

# Worcester County Comprehensive Plan Visioning Workshop

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April 11, 2024

1 p.m.



# AGENDA

- Comprehensive Plan Overview
  - Schedule Update
- Visioning Discussion
- How This Information will be Used in the Plan
- Questions and Next Steps

# Overview of the Comprehensive Plan

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# What is a Comprehensive Plan?

- Blueprint for the future: 20-year horizon
- Establishes a vision for growth, change and preservation for the next 20 years
- Guides decisions on land use, transportation, housing, economic development, environmental issues, and historic preservation
- Coordinates local planning efforts
- Fulfills State of Maryland requirements

# What is a Comprehensive Plan?

- Main Components:
  - Identifying Needs and Opportunities
  - Supporting Goals and Recommendations
  - Guiding Future Development
  - Outlining Implementation
- Public Input:
  - Helps to prioritize needs and opportunities
  - Helps to establish community vision for growth and preservation
  - Helps to identify desired development patterns

# What a Comprehensive Plan is NOT:

A comprehensive plan *is not*:

- A set of regulations
- An ordinance
- The same as the zoning code (zoning helps to implement the Plan)

# Comprehensive Plan Preliminary Schedule

Planning Commission Special Sessions  
Through 2024

Milestone/Plan Element	Date
Plan Kickoff/State Agency Meeting	February 15, 2024
Data Collection & GIS Mapping	Launched in February and March (Ongoing)
Visioning Workshop	April 2024
Review Plan Vision and Schedule	May 2024
Introduction and County Profile	June 2024
Land Use Map Plan Goals and Objectives	August 2024
Community Facilities and Housing	October 2024
Economic Development and Tourism Natural Resources and Sensitive Areas	December 2024

# Visioning Exercise

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# Visioning Overview

What is a vision statement?

- Communicates what the County wants to be like in the next 20 years
- Provides overall “big picture” guidance for the entire Comprehensive Plan
- Is supported by all the goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan
- Is often formatted as a short paragraph

# Creating a Vision Statement

## Worcester County's Vision

- When you imagine Worcester County in the future, what do you want to see?
- Topics to consider:
  - Community Facilities & Services
  - Parks, Recreation & Open Space
  - Land Use
  - Agricultural Preservation
  - Environmental Resources & Preservation
  - Transportation
  - Historic & Cultural Resources
  - Economic Development & Tourism
  - Housing

# Draft Vision Statement

Worcester County is committed to preserving its diverse rural and coastal heritage and historical roots, while striving to create an inclusive and secure community that offers ample opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Our vision encompasses sustainable economic growth, harmonizing with our existing agricultural community, and ensuring the preservation of our natural resources.

# Questions and Next Steps

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