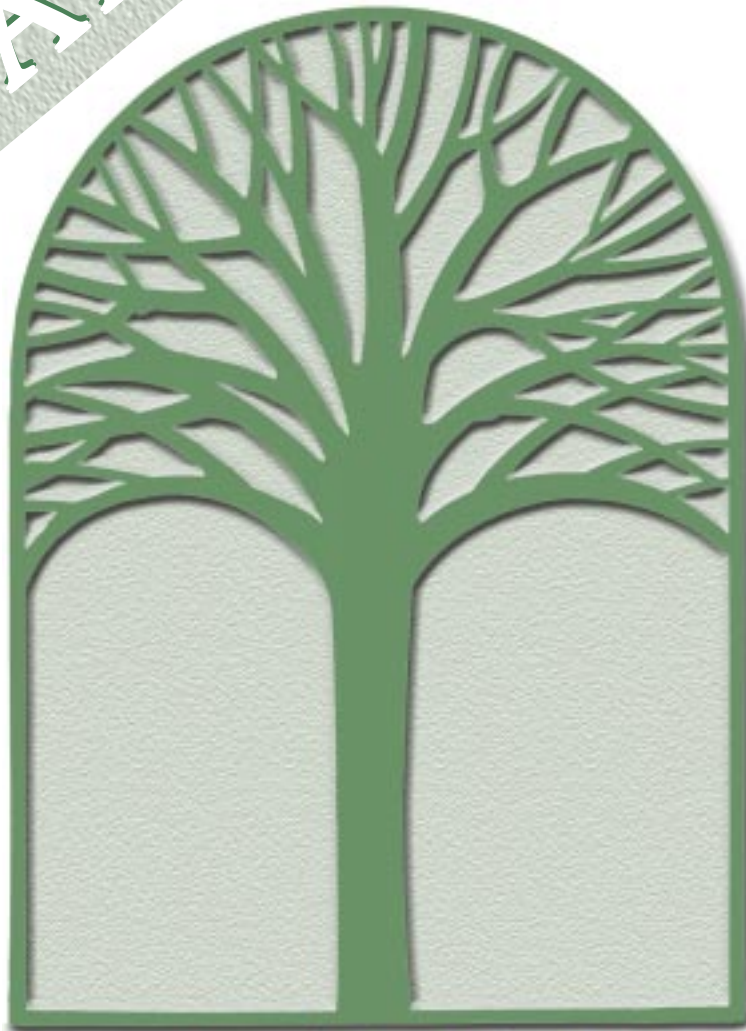


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Framework For The Future

Newport News Department of Planning and Development
Newport News City Planning Commission
November, 2000

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PREFACE
TO THE
Framework for the Future Update

The *Framework for the Future* was adopted by the City Council on November 23, 1993 as the City's new comprehensive plan.¹ The adoption followed one year of work sessions and public hearings by the City Council and a recommendation for adoption by the City Planning Commission on November 18, 1992, after its five public hearings.

In 1997 the Update of the *Framework for the Future* began. The Code of Virginia requires the City to review its comprehensive plan every five years. City Council asked that the *Framework Update* proceed using the same citizen based process and citizens task forces that were instrumental in preparing the initial *Framework for the Future*.

Each community must decide for itself what its values and priorities are and what kind of future it hopes for and commits to. The *Framework for the Future* and this *Update* was prepared by five citizen task forces that were coordinated and led by an oversight committee. This process of deliberation represents much of the three years that the citizen task forces and City representatives invested in the *Framework Update* process. It is a community derived, consensus document which reflects our citizens' coordinated visions concerning the economic, physical, and social development of Newport News. Its preparation was assisted by the professional staff of the City, and coordinated by the Department of Planning and Development.

As the City's comprehensive plan the *Framework for the Future* serves as a general guide for the future development of the City in ac-

cord with Section 15.2-2232 of the Virginia Code. It is the City Council's intent that proposed land uses within the City and the policies for allowing changes to land uses be viewed in the context of the *Framework for the Future*. It is also the intent of the City Council that the *Framework for the Future* will provide a context for the development and implementation of specific City policies in the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning District Map, the Capital Improvements Program as well as other formal methods of implementing City policy.

But this document is broader in scope. It serves as the foundation for the City's strategic plan. It sets forth policies and coordinated actions to achieve stated goals concerning both the physical development and the community services of the City. As such, it contains a vision of the City as it ought to be. Nevertheless, the document itself shall not be interpreted to impose inflexible requirements guiding future actions of this or any other City Council.

Finally, it was the intent of the City Council that the *Framework for the Future* undergo regular review and revision in order to conform to the changing needs of the City and its citizens. Such review and revision shall be accomplished using an open and public process to include public hearings before the Planning Commission and the City Council.²

¹ City Council Resolution No. 7498-93, November 23, 1993.

² Ibid.

In this *Framework Update* changes to the goals, policies, strategies and implementation recommendations are identified by italics or strike-outs. Italicized text signifies new or revised language, while strike-outs indicate deleted text.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

The process of community planning is by its very nature a process of growth management. During the preparation of the *Framework for the Future* some task force members asked that the *Framework* have a stronger emphasis on growth management. Some others interpreted growth management to mean no growth at all. The *Framework* allows a moderate rate of growth to continue and does not express a no growth position. The City now faces build out of its vacant land. Less than nine percent of the City's land is vacant. Therefore, redevelopment will play a prominent role in the City's future; and, the *Framework for the Future's* focus is on improving the City and its residential neighborhoods, achieving high quality and attractive redevelopment and creating mixed use, pedestrian oriented, centers served by transit.

A STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic planning has been a popular expression of urbanists for many years. The reader of this document will notice that goals and objectives are stated in an organized form at the end of each chapter. These statements represent the *Framework's* participation in the strategic planning process. In addition, the strategic plan of our City also includes the multi-year Capital Improvements Program and the Annual Work Plan of City Council. The *Framework* will be implemented over time using the normal resources available to the City, e.g. the general fund, the capital improvements program, state and federal grants, etc.

Just as our City reviews the Capital Improvements Plan and its Work Program on an annual basis, the Planning Commission will monitor progress being made on goals and objectives of the *Framework for the Future* in an annual report to City Council and the community. In this way the *Framework* can remain a vibrant part of the strategic planning process.

PARTICIPATION

Many people and organizations contributed, in small and large degrees, to the development of the *Framework for the Future*. All of the accumulated wisdom and work that is represented in this document can be a strong influence on the future of our City if the people and organizations of Newport News have an abiding interest and active participation in the continuing *Framework* process.

It is difficult to mention the contributions of a few individuals, since many individuals took an active role in the process. Their roles are attributed in the Acknowledgments Chapter of this Update.

We thank the many citizens and employees of the City, the Oversight Committee, the Planning District Task Forces and Youth Task Force members who, over the years, have invested in the future of the City by steadfastly participating in the process called the *Framework for the Future*.

Dr. James R. Hines, Chairman,
Oversight Committee of the *Framework for
the Future*

Brian W. Caro, Chairman
Newport News Planning Commission

Paul F. Miller, Director,
City of Newport News
Department of Planning and Development