

2045 Comprehensive Plan Edits and Additions

The County held 5 public input meetings throughout the county this fall regarding the draft plan. Staff also presented the draft to internal county committees and asked for input. Based upon that feedback, the following are suggested edits, additions, and clarity changes to the plan.

Edits:

- Under Goal 3, Recommendation 3.1, remove action step “B” as it is an oversight.
- Under Goal 8, Recommendation 8.2, remove action step “D” as recommended by HCHD.
- Rename Urban Service Area to one of the following:
 - Utility Service Area (USA)
 - Utility Service District (USD)

Additions:

Additional action steps to bolster content related to farmland preservation and resources for farmers.

- Under Goal 2, Recommendation 2.1, add action steps “H” and “I”:
 - Collaborate with the NC Cooperative Extension and other organizations to connect current and future farmers to federal agricultural funding programs like the USDA’s Farm Service Agency and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. A full list of potential grant and loan programs are listed within the Supplemental Information Document.
 - Work with the NC cooperative Extension and other organizations to help farmers to negotiate lease agreements that include the right of first refusal.
- Under Goal 2, Recommendation 2.2, add action steps “D-F”:
 - Consider the introduction of Smart Solar programs throughout the County to encourage solar energy development and safeguard farmland. (Term listed in Glossary)
 - Study the creation of a County-wide Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. (Term listed in Glossary)
 - Consider applying the County Voluntary Agricultural District to all Present Use Value enrolled farms to further protect farmland from development pressure.

Additional action steps to further address environmental concerns related to development.

- Under Goal 3, Recommendation 3.1, add action steps “E-G”:
 - Study the creation of a Conservation Overlay District for all County public lands.
 - Consider increasing the open space requirements when developing within a Farmland Preservation District.
 - Consider requiring open space conservation in new industrial developments of a certain size and where appropriate.
- Under Goal 3, Recommendation 3.3, add action step “H”:
 - Consider amending the County’s street tree requirements within new developments to enhance the benefits of the requirement.

Additional recommendation and action steps to conserve rural character.

- Under Goal 2, add Recommendation 2.5:

- Utilize zoning tools to help conserve rural character.
- Under Goal 2, Recommendation 2.5, add action steps “A-D”:
- Study existing rural character and identify defining elements that can be modeled.
- Require lighting mitigation standards for all new commercial and industrial developments within proximity to an existing residential area.
- Work with developers to strategically locate required open space to increase visual compatibility.
- Consider requiring robust buffers or “green belts” between commercial development and residential and between residential development and farmland.

Additional action steps to address traffic concerns and other unintended impacts of development.

- Under Goal 4, Recommendation 4.2, add action steps “E-F”:
- Consider additional sidewalk/trail requirements for new commercial developments, especially when adjacent to an existing trail.
- Consider requiring connections between existing and new commercial developments to reduce curb cuts and make it easier to access the businesses.
- Under Goal 4, Recommendation 4.4, add action step “F”:
- Work with NCDOT, Laurel Park, and Hendersonville to create guidance for businesses that want to connect to a greenway identified in the Greenway Master Plan.
 - Ensure safety of pedestrians and bicyclists through parking lots and via roadway access.
- Encourage adjacent businesses to develop connections along existing trails.

Clarity Changes:

- Clarify Goal 7 by inserting the word “increase”. It shall now read, “Diversify housing choices and increase availability”.
- Under Goal 8, Recommendation 8.2, edit action steps “A-C” to read as follows:
 - Coordinate with the County Health Department and non-profit partners to promote physical and emotional resiliency through the utilization of existing parks for physical and mental health programs.
 - When expanding public transit and paratransit services, consider connecting areas with medical services and addiction recovery programs to residential areas for easier access.
 - Address substance misuse and mental health by utilizing the opioid litigation settlement funds to support programs and spread awareness of Strategy-Specific Resources for addiction recovery.

Suggested motion: *I move to approve the changes as presented and direct staff to implement and present the changes at the next Planning Board meeting.*