



2043 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #7

Presented by

Comprehensive Planning Team

**July 12, 2022
In-person**



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome & Comprehensive Plan Process 5:30-5:35p
2. Vision Themes and Goals Discussion 5:35-6:05p
3. Module 1 Policies and Actions Discussion 6:05-7:25p
4. Next Steps 7:25-7:30p



Logistics

- Parking passes to the College street parking deck (located next door) will be provided.
- Bathrooms



1: Welcome and Updates



Planning Process



Launch of Phase 3: Develop Policies and Strategies

- Community Engagement Window #2: Develop Policy Direction and Priorities
- Development of Vision Themes and Goals
- Project Team Work Session – Growth and Conservation Framework
- Development of Plan Policies, Strategies, and Actions



Phase 3 Updates

Launch of Community Engagement Window #2

Completed

- Hola Carolina Festival
- Elder Abuse Awareness Event
- Freedom Fest – Junetenth
- Friends of Agg Breakfast
- Lake Julian Camp Out
- 4th of July at Lake Julian

Upcoming

- Weaverville Farmers market
- 2 virtual meetings
- Enka Farmers Market
- In-person drop-in meeting
- Asheville City Farmers Market
- Downtown After Five
- North Asheville Tailgate Market
- UNCA Student Union
- WCU-Biltmore Campus



2: Comprehensive Plan Process



What is a Comprehensive Plan?

- 20-year vision for the County's future
- Inclusive public engagement
- Guides growth
- Addresses community needs/wants
- Identifies vision themes, goals, policies, and actions

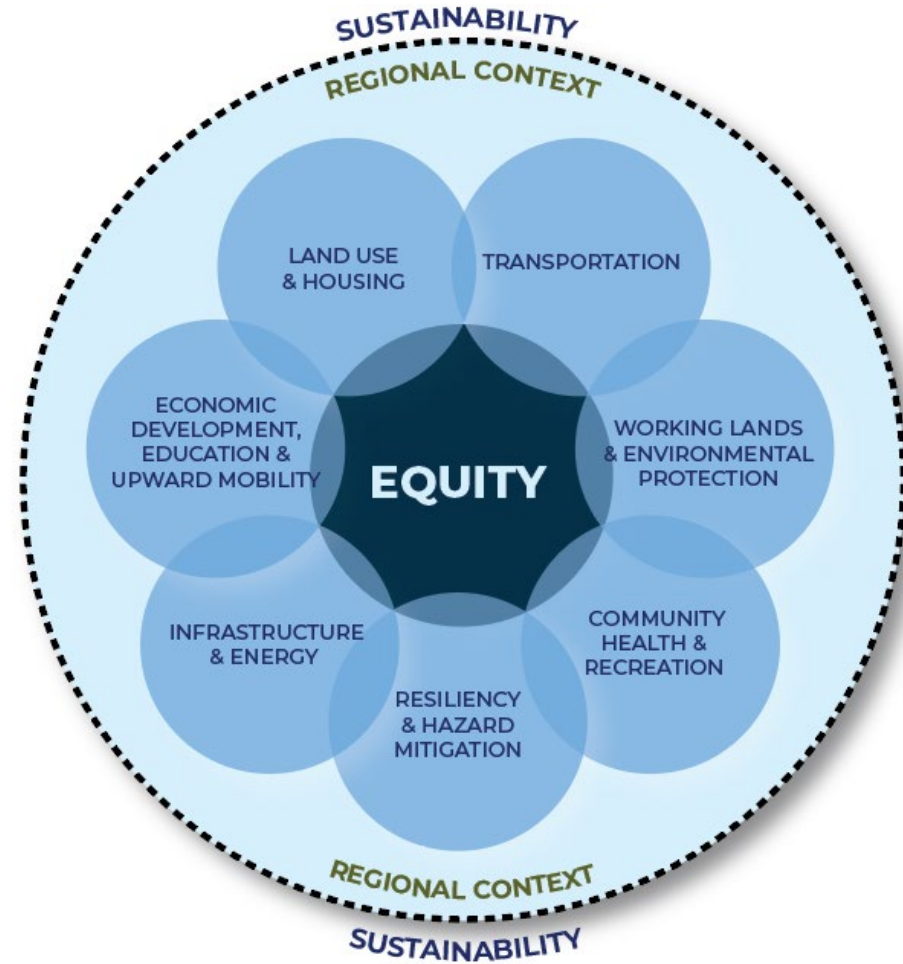


What Can a Comp Plan Do?

- Guidance for future Land Use, Strategic, and other Plans
- Guide policy, priority, and budget decisions
- Direct County to create Small Area Plans for neighborhoods
- Qualify County for new Federal and State funds
- Direct changes to ordinances, regulations, and policies
- Create opportunities for new local and regional collaboration



Central Focus: Physical Planning



Meeting Facilitation: Introducing the Sandbox

- Capture important ideas and brainstorming from the Steering Committee discussions
- May include topics that aren't within scope of physical planning but are highly valued by the Steering Committee/community
- May be included in appendix of the Comprehensive Plan or some other way of documenting



Meeting Etiquette and Values

- 1. Decision making through collaboration:** The Committee will function as a workgroup, reaching decisions through consensus.
- 2. Active participation:** Members are expected to attend meetings and participate.
- 3. Everyone gets a chance to share their views:** The group can discuss reasonable speaker time limits. Culture in which everyone can participate.
- 4. Respect:** Listening is a sign of respect; interrupting people is discouraged. Questions and differing viewpoints will be heard when it is your time to speak.
- 5. Advocacy:** Committee members are Plan ambassadors. Help others get involved and have their voices heard.



3: Developing Fundamentals of Plan Framework

Full Group Discussion: Draft Vision Themes and Goals



Plan Framework

Vision Themes

Vision Themes – The highest level of the Plan Framework intended to express the ideal aspirations of the plan. These should articulate the priorities for the county and the critical outcomes the county is striving to achieve. The vision themes will be amended, as necessary, through plan drafting in Phase 3.

Goals

Policies

Actions

Goals – Express the outcome to achieve related to each planning topic included in the comprehensive plan. These should be guided by the Vision Themes and can articulate a more specific desired result to be achieved. This can include a performance metric, if applicable (e.g., 20% of county protected as permanent open space). Policies and actions will be organized under these goals. The intention is to create one overarching goal for each planning topic to create a concise document.



Draft Vision Themes

Through our Buncombe County 2043 community vision, we will...

- **Strive to Achieve Equity**
- Commit to Sustainability
- Achieve Livability and Affordability
- Focus on Conservation
- Root Efforts in Community

Strive to Achieve Equity¹: Buncombe County will strive to address social, economic, and environmental inequities by repairing and investing in historically disadvantaged communities and removing inequitable land use and transportation policies and regulations.

1. For a definition of “equity” please refer to the Buncombe County Strategic Plan (page 31):
<https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/commissioners/strategic-plan/strategic-plan-2025.pdf>



Draft Vision Themes

Through our Buncombe County 2043 community vision, we will...

- Strive to Achieve Equity
- **Commit to Sustainability**
- Achieve Livability and Affordability
- Focus on Conservation
- Root Efforts in Community

Commit to Sustainability²: Growth and change in the County will be sustainable and achieve resiliency to hazards, conversion to renewable energy systems, protection of natural resources, and support a sustainable local economy in a manner that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs..

See the United Nation's Brundtland Commission definition for "sustainability" at <https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/sustainability#:~:text=In%201987%2C%20the%20United%20Nations,development%20needs%2C%20but%20with%20the>



Draft Vision Themes

Through our Buncombe County 2043 community vision, we will...

- Strive to Achieve Equity
- Commit to Sustainability
- **Achieve Livability and Affordability**
- Focus on Conservation
- Root Efforts in Community

Achieve Livability and Affordability:

Residents will have safe, accessible, and affordable housing and multi-modal transportation choices to create a more connected, walkable, healthy community that accommodates the diverse needs of residents.



Draft Vision Themes

Through our Buncombe County 2043 community vision, we will...

- Strive to Achieve Equity
- Commit to Sustainability
- Achieve Livability and Affordability
- **Focus on Conservation**
- Root Efforts in Community

Focus on Conservation: Natural resources, farms, and rural lands will continue to provide picturesque landscapes; healthy water, air, and soil quality; and opportunities for nature and recreation-based economic development.



Draft Vision Themes

Through our Buncombe County 2043 community vision, we will...

- Strive to Achieve Equity
- Commit to Sustainability
- Achieve Livability and Affordability
- Focus on Conservation
- **Root Efforts in Community**

Root Efforts in Community: County decision-making will be rooted in the outcomes of engagement efforts with residents, landowners, and business owners. The County will support opportunities for community interaction and will steward public resources in a fiscally efficient and transparent manner.



Draft Goals

Growth, Protection, and Conservation Goal

Growth will result in sustainable development patterns that expand affordable housing options for residents and job opportunities for the local workforce, protect historically disadvantaged neighborhoods and businesses from displacement and gentrification, and create centers for shopping, dining, and recreating. New development will maximize developable lands through mixed-use and clustered development designs that lessen climate impacts and are more resilient to hazards. Growth will be directed away from priority conservation areas using a variety of public and private tools.



Draft Goals

Transportation and Connectivity Goal

Sustainable growth patterns will be supported through expansion of equitable and affordable transportation choices (walking, biking, taking transit, and driving) that prioritize safety for users, reduce climate impacts, and provide greater access to travel between live, work and play destinations, especially for those with limited vehicle access and have historically been underserved by the transportation network. Buncombe County will leverage regional partnerships to improve the transportation system through enhanced transit service, provide greater connectivity between current and future destinations, and expand infrastructure for renewable fuel vehicles.



Draft Goals

Farms, Forests, and Environmental Protection Goal

A minimum of 20% of the County's open lands will be protected from development. Priority natural environments that support clean water, provide habitat for wildlife, offer nature-based recreation, and provide picturesque rural views will be conserved. Priority farms, forests and other working lands will be maintained for the benefit of future generations.



Draft Goals

Economic Development, Education, and Jobs Goal

Buncombe County will be home to a diverse economy of industries that employ local workers, support equitable access to employment, and help meet quality of life needs of residents. It will strive to address inequities within the local workforce through collaborations with economic development partners to build capacity for entrepreneurship and business development in historically disadvantaged communities, including addressing any land use policy and regulatory barriers to business development. The County will partner with Buncombe County Schools and Asheville City Schools to support more sustainable and resilient school campuses. The County will also coordinate and support the school districts in efforts to enhance academic achievement and reduce the achievement gap between BIPOC and white students with a broad spectrum of abilities through new programs, such as vocational or living skills courses.



Draft Goals

Health and Recreation Goal

Residents living within the County's growth areas will have proximate access to natural recreation lands, greenways, trails, or parks, and will prioritize access to historically disadvantaged communities. Residents will have equitable access to mental health, substance abuse, and general healthcare services that support improved health outcomes across the County.



Draft Goals

Hazards and Resiliency Goal

In partnership with private landowners, Buncombe will protect important resources and assets (food, housing, businesses, energy systems) from the impacts of natural and manmade hazards. The County will manage existing and future environmental impacts by implementing green infrastructure and nature-based solutions. Development will be limited in high hazard areas prone to floods, wildfires, and landslides. The County will be ready to respond to future events through enhanced emergency preparedness efforts and reduced response times of first responders.



Draft Goals

Infrastructure and Energy Goal

The County will achieve carbon neutrality by converting Buncombe County's operations (by 2030) and energy use of the larger Buncombe community (by 2042) to 100% renewable energy. Infrastructure will be expanded across the County to support renewable fuel vehicles, broadband access, and renewable energy use. Rebuilding of aging infrastructure to support these renewable energy targets will be prioritized. The County will coordinate with partner utilities to encourage development in growth areas and away from priority conservation areas and important water resources. Long range public facilities and services planning will ensure appropriate levels of service to support future growth.



3: Developing Fundamentals of Plan Framework

Full Group Discussion: Draft Module 1 Policies and Actions



Plan Framework

Vision Themes

Goals

Policies

Actions

Policies – These are statements of commitment and direction toward achieving the plan goals. These describe positions to inform decision-making either by the County or directed toward a partner agency. Policies are written in short, succinct statements with policy intent statements providing more detailed guidance for each policy. This structure will allow for drafting of fewer policies that can be leveraged as part of development review and incorporated in future staff reports.

Actions – They are specific implementation tasks that the County and its partners will take in the future to realize the vision themes, goals, and policy direction. These can be prioritized in the implementation plan section or they can be left for prioritization as part of future updates to the Buncombe County Strategic Plan.



Developing Fundamentals of Plan Framework

Module 1: Policies and Actions

Reminder: Email feedback collected through 7/22

Group Discussion: Module 1 (20 minutes each, round robin style)

- Infrastructure and Energy 6:05-6:25p
- Hazards and Resilience 6:25-6:45p
- Health and Recreation 6:45-7:05p
- Transportation and Connectivity 7:05-7:25p



4: Next Steps



Next Steps and Questions

- Phase 3 Outreach: will receive follow up email for their outreach support
 - CEW#2 Launch – please share the poll!

<https://engage.buncombecounty.org/Y4853>

- Additional feedback on Module 1 collected via email through 7/22
- Next Steering Committee Meeting (2 hours, August 9th)
 - July-August focus: policies and actions drafts
 - September: no meeting (break)
- Planning a future work session with the Commissioners to review Phase 2 Updates – including public engagement inputs and Vision Themes and Goals

