



Franklin County
A Natural Setting for Opportunity

Franklin County
2025
Comprehensive
Plan

Adopted by the
Franklin County Board of Supervisors:
May 22, 2007

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FRANKLIN COUNTY CITIZENS

Franklin County gives sincere thanks to the hundreds of citizens who participated in public neighborhood meetings during the update of the Comprehensive Plan. The ideas, inspirations, and energies of the citizens shaped and guided the vision for this Plan and are the foundation upon which progress will be achieved in the County.

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Board of Supervisor's 2025 VISION

“Franklin County, Virginia-- appreciating its rural, scenic Blue Ridge landscape and rich cultural and agricultural heritage is a uniquely balanced, highly educated, prosperous, and diverse land of families, businesses, and communities of faith who thrive amongst interconnected neighborhoods where personal responsibility and community interdependence are cherished.”

INTRODUCTION

Overview

Franklin County's first Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 1975, showed how land within the County was used, recommended how it should be used, provided general guidelines for future development, and an implementation strategy. In 1985, the County updated the Plan and gave particular attention to growth around Smith Mountain Lake. Since 1985, the County adopted another Comprehensive Plan in 1995 dealing with the rural nature of the county changing due to industrial growth and the attraction of Smith Mountain Lake for residential and commercial development. As a result, the County has undertaken feasibility studies for water and sewer and has begun to reconsider its future road network, capital improvements plan, and its development standards in general. The County wishes to maintain its rural character and scenic views, as well as to provide new job opportunities for its citizens. This Comprehensive Plan, while building on the concepts of earlier Plans, attempts to address new challenges that will face Franklin County in the next twenty years and to provide a framework to help guide public officials to meet the Goals Objectives, Strategies, and Policies established by Franklin County Planning Commission.

Purpose and Authority to Plan

The purpose of this update to the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan is to provide a sound basis for the day-to-day decisions of the County government.

This Plan is based upon the target date of 2025. It is the fourth Comprehensive Plan for the County. The Comprehensive Plan includes background studies which contain more detailed descriptions of County programs and services and a Land Use Section which contains goals, objectives, strategies, and future land use of the County. The Plan will also guide other tools, such as the zoning and subdivision ordinances, that are used on a daily basis for decision making in the County.

The general purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is found in the *Code of Virginia*, Section 15.2-2223, which states in part:

- "The comprehensive plan shall be general in nature;"
- "The plan, with the accompanying maps, plats, charts, and descriptive matter, shall show the localities long-range recommendations for the general development of the territory covered by the plan."

Planning Methodology and Plan Format

To prepare for this Plan, the County has sought the advice and guidance of County citizens. Building upon the foundation of staff work presented in the background studies and guiding principles, the Planning Commission has set a goal to create a vision for the future of Franklin County. This vision is described in a series of Goals, Objectives, and Strategies that are set forth in eight functional areas: Community Facilities, Cultural Resources, Economic Development, Education, Environment, Housing, Public Utilities, and Transportation. The

Future Land Use Section the Planning Commission has suggested Policies along with Future Land Use, Roadways, Community Facilities, and other maps that attempt to envision and address the needs Franklin County citizens will have through the year 2025.

The Planning Process

The Franklin County Comprehensive Plan is a deliberate attempt to blend sound technical data and theories with community ideas. The process includes the following milestones:

In 2004, Frank Fiori, Director of Planning and Community Development, conducted interviews with 52 stakeholders ranging from Members of the Franklin County Board of Supervisors, Members of the Franklin County Planning Commission, Administration for Franklin County, Rocky Mount, and Boones Mill, Franklin County Department Heads, Community Leaders, Developers, Business Owners, and Citizens of Franklin County. The interviewees were asked nine questions dealing with issues and concerns for Franklin County over the next 20 years. The information collected from the interviewees helped design "The Guiding Principles for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan".

The Board of Supervisors' adopted "The Guiding Principles" in October of 2004. These principles are the foundation for adopting a new comprehensive plan for Franklin County. The following are "The Guiding Principles" adopted:

- The Franklin County 2025 Comprehensive Plan update builds upon the framework of the 1995 Comprehensive Plan.
- Franklin County desires to accommodate the growth which is occurring and take advantage of the benefits of that growth, but at the same time consider and address the negative impacts of that growth.
- The Comprehensive Plan focuses on goals and policies for the planned and managed future growth and development of Franklin County.
- The natural resources, natural beauty, open spaces and scenic vistas of Franklin County are important elements of the quality of life in Franklin County and efforts should be made to ensure that consideration is given to preserving and protecting these attributes while allowing for the orderly future growth of the County.
- The diverse cultures and lifestyles of the people of Franklin County are an important asset to be taken into consideration during the development of the Comprehensive Plan update.
- Future development should be encouraged in certain areas of the County and limited in other areas as deemed appropriate giving consideration to the type of development, and limitations and special features of the land in certain areas of the County.
- The Comprehensive Plan update should take into consideration such critical issues as infrastructure, education, transportation and job creation in considering the future of Franklin County.

Staff of the Planning and Community Development Department held neighborhood meetings in each of the seven magisterial districts to obtain input for the comprehensive plan. Seven meetings were held over the course of the summer of 2005 with a total attendance of 76 citizens. The table below shows the schedule of the meetings and locations.

Callaway Elementary	June 23, 2005	7 p.m.
Ferrum Elementary	June 30, 2005	7 p.m.
Boones Mill Elementary	July 7, 2005	7 p.m.
Burnt Chimney Elementary	July 14, 2005	7 p.m.
Rocky Mount Elementary	July 21, 2005	7 p.m.
Sontag Elementary	July 28, 2005	7 p.m.
Glade Hill Elementary	August 4, 2005	7 p.m.

Planning Commission held a total of 20 work sessions to establish goals, objectives and strategies, future land use/policy section and a future land use map for the comprehensive plan.

In July of 2006, the planning and community development staff held an additional eight meetings in each magisterial district and one meeting in the Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room for citizen's input on the draft of the 2025 Franklin County Comprehensive Plan. A total of 182 citizens attended the meetings to voice their opinions and concerns on the Draft Comprehensive Plan 2025. The table on the next page shows the meeting dates and locations of each meeting.

Location	Date	Time
Callaway Elementary	Wednesday, July 5, 2006	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Ferrum Elementary	Thursday, July 6, 2006	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Boones Mill Elementary	Wednesday, July 12, 2006	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Burnt Chimney Elementary	Thursday, July 13, 2006	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Rocky Mount Elementary	Wednesday, July 19, 2006	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Sontag Elementary	Thursday, July 20, 2006	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Redwood United Methodist Church	Wednesday, July 26, 2006	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Board of Supervisor's Meeting Room	Thursday, July 27, 2006	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

In August of 2006, the Franklin County Planning Commission held two work sessions to discuss all comments and concerns that were voiced by the citizens at the eight neighborhood meetings.

As required by law, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on April 4, 2007 on the Franklin County 2025 Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission voted to approve the Plan as amended and by resolution voted to forward a certified copy of the Comprehensive Plan to the Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on May 22, 2007 and the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan was adopted on May 22, 2007.

Using This Plan

This plan is intended to provide a Comprehensive Inventory of services and facilities in Franklin County and this plan is intended to provide a simple and effective summary of goals, objectives, strategies, and policies regarding the future growth and development of the County. This plan contains informative maps and tables to explain and illustrate the text.