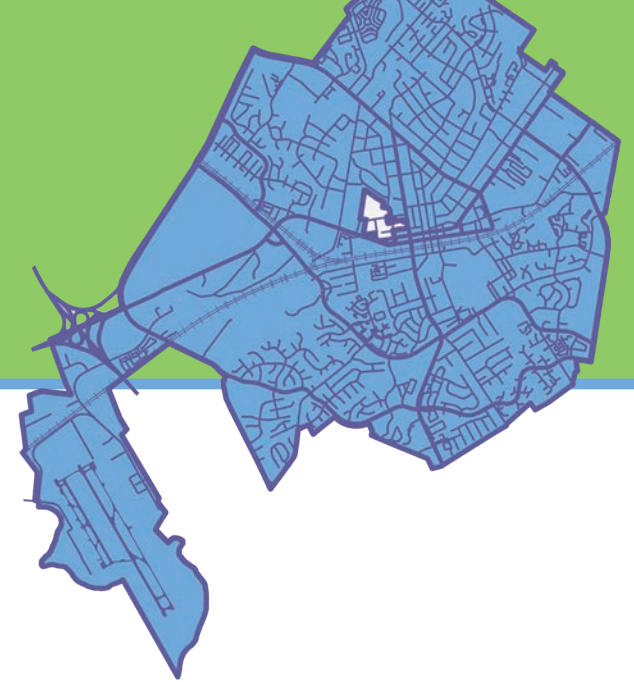


Community Vitality



We will be a City that celebrates and promotes the safety, diversity and character of our community, working together to build pride in our neighborhoods.

Why it matters

In 2018, a majority of City residents rated the City as an excellent place to live but identified concerns with the affordability of housing as well as safety and security in neighborhoods. The citizen survey respondents also questioned whether or not the City was satisfactory as a place to retire. Data from the 2020 U.S. Census shows that the City's population is aging, with the 65 plus population increasing from 7% to 9% while 37% of the City's housing was built prior to 1980 and not adequately designed for residents with reduced mobility or special needs. In

addition, a recent housing study prepared for the City's comprehensive plan update showed that 29% of owners and 57% of renters spent more than 30% of their income on housing. In April, 2023 the City will be 150 years old and as a mature city increased focus on existing neighborhoods and paying attention to the details of new housing should be an important consideration.





Goal 1

Increase the supply of quality housing options that serve people with diverse and unique needs by working with private developers on new construction and encouraging private investment and renovation of existing older homes.

Objectives

- 1.1** Foster a balance of high quality and attractive new housing types through the development process to serve an increasingly diverse population.
- 1.2** Encourage private investment and renovation of existing older homes.
- 1.3** Increase the number of residents that own their own homes and reduce the number of renters and homeowners who are cost burdened (spending more than 30% of their income on housing.)

1.4 Expand housing options with universal design options for City residents that would like to age-in-place and have differing abilities.

Success Measures

- 1.** The percentage of residents who are satisfied with the availability of quality housing will rise in the 2022 citizen survey from 47% to 55%.
- 2.** The number of residents who own their own homes will grow 5% over the next five years.

3. The percentage of cost burdened residents will decrease 5% over the next five years.

4. The number of property owners who take advantage of the City's residential rehabilitation and reinvestment programs will grow 10% over the next five years.



Goal 2

Work with individual neighborhoods to preserve and promote the unique character of all of the City's neighborhoods including each neighborhood's authentic history.

Objectives

2.1 Engage neighborhood leaders to identify and partner on the completion of projects that will enhance neighborhood identity at entryways.

2.2 Develop neighborhood profiles with local residents and community groups that identify the unique character of neighborhoods and tell their histories for the City's 150th anniversary of its founding in 1873.

2.3 Develop and install signage for a new history walking/driving tour by Spring 2023 from Liberty Street along Prince William Street to the Jennie Dean Memorial to focus on African American history of Manassas and the development history of the South side of the railroad tracks.

Success Measures

1. Total number of new or renovated neighborhood entryways.
2. Total number of neighborhood profiles completed and published in anticipation of the City's 150th anniversary in April, 2023.
3. Completion of the African American History Walking/Driving tour by Spring 2023.

Goal 3

Ensure that all neighborhoods have access to attractive and safe gathering spaces, parks and trails.

Objectives

- 3.1** Identify physical spaces within neighborhoods for community gatherings such as block parties and picnics that may also encourage informal meet ups.
- 3.2** Foster the increased use of parks and trails within individual neighborhoods.
- 3.3** Continue identifying and completing infill trail and sidewalk projects that connect neighborhoods to each other, commercial districts and regional parks.

Success Measures

- 1.** Number of lane miles added to the City's bike and trail network.
- 2.** Number of neighborhood common spaces identified for the next update of the parks needs assessment and added within five years.
- 3.** Completion of projects identified in the City's CIP including the Quarry Street Sidewalk Infill (T-087), Godwin Drive Bike Trail (T-059), Gateway Boulevard Sidewalk/Trail (T-0830, and Wellington road Shared-Use Path Gap (T-088).





Goal 4

Enhance the community identity appearance and safety of older neighborhoods.

Objectives

- 4.1** Identify neighborhoods that require new capital investment to enhance community appearance and improve safety.
- 4.2** When designing infrastructure projects in aging neighborhoods, coordinate improvements and identify opportunities to enhance neighborhood curb appeal during the design and construction process.
- 4.3** Increase targeted Police and community partnerships based on ongoing analysis to identify community safety and security concerns and trends.

Success Measures

- 1.** Downward trend in neighborhood crime statistics.
- 2.** Number of neighborhood problems identified and resolved.
- 3.** CIP projects identified and completed.

Goal 5

Improve citizen satisfaction with the City as a place to live and overall sense of community.

Objectives

5.1 Invest in public spaces to enhance community connections through recreation, arts and cultural events, and other activities.

5.2 Enhance community involvement in planning and government decision making through continued use of citizen surveys and community conversations, and identify new ways to promote inclusivity and diversity.

5.3 Increase the number of positive interactions City departments have with members of the community.

Success Measures

- 1.** Turn-out and community feedback of events such as department open houses, National Night Out and community conversations that are actually held in the community (i.e. Coffee with a Cop, Farmers Market, HOA get-togethers, etc.)
- 2.** Percentage of residents that rate the City as an excellent place to live will continue trending upward.

