

# VISION STATEMENT

## VISION

GIVEN ITS UNIQUE LOCATION, UNTAPPED POTENTIAL AND DEDICATED LEADERSHIP, CAROLINE COUNTY WILL BECOME A MODEL OF PLANNED RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT THAT ENSURES SUFFICIENT MANAGED ECONOMIC GROWTH TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF ITS RESIDENTS, ATTRACT DESIRED SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE NEW BUSINESSES, AND ENSURE A FINANCIALLY SOUND COUNTY GOVERNMENT THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF ITS RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES, WHILE MAINTAINING TAX RATES AT A RESPONSIBLE LEVEL AND PRESERVING THE DESIRED RURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COUNTY. ATTAINMENT OF THIS VISION WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING PLANNING PRINCIPLES:

- Maintain the desired rural character of the County through open space preservation, while providing sufficient designated growth areas to accommodate expected demand for business and residential growth.
- Seek sufficient economic growth by attracting socially responsible businesses that will balance the need for jobs generated by residential development and provide retail and service offerings to meet the desires of residents.
- Ensure that a balance is maintained between residential, commercial and industrial development and available public services and facilities including schools, utilities, recreational areas and general governmental services needed to accommodate planned growth.
- Encourage residential development that meets the housing needs of County residents at all income levels and provides a range of home site areas and a variety of housing styles.
- Ensure that development happens in an environmentally sensitive, planned manner that serves to preserve environmentally sensitive features such as floodplains, wetlands and natural topography.
- Develop a well-planned, efficient, effective and safe transportation system that meets local, regional and interstate transportation needs.
- Preserve the County's historic resources, which provide valuable information about the proud history of Caroline County and its residents.
- Monitor development trends both within and outside the County to ensure that County officials stay informed of issues affecting the County and respond appropriately.