SERVE THE ISLE



Provide a high standard of living for citizens by safeguarding public, economic and environmental health and safety through reliable law enforcement, superior fire and emergency services, sustainable drinking water, effective wastewater and solid waste management, efficient energy production, and by providing superior parks and recreational opportunities.



SERVE THE ISLE

The focus of this chapter is on maintaining the County's above average quality of life by maintaining the service levels of the County's community facilities and public services. The community feedback received during the public forums identified improved public safety and emergency services, public health, environmental protection, parks, and recreational opportunities among its top priorities for the future.



Successful implementation of the goal is achieved by establishing objectives for the following services, including:

- Public Safety (law enforcement);
- Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services;
- Water Supply;
- Wastewater Management;
- Solid Waste Management;
- General Government Administration;
- Energy Production; and
- Parks and Recreation.

The Plan will identify existing conditions of these services as well as future potential issues based on the County's projected growth and recommended future land use plan.

Public Safety

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Isle of Wight Sheriff's Office is the primary law enforcement agency for the County. The Sheriff's Office receives some support from the Virginia State Police Division 5. State police maintain patrols within the County and assist with providing traffic enforcement, investigating traffic accidents, providing backup to the Sheriff's Office personnel, investigative assistance, and other support as needed.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC FORUMS

PUBLIC FORUM 1
WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY IN THE FUTURE?

- "Strain on law enforcement/ fire department due to increase in new housing"
- "Development too rapid for infrastructure support"
- "Land preservation for recreation and open space opportunities"

The Sheriff's Office has also established mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions in emergency situations. Despite having half the national average number of officers for its population size, the Office continues to achieve a five to eight minute average response time as well as meet other obligations, such as investigating crimes, providing court services, serving warrants and performing school checks. In addition to law enforcement responsibilities, the Sheriff's Office oversees the daily operations of the County's emergency dispatch center. The agency received accredited status through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) in 2014.

In addition to the headquarters building based at the County Courthouse Complex, the Sheriff's Office recently established a new satellite office at the Carrollton Fire Department on Carrollton Boulevard which is located in the most populated area of the County with the highest demand for service. The Office has also recently completed a renovation to the emergency dispatch center allowing them to grow from four dispatch positions to six to accommodate future increases in call volume.

Since 2008, the number of full-time sworn officers has grown from 35 to 51, increasing the ratio from 1.18 to 1.4 officers per thousand residents. Although there is no uniform standard for the recommended number of officers based on population size, the 2017 "Police Employee Report" published by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) found that County agencies reported an average of 2.8 officers per 1,000 inhabitants. Based on this report, the County has approximately half of the national average number of officers, or 1.4 officers per 1,000 residents.

The County's per capita 2017 crime rate (including violent and property crimes) of .024 crimes per capita is below the national average of .027 crimes per capita. Since the County's population is projected to increase over the next twenty years, an assessment should be performed on an annual basis of the agency's current and projected future workload to determine appropriate staffing levels in order to maintain the current level of service.

KEY FACTS AND TRENDS

- **Although current staffing levels are sufficient to cover current needs, future growth could create the need for additional staff to provide the same of level of service for the Sheriff's Office.**

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) AND FIRE PROTECTION

Fire and Emergency Services in Isle of Wight County are provided through a combination of a volunteer and career staff system. Services are delivered from five independent volunteer fire companies and two independent volunteer rescue squads.

The County currently has over 300 fire and rescue volunteers. The County Emergency Services Department provides full-time and part-time staffing support to many of the volunteer fire and rescue departments serving the County to ensure services are available to citizens in their time of need. The County has mutual aid agreements with surrounding jurisdictions, including the City of Franklin, the City of Suffolk, Southampton, and Surry County to provide assistance in emergency situations.

The County Emergency Services Department also provides disaster planning services and maintains the emergency alert system. The Department coordinated the planning and construction of the County's new 800 MHz public safety radio project in 2018, including six new communication towers with leasable co-location space.

The County has established a response time standard of ten minutes for at least 80% of calls within the Development Service Districts (DSDs) and a fourteen minute standard for at least 80% of calls for rural areas of the County outside of the DSDs. Crews responded to over 5,500 calls in 2018, representing an increase of 6.4% over 2017.

The last ten years since the 2008 Plan has seen an increase in paid staff support to the volunteer agencies, an expansion of the role of the Department of Emergency Services, an upgrade to the County's previously unreliable communication radio system, and a new Isle of Wight Rescue Squad building built in 2014.

The County's future growth will continue to place pressure on its network of EMS and fire service agencies to maintain an appropriate level of service, especially in the northern end of the County where the greatest amount of growth has historically occurred. This development trend is projected to continue with the Plan's recommended future land use plan. An increased focus of growth in the Windsor DSD is also recommended in the Plan.

The facility locations and their primary service area are illustrated by the maps below.

KEY FACTS AND TRENDS

- **The County's future population growth will place pressure on the ability of Fire and EMS to provide an appropriate level service as call volumes increase.**
- **The County should consider appropriate growth triggers for planning future fire and EMS facilities.**

Water Supply

The Public Utilities Division is responsible for providing a safe public water supply throughout the County. The County has a total of approximately 3,400 customers and owns twenty water systems, which is eight more than in 2008.

Approximately 80% of the drinking water systems in the County rely on groundwater. The primary water systems in both Windsor and Smithfield are also groundwater wells. The County obtained two permits for new wells in the Camptown DSD which it never built. As was the case in 2008, high fluoride levels and potential reliability of existing systems remain concerns for private groundwater systems in the County. As groundwater aquifers continue to shrink, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has curtailed the number of large groundwater well permits it issues and has even begun to mandate reductions in withdrawals of existing wells.

As recommended in the 2008 Comprehensive Plan, the County has continued to provide and plan for public water service extensions in the DSDs which serve as target areas for growth. By design, public water systems are very limited in the areas outside of the DSDs which are recommended for future agricultural and low density residential uses, thereby preserving the County's rural character and controlling public service costs.

The County recently completed the design of a new water line extending from Benn's Church Boulevard south along Route 10 to the City of Suffolk. The new line will provide redundancy with the existing line located on Route 17 helping to ensure continued water service in the case of an emergency.

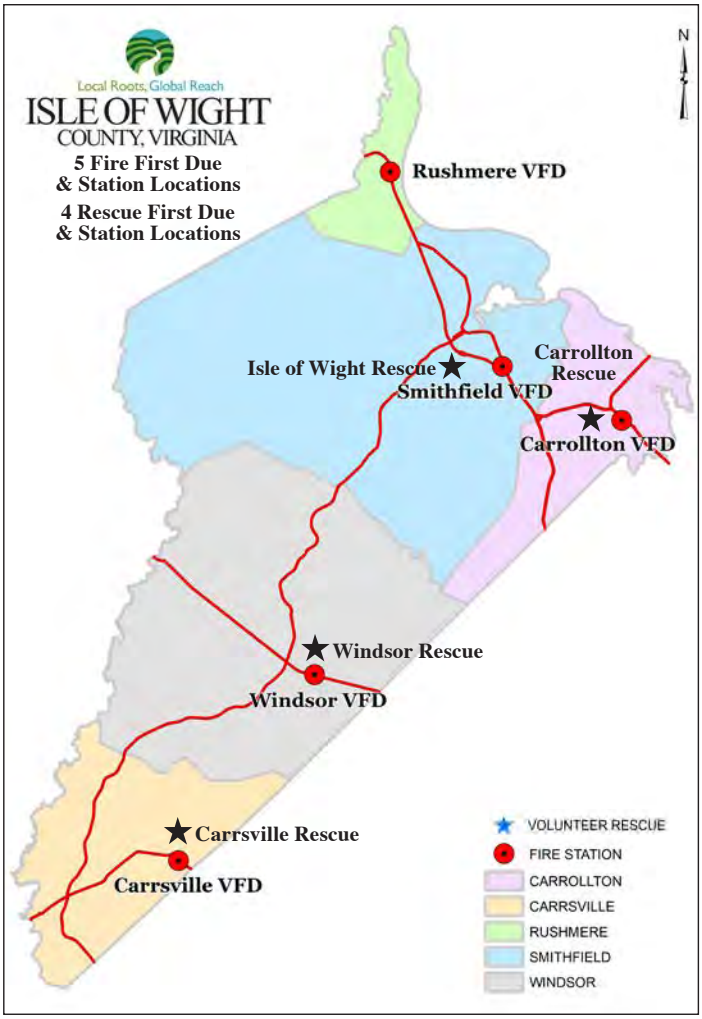
The County entered into a boundary line adjustment agreement with the Town of Smithfield in 2018 allowing the Town to incorporate a 184 acre area at its eastern boundary on Battery Park Road. In exchange, the County will sell water to the Town to serve the southern Route 10 corridor area within the Town limits. As the newly incorporated area develops, the Town will be able to provide service with the additional water supply capacity purchased from the County.

The County continues to purchase bulk water from the Town of Windsor to serve its existing customers in Shirley T. Holland Intermodal Park. As the Intermodal Park grows, the County will serve future growth with a new water line extension from the City of Suffolk. The County currently serves the Camptown DSD with water it purchases from the City of Franklin. The small amount of remaining capacity of Franklin's system may limit commercial and industrial growth in the area unless another source is identified.

In order to meet the water demand of future growth, the County entered into an agreement with the Western Tidewater Water Authority (WTWA) in 2006, which will grow the County's potable water supply to 6.75 million gallons per day by 2048. In order to finance the increased water supply from the WTWA agreement, the County's utility division seeks to increase its customer base by providing public water to new residential and commercial development as well as to the Shirley T. Holland Intermodal Park. The slowing of the County's population growth rate since the last decennial census together with improving water conservation practices has decreased revenues to help pay for the increased water supply.

KEY FACTS AND TRENDS

- **A future issue for the County's water supply will include the challenge of meeting the WTWA water supply costs.**
- **The shrinking availability of safe groundwater supplies remain a public health concern for the County.**
- **The continued problem of high fluoride levels and other health risks associated with private water systems may necessitate the development of an emergency water line extension policy for areas outside of the DSDs.**



Wastewater Management

Along with potable water, wastewater management is a critical component of ensuring the future public and environmental health of the County as well as providing for future economic development.

Although the County does not own any wastewater treatment plants, it does own a public sewer service system comprising of gravity sewer, force mains and pump stations in each of the three DSDs. The County owns 32 pump stations providing services to approximately 2,850 customers.

The County is a part of the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) which provides wastewater treatment at its Nansemond River Treatment Plant in Suffolk. HRSD provides treatment service for the Newport DSD and the Town of Smithfield. The Town of Windsor and Windsor DSD also utilize HRSD, while the Camptown DSD is served by the City of Franklin wastewater treatment plant.

HRSD is currently studying the feasibility of constructing a sewer line south along Route 10

between the Surry County and the existing service line in the Town of Smithfield. If this new sewer line is approved, the County should conduct a special land use study for the Route 10 corridor to guide potential future development.

The HRSD system possesses sufficient capacity to serve current and future growth needs in the Newport, Smithfield and Windsor areas of the County. The County has a cooperative agreement with the City of Franklin to discharge up to 330,000 gallons per day into the City of Franklin's wastewater system. Based on the current growth projections for the Camptown area, this is sufficient capacity to meet the needs of future growth over the next twenty years.

Future extensions of public wastewater service are implemented according to the County's Master Water and Sewer Plan. The current Master Water and Sewer Plan was approved in 2007 and is currently being updated. Well-conceived and properly implemented plans will not only ensure the success of the DSDs, they will ensure the proper distribution of services throughout the County.

Although most of the area within the DSDs and Towns are served by public sewer service, properties outside of these areas still rely on private wastewater treatment systems. As these systems increase in age, the prospect of failure and the resulting negative environmental and public health consequences are a future concern for the County. The 2007 Master Water and Sewer Plan identifies those areas of the County with documented private wastewater system challenges.

KEY FACTS AND TRENDS

- **The current Master Water and Sewer Plan is over twelve years old.**
- **There are existing failing septic systems within the boundaries of the DSDs.**

Solid Waste Management

The County provides a range of solid waste management activities consisting of waste reduction and diversion, litter recycling, processing, collection, transfer and disposal. The County's solid waste management services are coordinated by the Public Works Refuse Collection and Disposal Division. The Division oversees weekly curbside collection via a franchise agreement with a private contractor. The Towns of Smithfield and Windsor maintain similar yet separate franchise agreements for the collection for their residents; however, the County is responsible





for the disposal. The County serves over 2,000 single family residential units with curbside refuse collection service.

The Refuse Collection and Disposal Division provides additional efficiency to its program by the generation of revenue derived from the sale of recyclable materials. What cannot be recycled in the waste stream is then deposited in a regional landfill operated by the Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA).

SPSA handles all municipal solid waste generated in the cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach, and the counties of Isle of Wight and Southampton under Use and Support Agreements with each member community. The current Use and Support Agreement began January 25, 2018, with an expiration date of June 30, 2027. However, the Use and Support Agreement will automatically renew in 10-year increments unless a member community chooses to withdraw.

The SPSA Regional Landfill, located on 833 acres in the City of Suffolk, became operational in January 1985. The landfill consists of seven permitted cells and receives approximately 240 tons of waste per day. Four of the seven cells have reached existing permitted contour elevations and are no longer receiving waste. In its present configuration, the life expectancy of the is landfill is over twenty years dependent on the amount of waste disposed in the landfill.

As the County's population continues to increase, so does its waste stream. Over the last ten years, residential waste has trended upward from 15,178 to 18,000 tons per year. This trend is based upon an improving economy and additional residences. Future increases in tonnage can be expected as additional rooftops are added within the County.

The County operates eight full service refuse and recycling renters, which is an increase of three centers since 2008. The centers provide a combination of 20, 30, and 40-yard containers and compactors to take a variety of waste from residents. These centers



are conveniently located throughout the County. The centers receive waste from approximately 30,000 residents per month. Yard waste has also seen an increase at the Refuse and Recycling Centers. In 2018, the County implemented a more efficient disposal option for yard waste that decreased the transportation cost. Residential Household Hazardous waste, also known as (HHW) waste, is also collected at the centers. There is a significant cost associated with providing this service for County residents. Several steps have been put in place to make this operation more efficient and environmentally friendly. Curbside collection is available through a franchise agreement with Bay Disposal for an additional fee. All new residential developments are required to have curbside solid waste collection.

SPSA operates a refuse transfer station on Foursquare Road under a land lease arrangement with the County and is designed to handle 150 tons of waste daily. In 2019, the transfer station is averaging 67 tons per day at a cost of $59 per ton to dispose of it in the SPSA landfill. This transfer station is used by Isle of Wight residents for residential waste disposal and contributes approximately 68 tons of waste per month.

The County continues to participate in recycling by providing recycling containers at each of its convenience centers. The sustainability of recycling in the future is uncertain. Due to the decrease in markets and the stringent quality criteria for recyclables, the cost of recycling has drastically increased. Over the last five years, commingled recycling markets have changed from paying for recyclables to charging for them. The cost of sorting has increased labor costs associated with this process which further decreases any cost savings from recycling. In the last two years, Isle of Wight County's cost has increased from zero to $10 per ton. The projection for the 2019 budget is $60 per ton. If costs continue to increase, the recycling program will be in serious jeopardy. This may become more of an issue in the future if more markets close.

Although the Towns and the County provide curbside service through a private contract, the majority of residents outside the DSDs still rely on the County's convenience centers for refuse disposal. The County has undertaken improvements recently to its eight convenience centers to increase capacity and improve flow. As demand for these services increase, the County may have to assess the need for future centers as well as increased staffing.

KEY FACTS AND TRENDS

- **The County's increasing population will have a substantial impact on the County's waste disposal system.**
- **A future challenge for the community will be to efficiently meet the increased refuse and recycling needs for its growing population.**

General Government Administration

The County owns or leases buildings for administration departments, constitutional officers, the court system, the Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, the Smithfield-Isle of Wight Tourism Office, and the Department of Social Services which contributes state revenues for the building through its Central Cost Allocation Plan. As of 2019, the County owns over 450 facilities.

As of July 2018, the County currently has 225 full-time employees and 171 part-time employees. The number of full-time employees has remained unchanged since July 2011. The County also has many volunteers who assist County residents in tourism, emergency services, law enforcement, the libraries, and the animal shelter, thereby increasing the efficiency of County revenues. Currently, the County does not track the total number of volunteers or their overall financial impact.

Numerous facilities have been constructed, purchased, improved, or leased since the County's previous Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2008.

The most notable of these facilities include:

- A new, 6,820 square foot animal shelter in 2010 with 39 dog kennels and 30 cat kennels to replace the existing 1,858 square foot shelter building with 24 dog kennels and 24 cat kennels that was built in the 1950's.



- The new 17,700 square foot Isle of Wight Volunteer Rescue Squad Building in 2014 to replace the former 7,000 square foot facility built in 1985.
- The newly renovated former Sentara Medical Building at 919 South Church Street purchased by the County in 2015 to create new office space and better meet future space needs for the Health Department.
- The new silver LEED certified 46,347 square foot Young-Laine courts building in 2010. The building houses three courtrooms, including circuit, general district, and juvenile and domestic relations courts. It also houses the Commonwealth's Attorney's office, clerk offices for the aforementioned courts, and a records room.
- The former pottery building at Nike Park converted in 2018 to meet office space needs for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Many of the buildings utilized by the County for public purposes contribute to the historic and community character of the County. Their continued renovation and maintenance help to preserve these historic structures and reduce the cost burden on taxpayers to meet space needs as the County grows. Where existing buildings are not available for expansion, renovation or adaptive reuse to fulfill space needs, then new sites should be identified and carefully planned to serve multiple needs and to be compatible with existing community character.

A capital impact study and space needs assessment can help identify future facility and staffing needs. Planning for facility needs and implementation through a capital improvements plan can assist in meeting demands.

KEY FACTS AND TRENDS

- **As population growth and service demands increase, the local government staff and facilities may also need to expand to continue providing a satisfactory level of service.**
- **The County should consider appropriate growth triggers and space needs for planning future facilities.**

Community Energy

Isle of Wight County's energy needs are primarily met by three electrical companies and a private natural gas provider. Dominion Virginia Energy supplies electricity to most of Isle of Wight County, including multi-phased power to most industrial sites. Portions of south and central Isle of Wight are served by Community Electric Cooperative, while Franklin Municipal Power and Light serves the southern portion of the County in the area of the Camptown DSD. Natural gas is supplied by Columbia Gas of Virginia.

There are no power generation facilities within the County. Natural gas is supplied by multistate pipelines originating from the Gulf of Mexico. Although there is adequate supply of natural gas to meet future residential growth, an uninterruptable supply of natural gas to meet the needs of future commercial and industrial users is dwindling. This is due to the constraints of existing infrastructure in the natural gas supply chain. The decreasing supply and increasing demand for natural gas has led to several efforts to build new gas pipelines into the Hampton Roads region.

Renewable sources of energy utilized by County property owners primarily consist of small wind turbines or solar panel systems that supply individual homes or businesses. As of March 2019, the County has approved three utility scale solar energy generation facilities, also known as solar farms. The electricity generated from these facilities is used by Dominion Virginia Energy to sell to large customers elsewhere in the state. Because there are no local electrical generation facilities to receive the electrical power generated by these solar farms, County electrical consumers do not directly monetarily benefit from the location of these energy sources.

Due to continued emphasis on the development of sources of renewable energy and the County's supply of large tracts of reasonably priced agricultural land and existing electrical distribution infrastructure, the County continues to be a prime location for potential solar energy facilities. As the number of these facilities increases, there is also an increasing number of concerns expressed by members of the community on the potential loss of agricultural lands, visual impacts, use of toxic materials in the panels, the potential for groundwater and soils contamination, and decommissioning criteria for returning the site to its pre-existing conditions.

Because of the size of such uses, a solar facility can change the character of an area and the nature of and suitability of that area for future development. The

Code of Virginia (§15.2-2232) provides for a review by the Planning Commission of public utility facility proposals to determine if their general or approximate location, character and extent are substantially in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan. Based on the priorities established in the *Envisioning the Isle* public forums, the following is a list of potential location considerations for large solar facilities to help ensure their compatibility with the community's future vision:

- Research appropriate target density parameters for future facilities to mitigate the impacts related to the scale of these facilities;
- Set a maximum percent usage of assembled property to mitigate impacts to habitat, soil erosion, and stormwater runoff;
- Require facilities to be located adjacent or close to existing electric transmission lines;
- Require facilities be located outside of DSDs;
- Avoid or minimize impact to prime farmland or farmlands of statewide importance as defined by the USDA and Commonwealth of Virginia, respectively; and
- Facilities should be located outside of the viewshed of any scenic, cultural, or recreational resources (i.e., solar facilities may not be seen from surrounding points that are in line-of-sight with a resource location) or within the Highway Corridor Overlay district.

Solar energy generation facilities are included as a major utility service use type in the County Zoning Ordinance which requires a conditional use permit in all of its zoning districts, except for Planned Development Industrial Park, where it is permitted by right. The County Planning Commission has identified potential requirements that could be included as conditions for a solar farm facility conditional use permit approval. An alternative action would be to add these items to the existing supplementary use criteria for major utility services specific to solar farms in the County Zoning Ordinance.

KEY FACTS AND TRENDS

- **The County has no energy generation or supply facilities, and therefore the community's energy supply and pricing are controlled by forces beyond its direct influence.**
- **Energy conservation efforts can provide insulation from, and reduce the community's vulnerability to, volatile energy pricing.**



Parks and Recreation

Access to parks, recreation, trails, and open space enhances the livability of a community and contributes to the well-being of its residents. These amenities provide a variety of opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy both active and passive activities, while also helping to preserve open space, wildlife habitat, and natural resources.

During the *Envisioning the Isle* public input process, community members identified a future where a wide variety of recreational opportunities are available through a diverse system of parks, trails, and open spaces. This system would be distributed throughout the community and easily accessible from all neighborhoods. It includes not only developed parks, but open spaces to protect natural resources that the community holds in high regard.

The County's Department of Parks and Recreation manages the community's recreational facilities as well as maintains its parks, open spaces, landscaped areas and grounds for all County-owned property. The Department implements programs, classes and special events, and works with the Isle of Wight County Fair Committee to produce the annual County Fair.

As of the spring of 2019, the County maintains 3,000 acres of parkland, or about 80 acres per 1,000 residents. According to the National Recreation and Park Association, the national average is approximately 10 acres per 1,000 residents. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standards are general national standards that local Parks and Recreation Departments use as a general starting point to guide their facility plans. The Department proposed a new master plan in its Fiscal Year 2020 budget. A comparison of how County facilities measure up to NRPA standards is included in the chart.

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES

FACILITY	NRPA STANDARDS	ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY
FIELDS		
ADULT BASEBALL	1/12,000	1/19,000
YOUTH BASEBALL/GIRLS SOFTBALL		1/9,000
ADULT SOFTBALL	1/5,000	1/19,000
FOOTBALL	1/10,000	N/A
ADULT SOCCER	1/10,000	1/7,000
YOUTH SOCCER	N/A	1/4,000
COURTS		
BASKETBALL (INDOOR)	1/5,000	1/38,000
BASKETBALL (OUTDOOR)	1/5,000	1/12,000
TENNIS	1/2,000	1/6,000
VOLLEYBALL	1/5,000	1/38,000
SHUFFLEBOARD	N/A	1/38,000
HORSESHOE	N/A	1/19,000
OUTDOOR AREAS		
PICNIC SHELTERS	N/A	1/12,000
PLAYGROUNDS	N/A	1/4,000
TRAILS	1/REGION	1M/1,000
CAMPING	N/A	N/A
ARCHERY	1/50,000	N/A
SPECIALIZED		
COMMUNITY CENTER	1/20,000	1/19,000
SWIMMING POOLS	1/20,000	N/A
GOLF COURSE	1/25,000	N/A
BICYCLING		
URBAN	N/A	3 MILES
RURAL TOURING	N/A	2.5 MILES
CANOEING		
STREAM MILEAGE	N/A	1 MILE
STREAM ACCESS	N/A	4 SITES
SKATEBOARD SITE	N/A	1/38,000
IN-LINE SKATING	N/A	N/A
IN-LINE HOCKEY RINKS	N/A	N/A
AMPHITHEATERS	N/A	N/A

The County currently operates eight park sites with developed facilities. The County has two additional facilities which are currently undeveloped, including Henry H. Bradby Park and the Blackwater Forest Preserve. The Blackwater Forest Preserve makes up 2,500 acres out of the total 3,000 acres of County park land. In March 2019, a task force made up of private citizens and County staff developed use recommendations for the Preserve which was acquired by the County in 2010.

The task force recommended multiple uses of the park, including the following:

- Hunting,
- Hiking,
- Fishing,
- Biking,
- Paddling,
- Horseback riding,
- Bird and wildlife viewing, and
- Rare plant viewing.

Facilities within the developed parks include three boat ramp facilities, nine playgrounds, four softball fields, six outdoor tennis courts, three outdoor basketball courts, 24 soccer fields, four picnic shelters, two picnic areas, a 2.5 mile mountain bike trail, one memorial tree garden, a thirty acre fairground facility, a skateboard park, three adapted army buildings used for programming and rentals, and one community center. The County has initiated a trail program, consisting of six miles of trails both completed

KEY FACTS AND TRENDS

- **Although the County has adequate park land for its population, much of it remains undeveloped and inaccessible.**
- **The County currently has no public swimming pools, golf courses, or equestrian trails.**

and under construction. These trails provide both recreation opportunities and transportation links throughout the community.

In addition to County-owned facilities, the County partners with other agencies and localities to augment recreational opportunities to serve the entire community. The Town of Smithfield has its own Parks and Recreation Department which includes Windsor Castle Park consisting of 208 acres of park land, 3.8 miles of walking trails, a fishing pier, a kayak launch, a mountain bike path, picnic facilities, playground, and several historical buildings available for event rentals. The new Luter Sports Complex completed in 2018 has one football and soccer field and four baseball and softball fields. In addition, there is a .25 mile track around the football and soccer field. The design of the facility can accommodate regular season games as well as tournaments. The Town has entered into a long term lease of this facility to the Smithfield Athletic Association with limited opportunities for use by the County Parks and Recreation Department. The County also partners with the Isle of Wight County Schools to utilize indoor basketball courts for the youth basketball program. The County recently partnered with the Town of Windsor to assume management of the newly renovated Windsor Town Center which has indoor basketball courts, classroom space and meeting rooms.

The County does not have any public equestrian trails, swimming pools or golf courses. There are two private membership swimming pools and a private golf course where members of the public can pay to play a round or use the driving range.



POLICIES AND ACTIONS

"Serve the Isle" summarizes the community's vision for continuing its exceptional quality of life by maintaining the service levels of the County's community facilities and public services as identified by the community during the public forums. This goal has a set of policies that identify actions that provide the best course of action for regulations and procedures to achieve the goal. The final chapter of the Plan, "Create the Isle," establishes timeframes and responsible parties for the implementation of each action step.

POLICY	ACTION
The Isle of Wight County Sheriff's Office will continue its high quality public safety initiatives to maintain the County's low crime rate and exceptional level of community safety.	Annually evaluate population growth and demographic changes to effectively maintain services at the highest level.
	Develop level of service standards and criteria for initiating new capital improvement planning.
	Meet the appropriate response times for emergency calls.
	Evaluate new technological advances and programs to modernize public safety efforts and provide efficient and effective services in the most cost-effective manner.
	Direct resources to education and prevention programs, such as Neighborhood Crime Watches, that encourage residents to be proactive regarding personal property and share responsibility for community safety.

POLICY	ACTION
The County's EMS and Fire Protection network will continue its high level of service to ensure the health and safety of the County's residents and property.	Annually evaluate population growth and demographic changes to effectively maintain services at an appropriate level.
	Develop level of service standards and criteria for initiating planning efforts for new capital improvements.
	Respond to and prepare for continued increases in emergency and non-emergency medical responses, with consideration to the aging population, new senior living facilities, and the evolving socioeconomics of the County.
	Increase the use of joint or shared facilities between public safety and other County service providers, when possible, to provide residents with efficient services, reduce costs, and maintain public safety infrastructure.
The County will contribute to its high quality of life by ensuring an environmentally and financially sustainable source of clean drinking water and potential fire suppression to its citizens.	Continue to meet all drinking water quality standards per Virginia Department of Health regulations.
	Implement the goals in the County's Master Water and Sewer Plan and update every five years or as needed to prioritize and schedule projects for the Capital Improvement Plan according to future growth needs.
	Assess the County's existing and new water supply systems to determine fire suppression capability and develop recommendations for needed improvements.
	Develop a formal asset management program.
	Work with the Towns of Smithfield and Windsor to develop fully compatible facility specifications and water supply standards.
	Work with the Towns of Smithfield and Windsor to provide a stable source of potable water as the needs of the Towns increase as their population grows and the reliability of groundwater supplies diminish.
	Develop a policy that requires new development in the DSDs to connect to a public water system.
	Develop a small area plan for the Smith's Neck Road corridor to assess the future viability of private water systems.
	Develop an emergency water line extension policy for areas outside of the DSD which experience documented water system failure.

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POLICY	ACTION
The County will contribute to its high quality of life by ensuring public and environmental health and encouraging economic development with adequate sewage disposal.	Refer to the goals in the County's Master Water and Sewer Plan during development plan review and the County's own long range and capital planning efforts.
	Continue efforts to reduce sanitary sewer overflows in accordance with Special Order by Consent.
	Provide public sewer service to new residential and commercial development in the DSDs.
	Encourage collaboration with the private sector to provide integrated infrastructure in the most efficient way possible.
	Develop a formal asset management program.
	Assess areas with known and documented failing onsite wastewater systems within the DSDs and develop a plan to extend public wastewater service to these areas.
	Develop a small area plan for the Smith's Neck Road corridor to assess the future viability of private wastewater systems.
	Develop a policy that requires new development in the DSDs to connect to a public sewer system.
	Develop an emergency sewer line extension policy for areas outside of the DSD which experience documented septic system failure.
The County will continue to provide solid waste management to local residents and businesses in a reliable and cost-effective manner while being protective of both public health and the environment.	Continue to provide an integrated, cost-effective and environmentally sound solid waste disposal system for the residents of the County.
	Increase recycling participation through education of citizens and encouragement from our convenience center attendants.
	Identify waste reduction initiatives that could be implemented with the greatest potential for increasing waste stream diversion.
	Develop a social media presence and print media distribution with the focus of informing citizens and volunteers of pollution prevention and green initiative achievements within the Division.
The County will maintain its above average level of service to meet the needs of existing residents and future growth by assessing future needs and planning public facilities to control costs and preserve community character.	Commission a capital impact study and space needs assessment based on the community's desired level of service in order to plan for future public building space needs in a cost-efficient manner.
	Encourage adaptive reuse and shared use of community facilities by two or more departments or agencies.
	Coordinate expansion of facilities with the County's Comprehensive Plan to ensure they are strategically located to satisfy the demand prompted by future growth.
	Relocate County's Public Utilities Department's offices, vehicles, and equipment to a centralized utility yard on County-owned land near the center of the County or private property acquired in the future to fulfill unmet space needs and to maintain a satisfactory level of service.
	Track the total number of volunteer hours contributed to the County and their overall fiscal benefit to County operations.
	Design and develop public facilities, wherever possible, that take advantage of alternative energy sources and conserve energy in operations by incorporating LEED-STAR principles and practices.
	Perform a corridor study of Rt. 10 between Surry County and the Town of Smithfield, in conjunction with a possible Hampton Roads Sanitation District sewer line, to determine potential service impacts and land use opportunities.

POLICY	ACTION
Encourage progressive, alternative, and environmentally compatible energy production and conservation practices that support the local economy and supports the foundation of a rural and scenic atmosphere that contributes to the desirable quality of life in Isle of Wight County.	Ensure all major utility service use types mitigate any potential negative impacts to the character and future viability of surrounding land uses.
	Design and develop public facilities, wherever possible, that take advantage of alternative energy sources and conserve energy in operations.
	Encourage the design of the built environment through County plans and ordinances that incorporate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) or other accepted standards or achieve a minimum certification.
	Continue the expansion of the County's existing bicycle and trail network in accordance with the County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan to provide recreational opportunities, lessen reliance on the automobile and associated fuel costs, reduce pollution, and conserve energy.
	Review and revise regulations to encourage mixed-use zones to encourage working, living, and shopping in the same neighborhood that can result in energy conservation and local cost savings.
	Include a provision in the County's transportation plan to provide future public transit to the County's major employment and population centers in the DSDs to reduce energy consumption and expand transportation alternatives.
The County will develop and maintain a comprehensive system of park, trail, recreational, fitness, and sports facilities and programs that keeps pace with the its changing demographics, creates multiuse destinations, and improves the health, wellness, and morale of the citizens.	Prepare a County-wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan and update it every five years.
	Develop and maintain a comprehensive program of parks and recreation facilities based on the park classification system and master plan that includes current facilities and approximate locations for future facilities.
	Improve efficiency and cost effectiveness of providing certain programs and facilities through public/private partnerships and joint operations with other public entities, such as the two towns and Paul D. Camp Community College.
	Promote the shared use of community facilities by two or more departments or agencies in order to expand recreational opportunities.
	Continue to implement the County's Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan to enhance the trail network and create interconnectivity of neighborhoods, commercial areas and other places of interest where feasible.
	Identify and prioritize projects required to complete the park system for inclusion in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) fiscal year budget.
	Examine the impact of changing demographics and recreational needs on parks, facilities and programming through research of trends and gathering public feedback on an annual basis.
	Complete the renovation of Tyler's Beach Marina and develop a master plan for the facility.
	Plan and install an equestrian trail system for the County.
	Develop the Henry H. Bradby Park in accordance with the Master Plan.
	Implement initial programs for the Blackwater Forest Preserve in accordance with the Blackwater Task Force recommendations.
	Identify, solicit, and acquire grant funding to enhance the County's adult and youth recreational programs and facilities.
	Continue to improve access to parks, trails, and other facilities in order to serve all citizens, regardless of ability.