STAFFORD COUNTY 2040 VISION

STAFFORD Virginia

Where heart, home and a healthy business environment come together in one community!

STAFFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

About Stafford County

Stafford County is a flourishing community that continues to achieve all that our residents, businesses and visitors have come to imagine. From its early beginnings that are deep-rooted in our nation's history to the evolution into a progressive and well-designed locality, Stafford is a great place to call home. It places its citizens first, ensuring that our heart never changes, our home is always welcoming and our businesses continue to prosper.

Stafford's smart growth strategy leads with a comprehensive transportation system resulting in safe and efficient travel for residents, businesses and visitors. This approach also includes efforts to preserve and provide access to the county's vast inventory of natural and historic resources including distinctive historic sites, forests and wetlands along the Potomac River, Potomac Creek, Aquia Creek and the Rappahannock River. These efforts protect thousands of acres of public parklands for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Stafford County Public Schools represent the highest-quality education in the Commonwealth, preparing our children for the future. Stafford expands continuing learning options for our residents and businesses by partnering with institutions like University of Mary Washington and Germanna Community College, assuring local access to first-rate post-secondary education.

Stafford's ideal location between Washington, D.C., and Richmond, VA, along with its business-friendly environment and impeccable reputation, attracts and retains world-class businesses and the region's most highly educated and skilled workforce.

Stafford is one of the region's safest and most desired locations in which to live, work, play and raise a family. Unique and inviting neighborhoods are the centerpieces of development and feature walkable urban experiences, anchored by arts and cultural amenities. Downtown Stafford is a nationally recognized district, providing a variety of authentic shopping, service and dining opportunities, along with the best recreational and entertainment venues in the community and the region.

Local government and elected leaders are invested and engaged with a governance philosophy that is fiscally efficient in delivering core services responsive to the ever-changing needs of this multi-dimensional community.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1 - 5 YEAR PRIORITIES

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1. DEVELOP A MULTIMODAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Definition: Further infrastructure development in the community to provide an enhanced level of service. Stafford County's comprehensive transportation plan provides a variety of alternatives and fluid access throughout the community. Our network of roads is complimented by multimodal paths to ensure the safe and efficient movement of vehicles and pedestrian traffic.

1.1 Establish consistent Board discussions throughout the year focusing on multimodal (i.e., walking, biking, transit, rail, cars and trucks) transportation efforts to incorporate education, funding and planning.

1.2 Develop a funding structure and a capital program that facilitates the Transportation Master Plan.

2. ENGAGE IN PARTNERSHIPS TO PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATIONAL AND WELLNESS OPPORTUNITIES

Definition: Stafford County provides unparalleled educational and wellness opportunities for all citizens, offering a wide spectrum of programs and experiences that support lifelong earning and individual health.

2.1 Remain committed to continued communication with the School System to address and elevate educational challenges facing the community.

2.2 Develop a needs assessment on work-based learning possibilities in the community to advance partnership opportunities with organizations and businesses.

2.3 Engage the community through current and new events and programs through a collaborative effort with identified community partners and organizations.

2.4 Strengthen the connection between historical assets and educational programming.

2.5 Discover new ways to partner with community groups and local agencies to encourage mental health access.

3. ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

Definition: A community able to withstand any situation to minimize the fiscal impact on residents in sustaining a high quality of life.

3.1 Research, produce and present options for economic development zones to incentivize targeted growth.

3.2 Build a strategic effort to incentivize and attract new restaurants across the community.

3.3 Bolster historical and tourism assets across the county through new and innovative solutions.

3.4 Review and update the Economic Development Strategic Plan.

3.5 Implement recommendations from the Development Services Process Audit.

4. GROWTH MANAGEMENT FOR COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

Definition: Stafford County channels growth into targeted areas and protects the county's natural and historic resources.

4.1 Develop a timeline and implementation method for small area plans.

4.2 Analyze and recommend new proffer and impact fee structures.

4.3 Create an acquisition process to acquire land for future schools.

4.4 Alter growth management plan to expand preservation efforts and evaluate development placement.

4.5 Research and present actionable solutions for workforce housing.

5. VIBRANT COMMUNITY THROUGH THE ARTS, RECREATION, CULTURE, HISTORY AND TOURISM

Definition: Where "MADE IN STAFFORD" lives in the arts we make, a culture that thrives, the history we live and the way we recreate attracts residents and travelers.

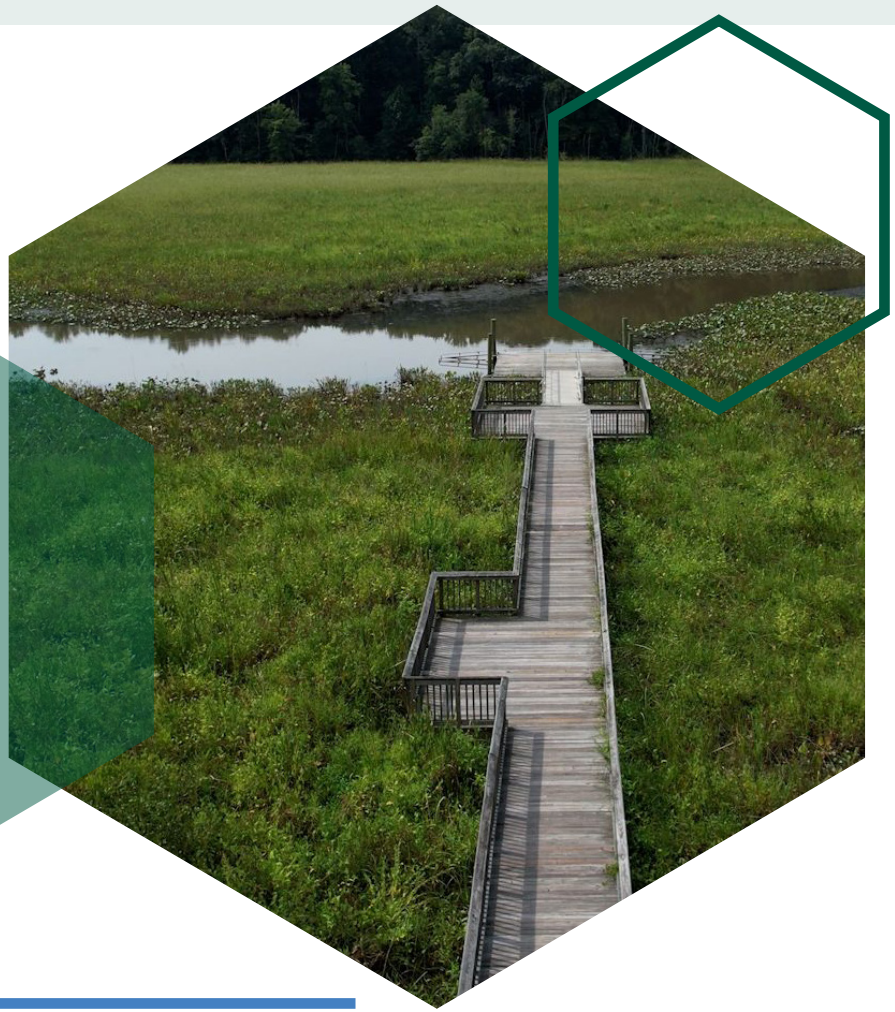
5.1 Review Master Plan efforts to ensure public needs are incorporated with a focus on recreational assets.

5.2 Explore and research new event opportunities and entertainment venues.

5.3 Identify a location and funding stream for the Stafford County Museum and Cultural Center.

5.4 Evaluate community connectivity and walkability opportunities through Stafford.

5.5 Expand Destination Stafford efforts through public-private partnerships to enhance Stafford's identity and promote economic development.



6. DEDICATED AND RESPONSIVE PUBLIC SAFETY TEAM

Definition: Stafford County remains a safe community that is responsive to its citizens' needs with highly trained, dedicated and well-equipped emergency personnel.

6.1 Continue efforts to reassess Stafford County's public safety salary scale to maximize retention and recruitment.

6.2 Develop a speeding and safety awareness campaign to reduce speeding incidents.

6.3 Create staffing capacity and implement programs that reduce community risk.

6.4 Develop an action plan to review implementation options for Sheriff's Office Staffing Plan, and, based upon the completed Fire and Rescue Department facility assessment and standards of cover, address the needs of the department's physical infrastructure to have modern-day facilities no later than 2030.

7. EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE WITH TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Definition: Stafford County works together to provide a responsive, customer-focused experience and deliver common sense approaches to policies and services for our community.

7.1 Evaluate and propose Board support options that focus on community outreach and communication.

7.2 Continue to improve and implement employee engagement activities that promote and enhance customer service, retention and recruitment centered around our values.

7.3 Embrace new tools to identify and support leadership and succession throughout the organization.

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