

GUIDING AUGUSTA

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

- Wide-ranging document that is used as a community master plan
- 20-year range
- General in nature
- Accessible for all users
- Topics:

- + Economic Development
- + Land Use & Development
- + Infrastructure
- + Environment

- + Community Facilities & Services
- + Housing
- + Historic and Cultural Resources
- + Transportation

WHY HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

- Required by the Code of Virginia §15.2-2223
- All jurisdictions in the Commonwealth (cities and counties)
- Helps shape the orderly development of a community
- Serves as a roadmap for land use (e.g. zoning), infrastructure (e.g. water & sewer), and policy decisions
- Guides decisions involving development, growth, and local government processes

WHY HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

- Role is to be a GUIDE for decision-making about the County's land use

Promotes:

Public health,
safety, and welfare

Manages:

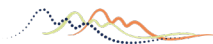
Growth, change,
and renewal of a
community

Ensures:

Quality of life for
residents

Balances:

Diverse
community goals



AUGUSTA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Last full update was 2007
(Volumes 1 & 2)

Partial updates in:

- 2014/15 (Update to demographics and goals, objectives, and policies)
- 2018/19 (Update to Future Land Use Map and Planning Policy Area Map)
- 2021 (Solar)



AUGUSTA COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE
2014/2015



Adopted
August 26, 2015

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

1. Kick-off
2. Data Collection and Existing Conditions Analysis
3. Community/Public Engagement
4. Goal Setting and Policy Development
5. Plan Drafting
6. Review and Adoption
7. Implementation
8. Monitoring and Updates

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

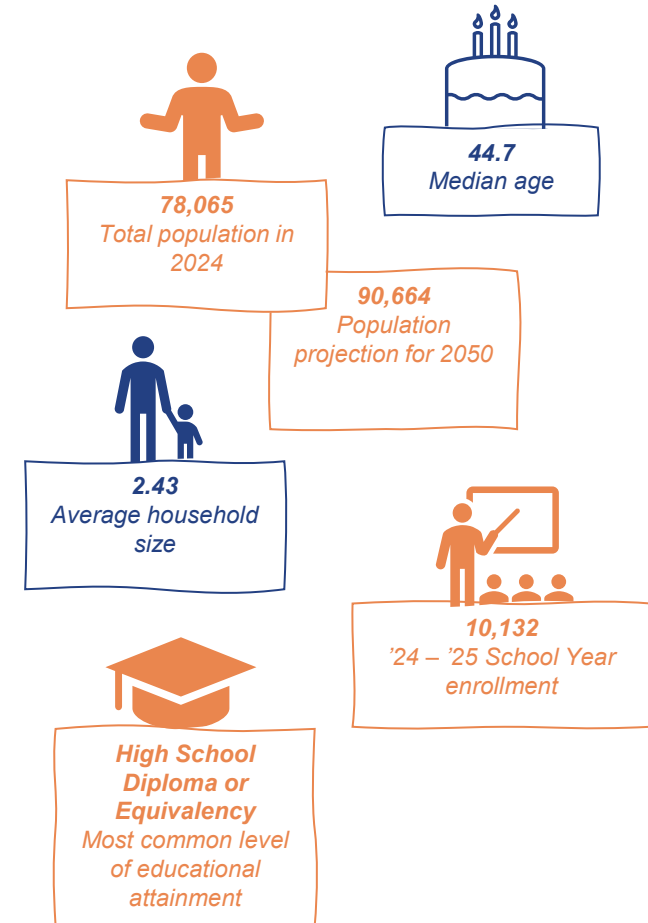
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COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

2. Data Collection and Existing Conditions Analysis

– Gathering data:

- Demographics
- Economy
- Environment
- Housing



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COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

3. Community/Public Engagement

- Community Meetings
- Focus Groups
- Pop-Up Engagement Events
- Community Survey
- Future Land Use Survey



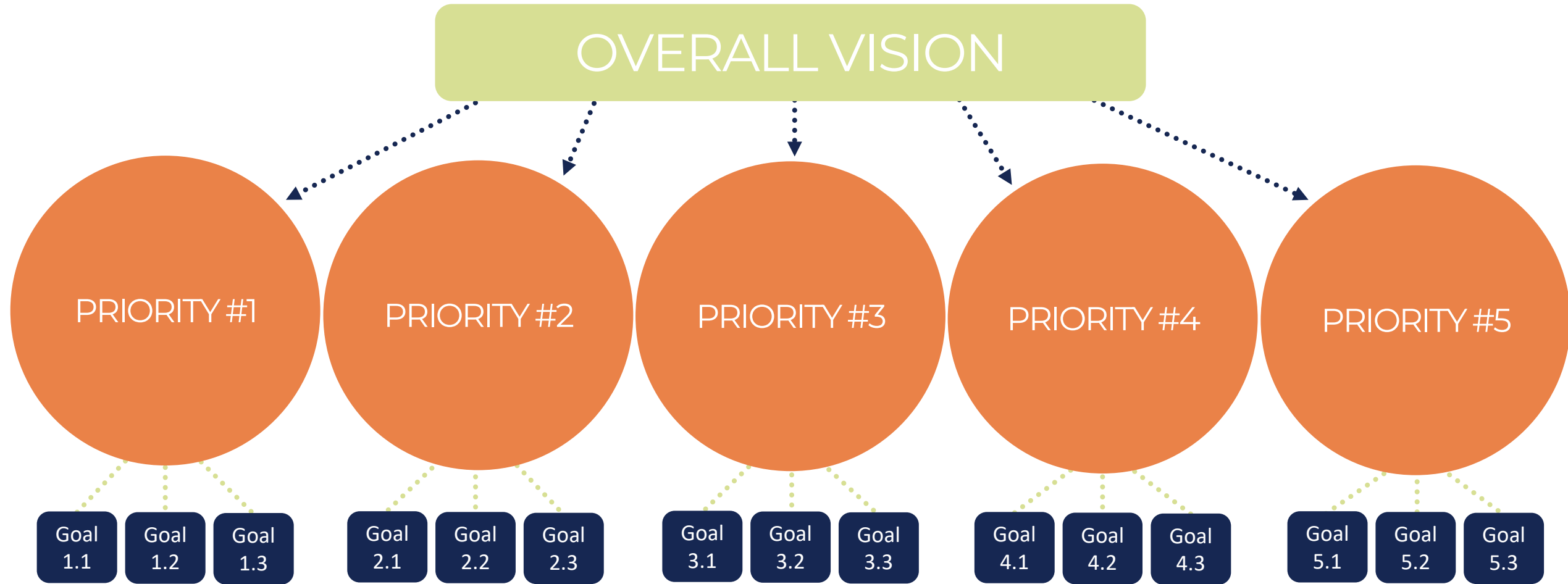
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CURRENT STAGE

STRUCTURE OF PLAN



OVERALL VISION: GUIDING AUGUSTA

Augusta County embraces its enduring **rural charm**, promotes **thoughtful development**, and fosters an environment where residents, visitors, and businesses **feel valued**.

PRIORITY #1

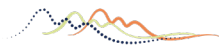
Balanced Growth

Augusta County commits to a **diverse economy** by supporting **agricultural vitality** and aligning residential, commercial, and industrial **development** with plans, resources, and infrastructure.

Agricultural Economy

Economic & Housing
Development

Agency Plans &
Infrastructure



GUIDING AUGUSTA

PRIORITY #2

Environmental Stewardship

Augusta County preserves its **unique natural resources** through **strategically planned development** that maximizes **open space** and maintains its rural character.

Natural Environmental
Systems

Agriculture
Preservation/Open Space

Energy

PRIORITY #3

Quality of Life

Augusta County provides residents with a variety of **housing, employment, and recreational opportunities** and ensures facilities and services are accessible and reflect the mission of each organization or agency.

Housing

Utilities

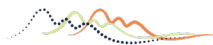
Retention

Parks &
Recreation

Library

Human Services

Public Safety



PRIORITY #4

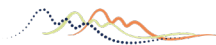
Sense of Place

Augusta County celebrates the **unique traditions** and qualities of its **rural communities** by encouraging and nurturing a strong **sense of place, culture, and connection.**

Small Area
Planning/Land Use

Cultural & Historic
Resources

Connectivity/Wayfinding



PRIORITY #5

Transportation Network

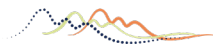
Augusta County prioritizes the **safety, efficiency, and accessibility** of its transportation network, while respecting the unique character of both developed and rural areas.

Vehicular Transportation

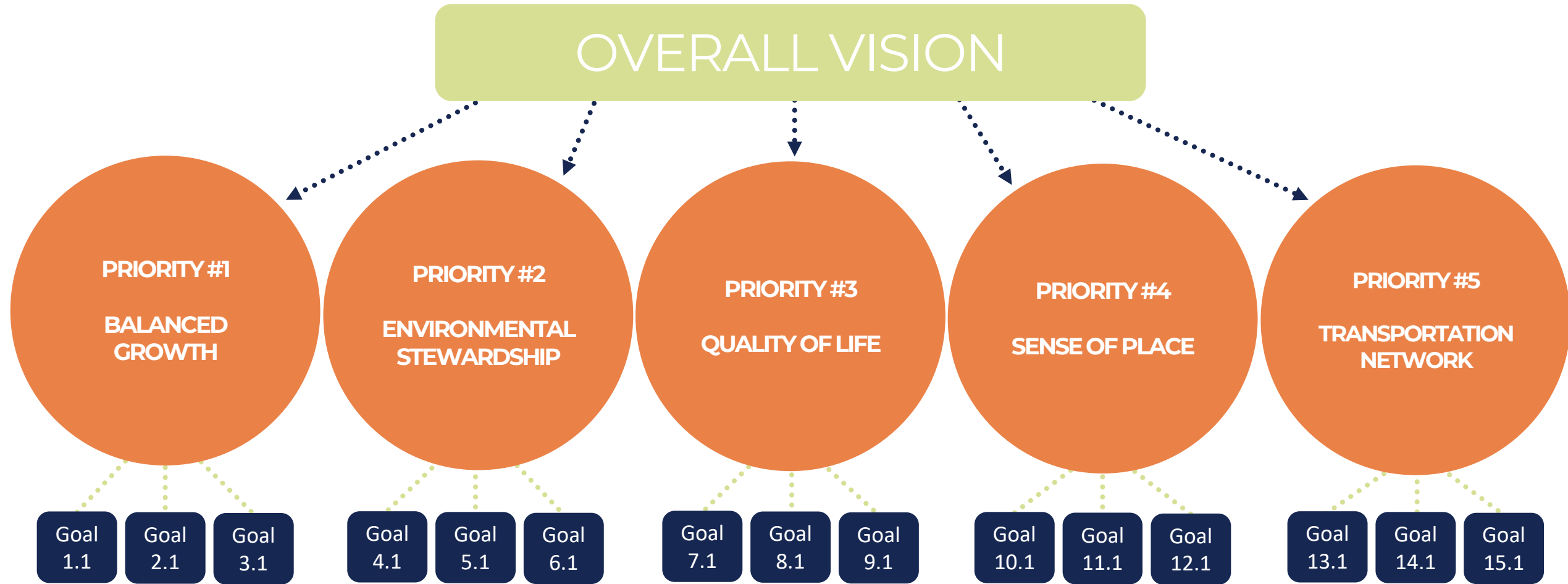
Public Transit

Pedestrian Traffic

Farm Equipment &
Vehicles



STRUCTURE OF PLAN



Priority and Goal Chart



Balanced Growth	Goal 1	Proactively support and grow agricultural vitality in Augusta County.
	Goal 2	Coordinate commercial, industrial, and residential development with available resources, infrastructure, and growth objectives.
	Goal 3	Facilitate and support the maintenance and development of plans, resources, and infrastructure that are cost-efficient and effective in better serving the community as it continues to grow and develop.
Environmental Stewardship	Goal 4	Preserve the integrity of the County's natural environmental systems for the long-term health and benefit of the community.
	Goal 5	Prioritize preserving open space and farmland to support a community where the access to and protection of unique natural resources promote sustainability and provide lasting benefits for residents, agriculture, recreation, and scenic beauty.
	Goal 6	Energy infrastructure and initiatives in the County will be strategically planned to protect natural resources, adapt to evolving technologies, and meet the community's future needs.
Quality of Life	Goal 7	Ensure an adequate supply of safe, suitable, and affordable housing for all County residents.
	Goal 8	Where feasible per Planning Policy Area designation, ensure residents have access to safe and quality utility services.
	Goal 9	Expand unique and engaging opportunities for residents of all ages to promote community connection, retention, and a sense of value.
	Goal 10	Advance the overall wellness of the County's residents and visitors through well-maintained parks, programs, and services.
	Goal 11	Establish and maintain library facilities that provide efficient, effective, and readily available services to all County residents in accordance with Planning for Library Excellence: Standards for Virginia Public Libraries.
	Goal 12	Ensure that all human services and programs are accessible, inclusive, and of high quality.
Sense of Place	Goal 13	Ensure the efficient and responsive delivery of public safety services.
	Goal 14	Guide long-range planning and development efforts to protect the unique identity of each community in Augusta County.
	Goal 15	Acknowledge and celebrate Augusta County's cultural and historical resources, emphasizing their lasting significance and expanding the ways in which the narrative is shared and embraced by all.
Transportation Network	Goal 16	Ensure residents and visitors can safely access and connect to resources and amenities throughout the County.
	Goal 17	Ensure Augusta County's transportation network addresses congestion, development, and other system demands with user safety as the highest priority.
	Goal 18	Promote and support fixed route and on-demand public transit services in Augusta County.
	Goal 19	Recognize non-motorized traffic, such as walking and biking, as essential modes of transportation by enhancing its safety, connectivity, and integration throughout the County.
	Goal 20	Ensure farmers operating farm vehicles and equipment on local roadways have the necessary support and resources to travel safely.

NEXT STEPS AND KEY DATES

- **July 9** – Deadline for Comments on Draft I of the Plan
- **July 14** – Second Draft Distributed to the Public
- **July 22 – July 26** – Staff at County Fair
- **July 28 – August 15** – Community Meetings
- **August 18 – August 22** – BOS/PC Joint Work Session
- **August 27** – Absolute Deadline for **all** Comments
- **September 9** – Planning Commission Public Hearing
- **September 24** – Board of Supervisors Public Hearing

QUESTIONS?