

DRAFT PLANNING PROGRAM



This Booklet will guide our discussion at the December 16 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. It is not a detailed listing of tasks and strategies, but rather it is meant to provide an **overview of strategic directions** for the Town to consider for the next 10 years. It is an update of those strategies contained in past booklets, based upon input gathered from the Commission, residents, boards and commissions, and local officials. Please refer back to Booklets 4, 5, and 6 for a reminder of the detailed actions that would fall under the larger strategies contained in this booklet.

It is important that you review this memo prior to our December 16 meeting, and prepare your thoughts on the following:

1. **Substance** - Do the strategies cover all major issues that should be addressed in the Plan and are they appropriate for Vernon?
2. **Plan Organization** – The proposed chapters are based upon discussions with the subcommittee. Does this organization (chapters) work for Vernon? Does it tell Vernon's story?

Based on your input, we will create a first draft the POCD. We expect that we will need multiple meetings with the Subcommittee and Commission to thoroughly review the first draft of the POCD.

Summary of Proposed Plan Organization

Chapter 1: Introduction
Chapter 2: Summary
Chapter 3: Conditions and Trends <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summarizes information from Booklet 3• Include deeper discussion of sections of Vernon and importance of having a cohesive community yet celebrating the uniqueness of neighborhoods [<i>this might also fit under Chapter 4 instead</i>]
Chapter 4: Community Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary of public input including survey
Chapter 5: Preserving our Roots (natural and built) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural Resources• Open Space and Greenways• Historic Resources• Community Character<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Integrate overall premise of Vernon’s structure as part of character with the general goal to maintain that structure, but most of Rockville recommendations will go in next Chapter.
Chapter 6: Pathway to Prosperity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rockville• Vernon Center• Residential Patterns and Housing• Business Development• Community Facilities (does this fit elsewhere instead?)• Transportation• Utilities
Chapter 7: Future Land Use Plan (includes review of consistency with state and regional plans)
Chapter 8: Implementation (will want to discuss options with Commission)
Chapter 11: Conclusion

Proposed Planning Program (Chapters 5 & 6)

Preserving Our Roots (natural and built)

NATURAL RESOURCES (see Booklet 4, p. 12)

Vision

Protection of our natural resources will continue to contribute to our quality of life and the health and well-being of our community. Our citizens and businesses will take action to preserve our natural resources. The Town will capitalize on its natural assets to provide recreation opportunities and attract visitors.

Strategies

1. Protect Vernon's natural resources
2. Continue to restore and improve Vernon's lakes and rivers
3. Protect ground and surface drinking water supplies
4. Minimize threats to water quality
5. Reduce stormwater flows
6. Protect habitat and minimize the clearing of vegetation

OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAYS (Booklet 4, p. 19)

Vision

Vernon's open system and greenways will form the backbone of our natural infrastructure, by linking local and regional parks and other destinations, providing close-to-home recreation opportunities, buffering existing parks, protecting our natural resources and enhancing our experience as we move through the landscape.

Strategies

7. Promote and manage existing open space
8. Preserve 21% of Vernon as Open Space by 2023
9. Continue to enhance and expand Vernon's greenway network

HISTORIC RESOURCES *(Booklet 4, p. 23)*

Vision

Vernon's historic resources will be preserved and celebrated, instilling a sense of pride and reminding us of our rich history. We will have the tools to preserve our historic buildings and structures and will encourage the continued use and reuse of historic buildings as homes and businesses.

Strategies

10. Promote Vernon's historic resources
11. Preserve historic resources

COMMUNITY CHARACTER *(Booklet 4, p. 28)*

Vision

Vernon will retain those natural features, cultural features, and overall community structure elements that make us unique. We will continue to publicize those things that make Vernon a special place and build community spirit by engaging more residents in planning for our future.

Strategies

12. Preserve scenic features
13. Continue our Public Act 490 policies to maintain a feeling an "openness" around town
14. Promote community spirit throughout Vernon
15. Maintain Vernon's overall community structure *(Booklet 5, p. 14)*

Pathway to Prosperity

ROCKVILLE *(Booklet 5, p. 14)*

Vision

Rockville will continue to be Vernon's "downtown" and a center for civic uses, jobs, retail and other businesses in a village setting. Rockville's neighborhoods will be revitalized and home to a mix of income levels. Key "anchors" will continue to draw residents and visitors to Rockville. Our future growth will help reinforce the role that Rockville plays in our community.

Strategies

16. Encourage the revitalization of Rockville
17. Maintain and enhance the village nature of Rockville

VERNON CENTER *(Booklet 5, p. 14)*

Vision

Vernon Center will remain a civic and activity-focal point and its open landscapes of fields and farms will remind us of our rural past. Our future growth will help reinforce the role that Vernon Center plays in our community.

Strategies

18. Maintain and enhance Vernon Center

RESIDENTIAL PATTERNS AND HOUSING NEEDS *(Booklet 5, p. 18)*

Vision

Vernon will continue to offer an array of housing choices and see an increase in homeownership. Lower density patterns will continue to characterize the southeastern part of Town in order to preserve the unique character of the area and protect its sensitive natural resources. Higher density residential patterns will be enhanced in areas in and near Rockville, while some areas will benefit from additional open land and conversions back to 1 or 2 family units. New multi-family developments or other planned residential developments will be guided to areas that help support our community structure.

Strategies

19. Protect residential neighborhoods
20. Generally maintain the overall residential density patterns, with some updates
21. Increase homeownership opportunities *[see p. 109 of current POCD]*
22. Ensure that new multi-family development occurs in appropriate areas and contributes to community structure

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT *(Booklet 5, p. 24)*

Vision

Additional business development will help to enhance our tax base, provide goods and services to our residents and the region, and provide jobs. Our zoning regulations will facilitate the types of development desired in appropriate locations. Potential impacts will be carefully managed in order to protect our neighborhoods, our community character and our natural resources.

Strategies

23. Update the Commercial "C" zone to better match goals for the many and varied areas in the zone
24. Maintain Vernon Circle as a regional destination
25. Encourage appropriate business development at Exit 67 that protects natural resources and provides an attractive gateway to our community
26. Redevelop and re-tenant vacant buildings
27. Promote additional business development opportunities
28. Continue to improve regulations and protocols to be more "business-friendly", as appropriate

COMMUNITY FACILITIES *(Booklet 6, p. 10)*

Vision

Vernon's community facilities will meet the needs of residents, businesses and property owners and protect our the health, safety, and welfare. The Town will continue to provide and support an array of recreational opportunities and other community amenities which contribute to the Town's quality of life. The Town will continue to find cost-effective solutions to meeting community needs.

Strategies

29. When planning for new or expanded community facilities, maintain Vernon's community structure
30. Address current community facility and service needs
31. Anticipate and plan for future needs

TRANSPORTATION *(Booklet 6, p. 20)*

Vision

Vernon's transportation system will provide for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods through and within the Town. Sidewalks and pathways, bicycling facilities, and public transit will enable viable transportation alternatives in the Town. Transportation facilities, including roads and parking, will balance the needs and safety of users with the character of the Town.

Strategies

32. Maintain overall circulation patterns and minimize congestion
33. Continue to require and encourage access management
34. Continue road maintenance
35. Improve and expand public transit service
36. Enhance pedestrian and bicycle travel
37. Meet our parking needs while minimizing lost development potential from excessive parking requirements

UTILITIES *(Booklet 6, p. 27)*

Vision

Our utilities will meet community needs and support desired development patterns. The Town will be on the forefront of innovative approaches to providing for the energy needs of businesses and residents.

Strategies

38. Coordinate land use goals with the provision of sewer service
39. Ensure that utilities meet current and future needs
40. Meet energy needs



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