

NELSON COUNTY, VA

Comprehensive Plan Update



Joint Worksession #3 | March 15, 2023



Meeting Objectives

1. Schedule & Progress Update
2. Updated Vision Statement
3. Chapter 6 and 8 Policy Comments
4. Chapter 5: Creating Livable Communities(Content Review)
5. Chapter 7: Creating a Resilient Economy(Content Review)
6. Next Steps



Schedule & Progress Update

Project Schedule



Meetings & Events

4 Joint Worksessions

October – Chapter 1 & 2

January – Natural & Cultural Resources;
Community Facilities

March – Housing; Economy

May – Transportation; Land Use

County-Led Focus Groups

(December, February, April)

Final Review Worksession

(Summer 2023)

Review by VDOT

(Summer 2023)

Public Open House


(Summer 2023)

Joint Public Hearing &

Adoption (Fall 2023)



Update to Vision Statement



Nelson County is a welcoming community that values its natural resources, encourages economic growth, and provides excellent quality of life for all community members.



Chapter 6 and 8 Policy Comments



Protecting Valuable Resources



IN THIS CHAPTER

What We Heard | The Big Ideas

- Plan & Provide Equitably for Everyone
- Diversify & Boister the Local Economy
- Improve & Expand Vital Community Services
- Protect & Connect to our Rural Environment

What We Know | Natural & Cultural Resources Today

- Protect the Natural Environment
- Preserve Rural Character & Heritage
- Plan for Resilience & Sustainability

How We Move Forward

- Goal Statement
- Strategies

Nelson County's natural and historic resources shape its physical landscape as well as the rural character and agricultural heritage that residents have appreciated for generations. Officially incorporated in 1807, Nelson County is filled with historic sites, century farms, country roads, traces of Native American settlements, and ancient mountains home to unique native species. The natural environment also provides valuable biodiversity and recreation opportunities, while influencing the suitability and capacity for development. Like many rural localities, there is a complex link between the natural environment, cultural resources, economic development, and overall quality of life. The strategies outlined in this chapter provide actionable steps to protect natural and cultural resources that contribute to the long-term equity, economic viability, livability, and protection of the County's rural environment.



Serving the Community



IN THIS CHAPTER

What We Heard | The Big Ideas

- Plan & Provide Equitably for Everyone
- Diversify & Boister the Local Economy
- Improve & Expand Vital Community Services
- Protect & Connect to our Rural Environment

What We Know | Community Facilities, Services, & Infrastructure Today

- Enhance the County Government
- Improve Infrastructure
- Provide Quality Services

How We Move Forward

- Goal Statement
- Strategies

Community facilities, services, and infrastructure play an important role in shaping a community. Educational facilities, like schools and libraries, drive the local economy by educating the future workforce. Parks and recreation opportunities encourage active lifestyles and draw visitors that contribute to the local tourism economy. Availability of medical and emergency services support resident health, well-being, and safety. Infrastructure availability, including broadband, water, and sewer, is a key factor in where and how development occurs. The condition and accessibility of these and other community facilities and services influence the overall quality of life enjoyed by Nelson County residents. This chapter articulates how Nelson County is serving its residents' community facilities, services, and infrastructure needs today and planning for the needs of tomorrow.



Chapter 5

Creating Livable Communities

Chapter Goal

Nelson County will provide quality, attainable housing for residents of all income levels and lifestyles by adding a variety of housing options, including affordable and workforce housing, and encouraging rehabilitation of existing vacant units.

Focus Areas

- 1. Protect & Improve the Existing Housing Stock**
 - a) Market Forces & Trends
 - b) Housing Quality & Maintenance
- 2. Expand Housing Opportunities**
 - a) Housing Choice & Affordability
 - b) Housing a Diverse Population
- 3. Support Livable Communities**
 - a) Housing & Land Use
 - b) Connected Communities



Chapter 8

Creating a Resilient Economy

Chapter Goal

Nelson County will create and maintain a strong, resilient economy that promotes workforce development and diversifies business and tourism opportunities while supporting traditional agriculture.

Focus Areas

1. Support & Cultivate Today's Workforce

- a) Workforce Characteristics
- b) Workforce Trends

2. Diversify & Enhance Local Industry

- a) Industry Characteristics
- b) Industry Trends

3. Bolster & Promote Economic Growth

- a) Economic Development
- b) Other Economic Drivers

Next Steps



Edits for Ch. 5 & Ch. 7, comments by 3/22/2023



County-Led Focus Group (Land Use & Transportation)



Worksession #4 on May 17 (Land Use & Transportation)