

# Chapter 2

## Community Vision & Implementation

Guiding the comprehensive plan is a realistic and achievable community vision. The community vision conveys what a place will be like in twenty years. There are many directions a community can take. Choosing a desirable future and setting a clear path to get there are important elements of comprehensive planning. Through this process, a community identifies where, when, and how it will grow. Once this is achieved and the community is confident in its direction, they can work together to implement their shared vision.

To set the stage for Woodsboro's vision for the future, Chapter 2 begins with a listing of Maryland's Eight Visions, each required to be included within the local jurisdiction plan. Next, the Frederick County vision, *Portrait of Frederick County: 2045*, is included for reference. A brief discussion of Woodsboro's 1973 stated goals is offered for comparison and interpretation. Woodsboro's current vision for the future, followed by a series of goals to achieve implementation of the vision, provides the bulk of the chapter. Given the participatory nature of Woodsboro's visioning process, the chapter concludes with a section on public participation in the plan update.

### Community Vision & Implementation Goals

- Increase citizen awareness of, and participation in, planning and other related community issues and processes.
- Promote community involvement in the implementation of the comprehensive plan's action items.

### Maryland's Eight Visions

The State of Maryland offers eight visions for growth and development as stated in the 1992 Planning Act. County and municipal governments are required to update their long-range plans to incorporate the visions and implement a set of goals, objectives and policies based on them. The eight visions as listed in Chapter 1 are as follows:

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|-----------------|--|
| <b>Vision 1</b> | Development is concentrated in suitable areas.   |
| <b>Vision 2</b> | Sensitive areas are protected.   |
| <b>Vision 3</b> | In rural areas, growth is directed to existing population centers and resource areas are protected.                              |
| <b>Vision 4</b> | Stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay and the land is a universal ethic.   |
| <b>Vision 5</b> | Conservation of resources, including a reduction in resource consumption is practiced.   |
| <b>Vision 6</b> | To assure the achievement of items 1-5 of this section, economic growth is encouraged and regulatory mechanisms are streamlined. |

- Vision 7** Adequate public facilities and infrastructure under the control of the county or municipal corporation are available or planned where growth is to occur.
- Vision 8** Funding mechanisms are addressed to achieve these visions.

## **Frederick County's Vision**

The Countywide Comprehensive Plan (1998) includes a vision statement for the county entitled, *Portrait of Frederick County: 2045*. This planning vision is the result of an extensive public participation process. There are seven themes to the portrait: self sustaining communities; dynamic business center; mixed-use growth; sensitive environmental areas; resource industries; rural/agricultural heritage; and stewardship of land and water. The portrait, in part, is inserted below.

*In 2045, Frederick County will consist of thriving, self-sustaining communities, supported with funding adequate to maintain and enhance existing services. These communities will offer a mix of residential, commercial and employment uses, a full complement of public services and facilities, amenities, which support a high quality of life, and a design that is sensitive to the County's natural and cultural environment. Their design will maximize the preservation of open space and natural resources while discouraging an undue reliance on the automobile. Prudent public and private investment keeps these growth areas prosperous. Incentives are offered to provide greater community services and mitigate environmental impacts. Densities in most developed areas support mass transportation, van-pooling, or other alternative forms of transportation to reduce traffic.*

*In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Frederick County will be a vibrant place to live, work, and play. It will be an example of the best in urban design and planning. A place where people are comfortable with their surroundings and which serves as a great stage for all forms of human activities.*

## **Woodsboro's 1973 Guiding Principles**

The framework for Woodsboro's 1973 plan was a broad based goal statement with five objectives to guide implementation of the goal. These five objectives set the stage for the main themes or chapters of the Plan – Land Use; Community Facilities and Services; Recreation; Transportation; and Economy. The objectives are expanded on in the various chapters of the Plan and include action items and in some cases specific information on who is responsible for completion of the task.

*Woodsboro should seek to develop those aspects, which will create a community that is attractive as a place to live, work and play; a community with a high standard of living, having an atmosphere stimulating to thoughtful, creative and enjoyable pursuits.*

To achieve this goal the following objectives must be reached and principles adhered to:

- To coordinate living areas, working areas, and leisure-time areas and provide for balanced community development.
- To plan for various public services and facilities which will meet the expressed needs of the community.
- To provide recreational facilities which meet the needs of the community and be easily accessible from all residential areas and schools.
- To plan for streets and highways to serve both the community and region and to coordinate circulation with land uses.
- To encourage the upgrading and success of the business community and to capitalize on the historic nature of the Woodsboro community.

## **Woodsboro's 2027 Vision Statement**

The following community vision statement is intended to serve as the guiding principle for the Woodsboro Comprehensive Plan. The future decisions and activities that take place in Woodsboro will be consistent with the vision statement. The community as a whole, including residents, business owners, and town officials, are responsible for taking the necessary steps to make this vision attainable.

### ***We envision that in 2027 Woodsboro will be:***

- A safe haven for its residents;
- A quaint, rural village with tree lined streets and neighborhoods connected by sidewalks, pathways and the existing street grid;
- Identifiable and distinct from other communities, with gateways that reflect the character of the town;
- Proud of its historic preservation efforts concentrated around Main Street and associated beautification and economic development efforts;
- Comprised of people with diverse interests that take pride in maintaining and improving their homes and businesses;
- A multi-generational and family friendly community where residents can safely and easily access schools, parks, and gathering places;
- Supportive of its locally owned and small businesses, which provide citizens with essential services within close proximity to their homes;
- An active community where a wide variety of social, recreational, and community-sponsored activities take place and residents embrace a shared community spirit; and
- Managed by an accountable and accessible town government, which provide for the efficient and adequate delivery of services and infrastructure.

## **Woodsboro's Comprehensive Plan Goals**

To achieve the shared twenty-year community vision for Woodsboro, a set of goals were developed to guide implementation. The goal statements correlate with the chapters of the plan. Objectives and action items to achieve implementation of the goals are provided in the associated chapters. These goals are specific to Woodsboro and shall be achieved by the community as a

whole. The 20-Year Comprehensive Plan goals of the Town of Woodsboro are:

### ***Community Vision & Implementation***

- Increase citizen awareness of, and participation in, planning and other related community issues and processes.
- Promote community involvement in the implementation of the comprehensive plan's action items.

### ***Environmental Resources***

- Demonstrate conservation and sustainable use of environmental resources.
- Continue to protect ecologically sensitive areas and wellhead protection areas.

### ***Cultural Heritage***

- Increase participation in programs promoting Woodsboro's cultural heritage.
- Protect and promote Woodsboro's historic charm by improving the condition and care of structures in its historic core.

### ***Transportation***

- Provide safe and consistent pathways and sidewalks for residents, business owners, and visitors of Woodsboro, which promote interconnected neighborhoods and offer social and recreational opportunities.
- Provide a reliable network of streets and alleys that are regularly maintained, repaired, and improved.

### ***Community Services and Facilities***

- Provide more than adequate services and infrastructure for the current and future projected population.
- Maintain the existing parkland and associated facilities and provide additional recreational facilities to meet the needs of a growing population.
- Improve public safety and security in the Town of Woodsboro.

### ***Municipal Growth***

- Manage the rate of growth to be consistent with the provision of adequate services and infrastructure.
- Continue to coordinate annexation plans and comprehensive planning efforts with Frederick County government.

### ***Land Use***

- Concentrate compatible, mixed-use development along the north and south ends of the Main Street corridor.
- Provide a mix of housing types supporting a multi-generational community.
- Continue to encourage small, locally owned businesses in Woodsboro with a focus on the existing Central Business District.
- Provide identifiable and distinct gateway entrances to the community from the three MD 194 intersections.

- Provide an accessible and viable Industrial Park that is integrated with the community and adjacent land uses.
- Promote the Town’s land use plan and vision to the general public.

**Plan Structure**

<b>Woodsboro Plan Chapter</b>	<b>State Mandated Element</b>
Environmental Resources	Water Resources Element (future)
	Sensitive Areas Element
	Mineral Resources Element
Cultural Heritage	
Transportation	Transportation Element
Community Facilities	Community Facilities Element
Municipal Growth	Municipal Growth Element
Land Use Plan	Land Use Element

**Public Participation**

The Planning Commission began a review of the 1973 plan during their regular meetings in the fall of 2006. The Commission’s meetings were open to the public and were advertised on the Town’s web site. A citizen survey was distributed in January 2007 to solicit feedback from Woodsboro households. Additionally, the Planning Commission held a community brainstorming workshop in April 2007. The Planning Commission’s draft plan was referred for a 60-day public review period in which public comments were sought. Following the review period, a public hearing was held. The public hearing offered citizens the opportunity to comment on the plan prior to its referral to the Town Council.

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