



# Chapter 15

## Implementation Element

# IMPLEMENTATION

## Element

The purpose of the Implementation Element is to recommend methods and resources to successfully accomplish the proposals set forth in the Comprehensive Plan and ensure the continued growth and management of assets in Washington County, as required for local governments through the Land Use Article of the Maryland Annotated Code. To accomplish the goals, objectives, and strategies of this Plan, a wide range of implementation measures are recommended. The implementation measures recommended should be viewed as a guide to the future growth of Washington County. The recommended implementation measures involve agencies at all levels of government, private organizations, developers, and the public; however, the final responsibility for the implementation of the Plan lies with the County's citizens and elected officials. This plan is the product of considerable effort on the part of Washington County and its County Commissioners, Planning Commission, Department of Planning and Zoning, as well as many other County departments, the stakeholders, and concerned citizens. Throughout the Plan, each chapter presents suggested strategies to accomplish future goals on individual topics. This chapter categorizes strategies, projects, programs, or services to guide implementation.

The Comprehensive Plan is not a stand-alone document, but is supported by (and, in turn supports) related planning program documents including the following:

- Zoning Ordinance
- Subdivision Ordinance
- Forest Conservation Ordinance
- Capital Improvement Program
- Stormwater Management and Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance
- Floodplain Management Ordinance
- Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance
- Water and Sewerage Plan
- Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan
- Solid Waste Management and Recycling Plan
- Building and Housing Codes
- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- County Watershed Improvement Plans
- Comprehensive Plans of incorporated municipalities

This Plan is intended to provide a snapshot of existing processes and analyze future projections to inform future decision makers when updating land use documents and policies. Within this chapter is a listing of goals, objectives and recommendations to implement this plan as it relates to the eight (8) overarching goals of the plan listed in Chapter 2. This chapter summarizes information included in the previous chapters and provides a schedule to assist in the implementation of the Plan. The tables included below are organized to show implementation in one of three categories;

<b>Short-Term (0-5 years)</b>
<b>Medium Term (6-10 years)</b>
<b>Long-Term (11+years)</b>

The schedule for implementation is organized by short-term, goals which can be implemented quickly and minimally impact existing functional plans and policies; medium-term, goals which impact existing functional plans and policies more deeply or require the development of studies or new policies, creating a longer implementation; and long-term, goals which will require constant or life of this plan actions by the County to implement.

<b>Schedule for Implementation</b>		
<b>Goal 1: Provide a diverse range of housing for citizens that promotes sustainable, livable, and affordable housing opportunities.</b>		
Term	Source Element   Recommendation	Related Elements
<b>Short</b>	<b>Housing</b>	
	Allow accessory dwelling units	None
	Enact high-density multi-family zoning	Growth Management and Land Use
	Reduce or eliminate off-street parking requirements	Transportation
	Streamline or shorten permitting processes and timelines	None
	Complete a comprehensive housing assessment for the County	None
<b>Medium</b>	<b>Housing</b>	
	Create greater opportunities for mixed use in targeted areas	Growth Management and Land Use
	Create mixed income communities through flexible land use regulations	Growth Management and Land Use
	Establish by right development	None
	Establish density bonuses	None
	Incentivize energy efficient improvements to new and existing housing stock	None
<b>Long</b>	<b>Housing</b>	
	Use property tax abatements	None
	Employ inclusionary zoning	Growth Management and Land Use

Schedule for Implementation		
Goal 2: Promote a balanced and diversified economy.		
Term	Source Element   Recommendation	Related Elements
Short	<b>Economic Development</b>	
	Maintain and update, as needed, the "Infrastructure Assessment for Washington County and the City of Hagerstown" as a vital resource for attracting and retaining businesses.	Community Facilities; Transportation; Water Resources
	Review, and where necessary, amend local ordinances to support new agricultural business opportunities.	Ag and Forest
Medium	<b>Economic Development</b>	
	Review, and where appropriate, amend permitted land uses in non-residential zoning districts along with the locations of said districts to better match infrastructure needs of particular businesses to ensure appropriate location and use of limited infrastructure resources such as railroad sidings, interstate access, and airport access.	Transportation
	Consider financial incentives for remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites such as tax incentives or fee waivers.	None
Long	<b>Economic Development</b>	
	Align transportation expenditures and community facility siting to maximize the impact of County spending in order to promote economic growth.	Community Facilities; Transportation
	Continually monitor business needs in relationship to land use to ensure enough available resources for the expansion of existing and establishment of new businesses.	None
	Ensure that the annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the County furthers efforts to maintain and expand necessary infrastructure to attract and retain business.	Community Facilities; Transportation
	Support and expand land preservation programs in the County by maximizing local match funding and support agricultural marketing efforts.	Ag and Forest
	<b>Mineral Resources</b>	
	Consider the adoption of regulations to address new innovative mining strategies.	None

Schedule for Implementation		
Goal 3: Provide a safe, efficient, and interconnected multi-modal transportation system.		
Term	Source Element   Recommendation	Related Elements
Short	<b>Transportation</b>	
	Consider formally adopting a Complete Streets Policy to ensure that multi-modal transportation options are routinely considered as a part of all new or retrofitted road projects or during road resurfacing.	None
	Develop a localized functional road classification similar to the Federal classification system with an emphasis on adequate right of way, access spacing needs and compatible adjacent land use.	None
	Improve passenger amenities at County Commuter stops where there is high passenger demand with special attention to increase the number of bus shelters.	None
	In residential areas along major transportation routes, encourage or require driveway consolidation or provide frontage roads that divert traffic to safe, controlled points of access.	None
	Incorporate walking or bicycling trails into the development of all new County parks to promote lifelong fitness. Trail development in existing parks with unused recreational space should also be considered.	None
	Investigate the feasibility of expanding County Commuter hours of operation, particularly to include at least limited service hours on Sundays and system-wide evening service.	None
	Provide signage, pavement markings and way-finding for the County designated bicycle route network to promote active transportation and tourism in rural areas. Where feasible, add dedicated shoulder space to make these routes more bicycle friendly.	None
	Review parking requirements to determine whether they encourage the transportation by non-motorized means and do not unnecessarily decrease available land for property improvements, particularly within urbanized areas. Parking reduction measures support other transportation demand strategies that help reduce traffic congestion. Eliminating or reducing minimum parking requirements in select areas such as in Town or city centers is a potential option.	None
	Coordinate with Towns in identifying dedicated bicycle and/ or pedestrian projects on County roads that fall within their jurisdictions for inclusion in County capital budgeting.	None
Work collaboratively with the HEPMPO and MDOT to identify priority locations for Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure along designated corridors and within local communities and make improvements where necessary. Determine whether any changes to development regulations are needed to facilitate the inclusion of such facilities at appropriate locations during the site planning review process.	None	

Schedule for Implementation		
Goal 3 (cont.): Provide a safe, efficient, and interconnected multi-modal transportation system.		
Term	Source Element   Recommendation	Related Elements
Medium	<b>Agricultural and Forest Resources</b>	
	Investigate investment in infrastructure such as bridge/culvert widening or pull off areas to help accommodate the requirements of larger farm equipment.	Transportation
	<b>Transportation</b>	
	Adopt design standards for on and off-street bicycle facilities and multi-use trails within County road design manuals.	None
	Continue to monitor and make capital improvements to at-grade railroad crossings to promote multi-modal transportation safety.	None
	Conduct Pedestrian Road Safety Audits to identify corridors, roads/streets and intersection locations where a high number of crashes between bicyclists and motor vehicles or pedestrians and motor vehicles occur.	None
	Consider amending the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance to include the provision of bicycle, pedestrian and/or transit facilities for new development or redevelopment within Urban or Town Growth Areas to accommodate and capture new traffic flow from the proposed development by non-motorized means.	None
	Consider creating, with input from transportation planning partners, a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The Plan would identify gaps in the network and prioritize improvements based upon public safety concerns and opportunities to encourage modal switching and reduce traffic congestion.	None
	Consider identifying Freight Movement Protection Corridors for priority trucking routes and rail lines to ensure the efficient movement of goods and the creation of support services and facilities.	Growth Management and Land Use
	Consider the potential opportunities, effects and land use implications of emerging transportation technologies such as on-demand ride-sharing, connected and autonomous vehicles, alternative fuel vehicles in comprehensive planning and capital investments.	None
Continue to investigate opportunities to restore commercial flight service connections from Hagerstown to major regional airports to ensure that airline travel for business and commuting purposes remains viable in the County in the long-term.	None	
Coordinate existing transit routes to better connect the County Commuter to park and ride facilities and regional commuter services in order to provide expanded travel options for residents to reach regional employment centers while residing in Washington County.	None	

Schedule for Implementation		
Goal 3 (cont.): Provide a safe, efficient, and interconnected multi-modal transportation system.		
Term	Source Element   Recommendation	Related Elements
Medium	Design bicycle facilities to accommodate the safety and comfort needs of novice cyclists providing dedicated space where feasible.	None
	Determine feasible options to provide public transportation to Towns and rural areas of the County outside of planned growth areas that are not currently served by the County Commuter, but which exhibit enough potential ridership to warrant at least occasional transit service to and from the County's Urban Growth Area.	None
	Encourage multi-modal inter-parcel connections between commercial businesses to preserve capacity of collector and arterial roads. Strip development with access onto major public roads should be discouraged as much as possible.	None
	Evaluate priority locations for new truck parking facilities along major arterial routes and pursue opportunities for their development in context appropriate locations to facilitate the intermodal movement of goods and support economic development goals.	None
	Identify activity centers where housing and jobs, schools, commercial uses, transit, community facilities or public spaces occur in close proximity. Strengthen bicycle and pedestrian connections between these places where those facilities are absent.	Community Facilities
	Identify and target priority corridors and lands for acquisition or protection through land preservation programs and ordinances, donated easements (i.e.-floodplain corridors) or using various Federal or State transportation alternatives grant funding.	Ag and Forest; Sensitive Areas
	Identify opportunities to make bicycle and pedestrian facility connections between publicly accessible preserved lands and adjacent Towns that serve as gateways to these recreational resources, where they are currently absent, by multi-use paths and other bicycle or pedestrian facility types.	None
	Identify opportunities to utilize transit oriented development principles to create sufficient density around transit facilities to encourage the provision of cost-effective service to those locations.	Growth Management and Land Use
	Incorporate consideration for the creation of on-road bicycle facilities into resurfacing projects to allow for routine expansion of the bicycle network in a cost-effective manner.	None
	Look for opportunities to increase the number of park-and-ride lots and/or spaces to promote ride sharing.	None
	Make certain that transit, human service transportation and/ or on-demand public transportation provide access to critical services such as health care, grocery stores, childcare, and community facilities.	Community Facilities
	Pursue context sensitive design and implementation of all transportation facilities in Rural Villages to preserve community character while also accommodating modern multi-modal transportation needs.	Historic Resources

Schedule for Implementation		
Goal 3 (cont.): Provide a safe, efficient, and interconnected multi-modal transportation system.		
Term	Source Element   Recommendation	Related Elements
Medium	Pursue the location of businesses within the Airport Overlay Zone that are compatible with airport operations and support industries. Continue to provide support for the growth and expansion of existing private businesses operating within the larger Airport industrial/office park.	Growth Management and Land Use
	<b>Transportation</b>	
Long	Conduct a feasibility study and gain additional public input on the creation of the Civil War Railroad/Weverton Roxbury Corridor Rail Trail, identified in Maryland's Land Preservation and Recreation Plan, to link the Urban Growth Area with existing long-distance multi-use paths (i.e. - C&O Canal towpath). If the project is judged feasible, a section of the trail could be piloted in a location where public support indicates the potential for facility demand and usage.	None
	Consider "road diets" along streets that may have excess capacity to calm traffic and examine the potential of replacing the excess travel lane with space for bicyclists, pedestrians or transit.	None
	Consider alternative fuels or more fuel-efficient options for new County vehicles (transit, staff, etc.) to minimize air quality impacts and reduce energy costs.	None
	Consider future needs to expand airport operations in land acquisition and capital planning.	None
	Continue ADA compliance with sidewalks and other transportation system improvements, particularly at intersections.	None
	Continue to expand access to water trails along Antietam and Conococheague Creeks.	Sensitive Areas
	Continue to implement Airport modernization and improvement projects identified in capital planning and long-range transportation plans that promote safe and efficient airport operations, enhance passenger amenities, and solidify the position of the Airport as a hub for economic development in Washington County.	Community Facilities
	Coordinate with other jurisdictions and transportation planning entities at the Federal, State, regional and local levels to efficiently and cost-effectively create transportation improvements in a timely manner.	None
	Develop programs and strategies to increase bicycling and pedestrian activity through Encouragement, Education, Enforcement, Equity and Evaluation efforts in addition to Engineering improvements (The 6 E's Model).	None
	Ensure multi-modal transportation options are available which connect Town and Urban Growth Areas.	None
Ensure that zoning and infrastructure along rail lines supports industry needs to move and distribute freight in or through the County by that mode of transportation.	Growth Management and Land Use	



Schedule for Implementation		
Goal 3 (cont.): Provide a safe, efficient, and interconnected multi-modal transportation system.		
Term	Source Element   Recommendation	Related Elements
Long	<b>Transportation</b>	
	Evaluate adequacy of evacuation plans and routes in the event of severe weather or a catastrophic event.	None
	Facilitate land use practices that encourage goods to be transported by rail to the maximum practical extent to preserve road capacity on arterial routes and improve safety.	Growth Management and Land Use
	Identify roads vulnerable to natural or man-made hazards or incidents and develop long-term strategies for their improvement, relocation, or realignment to avoid preventable damage to people and property.	Sensitive Areas
	Provide transit service to within a reasonable distance by non-motorized means of travel to all major subdivisions and major employment centers in the Urban Growth Area. Work with major employers to incentivize ride sharing and transit usage to discourage commuting by single-occupancy vehicles.	None
	Seek diverse funding sources to plan, design and construct priority projects identified in the MPO's current, TIP, LRTP and in the County's Capital Improvement Program.	None
	Transportation investments within rural areas should focus on safety improvements to existing facilities and avoidance of sensitive resource lands rather than adding lane capacity. Transportation facilities in rural areas should also minimize impacts on agricultural land targeted for permanent retention in Priority Preservation Areas.	Ag and Forest
	Utilize emerging measures, such as Level of Traffic Stress, to determine the appropriate new facility type or design intervention for bicyclists on a given road segment to promote rider comfort in addition to traditional measures such as Bicycle Level of Comfort.	None
Where possible, design road projects to minimize new impervious surface cover to meet regulations related to water quality and stormwater management.	Sensitive Areas	

<b>Schedule for Implementation</b>		
<b>Goal 4: Maintain policies and strategies that direct growth to areas where the County can provide adequate infrastructure and community resources for existing and future development.</b>		
<b>Term</b>	<b>Source Element I Recommendation</b>	<b>Related Elements</b>
<b>Short</b>	<b>Community Facilities</b>	
	Consider lower impact or APFO fees inside of Priority Funding Areas and near transit or community facilities to foster compact development.	None
<b>Medium</b>	<b>Community Facilities</b>	
	Conduct a cost benefit analysis using several different scenarios to determine the most fiscally responsible and feasible option to handle the impacts of growth on local infrastructure.	None
	<b>Growth Management and Land use</b>	
	Complete a comprehensive rezoning of the areas affected by Growth Area amendments recommended by this chapter.	None
	Update and revise the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance regulations to incorporate appropriate zoning districts and development standards recommended in this chapter.	None
<b>Long</b>	<b>Community Facilities</b>	
	Implement design guidelines that identify areas where new community facilities could be located to serve the needs of residents in an efficient manner. Consideration should be given to access to population centers, proximity to multi-modal transportation facilities, and availability of public water and sewer.	None
	Coordinate with surrounding towns in housing planning and uniform enforcement of mitigation techniques.	Housing; Growth Management and Land Use
	<b>Growth Management and Land Use</b>	
	Continue to use the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance to manage the location and timing of new development and its effects on schools, roads and other public facilities	Community Facilities; Transportation
	Coordinate with municipalities to plan for future annexation areas and for compatible land uses along common boundaries.	None

Schedule for Implementation		
Goal 5: Provide residents with a high quality of life through the impactful planning and delivery of fundamental community facilities and services.		
Term	Source Element   Recommendation	Related Elements
Short	<b>Water Resource Element</b>	
	Incorporate water and wastewater information from this Comprehensive Plan into the next revision of the County Water and Sewerage Plan.	None
	<b>Transportation Element</b>	
	Implement the recommendations of the MPO's Transit Development Plan and Human Service Transportation Plan	None
Medium	<b>Water Resource Element</b>	
	Coordinate with the City of Hagerstown to explore funding opportunities such as loans or grants to upgrade the city water treatment facility to serve the UGA.	Community Facilities
	<b>Transportation Element</b>	
	Work with the HEPMPO to consider feasibility of transit plans that would connect commuters with employment centers along the I-81 Corridor.	None
Long	<b>Community Facilities</b>	
	Coordinate with the Washington County Free Library system to expand or upgrade library facilities across the County to address future growth needs.	None
	Offer a variety of parks and recreation to citizens in accordance with the adopted Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan.	None
	Continue to expand the Public Safety Training Center to provide appropriate facilities to educate, train and enhance public safety response in the County.	None
	Coordinate with the Washington County Public School system to efficiently identify and locate future school facilities to meet the needs of expanding school enrollment.	None
	<b>Economic Development</b>	
	Ensure Hagerstown Regional Airport has sufficient lands to support continued airport operations to FAA Standards, compatible adjacent land uses, and identified areas for expansion through updated studies.	None
	<b>Water Resources Element</b>	
	Continue to identify and eliminate sources of inflow and infiltration to free up additional capacity at treatment plants.	None
Continue to promote funding of retrofit programs as an annual line item in the Capital Improvement Program.	None	

Schedule for Implementation		
Goal 5 (cont.): Provide residents with a high quality of life through the impactful planning and delivery of fundamental community facilities and services.		
Term	Source Element I Recommendation	Related Elements
Long	<b>Water Resource Element (cont.)</b>	
	Continue to pursue abatement of failing Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems (OSDS) through connection to public sewer systems.	None
	Continue to work with the County Health Department to map well failures and septic failures.	None
	Coordinate with the City on needed upgrades to their WwTP to determine if inter county connection will be necessary.	Community Facilities
	Explore opportunities to supplement water supply to the UGA through study of potential surface and/or ground water sources and associated treatment facilities.	Community Facilities
	Work with MDE to ensure that the County receives nutrient credits for actions taken to reduce OSDS impacts.	None
	Work with MDE to find suitable areas for land application of treated wastewater.	None
	Work with the State in completion of Source Water Assessments for public water supplies. Using this data, the County should adopt a wellhead protection ordinance for those areas designated as community potable water supplies.	Sensitive Areas
	Coordinate with the City of Hagerstown to conduct a long-term comprehensive water and wastewater infrastructure plan.	Community Facilities

Schedule for Implementation		
Goal 6: Enhance the County's rich history and cultural heritage through land preservation and historic preservation efforts.		
Term	Source Element   Recommendation	Related Elements
Short	<b>Agricultural and Forest Resources</b>	
	Evaluate the potential benefits of permitting overlapping land preservation easements where different resources are protected, particularly those that don't require the expenditure of State or local funds.	Sensitive Areas; Historic Resources
	<b>Historic Resources</b>	
	Modernize and create a separate Historic Preservation Ordinance that consolidates terminology for review areas to reduce confusion and also addresses topics specific to Historic Preservation such as demolition and demolition by neglect of historic resources.	None
	Pursue updates to the existing demolition policy, while pursuing incentive based programs for historic resources.	None
Medium	<b>Agricultural and Forest Resources</b>	
	Continue to monitor the overall status of active agricultural land for stability and to determine if additional acreage goals are needed to help maintain critical mass.	None
	Monitor, evaluate, and where necessary, amend regulatory ordinances such as the Zoning Ordinance to include emerging agri-business and agri-tourism opportunities.	Economic Development
	<b>Historic Resources</b>	
	Identify and protect additional scenic corridors or areas with a high integrity of historic context through land use policies.	Sensitive Areas; Transportation; Land use
	Improve the framework for historic resource preservation by ensuring that existing incentive mechanisms are robust and new alternatives are explored.	None
	<b>Transportation</b>	
Investigate the creation of an inventory and ranking system of rural roads with scenic, historic or environmentally significant resources. Consider regulatory changes and/or create corridor management plans that protect highly ranked road corridors with these resources in abundance to maintain the County's rural character and heritage.	Historic Resources; Sensitive Areas	
Long	<b>Agricultural and Forest Resources</b>	
	Continue efforts to seek out permanent funding sources that sustain agricultural easements and development rights acquisition.	None
	Continue to monitor and, where applicable, adjust targeted preservation areas such as Priority Preservation Areas and Rural Legacy areas to best achieve long-term preservation goals.	None
	Continue to work toward the established County goal of preserving at least 50,000 acres of active agricultural land.	None
	Implement strategies to deter uses that remove large blocks of prime agricultural land out of active production.	Growth Management and Land Use

Schedule for Implementation		
Goal 6 (cont.): Enhance the County's rich history and cultural heritage through land preservation and historic preservation efforts.		
Term	Source Element   Recommendation	Related Elements
Long	<b>Historic Resources</b>	
	Collaborate with historic resource interest groups and connect with new audiences by promoting historic resources and improving cooperative relationships with historic resource interested parties.	None
	Expand and update the Washington County Historic Sites Inventory by continuing to support updates to the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and evaluating existing inventory documentation for updates. The County may also pursue prioritization of the local inventory.	None
	Minimize factors which negatively impact historic and cultural resources by balancing growth and providing educational opportunities which promote historic resource appreciation.	None

Schedule for Implementation		
Goal 7: Provide adequate protections for, and enhanced stewardship of, environmental resources and sensitive areas.		
Term	Source Element   Recommendation	Related Elements
Short	<b>Agricultural and Forest Resources</b>	
	Prioritize the use of payment- in- lieu of mitigation funds to retain and expand riparian forest and large contiguous forested areas.	Sensitive Areas
	Delineate high-priority areas for tree plantings such as stream buffers, trout streams and floodplain areas to enhance water quality.	Sensitive Areas
	Work with MD DNR to complete a tree canopy survey for Washington County. This will establish a baseline of existing resources that can be used to formulate additional goals, such as targeted canopy cover, in the future.	Sensitive Areas
	<b>Growth Management and Land Use</b>	
	Analyze and develop a septic tiers map for the County to take advantage of opportunities for additional housing resources.	None
	<b>Mineral</b>	
	Coordinate with other County agencies to track low volume (LV) mineral extraction operations more accurately.	None
Medium	<b>Agricultural and Forest Resources</b>	
	Develop a priority ranking system for the preservation of sensitive environmental, cultural and scenic resources to be targeted for preservation efforts through forest banking, the use of PIL funds and other land preservation programs.	Historic Resources; Sensitive Areas
	Integrate tree plantings in landscaping design standards to help reduce urban heat islands, reduce runoff and promote on-site water quality treatment.	Sensitive Areas; Growth Management and Land Use
	Target reforestation of undevelopable public and private land to assist TMDL, canopy cover, SWM goals	Sensitive Areas; Water Resources Element
	<b>Mineral</b>	
	Ensure that post-excavation uses for mined sites are identified during development and are consistent with existing or planned adjacent uses.	None
Investigate implementation of buffers or other protective measures in mining overlay zones for watershed protection.	None	

Schedule for Implementation		
Goal 7 (cont.): Provide adequate protections for, and enhanced stewardship of, environmental resources and sensitive areas.		
Term	Source Element   Recommendation	Related Elements
Medium	<b>Sensitive Areas</b>	
	Review the current list of Special Planning Areas and determine whether updates are needed to either the areas being included for protection or the regulations that govern them.	None
	Utilize undeveloped portions of park lands for natural resource enhancement or protection.	None
	<b>Water Resources Element</b>	
	Implement a water conservation education program.	None
	Identify locations where stormwater retrofits could address concentrations of non-point source pollution (“hotspots”) or where retrofits can help to protect environmentally sensitive areas that also provide an efficient return on investment.	Sensitive Areas
Long	<b>Agricultural and Forest Resources</b>	
	Promote local, State, and non-profit efforts to encourage private property owners to plant trees through programs such as Gift of Trees, MDers Plant Trees, Chesapeake Bay Trust grant program, and Maryland Urban and Community Forestry Committee (MUCFC) grant program.	Sensitive Areas
	Promote the multiple landowner benefits that can be realized from forest easements when enrolling in State programs for forest management.	None
	Strive during the development review process to create workable forest conservation plans that are sustainably designed to provide for community quality of life and do not constrain business expansion potential.	None
	Use State Green Infrastructure Assessment, BioNet and other programs to provide additional guidance in prioritizing forest resource conservation and implementation.	Sensitive Areas
	Work with the local Soil Conservation District to promote and implement best management practices in farming operations.	Sensitive Areas
	<b>Mineral</b>	
	Develop policies that support reclamation through re-mining to abate any negative impacts from legacy mines in the County.	None
	Encourage interim reclamation activities to improve the soil quality and potential for vegetative growth during the life of the mining operation rather than after mining operations have ceased.	None
	Ensure that all available measures are taken to protect the natural environment and adjacent communities from spillover effects resulting from active mineral extraction activities.	Sensitive Areas
Maintain land use policies and regulations that discourage the preemption of known mineral extraction areas by other uses.	Growth Management and Land Use	



Schedule for Implementation		
Goal 7 (cont.): Provide adequate protections for, and enhanced stewardship of, environmental resources and sensitive areas.		
Term	Source Element   Recommendation	Related Elements
Long	<b>Sensitive Areas</b>	
	Continue to pursue a multifaceted approach to enhance water quality throughout the County.	Water Resources Element
	Create linkages between priority natural resource lands to create a comprehensive system of protected lands that offer greater benefits than can be achieved with the protection of isolated parcels.	Ag and Forest
	Utilize Federal and State level programs such as Environmental Site Assessments, Rural Legacy Program, and others to enhance sensitive area protection.	None
	<b>Water Resources Element</b>	
	Continue to encourage use of rain barrels as small, localized options for stormwater reuse.	None
	Promote opportunities for reuse of stormwater, rainwater, and treated water for purposes such as on-site irrigation and non-potable process water for industrial activities where appropriate.	None
	Continue to require use of environmental site design (ESD) to the maximum extent feasible (MEP).	Sensitive Areas
	Update local stormwater management ordinances to maintain the highest level of consistency with State and Federal Clean Water Act regulations.	Sensitive Areas

Schedule for Implementation		
Goal 8: Encourage infill development and revitalization of existing communities using context sensitive development strategies to maintain and enhance community character.		
Term	Source Element   Recommendation	Related Elements
Short	<b>Housing</b>	
	Create high quality communities through improved urban design and development standards	Growth Management and Land Use; Transportation
Medium	<b>Transportation</b>	
	Encourage infill and compact, mixed-use development within planned growth areas that creates inherently “walkable and bikeable” communities through policy and regulation.	Growth Management and Land Use
Long	<b>Economic Development</b>	
	Explore public-private partnerships as a method to create reinvestment and infill opportunities in growth areas and targeted economic development areas.	None
	Continue to partner with municipalities to help support downtown and main street revitalization efforts and help bolster the overall County economy.	Community Facilities
	<b>Growth Management and Land Use</b>	
	Work with the municipalities to incorporate ways to achieve the County’s goals to pursue policies that facilitate development in appropriate areas, including the designated growth areas, when updating the community comprehensive plans.	None