

HENRY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



JOINT KICKOFF MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2024



MEETING OBJECTIVES

-  What is a Comprehensive Plan?
-  What is the Update Process?
-  How Is the Public Involved?
-  What Data Has Been Gathered So Far?
-  What is Your Perspective?



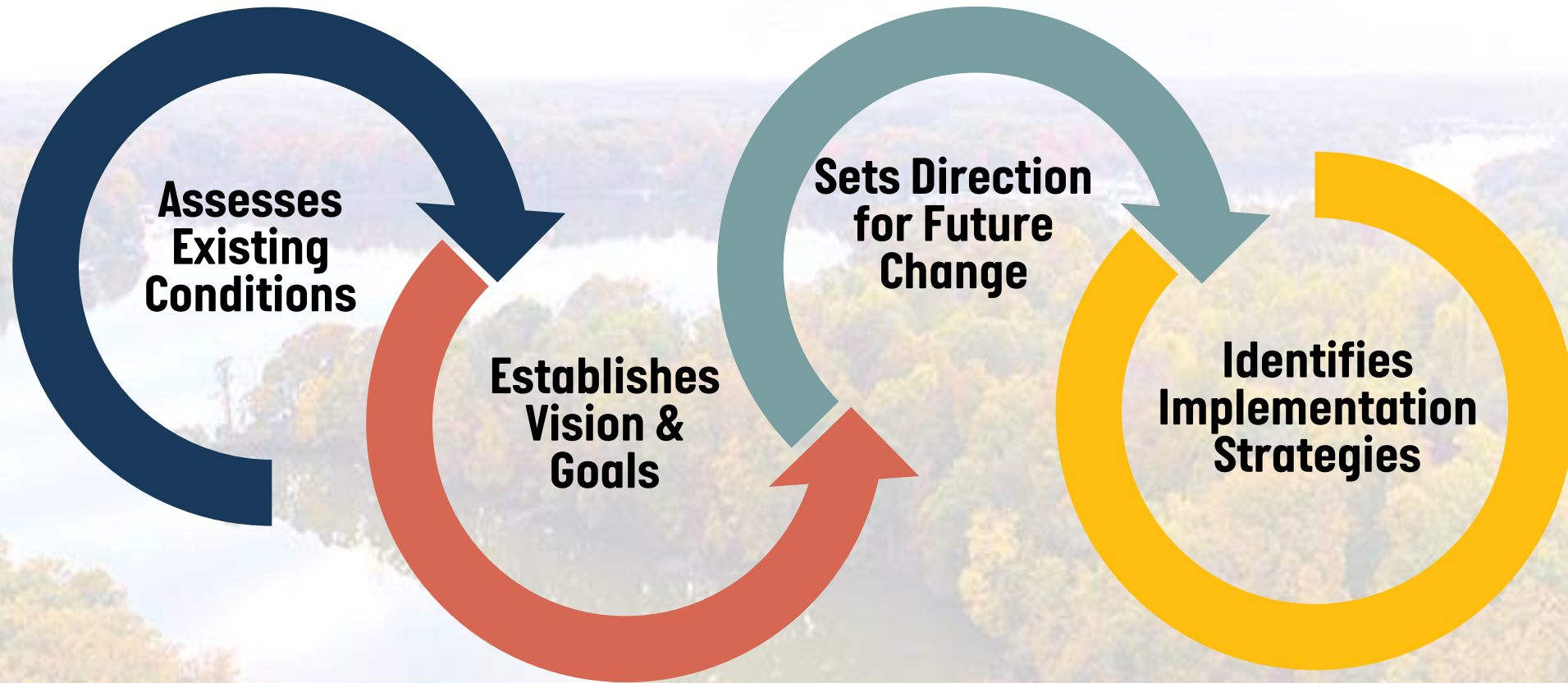
What is a
Comprehensive Plan?

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?*

- ❑ **A long-range planning document and decision-making guide**
- ❑ **A community-guided vision for the future**
- ❑ **A showcase of assets and areas for improvement**
- ❑ **The guiding framework for the community's planning tools: Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, Capital Improvements Program, and other Plans & Studies**
- ❑ **A legally required document by Virginia State Code Section § 15.2-2223**

****See BG Guide to Comprehensive Planning***

WHAT DOES A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DO?



WHAT DOES A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADDRESS?



Transportation

Land Use

Historic Resources, Art &
Culture

Parks & Recreation

Natural Resources

Economic Development

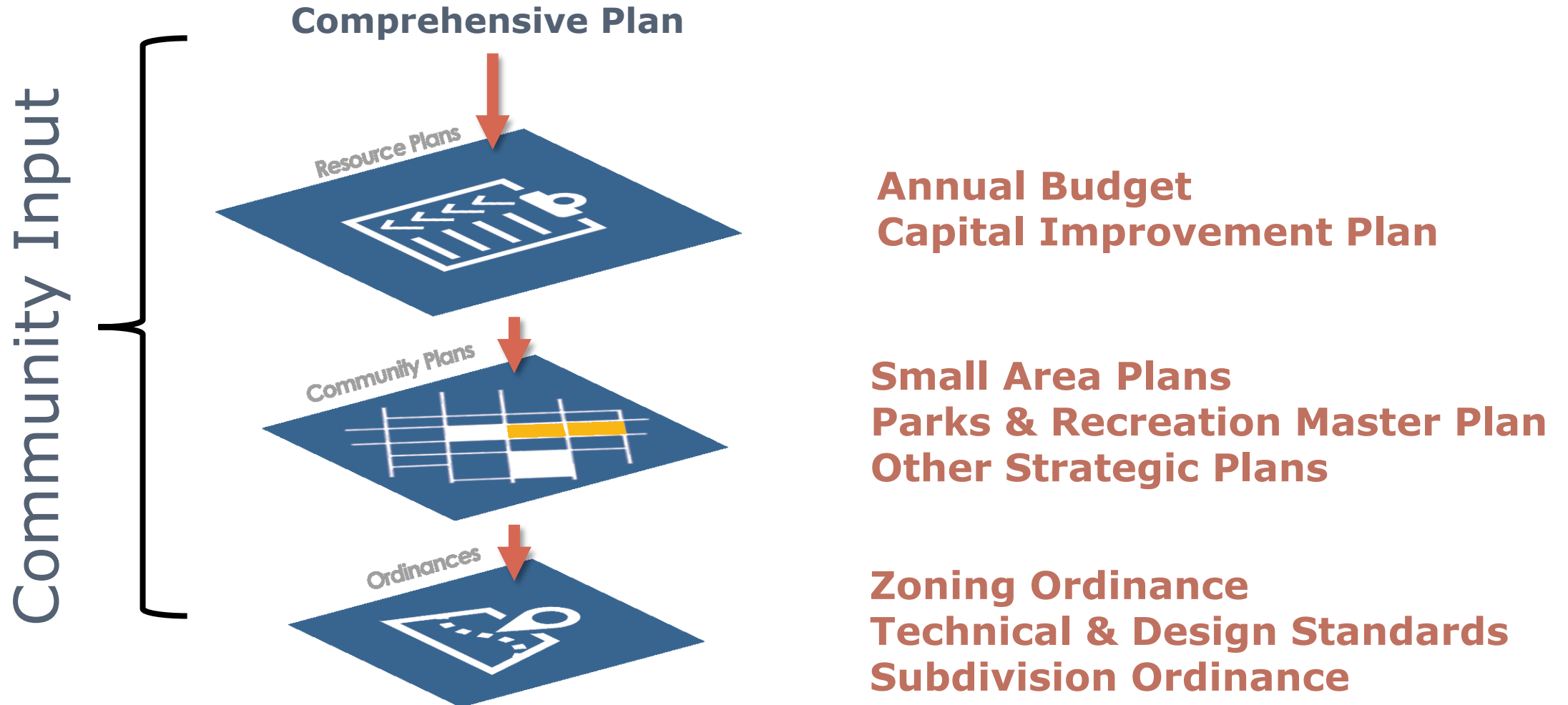
Housing & Neighborhoods

Community Facilities &
Infrastructure

WHAT ARE THE PARTS OF A PLAN?



WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS & ORDINANCES?



WHO USES THE PLAN?



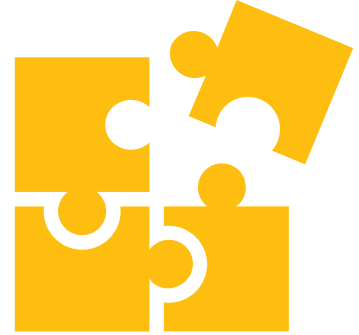
**Citizens,
Developers
& Business
Owners**



**County
Staff &
Planning
Commission**



**Board of
Supervisors**



**Regional
Partners**

WHY UPDATE A PLAN?

- ❑ Local priorities & vision change with time**
- ❑ The natural & built environment change with time**
- ❑ Strategies to achieve the plan's vision & goals must be updated & adjusted**
- ❑ Five-year review legally required by Virginia State Code §15.2-2223**

A wide-angle photograph of a large-scale construction or demolition site. In the foreground, a yellow Caterpillar wheel loader is parked on a dirt path. To the right, an orange excavator is visible. In the background, a white truck with a tank is parked near a pile of debris. The site is surrounded by a line of trees under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The ground is uneven and covered in dirt and some vegetation.

What Is the Update Process?

WHAT IS THE UPDATE PROCESS?*

Input & Data Gathering

Drafting

Reviewing & Refining

Plan Kickoff

Summer 2024

- ☒ Kickoff with Staff
- ☒ Kickoff Joint Worksession

Data Gathering

Summer- Fall 2024

- ☒ Comp Plan Diagnostic
- ☐ Baseline Conditions & Data Analysis
- ☐ Department Interviews

Community Engagement

Fall 2024

- ☐ Project Website
- ☐ Public Survey
- ☐ 3 Public Workshops
- ☐ 9 Focus Groups
- ☐ Public Engagement Summary

Plan Drafting

Winter 2025 - Fall 2025

- ☐ 6 Worksessions with PC & BOS (Winter 2024 - Fall 2025)
- ☐ Draft Chapters Posted Online for Public Review

Community Feedback

Winter 2026

- ☐ Public Open House
- ☐ VDOT Review

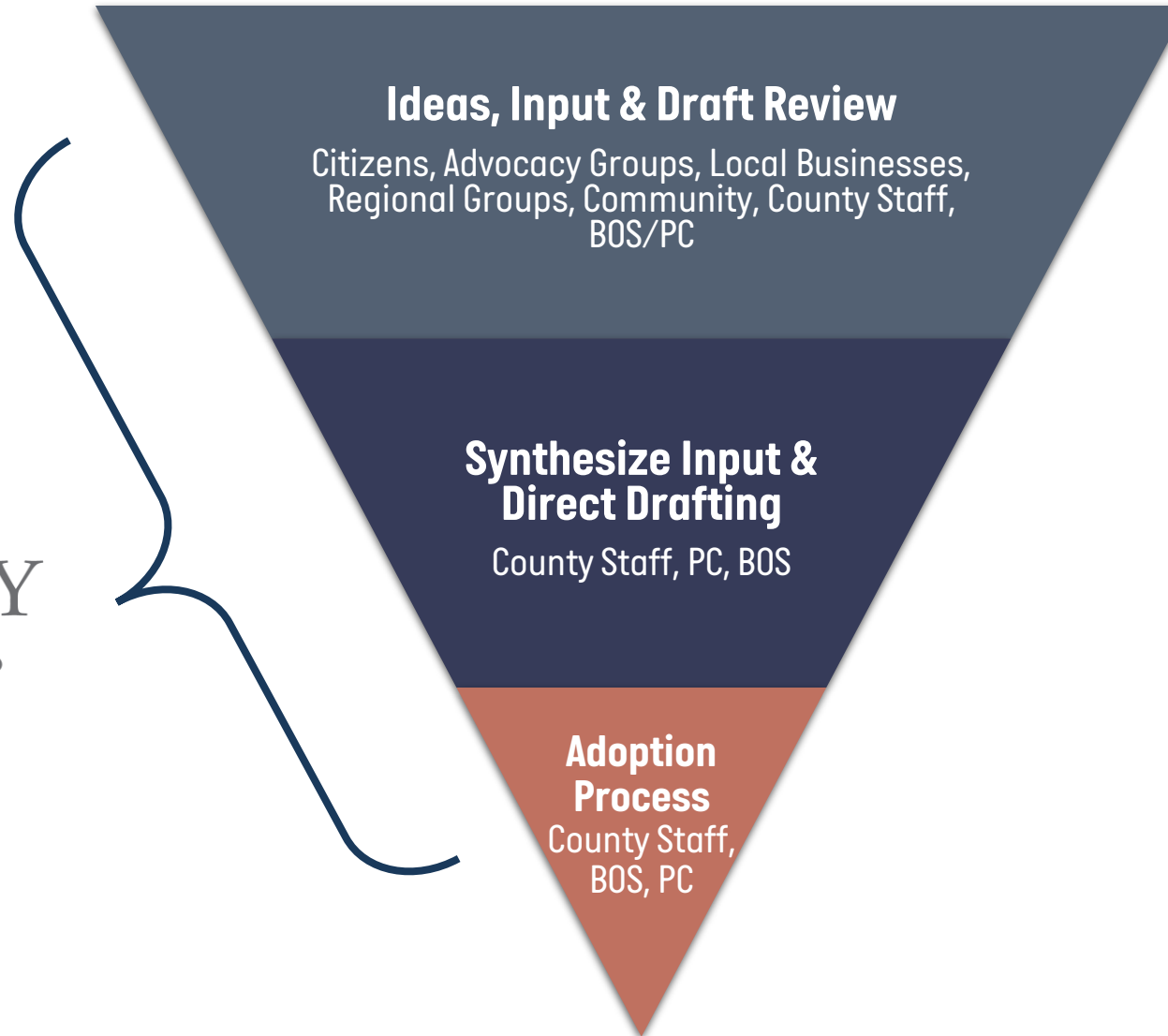
Refinement & Adoption

Spring 2026

- ☐ Final Review Worksession with PC & BOS
- ☐ PC Public Hearing
- ☐ BOS Public Hearing

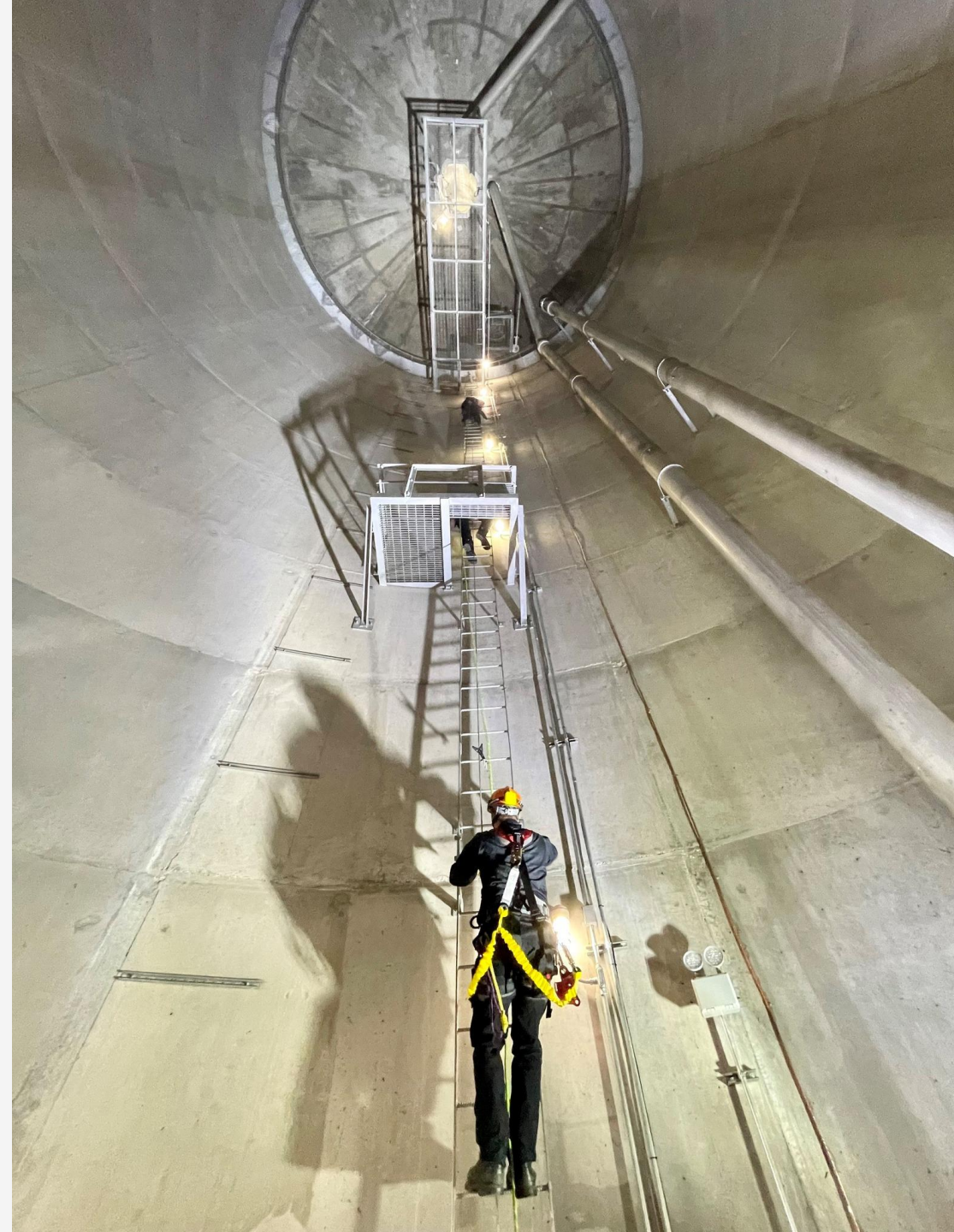
**See Meeting Schedule*

WHO IS INVOLVED?



WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

- ✓ **Encourage Community Participation**
- ✓ **Provide Input & Ideas**
- ✓ **Review Drafts & Provide Feedback**
- ✓ **Attend Worksessions**
- ✓ **Hold Public Hearing**
- ✓ **Use the Plan!**



A large group of children and adults are gathered on a grassy field for an Easter egg hunt. In the foreground, a girl in a pink shirt is running towards the left, holding a blue basket with a bunny design. Next to her, a boy in a blue and yellow hoodie is also running, holding a yellow basket. To his right, a girl in a white shirt is running, holding a yellow basket. In the background, many other children and adults are visible, some holding baskets and others holding yellow caution tape. The scene is bright and sunny, with trees in the distance.

How Is the Public
Involved?

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Educate & Inform



Flyers & Guides

The Project Team will produce and distribute (both through print and online platforms) flyers, postcards, and educational guides, to advertise and educate the community about the Comprehensive Plan and opportunities to engage in the Plan update process.



Project Website

The project website hosts all information about the Plan, including: drafts, links to online engagement, and educational materials. Website subscribers are included on an email list to receive updates about Plan engagement.



Interactive Engagement

Additional engagement such as the online "Interactive Map" and "Idea Wall" provide alternative ways for people to engage in the planning process.



Public Survey

The public survey is a detailed data gathering tool that asks the general public to answer a series of questions about planning topics pertinent to their community. The survey will be made available online. The survey will be open for 60 days.



Public Workshop

Public workshops are an opportunity for the community to come together and work in small groups to identify priority needs for their community. Three public workshops are currently scheduled.



Focus Groups

Focus groups bring small groups of community experts together to discuss planning topics in detail. Nine focus groups are scheduled and will address topics such as education & workforce, housing & neighborhoods, and economic development.



Draft Review

Throughout the drafting and plan development process, drafts of chapters and Plan content will be available for public review. An online comment form will be used to collect public comments during the drafting phase of the project.



Public Open House

The Public Open House is an opportunity for the public to gather and review the draft Comprehensive Plan, provide feedback, and ask questions. The Open House is the Project Team's opportunity to make sure we heard the community accurately during the data gathering phase.



Public Hearing

After refining the Plan based on public feedback, the Plan will be presented at two Public Hearings. At these Public Hearings, members of the public can offer additional comment and edits on the draft Comprehensive Plan.

Input & Data
Gathering



Drafting



Reviewing &
Refining



GOAL

ACTION

PROJECT PHASE

HOW ARE WE GETTING THE WORD OUT?



Print Flyers & Guides

County Website & Social Media

Press Releases & Newspaper Ads

Word of Mouth

PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY

Henry County Comprehensive Plan Update Community Survey – Staff Review Draft



Questions

1. What do you value the most about Henry County? (Choose up to three)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Sense of Community | ☐ Public Education System | ☐ Higher Education Opportunities |
| ☐ Rural Character | ☐ Recreation Opportunities | ☐ Community History |
| ☐ Natural Environment | ☐ Employment Opportunities | ☐ Other: _____ |
| ☐ Housing Opportunities | | |
| ☐ Affordability | | |
| ☐ Community Safety | | |

2. What concerns you the most about Henry County's future? (Choose up to three)

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ☐ New Development | ☐ Traffic and Safety | ☐ Public Schools |
| ☐ Population Growth | ☐ Availability of High-Speed Internet | ☐ Natural Resources/Environment |
| ☐ Utilities & Infrastructure | ☐ Loss of Farms/Open Space | ☐ Access to Community Services |
| ☐ Lack of Jobs | ☐ Access to Healthcare | ☐ Other: _____ |
| ☐ Public Safety | ☐ Housing Affordability | |
| ☐ Emergency Services | ☐ Public Transportation | |
| ☐ Road Maintenance | | |

3. What should Henry County prioritize as it plans for the future? (Choose up to three)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ Job Creation | ☐ Redevelopment of Older Areas | ☐ Natural Resources |
| ☐ Parks and Recreation | ☐ Housing Affordability | ☐ Public Safety |
| ☐ Tourism/Agritourism | ☐ Housing Availability | ☐ Historic & Cultural Resources |
| ☐ Utilities & Infrastructure | ☐ Education | ☐ Rural Preservation |
| ☐ Shopping & Dining | ☐ Job Skills Training | ☐ Other: _____ |
| ☐ Property Maintenance | ☐ Business Development | |



Available Online

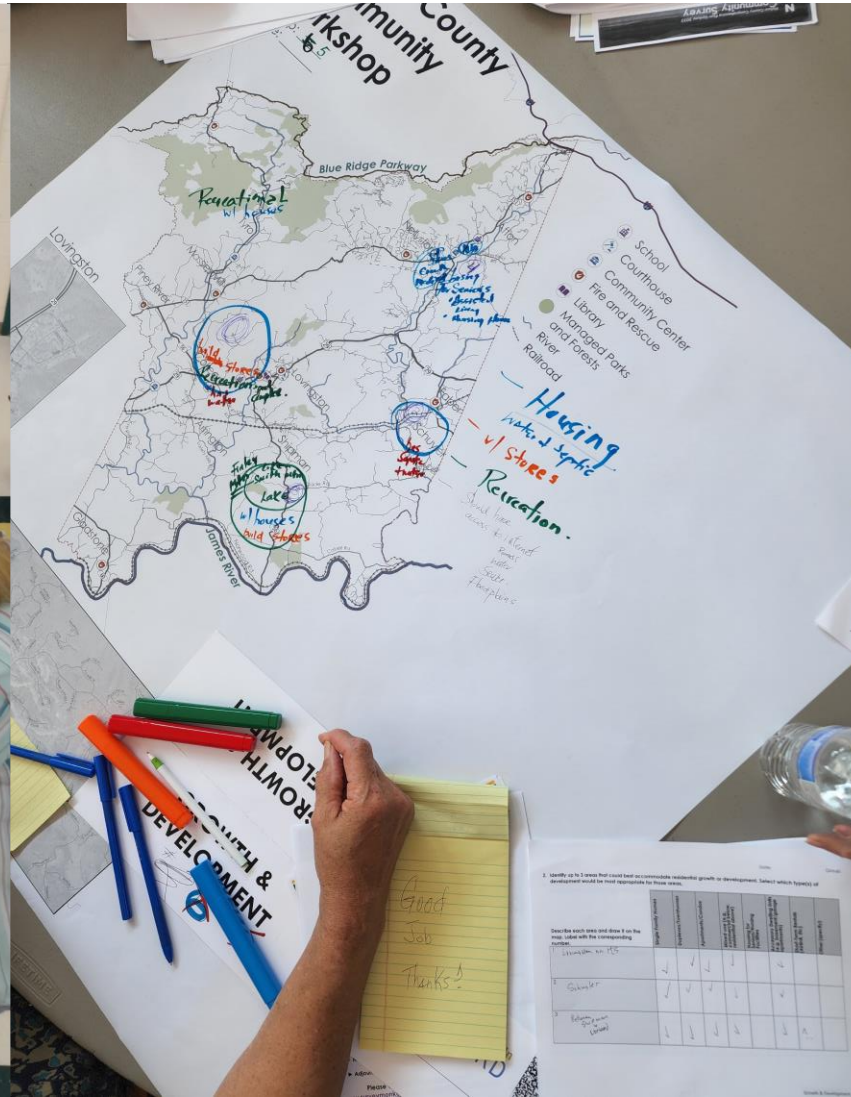


Open for 60 Days



PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

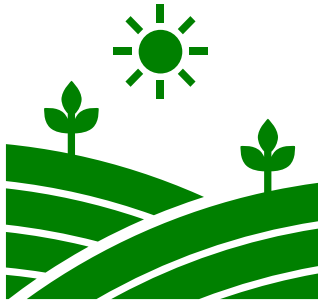
3 Workshops: Dates and Locations TBD



9 FOCUS GROUPS



Housing



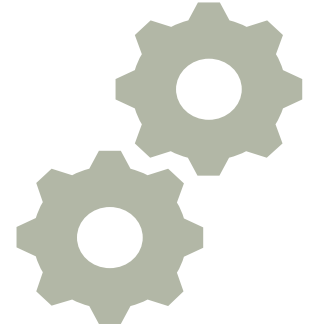
Agriculture



Tourism &
Parks



Economic
Development



Utilities / Public
Infrastructure



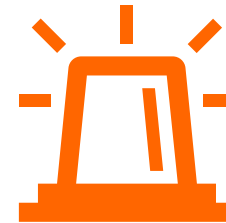
Transportation



Public Health



Education



Public Safety



What Data has Been
Gathered So Far?

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DIAGNOSTIC*

Assessed the 1995 Comprehensive Plan for Compliance with Virginia State Code: Title 15.2, Chapter 22, Article 3, and for Best Practices, Clarity, and Readability

****See Comprehensive Plan Diagnostic***

CODE OF VIRGINIA KEY FINDINGS

1

**Conduct a robust
public engagement
process**

2

**Update existing
conditions and
data**

3

**Discussion of
modern land use
considerations,
and inclusion of
required topics
such as broadband**

4

**Creation of a
thorough
implementation
plan with clear
strategies and
responsibilities**

BEST PRACTICES KEY FINDINGS

1

Strengthen connections between land use and transportation when discussing development

2

Demonstrate connection between participation and recommendations and strategies in each chapter

Include BPs for community health and wellness, low-impact and mixed development, and access to food and healthcare

4

Update the Housing chapter to reflect current requirements to support affordability and housing variety

DEPARTMENT INTERVIEWS & COUNTY TOUR

County Tour & Interviews Conducted with County Departments Heads to identify planning needs, issues, opportunities, and resources.

In Progress

HENRY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

QUESTIONS?

