumberland County increased from 3,170 units in 1990 to 4,085 units in 2000. Homeownership is high in the County, with an average of 66% of the homes owner-occupied. Owner-occupied homes have remained stable during the past decades, decreasing by 4% between 1990 and 2000. However, the overall vacancy rate has increased from 11.3% in 1990 to 13.6% in 2000.

TABLE XX
Housing Unit Characteristics
Cumberland County

	1980	1990	2000	Change from 1990 to 2000
Total Housing Units	3,060	3,170	4,085	+ 915 (28.9%)
Population in Group Quarters	----	46	36	- 10 (21.7%)
Occupied Housing Units	2,560	2,813	3,528	+ 715 (25.4%)
Owner Occupied	2,066	2,231	2,722	+ 491 (22.0%)
Renter Occupied	494	582	806	+ 224 (38.5%)
Vacant For seasonal, recreational or occasional use	-----	357 131	557 141	+ 200 (56.0%) + 10 (7.6%)
Homeowner Vacancy Rate	1.6%	1.2%	1.6%	+ 0.4%
Rental Vacancy Rate	5.4%	6.9%	5.1%	- 1.8%
Source: 1980, 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census of Housing				

Structural Types

The predominant housing type in the County, and throughout Southside Virginia, is single-family homes. However, with the rapidly rising housing costs and the trend towards a smaller household size, it is predicted that there will be an increased demand for multi-family units and manufactured homes.

Manufactured homes reflect an effort to provide housing that is more affordable than the average single-family dwelling. Manufactured homes do represent a potential solution for at least part of the affordable housing demand. However, as a housing strategy they present a variety of fiscal and aesthetic trade-offs, including the potential long term value depreciation of the structures and the potential cumulative visual impact that scattered, unplanned units can have on the County's scenic, rural landscape.

Housing Quality

Indicators of housing conditions selected for this analysis include overcrowding, low value, age and units lacking adequate water and sewer facilities. The existence of one or more of these conditions does not mean that a home is unsuitable for occupancy, but may indicate serious inadequacies such as structural obsolescence, deterioration, and the potential for health and

safety problems. Table XXI contains statistics on various indicators of housing quality listed in the U.S. Census in 1990 and 2000.

TABLE XXI
Selected Measures of Deficient Housing Conditions
Cumberland County

	1990	2000
Total Year Round Housing Units	3,170	4,085
Units Lacking Complete Plumbing	307	59
Units Lacking Complete Kitchen Facilities	169	41
Occupied Housing Units	2,813	3,528
Occupied		
Below $50,000	548	152
Value Between $50,000 - $99,000	485	859
Average Contract Rent	$222	$358

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census of Housing

As can be seen from the table, Cumberland County has seen a dramatic drop in the number of housing units that lack simple amenities – complete plumbing (a drop of over 80%), and complete kitchen facilities (a decrease of more than 75%).

A limited stock of subsidized housing is available nearby, in Farmville.

Cumberland County Governmental Policies

Residential development in the County is regulated by its Zoning Ordinance, first adopted in 1969 and amended on a regular basis since then.

The County has also adopted the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, which sets standards for the construction, alteration, adoption, repair, removal, use, location, occupancy and maintenance of all buildings. This code is administered by the County's building inspector.

Residential real estate taxes, a major source of local revenues, are set at $0.59 per $100 for 2006.

H. Transportation

Introduction

In analyzing transportation facilities there are several factors that should be considered for Cumberland County. Safety and efficiency are of paramount concern for any transportation system. People want to transport themselves and their goods in the shortest period of time with the knowledge that they will arrive at their destination safely. Another concern is the relationship between the transportation system and land use. Certain land uses, such as

industrial, require greater transportation facilities than others. Also, the location of transportation facilities can determine the use of land. Finally, it is important that the perceived transportation needs and desires of County residents be met.

Roadways

The transportation system of Cumberland County consists primarily of its roadways and a small airport. The major roadways in the County are:

- U.S. Route 60, a two-lane undivided high volume arterial passing through Cumberland County from west to east. For approximately three (3) miles west of Cumberland Court House, it is a five-lane road with a center turning lane.

- Virginia Primary Route 45, a two-lane undivided roadway that runs north-south through the County. This highway starts in the Town of Farmville and runs north, through Cumberland Court House and Cartersville, and into Goochland County.

- Virginia Primary Route 13, a two-lane undivided highway that starts just east of Cumberland Court House and runs east into Powhatan County.

In June 2003, the County was awarded $40,000 in Rural Transportation Planning Grant funds for a study of the Route 60 Corridor through Cumberland Court House. The project is a planning and conceptual design study to address traffic, access management and safety issues for a three-mile stretch of U.S. Route 60 from Route 45 to Route 622. The study's final report, released in October 2004, recommended a two-lane "chicane" (a segment of roadway with a gradual "s" curve), gateway "splitter" landscaped medians, and bicycle lanes along U.S. 60 in the village. See Figure I, on the next page, for a conceptual drawing of the proposed improvements.

Maintenance

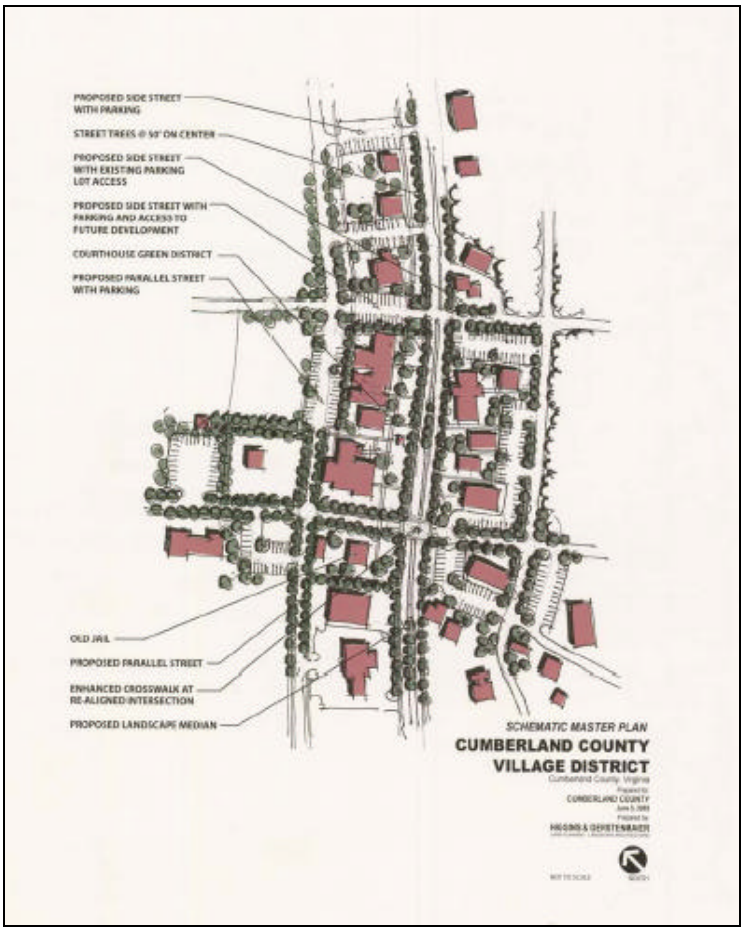
The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) maintains and provides maintenance funds for the Cumberland County's road system. The amount of funding is based upon whether a road is classified as primary or secondary. Primary roads are a statewide network connecting cities, towns and other points of interest. They include all roads with state and federal route numbers below 600 and numbered roads that serve as extensions to primary roads. All other public roads in the County are secondary roads.

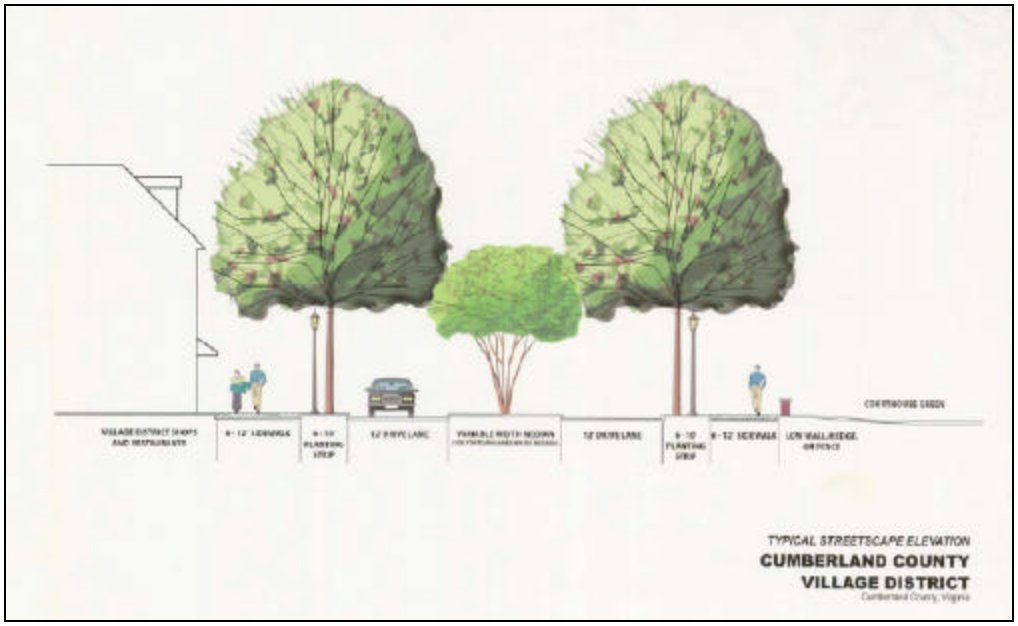
There are nine (9) construction districts in the State. Cumberland County falls in the Lynchburg District. This District covers a total of ten (10) counties, which include: Amherst, Appomattox, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Nelson, Pittsylvania and Prince Edward.

Highway Functional Classification Plan

According to the Statewide Highway Plan for 2010, highway functional classification is a grouping of highways into systems according to the character of service that they are intended to

Figure I – Proposed Improvements along U.S. 60 in Cumberland Court House





Drawings by Draper Aden Associates

provide. All roads are the Virginia Department of Transportation definitions for the rural road classifications:

> Principal Arterial – These highways provide an integrated network of roads that connect principal metropolitan areas and serve virtually all urban areas demands such as statewide and interstate travel.
>
> Minor Arterial – These highways link cities and large towns and provide an integrated network for intrastate and intercounty service. They supplement the principal arterial system so that geographic areas are within a reasonable distance of an arterial highway. They are intended as routes that have minimum interference to through movement.
>
> Major Collector – These highways provide service to any county seat, large towns or other major traffic generators not served by the arterial system. They provide links to the higher classified routes and serve as important intracounty travel corridors.
>
> Minor Collector – These highways collect traffic from local roads and bring all developed areas within a reasonable distance of a collector road. They provide service to small communities and link important local traffic generators with the rural areas.
>
> Local – These roads provide access to adjacent land and serve travel of short distances as compared to the higher systems.

Virginia Department Highways and Transportation Plans for Road Improvements

The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, through the Commonwealth's Transportation Board, promulgates the Virginia Transportation Development Plan, formerly know as the Six Year Improvements Program. This plan is updated annually and is divided into two (2) sections for developing highway projects. In the first section, the Feasibility phase, various studies are required by federal and state laws and regulations. During this phase, the scope, schedule and budget of a project are at their most tentative and significant delays often occur. In the second section, the Capital Improvement Program phase, projects are refined and going forward to construction. The plan also includes information on all roadway systems, except secondary roads. Projects in Cumberland County under the 2005-2010 plan include improvements to Route 45 south of Cartersville and a replacement of the Route 45 Bridge at the Appomattox River, known as the Cumberland Bridge. This bridge, located in the Town of Farmville, separates Cumberland and Prince Edward Counties. The plan is currently being updated and will be available at VDOT's website (http://www.virginiadot.org).

Public Transportation

Residents in most of Cumberland County do not have access to public transportation, a common characteristic of the region as a whole. The Farmville Area Bus serves the portion of Farmville

that extends into Cumberland County, but the rest of the County is unserved. There is also a Greyhound bus station in Farmville.

Services are extremely limited in Planning District 14, with vast areas and many communities not served by the limited transportation systems that do exist. Public transportation within the County would assist workers with transportation to and from work places.

Rail Service

Rail service has been a vital part of the region's economy in the past. However, the section that runs between Farmville and Burkeville (through Cumberland County) has been abandoned by its owner – the Norfolk Southern Corporation. Throughout 2004 and 2005, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation held a series of meetings to present ideas and gather input from the public on converting this section, and other abandoned railroad lines in Central and Southside Virginia, into recreational trails through the Rails-to-Trails Program.

CSX Corporation owns a rail line that runs from Richmond to Lynchburg and points beyond. That line runs along the northern border of Cumberland County, in close proximity to Columbia and Cartersville

Airports

The Farmville Regional Airport is located in southern Cumberland County, 5 miles northwest of the Town of Farmville. The airport has planes to fly in for maintenance and work from as far as Baltimore and South Carolina. The Farmville Airport does not offer commercial flights.

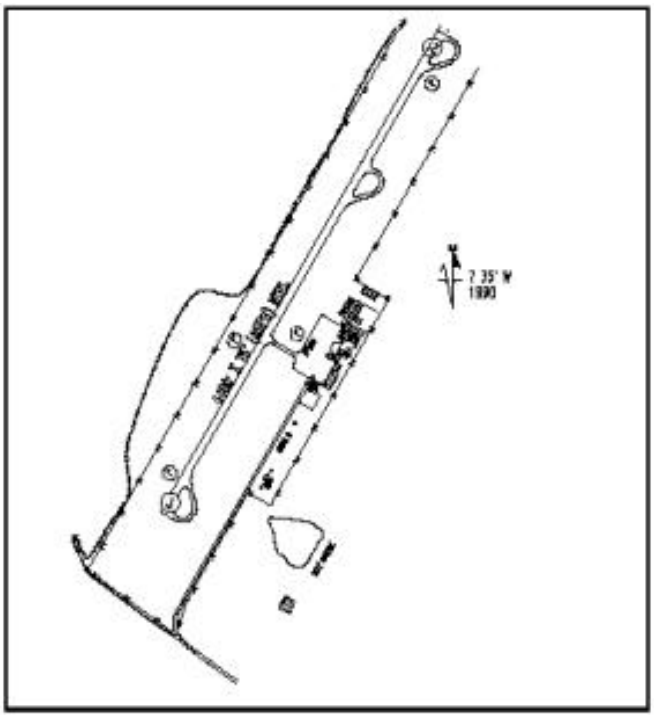
The airport has a runway length of 4,400 feet. The runway was expanded from its previous length of 3,200 feet in 1996. The Town of Farmville has been successful in obtaining funds from the Federal and State Aviation Association for upgrades of the airport's facilities. Upgrade activities included the runway extension, installation of a new lighting system, terminal building and fuel servicing area.

In 2002, the Town of Farmville submitted a proposed Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan to the Virginia Department of Aviation. The proposal consisted of ten (10) projects, including land acquisition, T-Hangar construction, beacon replacement and runway rehabilitation, and was estimated to cost $4,460,000. Federal funding would have accounted for $3,829,500. State revenues were projected to supply $564,400, with local funding projected to total $141,100. The Federal Aviation Administration and the Virginia Department of Aviation put the Plan on hold until the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) could be updated. No funds for development projects would be allocated until the ALP update was completed.

In 2005, the Town of Farmville submitted a new, 20-year Capital Improvements Plan for the airport that includes components of the 2002 plan. Among the main components of the new plan are an extension of the runway to 5,500 feet long (from 4,400 feet) and 100 feet wide (from 75 feet), and the construction of a T-hangar and associated taxiway. The extension is necessary to

accommodate increased traffic and aircraft that cannot currently use the airport. Other projects in the new plan include a parallel taxiway and the addition of more hangars.

The proposed plan is divided into three phases, with a total cost of approximately $10.5 million. It is estimated that state and federal funding will pay 98% of the total project cost, using aviation-related tax revenues.



FARMVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT - FVX

The nearest commercial airline terminals are the Richmond International Airport, located east of the city of Richmond; the Lynchburg Regional Airport, located south of the city of Lynchburg; and the Charlottesville Regional Airport, located north of the city of Charlottesville.

Piedmont Regional Bicycle Plan

In June 2000, the Piedmont Planning District Commission prepared the Piedmont Regional Bicycle Plan in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Virginia Department of Transportation. The project was funded by the FY 2002 Rural Transportation Planning Grant under the Rural Transportation Program. In order for any locality or region to be eligible for VDOT funding for highway projects, it will need to adopt appropriate sections of the Bicycle Plan as part of its comprehensive plan. Thus, the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan incorporates the Piedmont Regional Bicycle Plan as part of this plan.

Transportation Enhancement Program

The Transportation Enhancement Program, through the Virginia Department of Transportation, offers broad opportunities and federal dollars to undertake unique and creative action to integrate transportation into communities and the environment. There are twelve (12) eligible enhancement project activity types.

The County is currently undertaking an enhancement project in the Courthouse village area. Transportation Enhancement funding from 2003 through 2006 totaled $613,000. When completed, the project will incorporate landscape, lighting, street and parking improvements to the Courthouse Green area plus renovations to the Old Jail. Planned use for the former jail is a visitor center/museum. The overall goal of this project is to increase the economic viability of the courthouse area by making it a more attractive place to shop, to do business and to visit.

I. Natural Resources

The Land Surface

Cumberland County is located in the Piedmont, characterized by rolling topography. The topographic relief of the area ranges from 200 to 500 feet above sea level. In general, the land surface slopes gently toward the southeast. A large part of the planning area falls within developable limits as far as topography is concerned; however, some hilly areas and strips along streambeds may present land slopes greater than fifteen percent (15 feet for each 100 feet horizontal), which may exclude development.

Climate

The County experiences a generally moderate climate (See Table XXII). The winters are fairly mild with an average high in January of 48ºF and an average low of 25ºF. Summers are typically warm with temperatures in July averaging a high of 89ºF and a low of 65ºF. The chart below indicates the temperature and weather trends Cumberland Court House. This information was obtained from the Weather Channel, 2001.

TABLE XXII
Monthly Averages and Records
Cumberland Court House

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. High	48°F	52°F	61°F	71°F	78°F	85°F	89°F	87°F	81°F	71°F	61°F	51°F
Avg. Low	25°F	28°F	35°F	43°F	52°F	61°F	65°F	64°F	57°F	44°F	36°F	29°F
Mean	37°F	40°F	48°F	57°F	65°F	73°F	77°F	76°F	69°F	58°F	48°F	40°F
Avg. Precip.	4.03 in	3.32 in	4.26 in	3.35 in	4.26 in	3.23 in	4.19 in	3.86 in	3.94 in	3.82 in	3.41 in	3.20 in
Record High	80°F (1952)	82°F (1948)	90°F (1945)	95°F (1985)	98°F (1941)	105°F (1952)	105°F (1954)	106°F (1932)	106°F (1932)	100°F (1941)	88°F (1950)	82°F (1998)
Record Low	-16°F (1940)	-9°F (1996)	0°F (1960)	16°F (1985)	25°F (1963)	35°F (1945)	45°F (1962)	41°F (1946)	30°F (1956)	12°F (1962)	9°F (1970)	-6°F (1942)

Source: The Weather Channel, 2002.

Precipitation averages 3.74 inches a month, with a majority of rainfall occurring during spring and summer. Prevailing winds for the most of the year are from the south and southwest, while winter winds are from the north and northeast.

Drainage

Cumberland County is divided into two watersheds by U.S. Route 60, which runs east-west through the County. Most of the area north of U.S. Route 60 drains into the James River watershed. The James River flows past Richmond and Williamsburg, and into the Chesapeake Bay. Most of the area south of the highway drains into the Appomattox River watershed. The Appomattox runs through Farmville and along the border between Cumberland, Buckingham, Prince Edward and Amelia Counties, and flows into the James River south of Richmond.

Mineral Resources

Cumberland County is underlain primarily by igneous and metamorphic rock. Granite and related rocks occur in some parts of the County. Monazite, a phosphate of the rare earth, is found in saprolite derived from gneiss near Farmville.

In the past, sandstone was quarried near Farmville for use as foundation stone, and conglomerate near Trents Mill was quarried and crushed for roadstone. Sand and gravel have been produced for highway construction and maintenance. Also in the past, prospecting was done for mica and feldspar southwest of Cumberland Court House and for mica southwest of Duncan's Corner. Sulfide minerals and gold have been prospected near Cartersville. In addition, there is an abandoned gold mine located in the northern part of the County.

Clay materials have been produced for the manufacture of brick near Hawk. Coal of Traissic age occurs in the southwestern part of the County, and a small amount has been mined near Farmville. The abandoned Piedmont Coal Company produced coal for local use from the early 1960s until the early 1980s in the southern part of the County.

Forests

According to the local office of the Virginia Department of Forestry, Cumberland County had 135,560 acres of forestland in 1999, out of a total land area of approximately 192,000 acres (* Based on an interpretation of available digital aerial photography). This represents approximately 70.6% of the County's total land area that consists of forest. The majority of the County's forestland is privately owned. A smaller amount is commercially owned, and a small amount – less than 20,000 acres – is state-owned (Cumberland State Forest).

Soils

Map IV shows the general soil associations in Cumberland County. A soil association is a landscape that has a distinguishable proportional pattern of soils. It normally consists of one or more soils of large extent, and at least one soil of lesser extent, and is named for the most extensive soils. The soils in one association can occur in another, but in a different pattern.

Some of the soil associations found in Cumberland County are discussed in terms of their suitability for ponds, lagoons, septic tank systems, and buildings.

- Sustainability for lagoons: Poindexter soils may present a problem because of rock within 40 inches of the ground surface. Chewcala is generally not suitable because it is subject to flooding. The other soils in the associations have moderate limitations because of seepage or wetness, or both. On-site investigations are necessary to determine suitability of the soil for a lagoon.

- Suitability for ponds: Generally, Appling, Dogue, Mayodan, Enon and Creedmoor soils are considered good for pond sites. Caution should be observed during construction not to dig down into the underlying rotten rock, which is usually at depths of 3 ½ to 7 feet or more. Cecil and Poindexter do not hold water well in many places, and a year-round flow from springs is best to insure a full pond. Chewcala is generally suited for ponds, but the hazard of flooding is a menace to the structure. Dogue soils usually are capable of holding water, provided the site is not dug down to a sand or gravel layer. On-site investigations are necessary to determine site suitability.

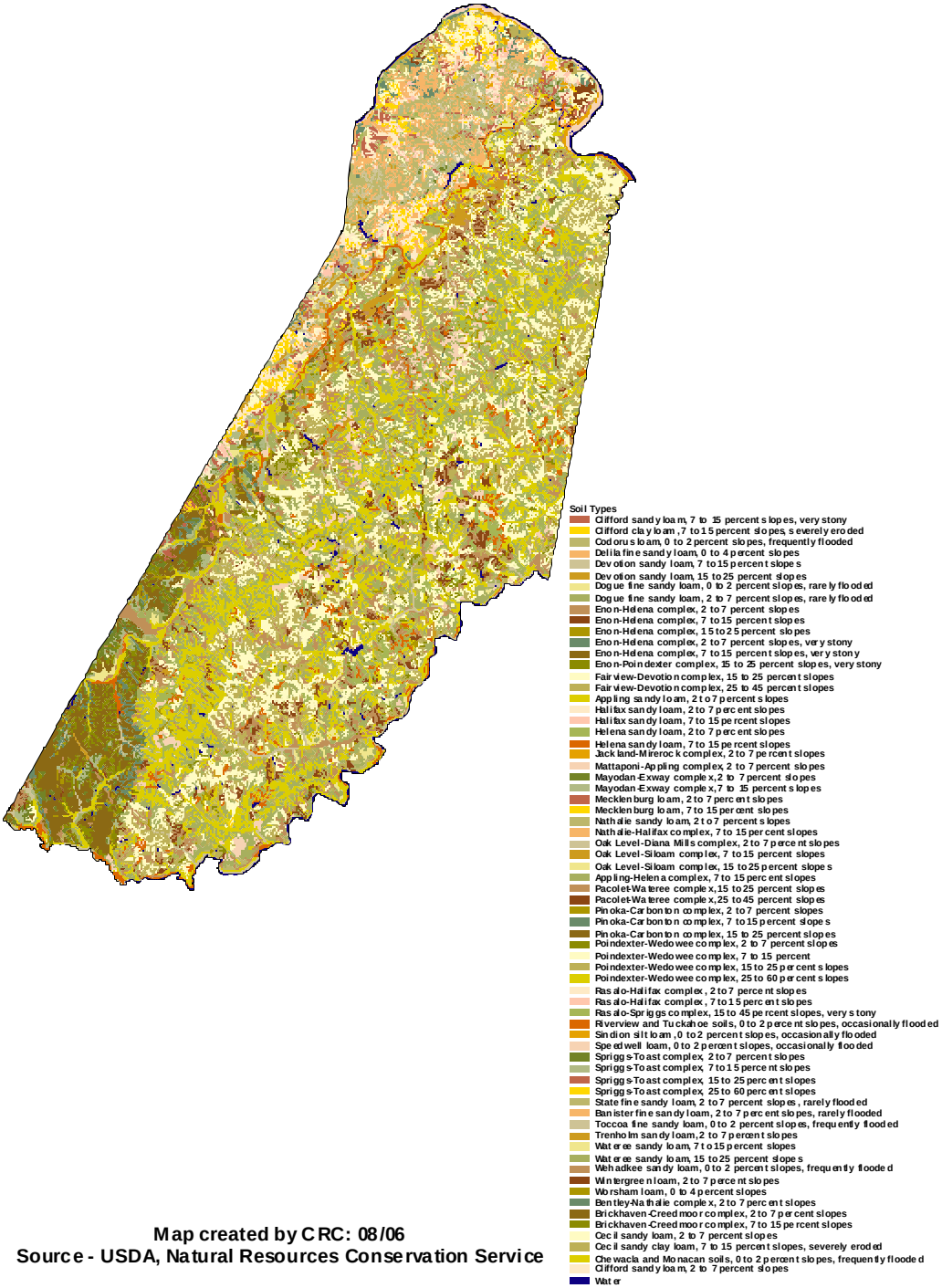
- Suitability for septic systems: Appling, Mayodan and Cecil soils are rated as having moderate limitations for septic fields on all slopes. On –site inspections are necessary, as a septic system placed below rotten rock that is soft and loose could pollute ground water. Poindexter and Enon soils have severe limitations because of the shallowness to rock. Creedmoor, Chewcala and Dogue soils also have severe limitations, because of a tight subsoil or high water table.

- Suitability for buildings: Appling and Cecil soils would have slight limitations on slopes of 7 percent or less, moderate limitations on slopes ranging from 7 to 12 percent, and severe limitations on slopes of more than 12 percent severe limitations because of slope. These are deep well-drained soils, and landscaping can be accomplished fairly easily. Enon soils have plastic clay lower subsoils that may cause some swelling and shrinking upon wetting and drying. Borings need to be made to determine if the clay subsoil is plastic enough to take special precautions in building foundations. Because of this, it has severe limitations on slopes up to 7 percent, moderate limitations on slopes from 7 to 12 percent, and severe limitations on slopes over 12 percent. Special precautions to seal basements would apply to this soil.

More detailed soil information, including maps, data on soil properties and qualities, and suitability and limitation information for the different types of soils in the County, can be found on the web by going to http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx and selecting Cumberland County, Virginia as the area of interest. Copies of the County's soil survey are also available at the Peter Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District Office, located in Buckingham Court House.

Map VI is on the next page.

Map IV – Soils in Cumberland County



Map created by CRC: 08/06
Source - USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

J. Community Facilities and Services

Introduction

Community facilities and services are made possible by individuals, families, businesses and industries working together to serve County residents through local government. The provision of such facilities and services is usually determined by the tax income that can be obtained from local population and businesses.

The following inventory analysis summarizes those public resources for which the government of Cumberland County has primary responsibility and control. However, it also considers other important resources and activities of other levels of government such as Federal and State agencies. In addition, some private or quasi-public facilities such as educational institutions and some utility systems are important resources for the local community and must be taken into account when analyzing the full range of public resources available to the citizens of the County.

Administrative Facilities

Cumberland County owns several buildings within the County. These include:

1. Cumberland County Courthouse Complex – Located in village of Cumberland Court House, on U.S. 60. This complex houses the historic Cumberland County Courthouse and related court buildings, the County offices, the Old Commonwealth Attorney's Office, and the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office.

2. Cumberland County Schools Complex – Located west of Cumberland Court House, on U.S. 60. This complex includes Cumberland Elementary School, Cumberland Middle School, and Cumberland High School.

3. Cumberland County Social Services and Extension Offices – Both are located on U.S. 60, just west of Cumberland Court House.

4. Cumberland County Probation Office – Located on U.S. 60, in Cumberland Court House.

5. Cumberland County Animal Pound – Located on Range Road in Cumberland Court House.

6. Southern Cumberland Volunteer Fire Department – Located on State Route 45, between Farmville and Cumberland Court House.

7. Thomas Chapel Voting Precinct Building – Located on Cartersville Road in Cartersville.

Education

The Cumberland Public School System provides public education for County residents. Students from Cumberland County Cumberland Elementary School, Cumberland Middle School, and Cumberland High School, all located off U.S. 60 west of Cumberland Court House. In addition, some students attend Fuqua School, a private school located in the Town of Farmville that also serves grades pre-K through 12.

According to the Cumberland School Superintendent's 2005 annual report, a total of approximately 1,350 students are enrolled in the County's three public schools. The High School athletics program has enjoyed considerable success, with championships in Cross County (boys and girls), Boys Basketball (varsity and junior varsity). The County's school system has received more than $4 million in state and federal grants over the last few years, according to the annual report. They include a 21st Century learning communities grant of $1.5 million, a school renovation grant in the amount of $811,000, a $1.35 million reading first grant for the elementary school, and a $50,000 innovative teacher recruitment grant.

The Cumberland School System features a comprehensive staff development program and tuition assistance to help staff members receive additional training. As a result of partnerships with colleges and universities, 80% of the school system's paraprofessional staff have received at least 15 college credit hours of training and more than 50% are taking additional courses. Each student at the high school is loaned a laptop, and students at all three schools have access to computers and computer labs. In addition, the high school and middle school are equipped with history labs and all three schools have math labs. The history labs are equipped with wireless laptop carts for use by teachers. Each cart includes a wireless laptop and LCD projector.

Water /Sewer Service

Cumberland County plans to have a new water treatment plant, water storage tank, and water lines constructed and in service by November 2006. The facility will be located behind the County Courthouse and will operate on a well system. The project has received funding from the Environmental Protection Agency, USDA Rural Development, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission. The first phase of this project will serve customers in the approximate area of the Cumberland County Public Schools, eastward on US Rt.60 to the County Courthouse Complex, serving the homes and businesses in between. Future phases are planned for extensions in the Court House village area.

The County has a public sewer system, and contracts with the Town of Farmville to treat its wastewater effluent.

In addition, Cumberland County is finalizing a planning study to assess the feasibility of developing a raw water supply reservoir. The reservoir project is conceptualized as a pumped storage facility providing several billion gallons of raw water storage. Key project components will likely include a dam and reservoir, James River withdrawal facilities on the County's northern border, reservoir withdrawal facilities, and transmission main(s). Not only will this facility provide essential infrastructure for the County, but the proposed off-stream reservoir is

envisioned as a regional solution to water shortages when the James River has very little flow. Funding for the feasibility study was provided by the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission and the Virginia Department of Health, as well as the County of Henrico.

Trash Collection

Cumberland County does not currently provide trash or recyclable collection services for its residents. The County provides three (3) locations for residents to deposit trash and recyclables – On Route 45 at Randolph Road, on Poorhouse Road, and on Samuels Drive. These sites used to be landfills, which have been capped and closed. Cumberland County currently has a non-exclusive agreement with Amelia County to have its solid waste transported there.

Police Service

The Cumberland County Sheriff's Office primary responsibilities include property protection, basic complaints and handling civil papers. In addition to the Sheriff's nine (9) deputies, four (4) dispatchers and one (1) administrative assistant staff the Department.

The State Police have primary responsibility over traffic investigations. Prisoners are transported to the Piedmont Regional Jail, in the Town of Farmville, for detention. In addition, the State Police will respond to calls for assistance. For better service, Cumberland County has established an emergency number (911), which can be accessed by citizens 24 hours a day.

Fire Departments

Cumberland County has three fire departments. They are the Southern Cumberland Community Fire Department, located on Route 45 at Randolph Road (just north of Farmville); the Cumberland Fire Department, located east of Cumberland Court House on Route 13 (Old Buckingham Road); and the Cartersville Fire Department, located on Route 45 in Cartersville. In addition, the Farmville Fire Department serves southern Cumberland County, in and around the Town of Farmville. The County's Fire Departments have mutual aid agreements with fire departments in Farmville, Prince Edward County, Buckingham County, Amelia County, Fluvanna County, Goochland County, and Powhatan County. The County assists with funding for general operating expenses and the purchasing of new vehicles.

The Fire Departments have access to a regional fire fighting training facility located in Blackstone, in Nottoway County. This facility is used for personal training exercises. The Department provides safety educational programs for the general public and inspects residences, businesses and industries for fire hazards. The sheriff's dispatcher is available all day for emergency calls via the emergency telephone number 911.

Rescue Squad

Cumberland County has two (2) rescue squads: the Cartersville Rescue Squad, located on Route 45 just south of Cartersville; and the Cumberland Rescue Squad, located on Route 13 east of

Cumberland Court House. The Prince Edward Rescue Squad also serves part of Cumberland County. The Cartersville and Cumberland Rescue Squads have a combined 76 active members, of which 33 are certified emergency medical technicians (EMTs) or above. The two squads also have a combined 34 auxiliary members (a new class, added in December 2004, denoting members who assist with fundraisers and perform other non-EMS functions). Volunteers teach CPR classes and first aide at local schools and industries.

Rescue squad service is provided 24 hours a day and the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department receives calls for assistance. The enhanced 911 number is available Countywide for those requiring emergency services. Patients are transported to hospitals in Farmville, Charlottesville, or Richmond.

Recreation

Cumberland County youths can participate in local sports through the Cumberland Youth League, which provides a broad range of recreation opportunities for boys up to age 18 and girls up to age 19. Sports include baseball (age 4 and up), T-ball, soccer (age 5 and up), cheerleading, basketball and football.

Most of the outdoor events are held at the Madison Ballfield, located on Route 13 east of Cumberland Court House. The basketball leagues had their games at the old Elementary School gymnasium up until the 2003-2004 season. No games were played during that season. The basketball league resumed play in the 2004-2005 season, with games being played at the Cumberland High School gymnasium.

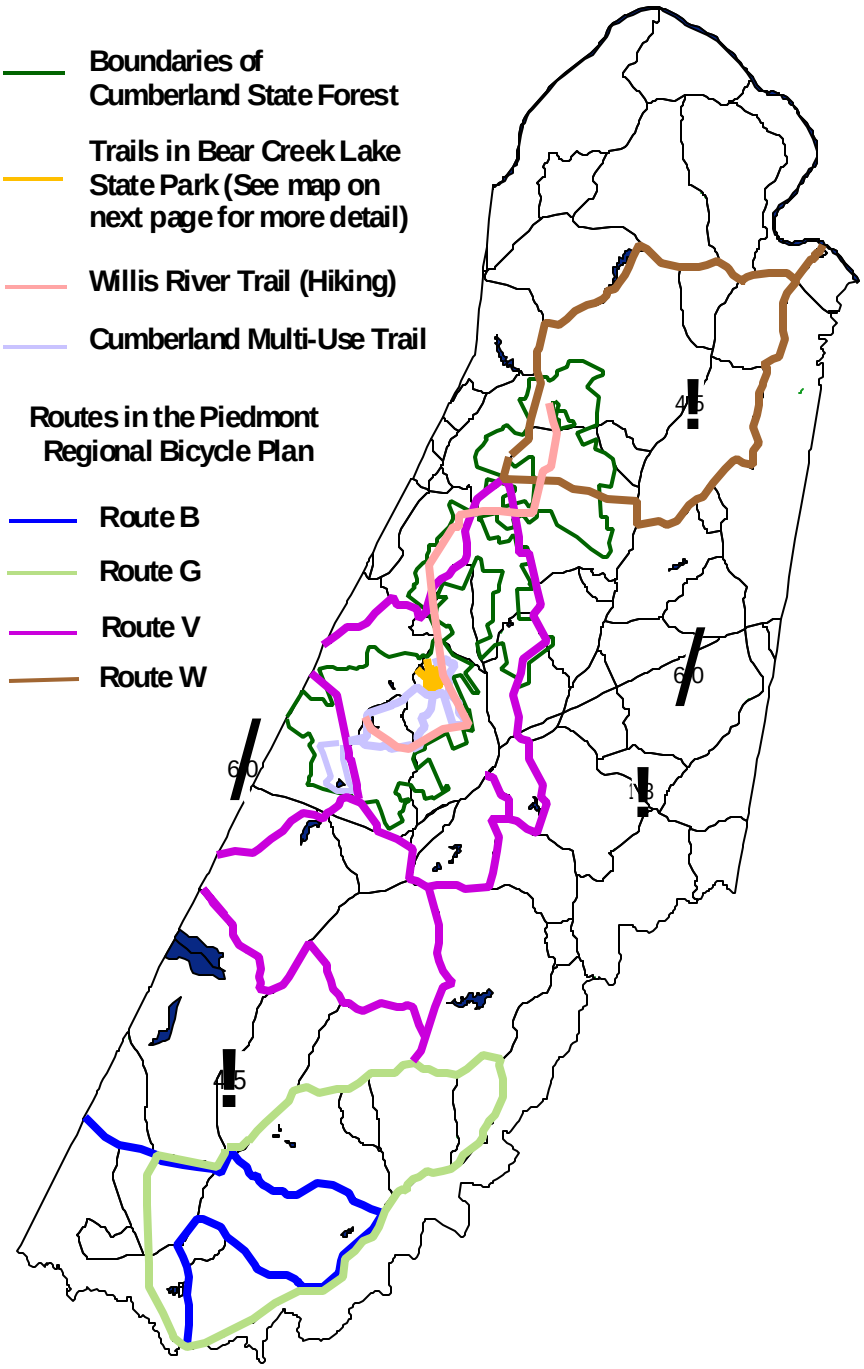
The Brookleigh Golf Club, formerly known as the Heartland Golf Club (and Landing View Golf and Country Club before that), is located on Wedgewood Drive, near the airport. It is a semi-private club, open to members and the public, with a nine-hole golf course. This club also has a driving area, chipping range, practice bunker, swimming pool and snack bar.

The Cumberland State Forest is located north of U.S. 60, west of Route 45, and bordered by the Willis River. This 16,222-acre area offers hunting, fishing, a sporting clay range, archery course, trails, a picnic shelter, and permanent campsites. It is the second largest state forest in Virginia, surpassed only by Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest (19,808 acres), according to the Virginia Department of Forestry. Located within the Cumberland State Forest is Bear Creek Lake State Park, a 40-acre area that offers camping, picnicking, swimming, boating, and hiking.

There are boat landings on the James River at Columbia, at the Cartersville Bridge, and along the Willis River. The Appomattox River is accessible at the Appomattox River Bridge at Farmville. Organized canoeing trips are offered by the Appomattox River Company, located on North Main Street in Farmville.

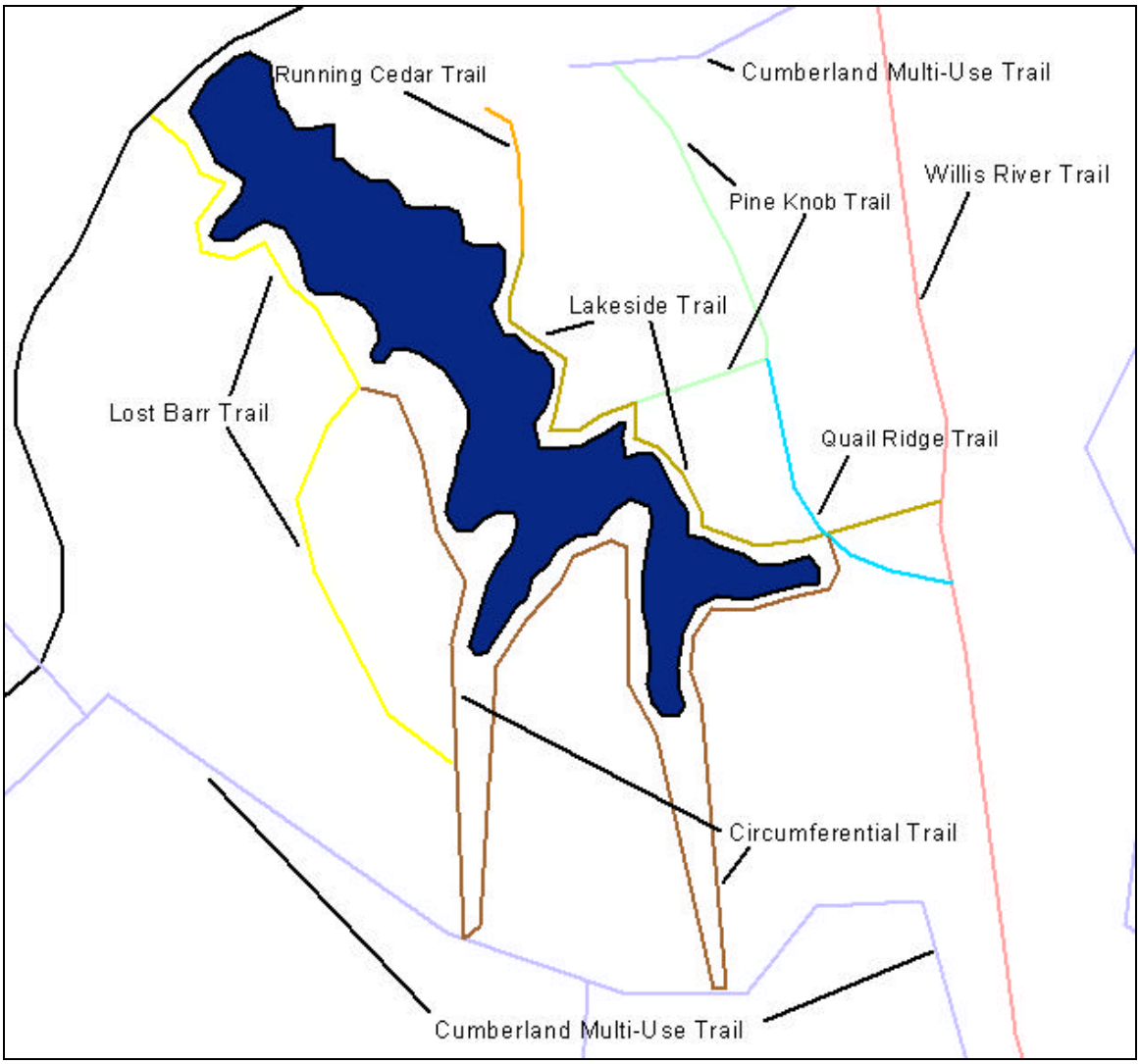
The county offers a number of biking trails for riders ranging from novice to experienced off-road rider. These scenic routes include hard-surface, dirt and gravel roads. A number of convenience and country stores can be found along the way. Maps V and V-a, on the next two pages, show biking and hiking trails in the County.

Map V – Cumberland County Biking/Hiking Trails



Map created by CRC – 08/05

Map V-a – Trails in and around Bear Creek Lake State Park



Map created by CRC – 08/05

Library

The Cumberland County Public Library is located on U.S. 60, west of Cumberland Court House. There are three (3) full-time staff on hand – the library director, an assistant librarian, and a library specialist – in addition to a number of volunteers who help run the library's many services. Programs and services provided by the library include Internet access, a pre-school story hour on Thursday mornings, and electronic homework assistance. The library has a rotating schedule of operation, which is as follows: Monday – 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm; Tuesday – 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Wednesday – 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Thursday – 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Friday – 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturday – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Health Care Facilities

There are no hospitals in Cumberland County, but residents are in close proximity to Southside Community Hospital, located in Farmville on the Prince Edward County side. The hospital, established in 1927, serves the residents of Amelia, Appomattox, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties. As the only full-service medical facility in an eight-county area, the hospital plays a significant role in Southside Virginia by providing quality, affordable healthcare to all residents regardless of their ability to pay.

The 117-bed, full-service hospital provides 24-hour physician emergency service, and intensive/coronary care unit, surgery, obstetrics, pediatrics, physical/occupational therapy, radiology, pathology and home health care. In addition, a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in nursing is available through the cooperative program of Southside Community Hospital, Lynchburg College and Longwood College. In December 2002, Southside Community Hospital earned accreditation under the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The hospital was not only accredited, it earned a score of 97 (out of 100), which ranks it in the top ten percent nationally.

Cumberland County has two (2) physicians, with many more located in Farmville and in Buckingham County. There is one dentist in Cumberland County, with several more located in Farmville and Buckingham County. Medical offices located in Cumberland County include Cartersville Family Medicine Inc., the Cumberland Family Medicine Center, and the Cumberland County Health Department. The Central Virginia Community Health Center, in northern Buckingham County, is also available to County residents. The nearest hospital facilities are located in Farmville, Richmond, Lynchburg and Charlottesville. A number of mental health facilities are located in the Town of Farmville, including Crossroads Community Services Board.

Two small-scale nursing facilities are located in the County, with a proposed 100-bed nursing home under consideration by the County. The small number of facilities (existing and proposed), combined with the expected increased need for services for the elderly, presents Cumberland County with a two-pronged opportunity. More facilities will be needed to provide care for the elderly. More adult care/assisted living facilities would, in turn, provide an economic boost by creating jobs for the local workforce.

Communications/Utilities

Cumberland County has telephone services with two providers – Verizon, which serves the northern part of the County, and Embarq, which serves the rest of the County. There are currently seven (7) cellular phone towers located in the County. Dominion Virginia Power provides electric service to a majority of the county, with two independent cooperatives providing service to parts of Cumberland County. Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (based in Nelson County) provides service to the northern part of the County, while Southside Electric Cooperative (based in Nottoway County) serves the southern portion of the County.

The County has three radio stations – WFLO, WPAK, and WXJK, which are just north of the Town of Farmville. Two other stations are nearby: WBNN, in Buckingham County; and WVHL, in Farmville. Two local newspapers, *The Farmville Herald* and *The Cumberland Bulletin*, serve Cumberland County. The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* also provides some coverage for the County.

III. Cumberland County Land Use Plan

A. Introduction

The purpose of a land use plan is to guide both the development and conservation of land. Land use is much more than the division of land. Rather, land use involves every aspect of daily life and the built environment —where we live, where we work, where we relax and the transportation network we use to move between these places. Land use planning is a fundamental tool in determining where new businesses should locate, where housing should concentrate, and what infrastructure is needed to support local citizens' needs.

The land use plan reviews the existing land use patterns and trends and proposes future land use categories and development patterns for the approximately 192,000 acres of land in the county. Land use planning is essential for Cumberland County as it experiences suburban-style growth pressures from the Richmond metropolitan area yet desires to retain a rural quality of life. The land use plan will be used to guide decisions regarding land use policies, procedures and code revisions by both elected officials and staff. The land use plan is not intended to halt growth and development but rather to manage it so that natural resources, such as farmland and forest, as well as taxpayer dollars, are not wasted. The land use plan is an opportunity to anticipate and address future challenges before problems arise.

The Planning Commission has held citizen meetings, hosted educational workshops and conducted citizen surveys by telephone to determine how the land use plan can best meet the needs and desires of local citizens. In the citizen survey, the majority of respondents did not feel that land development was happening too quickly. However, they did favor restricting the amount of land sold for both commercial and residential development, and concentrating development in order to preserve land and maintain rural character. In addition, citizens were eager to have new businesses, services and employment opportunities in the county. Thus, the majority sentiment illustrates a desire to maintain a rural quality of life while encouraging new businesses and services in specific areas. To that end, the land use plan is ultimately a balance between rural conservation, economic development and new growth.

As more and more farmland is lost each year to new development in urban and suburban areas, rural lands and rural ways of life are being lost. Statistics show that Cumberland County has 62,638 acres of land in working farms and 135,560 acres of land in forestry.[1] In addition, farming and forestry are major forces in the local economy with $28.3 million in agricultural receipts ($25.7 million in livestock/poultry receipts and $2.56 million in crops) and over $5.2 million in forestry.[2] Clearly, agriculture and forestry play a significant role in the local economy.

The rural character and community found in Cumberland County involves both maintaining the rural economies—agriculture, forestry and local businesses—as well as a slower-paced and independent style of living. A rural area has clean air and water sources, wildlife, trees and

[1] These two numbers comprise more than the total acreage in the county because, according to the 2002 Census of Agriculture, 46% of land classified as working farmland is actually wooded.
[2] 2002 Census of Agriculture County Data, VASS County Summaries

fields, and the sights and sounds of tractors and farm animals. Narrow country roads, little artificial lighting, limited services and a sense of independence all characterize country life.

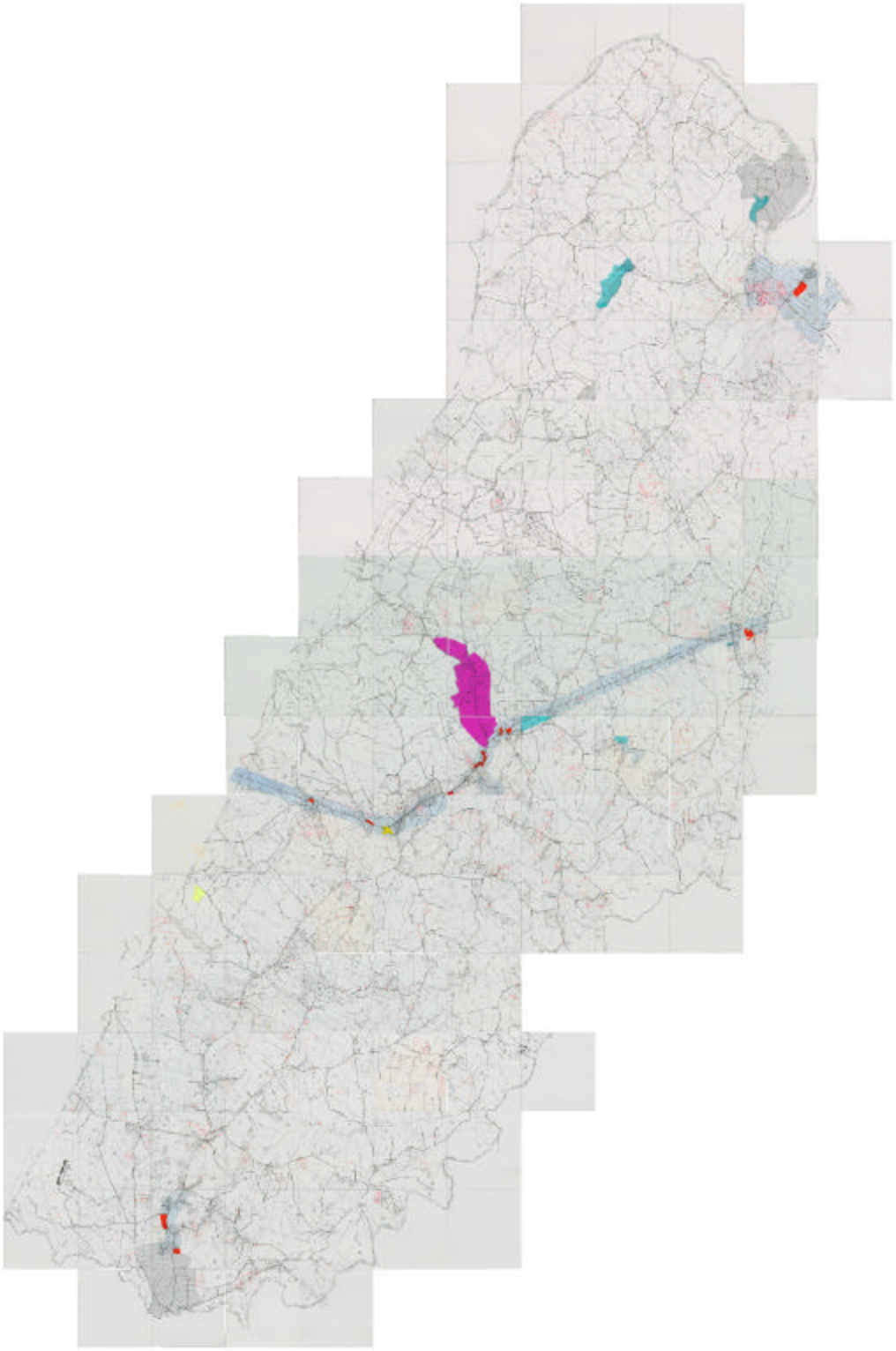
Zoning district boundaries generally correspond to patterns of categories of land use shown on the future land use plan. The zoning ordinance is a primary tool for implementing the land use plan and map. In addition, individual zoning district requirements do not exactly reflect the description of the land use categories contained herein. However, decisions relating to the creation or amendment of zoning districts must consider the future land use plan and must support the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.

B. Existing Land Use

Cumberland County remains a predominantly rural county with a strong agricultural and forestal basis. However, development pressures from the Richmond and Farmville areas have the potential to rapidly alter the natural and built environment. Cumberland still retains a significant number of large parcels used for farming and forestry operations. Most of the development and land subdivision that has occurred to this point has been through by-right development. This means that most of the subdivision of land for residential use comes from the division of parent tracts (those parcels of land created prior to April 5, 1991) or through family divisions. In addition, much of the business development occurs as the by-right permitted uses allow, or through the application to conduct a business with a conditional use permit. The majority of the county is zoned agricultural with some areas zoned business and industrial. The Route 60 corridor is currently zoned Rural Residential (1000 feet on either side of the road) and permits residential, civic and some commercial uses. The current zoning map is shown as Map IV.

Division of land and new construction is occurring throughout the county and is not concentrated in a single specific area. Many of the land divisions were and are 2-acre cuts that are used for family divisions or parent tract divisions for residential purposes. In addition, many divisions result in parcels under ten acres used as small farms or ranchettes. The more recent development that Cumberland has experienced is typical of many rural communities throughout the United States with suburban-style characteristics.

Map VI – Cumberland County Existing Zoning Map



Source: Cumberland County Planning and Zoning

Like all communities, Cumberland County has special features that make the community unique and give it a sense of place**.** The magnitude, quality and characteristics of special features may vary from community to community but nearly always contribute to the economic and social viability of the community. Also, such special features often have an important bearing on the future economic and social growth potential of the community. Cumberland County offers a multitude of special features that range from historic resources to long-established communities to recreational and natural resources. From the first call for independence issued by a governmental body, made on the steps of Effingham Tavern, to the many outdoor recreational opportunities, Cumberland has a unique sense of place and role in history. By creating an inventory of the special features, the County may create plans that are sensitive to what it has and what it wants to enhance. For example, the number of historic sites throughout the county will serve as the foundation for a historic preservation plan as well as heritage tourism activities. Many of these special features are the reason why established residents remain and why new residents are drawn to the county.

Cumberland County's special features and historic resources include the following:

Special Features :

Transportation and Business

1. Farmville Regional Airport
2. Riverside Industrial Park
3. Cumberland Courthouse Village
4. Farmville-Cumberland Business District
5. Cartersville Business Area
6. Coverage of the Farmville Area Bus

Recreational and Natural Resources

7. Brookleigh Golf Club
8. Madison Ballfield
9. Bear Creek Lake State Park
10. Cumberland State Forest
11. James River
12. Appomattox River
13. Willis River
14. Cobbs Creek Reservoir (proposed)

Government and Community Facilities

15. Cumberland County Courthouse/County Government Complex
16. Randolph Volunteer Fire Department
17. Cumberland Volunteer Fire Department
18. Cumberland Rescue Squad
19. Cartersville Volunteer Fire Department
20. Cartersville Rescue Squad
21. Cumberland County Schools

Historic/Residential Communities

22. Cumberland Court House Village
23. Cartersville Historic District
24. Clinton Community
25. Hamilton Community
26. Hillcrest Community
27. Lakeside Village
28. Sunnyside Community
29. Tamworth Community
30. Guinea Mills Community

Historic Resources:

Historic Homes/Home Sites

1. Clifton Home
2. Ampthill Plantation
3. Foster Home
4. Morven Home
5. Needham Law School
6. Old Jordan Home site, with Concrete Mottoes
7. Jesse Thomas Homestead Site
8. Goshen
9. Mt. Elba
10. Rochelle
11. Bizarre Plantation (no longer extant)
12. Trenton
13. Oak Hill
14. Oakland

Historic Store/Mill Sites

15. Old Tamworth Post Office/Tamworth (Muddy Creek or Moon's) Mill
16. Flannagan's (Trice's) Mill
17. Trent's Mill
18. Trenton/Sports Lake Mill
19. Garrett Roller Mill (no longer extant)
20. Ca Ira Warehouse/Store/Mill

School/Educational Sites

21. Bethlehem School
22. Rosenwald School sites (New Hope School, Pine Grove Elementary)
23. St. Paul's School House
24. Hamilton School
25. Cumberland Training Agricultural Building (now part of the Luther P. Jackson School)
26. Stops on the Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail

Historic Churches

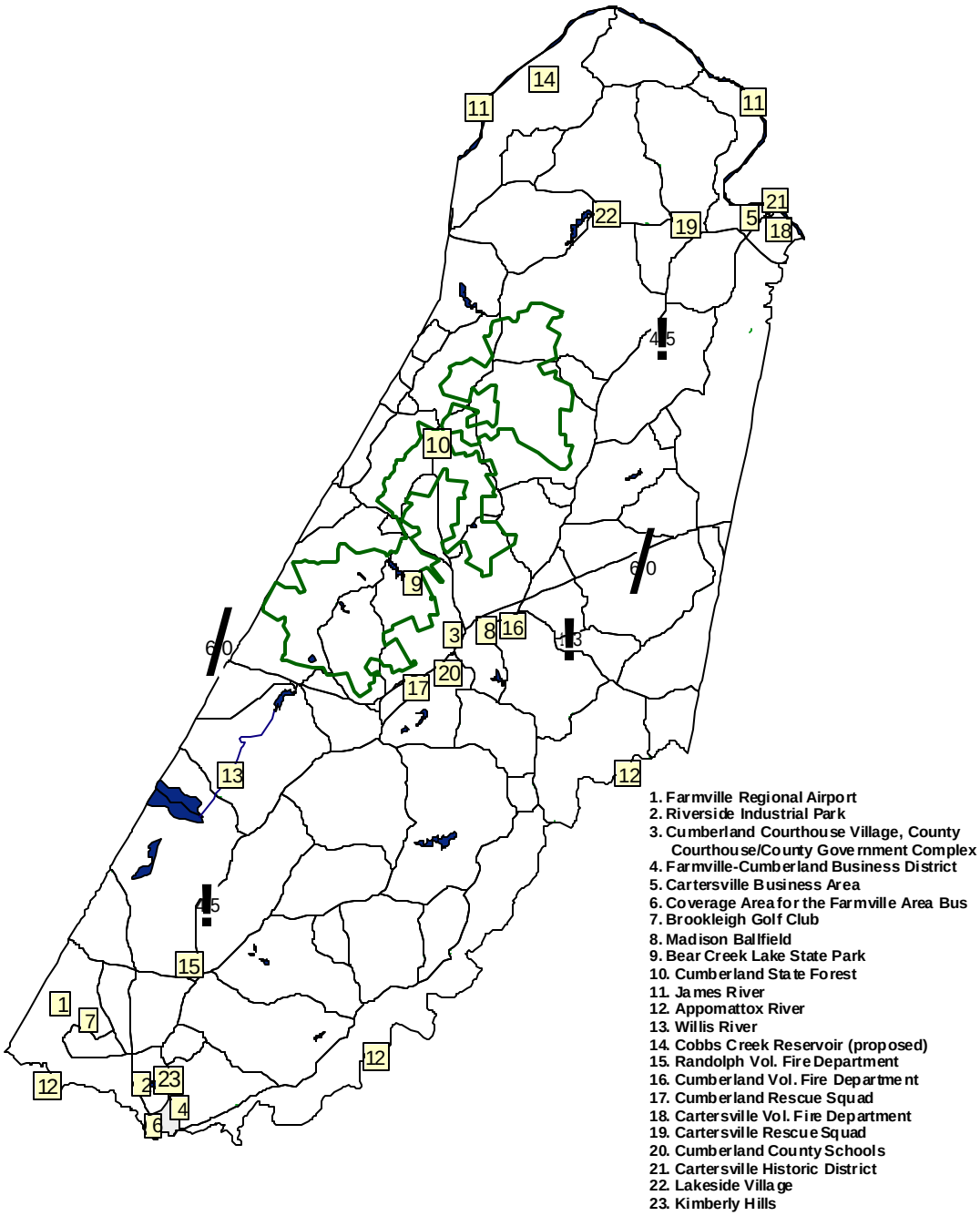
27. Grace Church
28. Fork of Willis Church
29. Browns Presbyterian Church
30. Center Presbyterian Church
31. Cartersville Baptist Church
32. Grove Methodist Church
33. Oakwood United Methodist Church
34. Thomas Chapel United Methodist Church

Other Historical Sites

35. High Bridge
36. Remains of old Cartersville Bridge (built in 1884)
37. Courthouse Green (Old Clerk's Office, Courthouse, Old Jail, Baber Law Office)
38. Confederate Cemetery
39. Oak Hill Cemetery (One tombstone, Charles Irving Thornton, has an epitaph written by Charles Dickens.)
40. Effingham Tavern (no longer extant)
41. Lithia Springs
42. Cartersville Historic District
43. Stops on the Route of Lee's Retreat

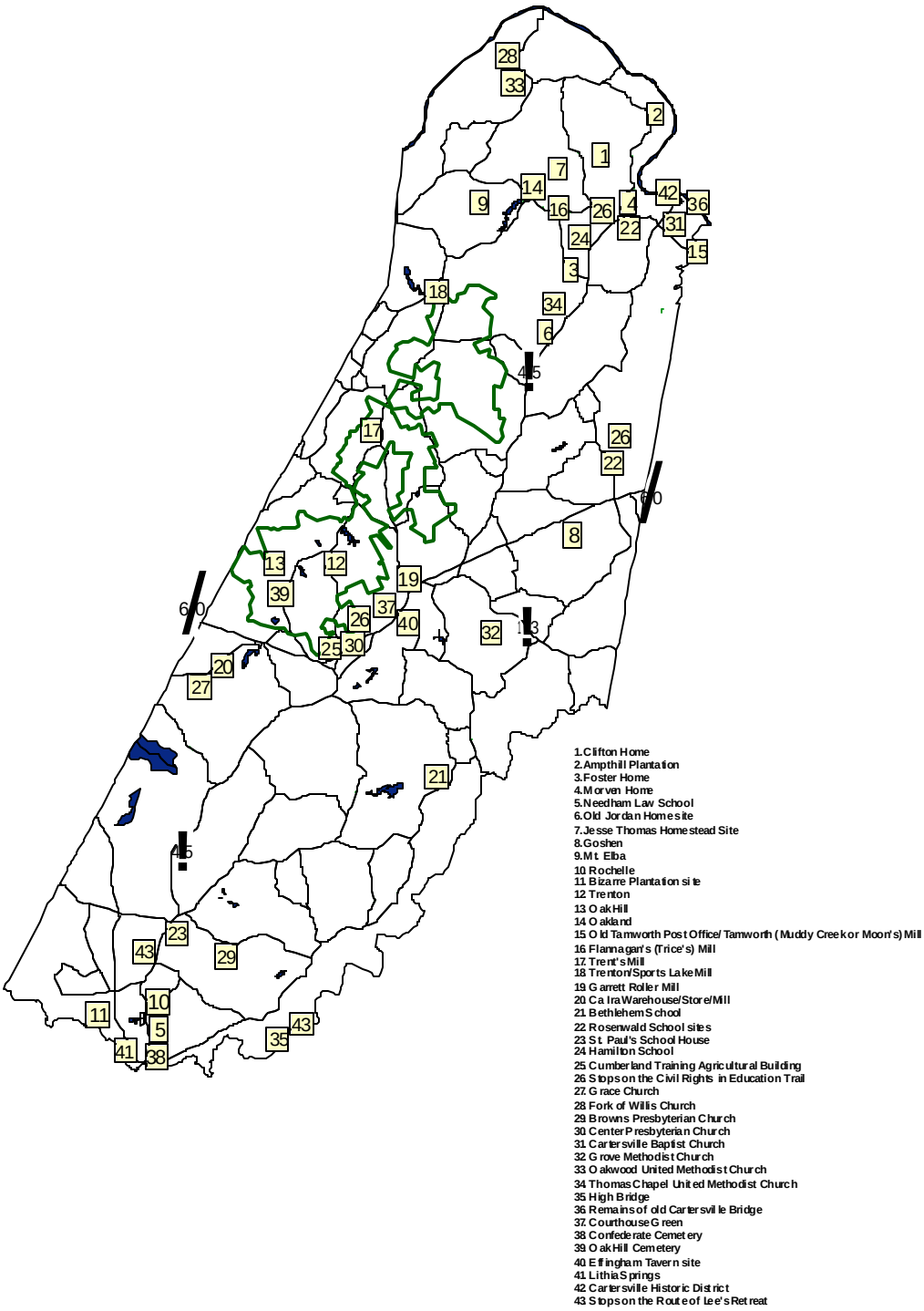
See Maps VII and VIII, on the following pages, for identification of special features and historic resources in Cumberland County.

Map VII – Cumberland County Special Features



Map created by CRC – 08/06

Map VIII – Cumberland County Historic Resources



Map created by CRC – 08/06

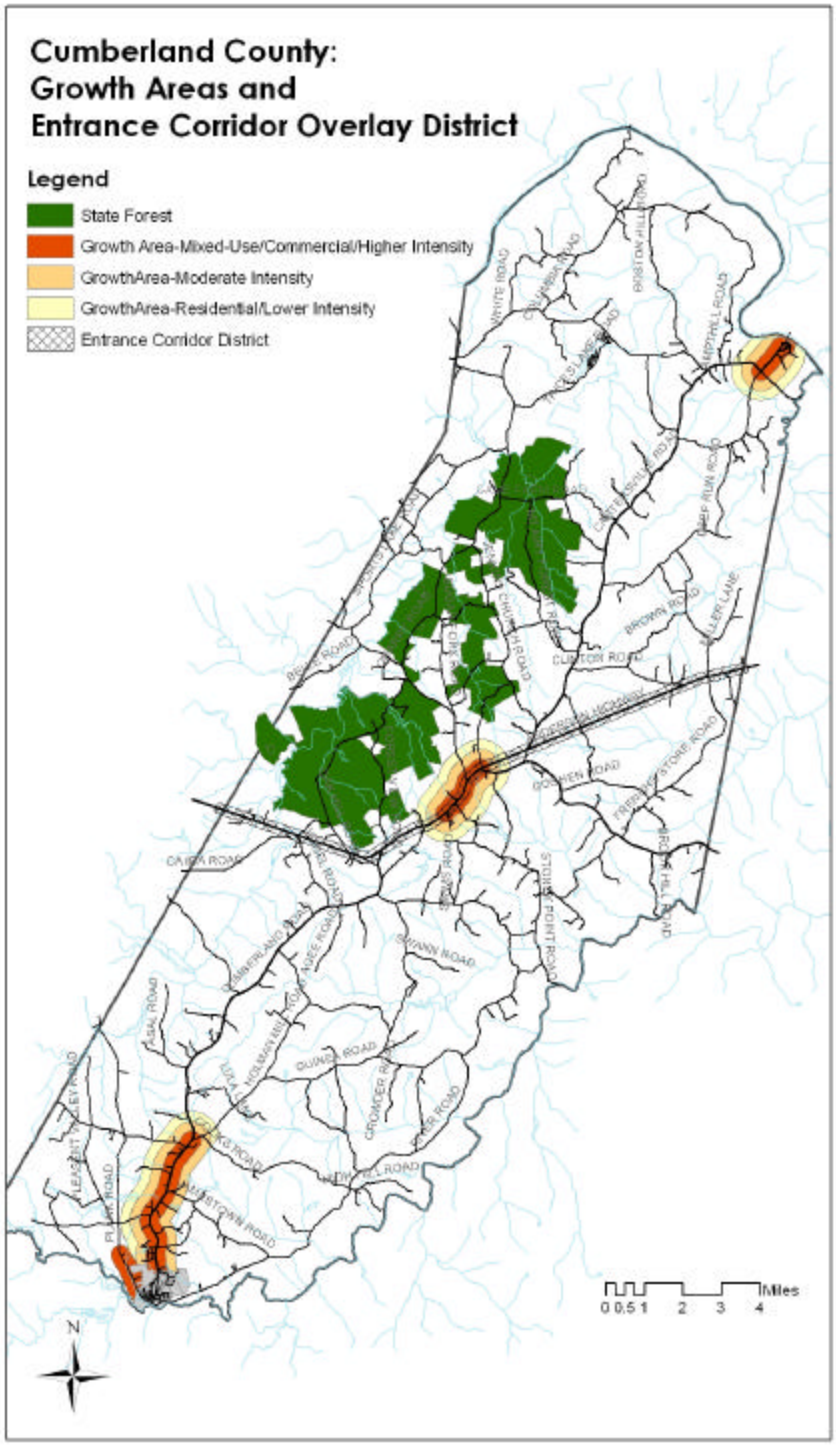
C. Future Land Use

The future land use plan is based upon the concerns and interests of the citizens as well as sound planning principles. The purpose of the future land use plan is to guide decision-makers in land use changes as they relate to code amendments, new zoning district classifications, applications for change of zoning, economic development and other aspects of community planning. Future land use considers past and present land use and development trends to determine how to plan for the future.

The future land use plan seeks a way to balance new growth and development while maintaining rural character and viability in the county. The guiding principle to achieve this balance is to concentrate growth in specific areas known as designated growth areas. By channeling new development into these areas, rural lands and resources are not consumed at such a rapid rate. In addition, concentrating residents into growth areas will encourage businesses to locate in the county that need an established and concentrated population base.

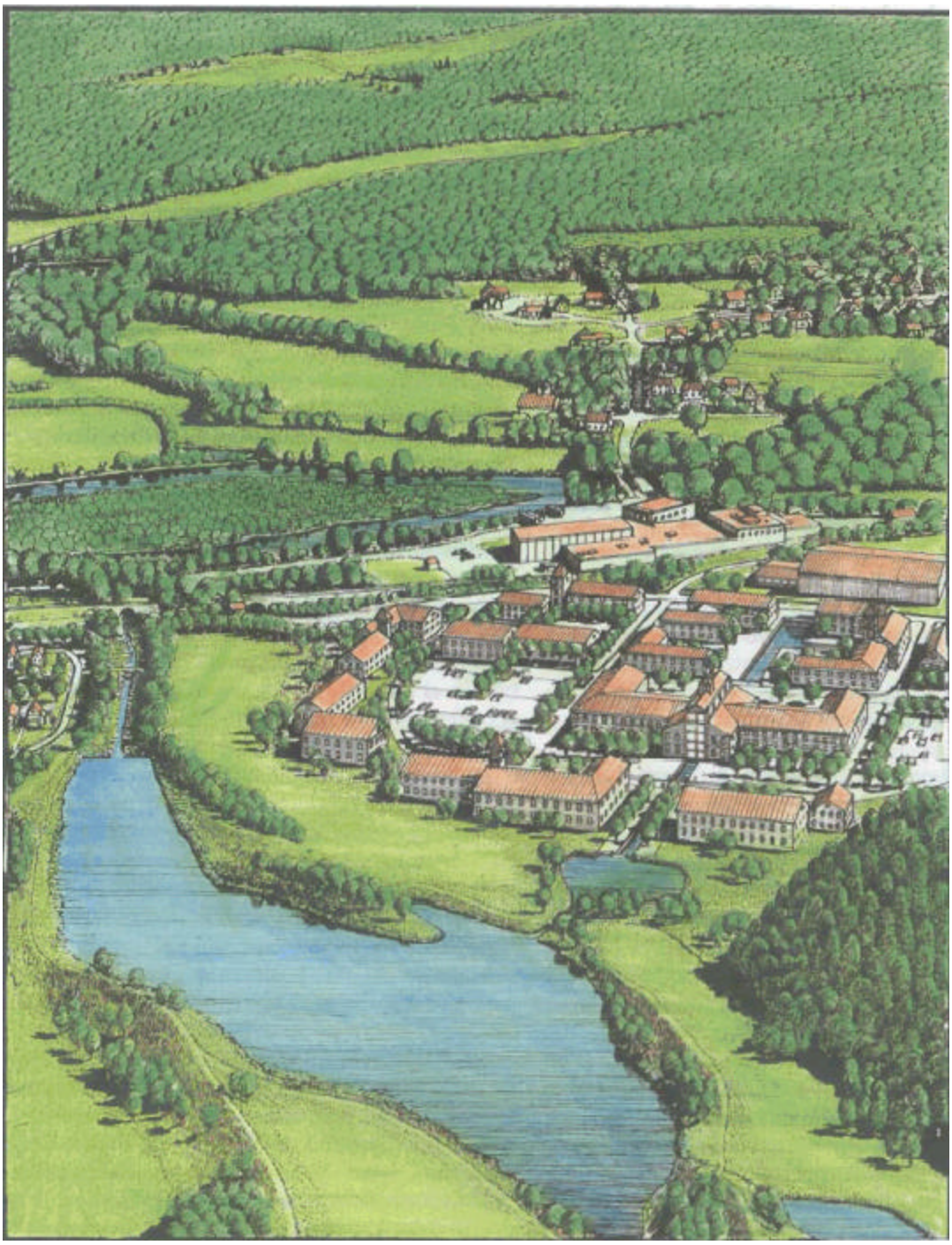
Map VII shows the proposed growth areas and entrance corridor overlay district. Figures II and III represent desired growth patterns as illustrated in Randall Arendt's *Rural by Design*. The first figure represents an aerial perspective of creative development in a rural area. *Development is not discouraged*, yet it is done in a way that rural character and open space are retained while growth and services are concentrated. The second figure illustrates the range of subdivision choices that a developer has when dividing a 158 acre farm. Conventional subdivision patterns create lots between 3-5 acres and result in the loss of open space and rural character. Other options, such as clustering, emphasize a compatible and sensitive way to maintain farmland, forest and open space while permitting development in clustered, small lots. These images reflect the direction of growth and development that the County envisions in its long-term plans.

Map IX – Cumberland County Future Land Use



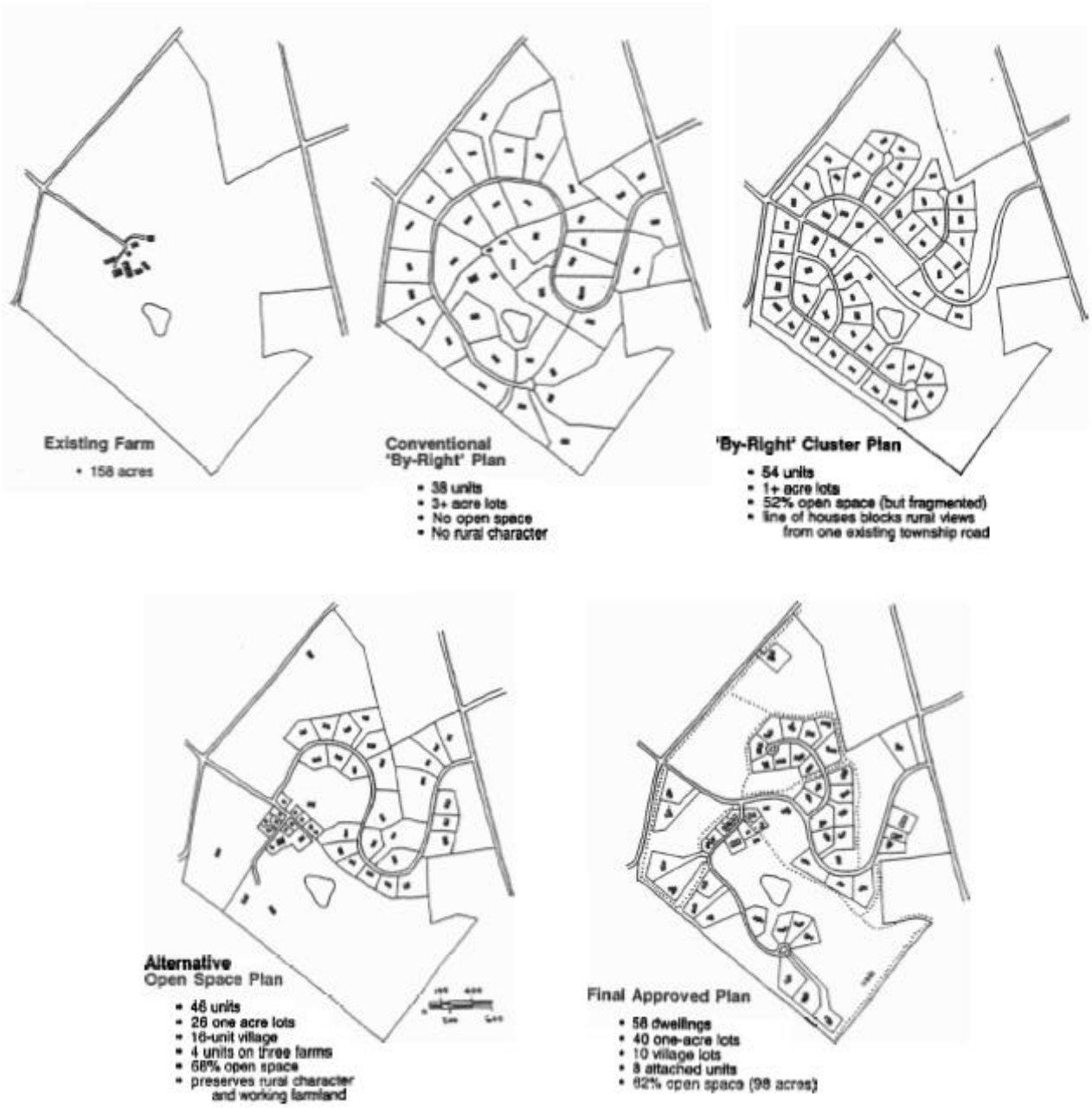
Source: Cumberland County Planning and Zoning

Figure II



Source: Arendt, Randall. ***Rural by Design: Maintaining Small Town Character.*** **Chicago. Planners Press: American Planning Association. 1994**

Figure III



Source: Arendt, Randall. ***Rural by Design: Maintaining Small Town Character.*** **Chicago. Planners Press: American Planning Association. 1994**

D. Land Use Categories

The land use categories are intended to frame the concept for different types of land uses found in the county. The general land use categories listed below have specific characteristics yet combined they help to protect rural character and encourage sensitive growth and development. The future land use map illustrates the general locations of each land use category in the county. Thus, these categories will be used as a framework for code amendments that future zoning ordinance changes may be able to effectively help implement the land use plan.

Rural/Agricultural Areas

Recognizing that one of its richest assets is agricultural, forestal and rural lands, Cumberland wants to protect these areas and natural resources and to ensure that a rural quality of life is maintained. By limiting subdivisions and suburban style growth in these areas, agricultural and forestal production may continue as well as the conservation of natural and historic resources. Land conservation tools such as conservation easements, PDR programs and other tax incentive programs, may be used to encourage minimal development in these areas. Currently, 55,110 acres are in land use. Conservation subdivisions that require 70% of the land area to be dedicated open space, such as in conservation easements, and that feature cluster development, such as in a hamlet, are desired in rural areas.

Growth Areas

An important tool for preserving rural land and character is the establishment of designated growth areas. By studying where development and population growth has occurred in the past as well as considering existing and future infrastructure and services, certain areas of the county are ideal for future community development and provide a mix of both residential and economic development opportunities. Encouraging development in such specifically designated areas will limit sprawling, suburban-type, low-density development throughout the rural areas. Careful planning in the growth areas will provide needed goods and services, employment and increased tax revenues.

The growth areas are ideal locations for planned unit developments (PUDs) and other forms of master planning. A PUD is defined in the Code of Virginia as "a form of development characterized by unified site design for a variety of housing types and densities, clustering of buildings, common open space, and a mix of building types and land uses in which project planning and density calculation are performed for the entire development rather than on an individual lot basis." The review process for a PUD is typically more flexible than for traditional zoning in that, with a PUD, density can be calculated over the entire development instead of being calculated by individual lot. One type of PUD the County is considering is a planned retirement community. Given the increasing number of residents in Cumberland County that are over 50, and an expected influx of people due to the County's proximity to Farmville, Charlottesville and Richmond, the need for senior-oriented services will only increase. This type of PUD presents an opportunity for Cumberland County to provide essential services while also creating new jobs, boosting the local economy and practicing smart growth.

The growth areas will include a mix of uses and a variety of housing types, including affordable housing for residents of all income levels, encouraging cluster development and higher densities. Such areas are where utilities, services, community facilities and businesses will be concentrated and where the transportation network will be expanded to create more connections. These areas will have a focus on good design that creates a sense of place and respects the existing architectural fabric. Within these growth areas will be varying intensity levels of development, as illustrated on the detail map of each area. Each growth area will permit the most intense development within an existing center within a primary corridor. This will create a core for each growth area.

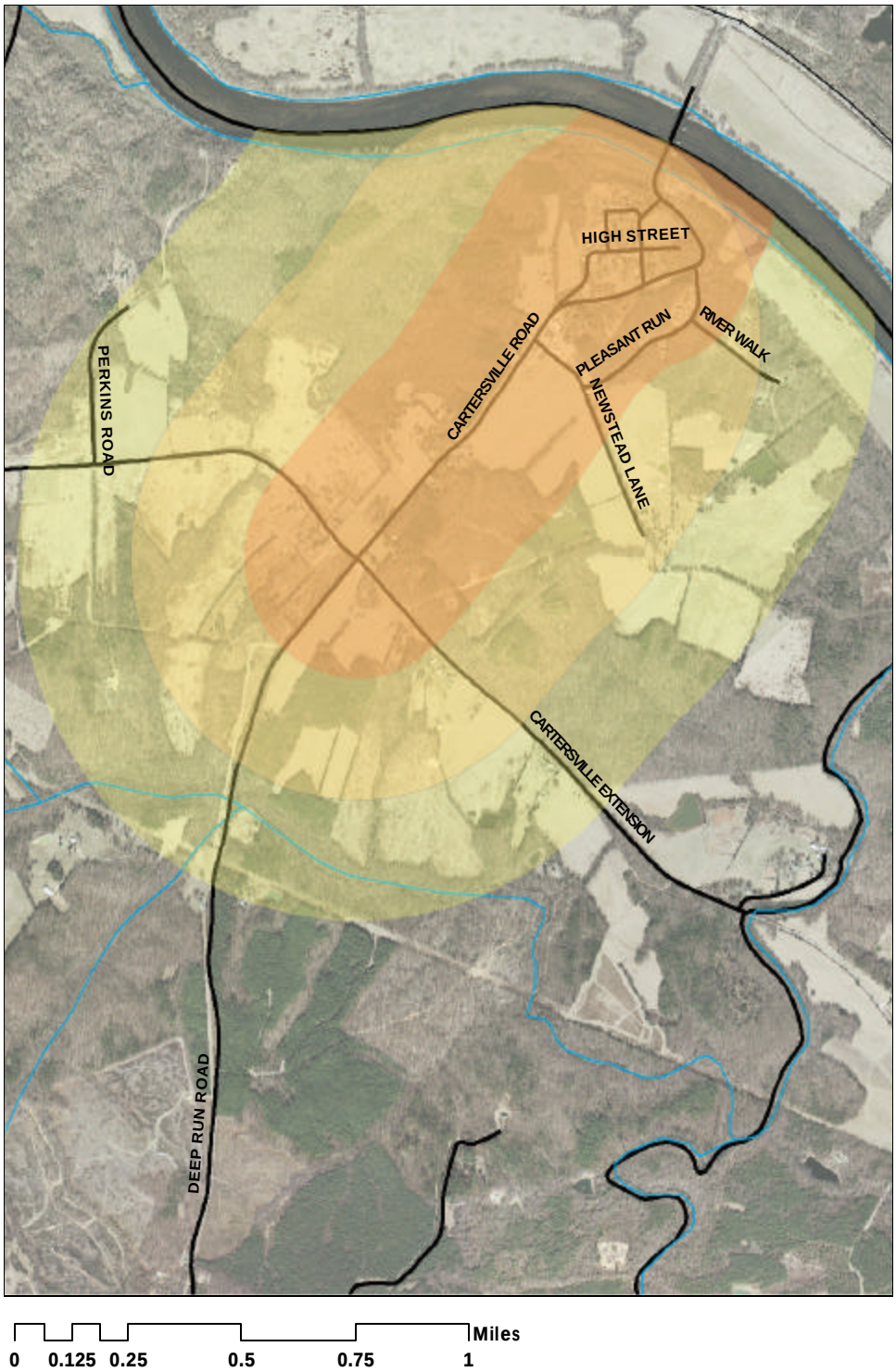
Three growth areas have been identified: Cumberland Courthouse village, Cartersville and Farmville. The total area of the three growth areas is 7574 acres. Depending on the existing infrastructure and existing land use, appropriate densities and growth patterns will be determined for each of these areas. For example, the Cumberland Courthouse village will permit a higher density than the Cartersville area, and will serve as a commercial and mixed-use zone, serving as both a central core and gateway to the county. Each growth area may have its own master plan in the coming years to ensure that growth and development occur in an orderly, planned manner.

Cartersville: Located in the northern part of the county along the banks of the James River, Cartersville is a small historic village surrounded by farms and former plantations. The village of Cartersville is listed as a National Register Historic District. The area includes small businesses, churches and limited public utilities. The growth area here will be used to enhance the existing village and services while protecting the farmland and watershed in the vicinity. Map X illustrates this growth area.

Cumberland Courthouse: Cumberland Courthouse is a village area that is both historically and physically the heart of the county. At the crossroads of the two major roadways of the county, Route 45 and Route 60, this area has a great concentration of businesses, community services and citizens. The schools, county administration, county courthouse, private residences, the state park and forest, and several businesses are all located in this area. Cumberland Courthouse is served by public sewer and will offer limited public water by the end of 2006. Due to infrastructure and location, this area would be well suited to planned unit developments. Map XI illustrates this growth area.

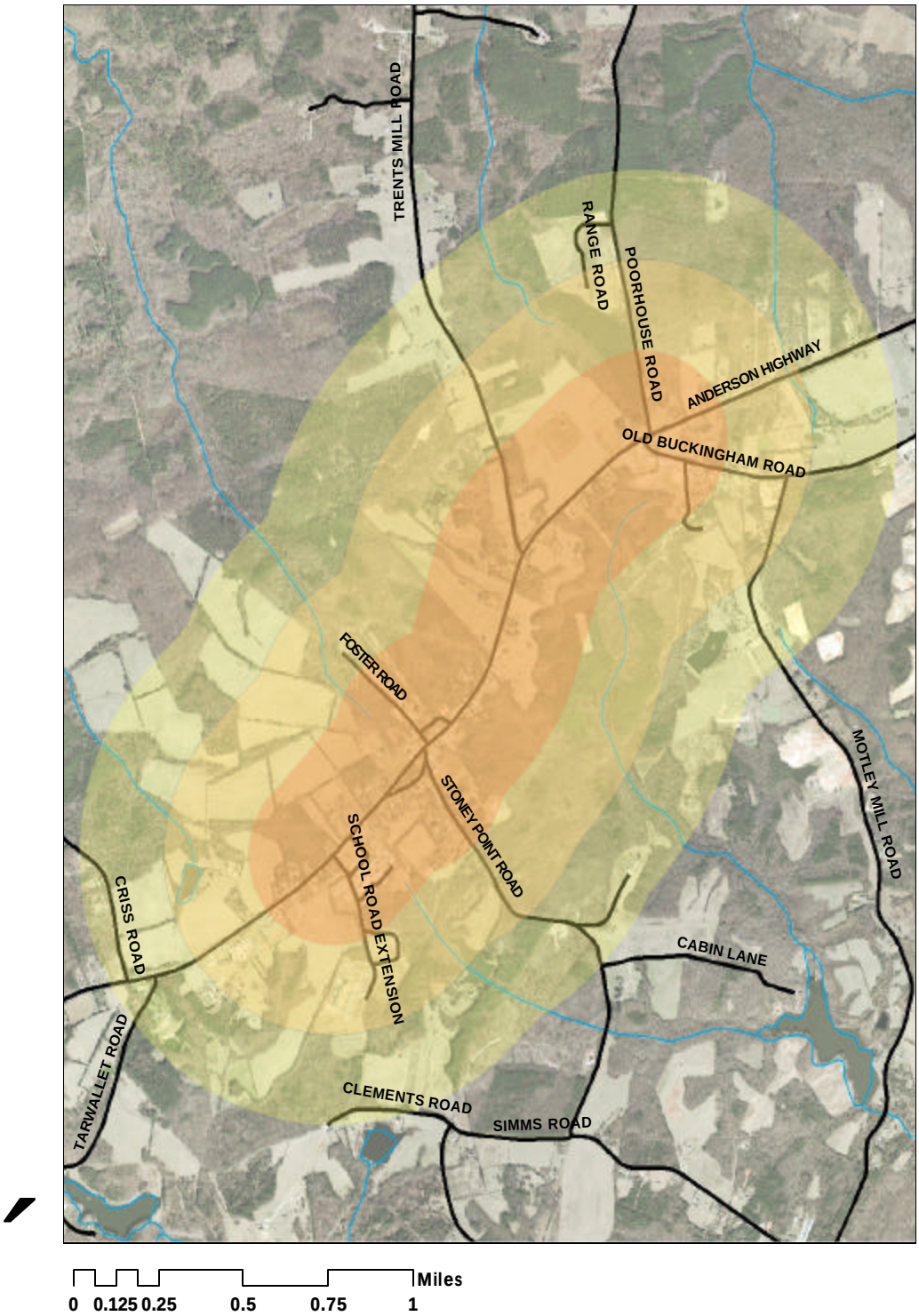
Farmville: At the southern end of the county along Route 45 is the Town of Farmville. Proximity to Farmville has encouraged growth and development beyond the town limits. The area contains existing residential and commercial growth, as well as the county's industrial park. Creating a growth area around the town limits encourages new development in this area. The growth area here encompasses land adjacent to both Route 45 and Route 600 (Plank Road). This area is served by public sewer. Map XII illustrates this growth area.

Map X – Cartersville Growth Area



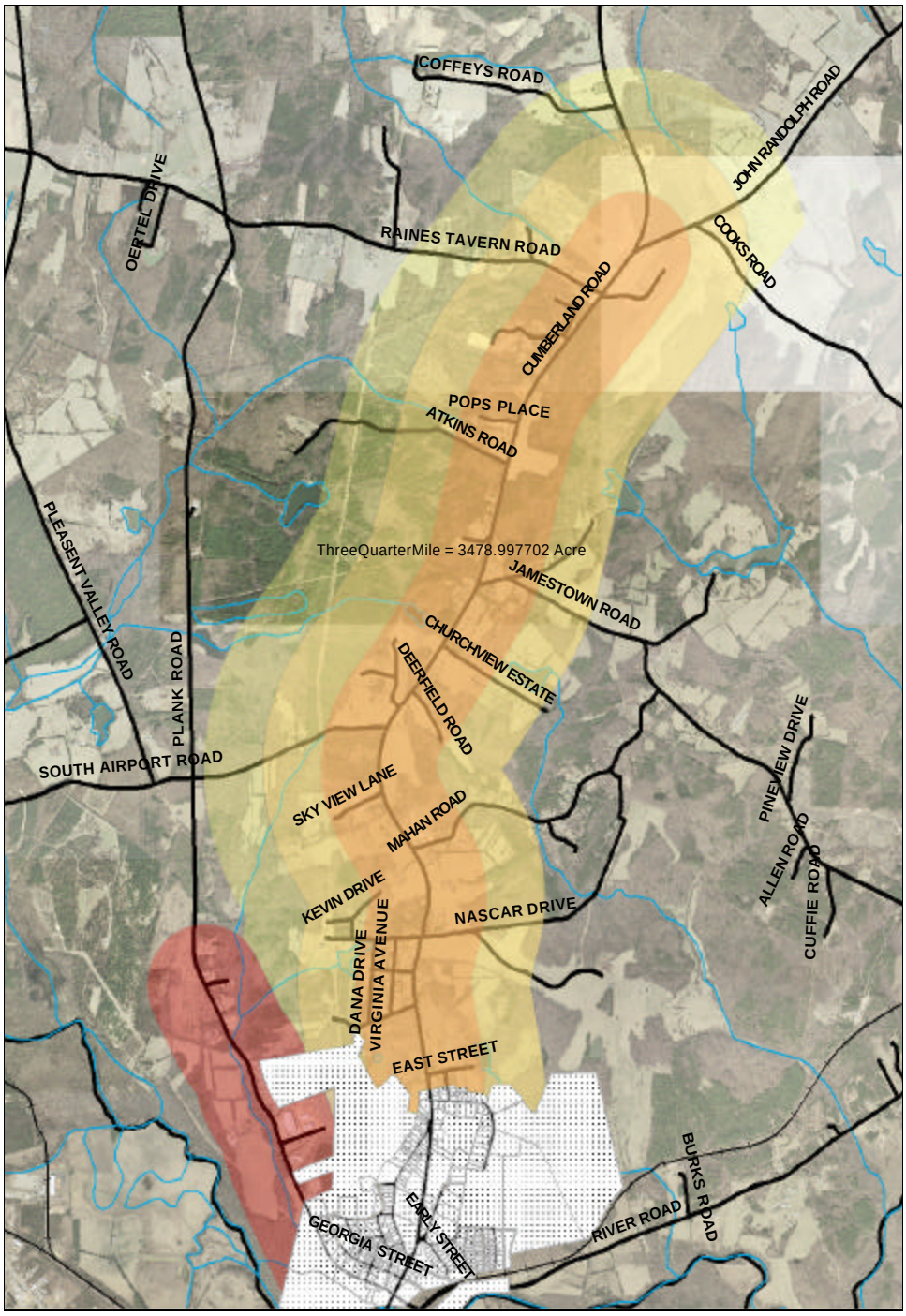
Source: Cumberland County Planning and Zoning

Map XI – Cumberland Court House Growth Area



Source: Cumberland County Planning and Zoning

Map XII – Farmville Growth Area



Source: Cumberland County Planning and Zoning

Industrial Areas

These areas will have a concentration of industry and heavy commercial businesses that may not be compatible with business and residential districts or mixed-use. These areas will be designated with careful consideration to transportation routes, infrastructure and impact on the natural environment and existing communities. Where possible, multiple industrial uses will be concentrated on the same or adjacent properties. The County will continue to look for areas that can serve as a hub of light industrial and commercial activities, such as near the Farmville Airport and in other areas that best meet the County's interests and goals. One possible industrial land use is a proposed landfill, adjacent to the Route 60 corridor in the eastern end of the county.

Recreational Areas

Recreational areas are an important part of maintaining the rural quality of life and providing community gathering places. The County already has recreational areas adjacent to Bear Creek Lake State Park. Future recreational areas may include land surrounding the proposed reservoir as well as land adjacent to the James and Appomattox Rivers and the proposed High Bridge State Park along the former Norfolk Southern rail line. The objective of these areas will be to protect natural habitats while permitting sensitive use and development of the land and may include residential as well as businesses that offer related goods to the recreational areas, such as eateries and equipment rental businesses.

Overlay Districts

In addition to the above-described land use categories, certain areas of the county are suited for overlay districts. An overlay district is one that is available as an option over an existing zoning district. For example, a rural area might have an overlay district on an entrance corridor to control design features such as landscaping, architectural form and materials, and sign height. Such a district allows a community to delineate its gateways and create a distinct sense of place on a primary corridor. Overlay areas will include existing and proposed historic districts and entrance corridor areas. Such overlay districts will have design guidelines and standards to ensure that new development is compatible with historic and natural resources. Specifically, the Route 60 corridor and the future Cumberland Courthouse Historic District will have an Entrance Corridor Overlay District that will extend 750 feet on either side of Route 60.

IV. Goals and Objectives

A. Introduction

The goals and objectives section of the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan is a coordinated set of guidelines for local government officials, developers, citizens and other interested parties when planning the future of Cumberland. This set of goals and objectives is intended to be comprehensive in nature covering areas of responsibility for both Cumberland County (its political and administrative leadership), and other interested parties. These other interested parties include businesses, developers, civic groups, state and federal agencies, neighborhood associations, and individual citizens.

A goal is a general statement signifying what the County intends to accomplish over a long period of time. For community planning purposes, this period of time is normally twenty years. Goals are normally based on input received from stakeholders who represent the interests of the County. Goals are normally reflective of the consensus views of many different stakeholders.

Objectives are more specific statements of measurable steps to achieve the general goal and are typically applied over a shorter period of time, one to five years. This comprehensive plan is for the period of 2005 to 2010, a five-year period of time. Therefore, the objectives that follow are those that can be realistically achieved or implemented within this period.

This section also includes a listing of specific policies that delineate more specific activities, strategies, or tasks that are supportive of the objective and the general goal. Policies may also be viewed as strategies aimed at achieving the more general goals and the associated objectives.

Goals, objectives, and policies are normally broken down into several broad categories that collectively make up every aspect of the community as a whole – thus comprehensive in nature. The basis for defining the general goals in this plan include the following categories: 1) Natural Resources, 2) Agriculture, 3) Land Use, 4) Residential, 5) Economic Development, 6) Transportation and 7) Community Facilities.

The plan's overall intention is to provide a framework for orderly growth that will preserve and maintain the County's rural character and quality of life. It is also the overall intent of the County to amend county ordinances, regulations and policies to assure they are aligned with the various objectives contained within this plan.

B. **Natural Resources**: It is the goal of this comprehensive plan to preserve and effectively manage the natural resources of Cumberland County for the benefit of current and future citizens of Cumberland County.

Objective 1: Maintain the rural character of the County.

Policy: Amend county ordinances, regulations and policies to assure they are aligned with this objective.

Policy: Restrict development to designated growth areas.

Policy: Preserve open space through the use of federal, state and local programs.

Policy: Review the placement of high-rise communication towers for co-location of use.

Objective 2: Preserve, protect and develop Cumberland County's ground and surface water resources for the use and enjoyment of current and future citizens.

Policy: Enforce soil sediment and erosion control regulations to protect surface waters.

Policy: Encourage the wise use of fertilizers to protect ground and surface waters.

Policy: Encourage other appropriate nutrient management measures to protect ground and surface waters.

Policy: Identify future water sources, ground and surface, for use by the citizens of Cumberland County.

Policy: Acquire sites for the development of future surface water impoundments.

Policy: Implement low impact development practices.

Policy: Develop overlay districts pertaining to roads and or rivers to maintain the natural character that exist in the county today.

Objective 3: Preserve Cumberland County's high air quality for the use and enjoyment of current and future citizens.

Policy: Promote the County to environmentally friendly industries.

Policy: Require existing and future industries to minimize or eliminate any air, water, dust, odor or noise pollution that may be detrimental to other nearby land uses.

Objective 4: Preserve and develop Cumberland County's other natural resources, including the soils, the minerals, the forests, and open spaces for the optimal benefit of current and future citizens.

C. **Agriculture:** It is the goal of this comprehensive plan to protect and develop the agricultural interests within Cumberland County.

Objective 1: Preserve prime farmland within Cumberland County.

Policy: Working with individual farmers, the Farm Bureau, the U.S. Farm Service Agency, and other agencies, identify and inventory all prime farmland within Cumberland County.

Policy: Explore the feasibility of, and interest in, establishing agricultural and forest districts, conservation easements and such other tools within Cumberland County to conserve and protect prime farm and forestlands.

Policy: Explore the feasibility and interest in amending the Cumberland County Zoning ordinance to establish higher standards such as several zoning districts to be applied specificially to prime farm land and other farmlands of significance. One example of this might be; 1 dwelling unit per 20 acres or 5 dwelling units on 10 acres and the remainder open space.

Policy: Strengthen the County's zoning ordinance to more effectively regulate and limit development in agricultural areas that are incompatible with agricultural interests.

Objective 2: Encourage the preservation and expansion of the agricultural economy.

Policy: County ordinances, regulations & policies will be aligned with this goal.

Policy: Explore the development of new agricultural product opportunities.

Policy: Explore the development of new agricultural industries supporting local farming including those relating to processing of agricultural produce, packaging, marketing and transportation.

Policy: Encourage the use of best management practices in the conduct of all farming activities.

Policy: Encourage and/or strengthen agricultural education in the public schools.

D. **Land Use**: It is the goal of this comprehensive plan to promote the wise and efficient utilization of lands within Cumberland to result in the sustainability of land resources and harmonious development of lands to serve the divergent interests and needs of the citizens of Cumberland County.

Objective 1: Through effective zoning, regulate future development to protect existing land use patterns within Cumberland County.

Policy: Provide adequate transition zones between developments of higher intensity and developments of lower intensity so that developments of lower intensity are not unduly harmed.

Policy: Provide appropriate buffer areas between dissimilar and incompatible land uses to minimize unwanted adverse impacts on either use.

Policy: Provide adequate zoning setbacks.

Policy: Enact zoning/land use regulations to restrict development in environmentally sensitive areas, including sensitive areas along the James River and Appomattox River.

Objective 2: Through effective zoning, define appropriate areas; in size, shape and location, to accommodate anticipated future development needs within Cumberland County.

Policy: Set aside appropriate lands in the County's zoning ordinance for commercial and industrial development, with the balance being reserved for residential and agricultural (including forestry).

Policy: Locate commercially and industrially zoned lands based on appropriate planning criteria including availability of utilities, vehicular accessibility, traffic volume counts, adjacent land uses, likely impacts on adjacent land uses and other environmental factors.

Policy: Explore the appropriateness and sustainability for the creation of Service Districts within identified growth/development areas.

Policy: Develop overlay zones to protect low-density areas and develop policies designed to direct random, decentralized development into designated core areas, such as the village area, thus relieving pressure on targeted low density areas. These designated areas shall have a development policy that encompasses both high-density residential development and high-density commercial development with certain areas having both, such as a multi-use planned unit development (PUD) that has access to both public water and public sewer. One such PUD would be a retirement facility/nursing home complex.

Policy: Develop strategies of housing development that encourage compact, centralized housing which utilizes efficient use of existing infrastructure (utilities, transportation, fire and police services, etc.), and that encourage viable economic units (i.e. retail, services, businesses serving a concentrated local population).

E. **Residential**: It is the goal of this plan to provide safe, decent and quality housing opportunities for all current and future citizens of Cumberland County.

Objective 1: To preserve and protect the existing housing stock.

Policy: Eliminate substandard housing through code enforcement.

Policy: Encourage the rehabilitation where feasible of existing deficient housing.

Policy: Identify and utilize all state and federal funding sources to help low and moderate income citizens to gain access to decent and standard housing opportunities.

Policy: Establish public and private partnerships to develop programs to help preserve existing housing stock.

Policy: Protect existing housing stock from the development of incompatible land uses through careful zoning regulations.

Policy: Identify and appropriately zone areas suitable for future residential development.

Policy: Establish a Housing Code Maintenance.

Objective 2: To promote the development of future housing to include a variety of housing types to provide quality, affordable housing opportunities for citizens of all economic means.

Policy: Encourage the development of an appropriate mix of affordable owner and rental housing opportunities to accommodate economic growth and to provide housing opportunities for all citizens

Policy: Encourage the development of housing types to accommodate various personal preferences including single-family detached, duplex housing.

Policy: Identify and utilize all state and federal programs to help low and moderate income citizens gain access to affordable new housing opportunities, incuding multi-family.

Policy: Propose specific areas for residential growth, development.

Policy: Develop strategies of housing development that encourage compact, centralized housing which utilizes efficient use of existing infrastructure (utilities, transportation, fire and police services, etc.), and that encourage viable economic units (i.e. retail, services, businesses serving a concentrated local population).

F. **Economic Development**: It is the goal of this plan to encourage the creation of appropriate economic opportunity for current and future citizens of Cumberland County.

Objective 1: To encourage the development of service and retail businesses to meet the needs of the current and future population of Cumberland County.

Policy: Recognize that service and retail businesses provide important employment opportunities for citizens of Cumberland County and encourage the expansion of this sector of the economy through favorable public policy.

Policy: Encourage the development of retail and services businesses to efficiently serve the needs of citizens and to harmoniously integrate with the community.

Policy: Areas that are appropriate locations for highway-oriented services should be appropriately zoned to accommodate those uses.

Policy: Develop necessary infrastructure to support the development and sustainability of service and retail businesses.

Policy: Where it is appropriate, highway oriented businesses should be encouraged to locate along major transportation routes in clusters or designated areas so that the impacts on the community as a whole, the transportation systems and the surrounding land uses can be effectively regulated.

Policy: Develop performance standards for businesses comparable to that codified for industry.

Objective 2: To encourage the economic development potential of Cumberland County's cultural resources.

Policy: Encourage the development of the tourism industry potential of Cumberland County.

Policy: Encourage the revitalization of the Historic Cumberland Courthouse village area to develop its full potential as a tourism stop or destination.

Policy: Encourage the preservation and development of historic resources within Cumberland County, including historic sites, churches, cemeteries, homes, and community facilities.

Policy: Encourage the development of nature-based recreation including hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, biking, and equestrian activities.

Policy: Encourage the development of the economic development potential of water-based recreation on the Appomattox River, the James River and Bear Creek Lake, including fishing, canoeing and swimming.

Policy: Encourage the development of hospitality services in Cumberland County including restaurants, motels, recreation oriented businesses and bed and breakfast accommodations.

Objective 3: To encourage the development of essential employment opportunities within Cumberland County for the resident workforce.

Policy: Encourage the development of basic light industry (manufacturing, processing, transportation) within Cumberland County.

Policy: Encourage the development of the full potential of the local labor force through the public schools and through other local and regional workforce development programs.

Policy: Identify and provide appropriate infrastructure to sites appropriate for the development of basic industry.

Policy: Encourage the development of industry within Cumberland County that is appropriate and compatible with the surrounding land uses, transportation systems, support services, and community aspirations.

Policy: Encourage the development of the full economic potential of existing areas of economic clusters such as the Riverside Industrial Park, Cumberland Courthouse area, Cartersville and the Farmville Regional Airport.

Policy: Identify potential sites for future industrial/business development within Cumberland County.

Policy: Encourage the development of employment opportunities within Cumberland County that will offer competitive wages and fringe benefits.

Policy: Provide appropriate infrastructure (water, sewer, telecommunications, and electrical power) to support basic industry in the Cumberland Courthouse area and other areas where infrastructure can be feasibly extended. This would include the extension of the runway at the Farmville Regional Airport.

Policy: Encourage the development of appropriate multi-modal transportation systems to serve the needs of industry.

Policy: Zone sites appropriate for the development of industry to accommodate those uses.

Policy: Objectively consider, evaluate, and recommend appropriate development standards to ensure harmonious integration of industrial development into the community as a whole.

Policy: Encourage public and private sector collaboration in marketing Cumberland County's assets to prospective industrial businesses.

Objective 4: Encourage the overall strengthening and diversification of the economic base of Cumberland County to provide a sound tax base to support the provision of needed public services.

Policy: Establish an existing business and industry appreciation and support program to help address the needs of existing businesses and industries within the County and to encourage them to expand.

Policy: Establish a business/industry retention program to provide technical assistance to threatened businesses or industries.

Policy: Consider the pursuit of an enterprise zone to encourage business investments in Cumberland County.

Policy: Pursue the expansion of the Riverside Industrial Park by the addition of land for new sites.

Policy: Undertake site improvements for the Riverside Industrial Park.

Policy: Identify and consider acquiring additional industrial sites for future development.

Policy: Encourage the adaptive reuse for business purposes existing vacant buildings within the County.

Policy: Establish a citizens economic revitalization committee comprised of existing business people in the county.

Objective 5: Utilize all available resources to maximize the effectiveness of economic development efforts in Cumberland County.

Policy: Coordinate local economic development efforts with regional and state economic development efforts.

Policy: Coordinate local economic development capacity and resources with those available through other organizations including neighboring jurisdictions, the regional organizations, state agencies, federal agencies and the planning district commission.

Policy: Coordinate local economic development within Cumberland County.

Objective 6: Explore the feasibility of establishing a regional airport authority charged with the responsibility of more fully developing the airports economic development potential.

G. **Transportation**: It is the goal of this plan to provide a county wide multi-modal transportation system that will effectively serve the current and future needs of Cumberland County.

Objective 1: To encourage the development of an effective and efficient system of highways, streets and roads throughout Cumberland County to serve the multitude of needs of citizens, workers and travelers.

Policy: Encourage the appropriate upgrade and development of the key arterial highways passing through Cumberland County including U.S. Route 60 and Virginia Routes 45 and 13.

Policy: Pursue the extension of four-lane divided highway facilities from Powhatan County to Cumberland Courthouse.

Policy: Pursue a corridor study for Virginia Route 45 from Farmville to Cumberland Courthouse to identify specific needs for upgrade improvements.

Policy: Explore the feasibility of developing a second bridge across the Appomattox River from Cumberland to the Town of Farmville.

Policy: Develop overlay district to create a scenic highway (i.e. Rt. 13 and possible other secondary roads.) Develop standards that would enhance the natural beauty along these county roads and limit growth.

Policy: Maintain visual experience along highways.

Policy: Identify and maintain existing and predicted community routes.

Policy: Explore feasibility of implementing recommendations of the U.S. Route 60 Corridor Study.

Policy: Encourage, where traffic demands warrant, the appropriate upgrade of existing unimproved, graded and drained, gravel and soil surfaced roads within Cumberland County.

Policy: Seek grant funding for the implementation of special transportation enhancement projects.

Policy: Identify roads appropriate for the Rural Rustic Roads program or programs with similar objectives.

Policy: Define policy of subdivision and zoning on various categories of roads including dead-end roads (including possible transportation overlay zones). Discourage changes, which would impede smooth, efficient & rapid transportation on these routes.

Policy: Establish development standards for transportation overlay zones to implement.

Objective 2: Encourage the development of an appropriate and efficient system of bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian facilities throughout Cumberland County.

Policy: Adopt by reference as a part of this Comprehensive Plan the Piedmont Regional Bicycle Plan (adopted January 2001), specifically those portions that relate to bicycle routes and facilities within Cumberland County.

Policy: Pursue the implementation of bicycle facilities along the routes defined in the Piedmont Regional Bicycle Plan.

Policy: Explore the feasibility of developing rails to trails facilities along the Norfolk and Southern Rail Road line from High Bridge to the Town of Farmville.

Policy: Explore the feasibility of acquiring High Bridge as a potential link in a future rails to trails development.

Policy: Explore the feasibility of linking Cumberland Courthouse with Bear Creek Lake State Park by bicycle, pedestrian and/or equestrian trails.

Policy: Improve pedestrian accommodations within the Cumberland Courthouse community.

Policy: Seek grant funds for special enhancement projects involving bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian facilities.

Objective 3: Encourage the development of the maximum potential of the Farmville Regional Airport in Cumberland County and to work towards the establishment of a regional airport authority.

Policy: Partner with Farmville, Prince Edward County and Buckingham County to explore the feasibility of establishing a regional airport board charged with the responsibility of more fully developing the airports economic development potential.

Policy: Pursue the extension of runways 4,400 to 5,000 feet in length to accommodate larger aircraft.

Policy: Pursue the construction of parallel taxiways to runways.

Policy: Pursue improvements to apron to accommodate heavier aircraft.

Policy: Pursue the addition of more hanger space to accommodate more aircraft.

Policy: Pursue the development of emergency generators to serve the airport in times of power outage.

Policy: Seek grant funding from the Virginia Department of Aviation and the Federal Aviation Administration for needed airport improvements.

Policy: Encourage the development of public infrastructure (water, sewer, telecommunications, electrical power) serving the Airport and surrounding lands.

Policy: Encourage the improvement of road facilities from major points of origin to the Airport (Farmville, Cumberland Courthouse area, Virginia Route 45, and points beyond).

Policy: Explore the feasibility of developing a new bridge across the Appomattox to improve vehicular access from Farmville to the Airport.

H. **Community Facilities**: It is the goal of this plan to provide adequate community facilities in support of the needs of the current and future citizens of Cumberland County.

Objective 1: Develop and maintain high standards of excellence and efficiency for all public school facilities within Cumberland County.

Policy: Develop a policy that promotes the delivery of quality education including the attraction and retention of quality educators.

Policy: Adopt and maintain a capital improvements program for all public school facilities within Cumberland County to ensure that all school facilities are well maintained and meet all applicable standards; that facilities are efficient and functionally appropriate to meet current and foreseen instructional requirements at all grade levels; and that school facilities can accommodate appropriate technology advances in computers, telecommunications and the sciences.

Policy: Develop middle and high school facilities for Cumberland County.

Policy: Develop the Luther P. Jackson Vocational /Technology Addition at the County Schools Complex.

Policy: Develop the Cumberland Elementary School Addition at the County School Complex.

Policy: Improve Administrative Facilities at the County School Complex.

Policy: Explore cooperative relationships with neighboring school divisions to share facilities and to improve overall cost effectiveness of school investments.

Objective 2: Develop and maintain appropriate local government administrative facilities to efficiently serve the needs of the citizens of Cumberland County.

Policy: Establish Human Resources to develop a policy to attract and maintain qualified staff in the County Government.

Policy: Preserve the historic Cumberland Courthouse Square along with all of the historic buildings.

Policy: Explore the feasibility of developing a Cumberland Courthouse Square Historic District and the establishment of design guidelines so that the surrounding environment is developed in a style sympathetic and supportive of the historic character of the public buildings.

Policy: Adopt and maintain a capital improvements program for all local government facilities to ensure that local government facilities are well maintained, efficient and functionally appropriate to meet all the local government program requirements in Cumberland County.

Policy: Develop a long-term master plan for local government facilities to accommodate foreseen program requirements for a twenty-year period.

Objective 3: Develop and maintain appropriate emergency services facilities to efficiently and effectively serve the needs of the citizens and industries of Cumberland County including those services relating to police protection, fire protection and emergency medical services.

Policy: Adopt and maintain a capital improvements program for all emergency services facilities to ensure that those facilities are well maintained, efficient and functionally appropriate to meet current and foreseen needs of the citizens.

Policy: Develop a long-term master plan for the County's emergency services facilities to accommodate the foreseen emergency requirements for all areas of the County for a twenty-year period. This would include the provision of appropriate and interoperable communication systems and technology for E-911 and other emergency services.

Policy: Support Southside Community Hospital to help to develop the best possible emergency medical (and long term) services for the citizens of Cumberland County and the surrounding region.

Policy: Support the development of other basic healthcare services within Cumberland County including medical, optical, dental, elderly care, pediatrics, and pharmacies.

Policy: Establish and maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions and procedures for effective response and coordination of services in times of emergency.

Policy: Develop appropriate hazard mitigation measures to afford protection against the impacts of the full range of natural hazards (including floods, winds, and drought) and man-made hazards (such as hazardous materials and biosolids).

Policy: Develop appropriate "Homeland Security" measures to afford protection against intentional acts of terror or civil disruption.

Objective 4: Develop and maintain appropriate parks, recreation and open space facilities to efficiently and effectively serve the needs of the citizens of Cumberland County.

Policy: Develop and maintain parks, recreation and open space facilities distributed geographically throughout the County so that all citizens may have reasonably comparable and fair access to those facilities (some in the north, some in the central and some in the south).

Policy: Develop and maintain parks, recreation and open space facilities that capitalize on and enhance the County's unique natural and manmade environmental features including rivers (the James, Willis and Appomattox), lakes, historic sites and buildings.

Policy: Maintain scenic and natural buffer areas along and adjacent to the James, Willis and Appomattox rivers.

Policy: Develop and maintain parks, recreation and open space facilities that provide balanced opportunities for citizens of all age groups and social and economic backgrounds.

Policy: Work with state agencies to develop and promote Bear Creek Lake State Park.

Policy: Explore feasibility of establishing public/private partnerships, special authorities, boards or committees to help develop, maintain and operate parks, recreation and open space facilities within Cumberland County.

Policy: Identify and preserve scenic open spaces of significance within the county.

Policy: Encourage best management practices for Cumberland State Forest to preserve the asset and develop its full economic potential.

Objective 5: Develop and maintain appropriate public utilities to support current and future growth of all types in Cumberland County.

Policy: Maximize the utilization of existing utility systems (sewer) in the Cumberland Courthouse area by hooking up new users.

Policy: Develop new public water service in the Cumberland Courthouse area.

Policy: Explore the feasibility of extending public water and sewer services to the Farmville Regional Airport area.

Policy: Explore the feasibility of extending public water and sewer services to other high growth areas within Cumberland County (near Farmville).

Policy: Encourage the improvement of voice, data, etc. communications services.

Policy: Develop and maintain appropriate and cost effective solid waste management facilities, services and programs to serve the needs of citizens, businesses, industries and the environment.