

CHAPTER 6 – PUBLIC FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses Lancaster County public facilities, infrastructure and related services, which are developed and maintained with private, County, State and Federal revenues. Special emphasis is given to facilities and services provided at the county level. Details about any specific area are general--in accordance with Virginia Code for Comprehensive Plans, i.e. ... “shall be general in nature in that it shall designate the general or approximate location, character and extent of each feature shown on the plan ...”

The information and plans provided in this chapter will assist the County by identifying public facilities and services required in the future to accommodate a changing and growing population. The plan will provide policies and guidance concerning the County’s intent to provide services of a particular type, and will be of great value to private, as well as, public agencies that operate separately from the County government.

B. HIGHWAYS

Lancaster County is served by a network of primary and secondary roads that are maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). There are no Federal Primary roads in Lancaster County. Except for a few privately owned roads and resident streets, VDOT operates and maintains all public road systems in the Commonwealth of Virginia. New secondary roads may be built as part of a private development and later included into the State System if they are planned and constructed to VDOT standards and meet service requirements for state-maintained roads.

There are two State plans for roads, one for the primary system and one for the secondary system. The State places high priority on traffic consideration when planning improvements to all existing public roads. However, as VDOT prepares its plan for major highway improvements, Lancaster County is offered the opportunity to review priorities on the widening of roads and improvement of bridges located within the County. Each system has its own planning cycle and in order for the County to introduce planning priorities it must do so at the proper time within each planning cycle. The timing of these improvements can be influenced through sound County planning, and knowledge of local use.

This section of the comprehensive plan focuses on the potential need for improving a network of roads that best meets the traffic circulation needs of different areas of the County.

1. Major Roads Identified

Twenty-four-hour traffic volumes provide the clearest understanding of which roads carry predominant traffic in Lancaster County. The VDOT prepares traffic counts on most state roads on a continuing basis. (Traffic Volume map is a graphic illustration of the daily volumes of vehicles on the primary roads.)

As of traffic counts conducted in 2005, Route 3 carries an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) count of 10,000 vehicles. The AADT for Route 200 between Kilmarnock, Irvington and White Stone is 6,800, and the AADT for Route 354 along most of its distance is 2,300. These three primary roads provide major circulation within the County's economic corridor and also connect the County with Northumberland, Richmond and Middlesex Counties.

Secondary roads, shown on the map with traffic flow above 500 AADT, extend traffic service from the primary routes to areas with concentrations of residential development, agriculture or marine activities. Brief observations are appropriate for specific roads. Between Lively and Heathsville, Route 201 has traffic volumes that are below that normally expected on a Primary Road, but instead carries traffic at about the same level as a secondary road. This is a reflection of its physical condition because the distance from Kilmarnock to Heathsville over the 3/600/201 route combinations is about the same as it is over routes 200 and 360. Traffic naturally follows routes that are in the best condition. However, the segment of Route 201 between Route 3 (at Lively) and Route 354 is properly classed as a Primary Road. It serves as the main route for people living along and near Route 354 to travel to the east and southeast sections of the county.

Most other roads with traffic above 500 vehicles per day serve major areas of development or serve as corridors through rural areas. In general, these roads will continue to serve as feeder routes to developing areas and some of poor quality will warrant a high priority for future improvements.

2. General Road Plan

The General Road Plan for Lancaster County is a significant part of the Comprehensive Plan that will serve as a valuable guide to the County for purposes of identifying the County's priorities for road improvements.

a. Four-Lane Primary Road

VA 3: This is the central traffic corridor of the County and serves as the major conduit for traffic moving into, through and out of the County. It now has two, four-lane segments: one segment connects White Stone and Kilmarnock; the second segment extends from mid-Kilmarnock NW about 1.5 miles. Preliminary Engineering is in progress to extend this NW segment an additional 3.3 miles (4.8 total) to Lancaster Courthouse. The County's primary strategy for VA 3 includes completion of all segments as a four-lane road in order to establish a safe and

efficient traffic corridor through the County. Also, such a corridor would help attract the market base that exists to the NW in Richmond County and to the SW in Middlesex County.

Where Route 3 passes through towns and villages, attempts will be made to coordinate improvements with the local need for traffic management in order to minimize interference between local and through traffic. This is a particular factor in Kilmarnock where on-street parking competes with through traffic. A similar, but less critical, problem exists in White Stone. Kilmarnock has taken steps to address this problem by adding new off-street parking since 2004.

b. Two-lane Primary Roads

VA 354: This route is unique in that it begins (at VA 3, near Chinns Pond) and ends (near Bertrand, at the banks of the Corrotoman River) in Lancaster County. Yet, VA 354 provides access to a notable segment of the county's population and portions of it are similar in VPD to VA 3. It serves as a feeder route for approximately 20 secondary routes and several adjacent villages. Many of these secondary routes access sizable developments along the Rappahannock or Corrotoman Rivers. Other secondary routes connect to another secondary route, which in turn serve dwellings located near these rivers. Also, several businesses are located adjacent to VA 354, and secondary roads stemming from VA 354 serve other businesses. It provides primary access to a viable seafood industry that has existed for decades along the banks of the Rappahannock River and its tributaries, and to a number of summer dwellings. In addition, appreciable agricultural and timberlands flank both sides of VA 354 for its entire length, and it is the major access route for these industries. VA 354 is the feeder road for VA 683 (now built to Primary Road Standards) leading to the 708-acre Belle Isle State Park. This park is rapidly developing, and traffic will increase as more new facilities are constructed and the public is attracted to its many recreational opportunities. Accordingly, VA 354 will warrant a high priority position in the Comprehensive Plan.

VA 200: This route links Irvington to Kilmarnock and serves as a major route leading to Northumberland County and thus to villages and towns to the North and East. VA 200 is the second most traveled and perhaps the second most important economic corridor in the county, carrying slightly less traffic than route VA 3. It is also a feeder route via VA 3 to locations south of the Rappahannock River. Traffic will increase substantially on the segment of VA 200 that connects Kilmarnock and Irvington as the 470-acre Merry Point Development continues to build out. Therefore, this segment will warrant four-lane consideration as development expands along this corridor.

Like VA 3, VA 200 links the County with outside markets and will become more important to the economy of the County in the future. Past improvements, such as

the bridge over the Great Wicomico River, demonstrate that VDOT places a high priority on Route 200. Accordingly, it warrants a very high priority in the County's comprehensive plan.

VA 201: Although classified as a primary road, the segment between VA 3 at Lively and the Northumberland/Lancaster County Boundary is much less traveled than Route 200. In terms of VPD and condition, this segment of VA 201 is similar to a secondary road. However, the segment extending from VA 3 at Lively to VA 354 has a much higher VPD rating and is superior in construction to the remaining segments. It serves as a major artery for traffic enroute to Lively, Lancaster and other towns and villages located to the East and SE of the county. Attempts will be made to place maintenance of this road at a medium to high level of priority in the Comprehensive Plan.

c. Feeder Secondary Roads

These are secondary roads that serve as feeder roads to developed areas and primary circulation routes throughout rural areas of the County. They are identified on the Highway Plan as: (1) "existing collector roads," namely those running from one of the central corridor roads; and (2) "new collector roads" added to complete traffic circulation.

3. Planned Highway Improvements by VDOT

a. Primary Road System

VA 3: Four-lane extension beginning 1.5 miles NW of Kilmarnock and ending 4.8 miles NW of Kilmarnock, near Lancaster. Preliminary Engineering has been completed and right of way secured. However, further efforts are pending funding.

b. Secondary System

It is the desire of this community that all secondary improvement projects, both privately and publicly funded, be harmonious with the community and preserve aesthetics, history and environmental resources while integrating these innovative approaches with traditional transportation goals for safety and performance. Therefore, the design process should include community involvement using the AASHTO Green Book entitled, "*Policy on the Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*", with additional guidance provided by the Federal Highway Administration's manual entitled, "*Flexibility in Design*". The intent of this approach is to provide guidance to the designer by referencing a recommended range of values for critical dimensions. Sufficient flexibility should be then be permitted to encourage independent designs tailored to particular situations.

Public funding of new road construction and improvement is provided through the Fredericksburg District Secondary System Construction Improvement Program. Current Fiscal Year allocations for Lancaster County are as follows:

*2006-07--\$440,535	2007-08-- \$450,384
	2008-09-- \$373,536
2009-10--\$310,350	2010-11-- \$324,101
	2011-12-- \$315,042

Total for period (2006-2012) = \$2,213,948 (NOTE: This amount is 56.4% of the amount allocated for the period, 1997-2003, the last time such figures were presented in the Comprehensive Plan. This significant reduction in funding presents additional challenges to improving County roads and further highlights the need for a community approach to carrying out improvements.

* Actual funds; funds for remaining years are “projected.”

c. **Bicycle, Walking, and Water Trails**

Lancaster County is ripe for trail development. An active, health conscience population, beautiful weather year-round, and a unique and fragile environment make the County ideal for creating “green infrastructure”. As development pressure continues, it is vital that the County begin to plan, design and implement a strategic plan for trail, greenway, and open space systems approaches. By preserving and connecting available natural resources now, Lancaster County can ensure a more livable and sustainable future for its children and families. Across the country rapid growth and development of urban areas continues. At the same time there is strong demand for trail networks that access parks, public lands and communities. The presence of linear utility corridors in and around these urban and rural settings offers an enticing prospect for communities. Lancaster County has access to such a corridor with potential connections to other counties in the Northern Neck. As a result, the County should examine the potential for the creation of a trail capitalizing on the utility corridor with possible ties to the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.

There are universal issues associated with building community support for trails of all types. For the community to take ownership of a linear park project, it is important that citizens be engaged in discussions regarding operations and maintenance, design ideas and concerns, access points, and other important issues.

Bicycle Trails are a non-roadway improvement linking residential areas with non-

residential areas such as businesses, schools and historic or scenic sites. Bicycle Trails will continue to be promoted in growth areas. The following map, Bicycle Trails of Lancaster County, represents the plan for such improvements. As can be seen from the map, Lancaster County has adopted a series of Class III (shared with the existing roadway) bikeways that extend throughout the County. As an improvement upon these bikeways, the County has received an ISTEA Grant to pave the shoulders between Irvington and Kilmarnock. “Share the Road” signs have been installed on routes 354, 695 and 646 reminding motorists to make room for bicyclists.

Bike paths and sidewalks will be considered in the design of improved and new road projects. Small projects such as painting bike lane stripes on existing roadways with sufficient pavement width, minor grading, gravel compaction, and vegetation trimming will be undertaken as a means of improving safety and utility. Consistent with the plan, additional grant funding will be sought to carry out such larger projects as bridge widening, separate path construction, and shoulder paving. It shall be a policy goal to develop, through a regional approach consistent with the plan, trails that are suitable for use by bicyclists, pedestrians, and horse riders.

With over 200 miles of shoreline, two tidal rivers, and numerous navigable creeks, there is ample opportunity for the creation of a blue water trail system. The County should recognize the diverse array of settings in which to paddle as well as historical and natural sights to view and take full advantage of this opportunity. The benefits to residents and visitors are many but certainly include economic growth of a highly desirable type.

C. RECREATIONAL AREAS AND FACILITIES

1. Existing Recreational Sites

Recreational opportunities in Lancaster County consist of a mixture of public and private facilities and programs, both land- and water-oriented. Some of the more significant facilities are identified below.

a. Public Facilities

Belle Isle State Park - This 708-acre park is owned and operated by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Commonwealth of Virginia and is a major asset to Lancaster County. The park is located on the Rappahannock River in the NW corner of the County, about 1 mile from Route 354. A newly constructed road (Route 683) leads from Route 354 to the park entrance. The Commonwealth of Virginia purchased the park in 1993. Belle Isle was the first park purchased after passage of a major Virginia bond referendum in 1992. The park is rich in both natural and cultural resources: tidal wetlands, extensive

shoreline along the Rappahannock River, two creeks, and historic and prehistoric archeological sites. The park has numerous physical and recreational facilities.

23752. Internal road network and parking areas

2. Restrooms
3. Deep-water boat ramp and pier, with adjoining parking
4. Hiking and bicycling trails

5. Picnicking areas, including a large shelter

6. Canoeing
7. Camping (Campground opened in 2006)

8. Fishing

9. Bicycling
10. Fishing pier and boardwalk

Additional facilities are planned for the future.

Public Boat Landing at Greenvale Creek - This landing has a boat ramp and pier, and parking accommodations for several boats and vehicles. It provides boat launch accommodation for the lower portion of Route 354.

Public Schools - These sites provide excellent opportunities for active recreation, since each school has its own array of facilities.

Lancaster High School has the most complete facilities - a large gymnasium, football stadium and athletic fields for most major outdoor sports.

Lancaster Middle School has a gymnasium and accommodates softball, baseball and other outdoor sports. These facilities are available to the YMCA.

Lancaster Primary School includes a gymnasium, soccer field, outside playground equipment and open areas that accommodate further development. These facilities are also available to the YMCA.

b. Privately Owned Facilities

Dream Fields – This is a privately financed, modern athletic facility near Kilmarnock. It includes six baseball fields, softball and soccer fields and a concession area. It has excellent athletic utility for the youth of Lancaster County.

Upper Lancaster Ruritan/YMCA – A privately owned, multi-use facility located in upper Lancaster County. The facility includes a swimming pool, tennis courts, a general parade/athletic field, meeting hall and concession area. It is jointly used

and supported by the Upper Lancaster Ruritan Club and YMCA.

YMCA– As part of the Virginia Quality of Life initiative a new facility was completed in 2005 in Kilmarnock that greatly expanded the recreational opportunities provided over the old facility. This new facility has a wellness/fitness center, a full-court basketball gymnasium, two racquetball courts, a recreational center, meeting hall, adult group center, child-care center, and swimming pool, and it serves as the center for the local activities of the American Red Cross.

c. Other Facilities

There are other recreational facilities throughout the County that are not open to the general public. These facilities are also privately owned and often are open to individuals or groups by fee or by permission.

Several beaches exist along protected shorelines in Lancaster County. These beaches are often informal access areas, located on private property. The number of these has diminished greatly, especially over the last five years, as residences have been built and access has then been denied. Some are used by those familiar with the area and can be easily reached by boat. They should be evaluated to determine suitability for future development for public use. Regional plans have noted that the County's small ramps and old "steamboat landings" could be developed to provide additional public access to major water bodies in Lancaster County.

There are a limited number of marinas in Lancaster County. Some are "membership" marinas, others are commercial marinas that offer boat storage, fuel, food sales, restrooms and boat repairs. Lancaster County's unique location at the mouth of the Rappahannock River, and the confluence of the Rappahannock and Corrotoman Rivers, makes the County one of the more popular destinations for recreational boating and fishing.

As previously indicated, there are numerous hiking and nature trails at Belle Isle State Park. Also of note is the Hickory Hollow Nature Trail located off Route 604 (Regina Road) near the intersection with Route 3 (Mary Ball Road). Located on a large tract of land, this trail offers several miles of hiking and features unique flora and fauna. Opportunity exists and efforts would be supported to expand this trail as well as create other nature trails through use agreements that would permit such activities as bird watching, physical fitness, etc.

Tides Inn, LLC owns the Golden Eagle and Tartan Investment Group owns the nearby Tartan Golf Course. A third golf course, constructed by Merry Point Development Company as a part of the Hills Quarter subdivision, is now in operation.

2. Analysis

Lancaster County's major recreational offering is its access to miles of shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay, rivers, creeks and tributaries. Sport fishing, recreational boating and sailing also provide a stimulus for summer tourism, thereby contributing greatly to the economy of the County through marine sales and operation of marinas, including repairs and fuel sales. The boats that are based permanently in the County also provide a significant contribution to the tax base. It should be a major policy of the County to promote the development of quality boating facilities for both public and commercial use. In the same sense, public beaches may also contribute to the economy of the County while providing a major recreational service for local citizens. One needs only to look at the growth of other communities along the east coast to see that public beaches attract significant investment that satisfies a market for recreation. Sports and recreational boating combined with expanded beaches and beachfront development, offers a substantial opportunity for the growth of Lancaster County's economy.

As future plans are made for recreational facility development, the following general standards that have been used in other parts of Virginia as well as nationally may be helpful. These standards have been found to provide a satisfactory number and distribution of recreational facilities in typical communities. They may be adjusted as appropriate for Lancaster County.

Baseball and Softball fields: Baseball is played in almost all communities and by nearly all ages. Fields designated for youth baseball can also be used for adult softball since both use the same spacing for bases. The major difference is that baseball requires a little longer pitching distance and longer outfield. A rule of thumb for ball fields is that a community needs at least one ball field for every 6000 persons. That suggests at least two for Lancaster County, but because of the distance between upper and lower parts of the County, others may be required in order to provide adequate service to all citizens.

Basketball: This is another popular activity among youth. Schools may provide enough basketball courts to meet this need if they are spaced throughout the community appropriately. Both the Lancaster High and Intermediate Schools have basketball courts, as does the previously mentioned YMCA. The general standard for basketball courts is one court for every 500-1000 persons.

Tennis: The demand for tennis depends upon the importance of this game to each locality. There is a state standard that suggests one tennis court for every 2000 persons. This rate can be adjusted to reflect the number of tennis courts available at school sites and at private facilities. The County must partner with the schools to determine the overall need for additional facilities.

Swimming Pools: The state standard suggests a swimming pool for every 10,000

persons. At present a public swimming pool is not available in Lancaster County for swimming lessons or competitive activities. However, the Ruritan Club does maintain a swimming pool that is used for lessons that are available to the public.

NOTE: Future efforts to provide opportunities for recreation in Lancaster County should be focused on establishing a basic infrastructure of facilities similar to and in the amounts suggested above. The first step would be to identify sites for the facilities with the activities themselves being added, as funds become available.

D. SCHOOL FACILITIES

In today's complex society a well-educated population is an essential foundation to participate in the community's economic life. Lancaster County School Board operates three schools--Lancaster Primary, Lancaster Middle and Lancaster High Schools. Lancaster schools are also active participants in the Northern Neck Regional Vocational Center in Warsaw.

The Lancaster School Board has the responsibility of setting policies and directing the school system into the twenty-first century. Except for budget approval, the school system is administered separately from the rest of County Government. An administrative assistant for maintenance and transportation, a coordinator for gifted programs and a visiting teacher/local special education coordinator assist the Superintendent.

Policy matters regarding school administration, curriculum, and educational precepts are not a part of this planning report; however it should be noted that education planning couldn't be undertaken without reference to community guidance and goals.

In addition to the public school system, planning for education in Lancaster County will include other educational facilities available locally and regionally. Some of the facilities in the local area include the County Library, the Center for the Arts, the Mary Ball Washington Museum, and programs offered through the local Department of Social Services for completion of the G.E.D. Regional programs include programs at the Northern Neck Regional Vocational Center in Warsaw and Rappahannock Community College, at the Warsaw and Glens Campuses.

E. SOLID WASTE, WASTEWATER TREATMENT, AND WATER SUPPLY

1. Solid Waste Facilities

The County is currently served by a number of collection points at various locations throughout the county. Use of these collection points for disposal of solid waste is a service provided without additional user fees to individuals. Bins for recycling of plastic, aluminum, metal cans, glass, newspaper, and cardboard are also provided. Wood debris and wood construction debris may be taken to the Lively Woodyard on the same basis.

This system has to date proven to be adequate with a respectable rate of recycling. At times of peak demand such as after a storm, there has been opinion expressed that another site for disposal of wood debris is needed. The County should determine the overall need and feasibility of such an additional site in the future.

2. Wastewater Treatment Facilities

The only municipal wastewater treatment facility is located in the town of Kilmarnock. With few exceptions the rest of the County is dependant upon private septic systems for wastewater treatment (see 3-9, Septic Systems/Sewage Disposals).

Although a large portion of the residential development is located on rural lands, there is a high concentration of residential dwellings along the waterfront that are served by private septic systems. The lowlands located on the waterfront peninsulas include a significant portion of the County's wetlands. These lands are also subject to high water tables and raise concern of failing systems and possible contamination of ground water supplies.

Other more populated counties have had massive failure of septic systems and were required to provide alternate solutions for wastewater treatment under adverse conditions of time and financing. This may not happen in Lancaster County, but as we experience growth we can expect increasing difficulties with proper treatment of wastewater. Therefore, a proactive, forward-looking approach to wastewater treatment that gives fair and careful consideration to all alternatives must be pursued.

a. Local Efforts

- The County will work with and cooperate with the towns of Kilmarnock, White Stone and Irvington, and private operators of wastewater treatment plants to enter into agreements as appropriate to address present and future needs for wastewater treatment.
- Investigate the need for further regulation or restriction on alternative sewage disposal systems

b. Outside Technical Assistance

- Increased monitoring of water quality by existing agencies to determine the impact of alternative sewage disposal systems, systems installed in areas with marginal suitability, and areas of densely placed or old systems.
- Development of a County wide long range Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan to prioritize current and future wastewater treatment needs. The plan must address phasing and funding for service.

3. Water Supply

Currently, Lancaster County and the three Towns are dependent on the existing aquifers for their drinking water (see 3-12, Groundwater). Should these aquifers become polluted or depleted, the County and Towns would be faced with the large expense of constructing a reservoir and treatment of surface water for consumption. Conservation and protection of the aquifers is the least expensive source, but requires the cooperation of the County, Towns, and adjacent counties.

4. Implementation

In addition to protecting the current potable water supplies (see 3-1, Protection of Potable Water Supply), the County's long-range plan should include protection of the existing mill ponds (see 3-11, Potential of Surface Waters for Future Water Supply), in the event that they are ever needed. The County will adopt regulations and policies to control the type of development permitted in these sensitive areas.

F. HISTORIC RESOURCES

1. Introduction

Dating from 1651, Lancaster County is among the early jurisdictions established in the Commonwealth of Virginia that has kept its court records essentially intact and unbroken. Active stewardship of this heritage is in keeping with general tenor of the comprehensive plan of Lancaster County.

As agriculture and aquaculture have declined as economic forces in the county, tourism and retirement or second home construction has been on the rise. Tourists and potential residents are attracted to areas with a rich historic background. The County can benefit from initiatives aimed at protecting and, promoting its heritage.

A large backlog of preservation work still faces the County. A documented inventory of evaluated landmarks and other resources remains to be completed. Significant portions of the historic court records remain unindexed; no recent audit has been conducted. Article 10 of the zoning ordinance defines H-1, Historic Zone. To date, only Christ Church has been designated historic. Consideration should be given to designation of Lancaster Court House village that must rank among the historic treasures of both Virginia and the Northern Neck. These are a few examples of work to be done to help preserve the historic resources of the County.

Historic resources are defined to include historic documents, historical and archaeological sites, cemeteries and burial grounds, structures and districts.

2. Inventory

A partial listing of the historic resources of Lancaster County includes:

Churches:

Christ Church		St. Mary's White
	Chapel	
Lebanon Baptist		White Marsh Methodist
Morattico Baptist		

Commercial Buildings:

Kemps and Carters Mill

Museums:

Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library
 Kilmarnock Museum
 Irvington Steamboat Museum
 Morattico Waterfront Museum

Residences:

Levelfields	Midway		Pleasant Banks	
	Epping Forest	Lively Oaks	Monaskon	Pop Castle
	Foxhill	Locustville	Oakley	Verville
	Level Green	Old George Home	Windsor	

Sites:

A. T. Wright School	Merry Point House
Chownings Ferry	Millenbeck
Corrotoman	Old Fort (Queenstown)
Levi Ball Home	Queenstown

Documents:

Lancaster County Court Records (from 1651)

Lancaster Courthouse:

Former Courthouse Site
 Current Courthouse
 Old Jail
 Old Clerk's Office
 Well
 Lancaster House (ca. 1790)
 Lancaster Tavern (Chilton's House, ca. 1780)
 Pillory and Stock Sites
 Outbuilding Ruins
 Mary Ball Washington Museum and Library maintains the Old Jail and Old

Clerk's Office, although the structures belong to Lancaster County.

3. Policy Goal

Preserve the historic resources and archaeological sites that reflect the heritage and historical significance of Lancaster County.

4. Objectives

a. Establish a historic resources preservation plan.

Lancaster County will continue to take a positive role in safeguarding the historic resources of the county. It will charge the Historic Resource Commission with the responsibility for preparing a program whose goal is the identification and preservation of historic resources in the county. The plan will contain methods and schedules for the identification, evaluation, cataloging and protection of all significant resources. The Historic Resource Commission will enlist the support and advice of the historic, archaeological and other preservation societies in the county, region and state and will seek financial support for the program in the form of grants, bequests or other sources. The County will receive semi-annual status reports from the Historic Resource Commission about the progress and problems of the program.

b. Provide support for the Historic Resource Commission and the historic preservation and archaeological societies in the county.

Lancaster County will support the program, will review and strengthen existing ordinances and/or adopt new ordinances to improve the protection of its inheritance. In particular, a Local Historical Preservation Ordinance will be adopted for a beneficial state certification. Certification is needed to meet criteria for participating in a matching grants program. It is the intent of this objective to identify and encourage owners of appropriate historic areas to obtain H-1 zoning, Historic District for their site.

c. Encourage and support educational and other programs to increase public awareness of the heritage of Lancaster County.

Lancaster County will encourage and support the observance of a designated "Lancaster County Historic Resources Month." The County will publicize the event in various ways to attract visitors to the county. The planning and administration of this program will be accomplished by the local societies, coordinated by the Historic Resource Commission with the aid of the Historic Resources Coordinator. The Lancaster County Board of Supervisors will encourage the Board of Education to include the historical significance of Lancaster County in public education programs.

d. Develop a Historic “Overlay District” for the Lancaster Court House Village Area.

Both the Commonwealth of Virginia and residents of the Northern Neck consider the Lancaster Court House village an historic treasure. In order to preserve and protect this historical area and control conflicting uses, types of architectural design and site development, Lancaster County will develop boundaries and designate Lancaster Court House village as a Historic Overlay District, as permitted in Article 10-5; Zoning Ordinance.

G. MINERAL RESOURCES

Mineral resource development can have significant economic, social and environmental impacts at the local level. Mining has the potential to significantly benefit the local population through the creation of direct and indirect employment, skills transfer, and development of small and medium business opportunities. Also, mineral resource extraction will increase the tax base of a county, which may potentially enhance health and education services and improve infrastructure. In recent years, state and local governments are being challenged to ensure that the benefits accrued from mining are monitored, mitigated and reclaimed so that the communities are better advantaged by the presence of mining activity.

There are six active mine permits in Lancaster County, all of which are licensed to produce sand and gravel. In 2005, there were 94,157 tons of sand and gravel produced in Lancaster County. Based on the Division of Mineral Resources (DMR) Publication 174, Digital Representation of the 1993 Geologic Map of Virginia, the sand and gravel is produced from the Sedgefield Member, Windsor Formation, and Chesapeake Group formations. The following map provides a complete depiction of these formations throughout the County.

H. RESCUE SQUADS SERVING LANCASTER COUNTY

There are two volunteer Rescue Squads serving the citizens of the County:

- Kilmarnock-Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad with two stations
- Upper Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad with two stations

Until 2003 all rescue and emergency services were volunteer. With the increased demand for these services and the difficulty volunteers had in responding during working hours, paid rescue positions were created along with a Director, Emergency Services. This has dramatically reduced response time, and resolved a problem identified in the last update to the Comprehensive Plan.

I. FIRE EMERGENCY SERVICES

There are three volunteer fire departments that serve Lancaster County:

- Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department
- Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department
- White Stone Volunteer Fire Department

Although tax dollars partially support fire emergency services, Lancaster County relies entirely on volunteers to provide such services and is very fortunate that all of these departments meet the responsibilities placed upon them in the most professional manner. Equipment, which is subsidized in part by the County, is modern and well maintained, and personnel are well trained. By agreement, the departments are mutually supportive of each other and respond in strength as required to emergencies. While it may be necessary at some time in the future to go to some level of paid personnel support, it is not needed at this time.

J. HEALTH SERVICES

With 13.3% (2003 U.S. Census estimate) of residents at or below federal poverty levels and/or unemployed, and a disproportionate number of the population over sixty-five, there is a burden on the local health care system.

Rappahannock General Hospital, established in 1976 provides significant health care to the County and Towns in the area. The hospital's existence has attracted private physicians to establish practices within the County.

The Commonwealth of Virginia operates the Lancaster County Health Department as part of the ten-county Three Rivers Health District. Services provided include permitting and inspection of water and wastewater treatment systems within the County.

The Northern Neck Free Health Clinic in Kilmarnock provides health care to persons in the Northern Neck and Middlesex County who cannot reasonably be expected to pay for such care. This facility is partially supported by County tax dollars.

The Northern Neck Rehabilitative and Sports Medicine Center in Kilmarnock, a Virginia Quality of Life initiative operated by Rappahannock General Hospital, provides a wide range of physical therapy services.

These medical facilities are a foundation for providing many of the health care needs for the citizens of Lancaster County.

K. SOCIAL SERVICES

Social services respond to a diversity of human needs and are essential for improving, maintaining and protecting the quality of life for all eligible people, and for the community as a whole.

Although social services are available for all segments of the population, serious problems continue to exist within the community.

These problems include:

- Lack of employment opportunities providing median or above income and its negative impact, particularly on young people.
- Lack of funding for low-cost housing and public transportation.
- Need for positive role models from whom young persons could gain inspiration and motivation.
- Breakdown of the family unit.
- People living in poverty needing parenting skills, education, training, the development of positive values and attitudes.
- Substantial numbers of citizens in the second and third generations of dependency on the Social Services System.
- The need for changes in Federal and State legislation, policies, and procedures, that, in the long range, would help eliminate dependency on Social Services and provide an incentive for self-sufficiency.

It is recognized that a sound local economy, available jobs, reasonable taxes, and adequate salaries tend to solve many social problems without State and Federal programs. It shall be a policy goal to promote self-sufficiency among individuals and families, and provide assistance to those who are unable to provide for themselves, through mandated and optional programs and community support.