



BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

VISION FOR 2035

(UPDATED JANUARY 10-11, 2020)

Brunswick County, noted for its scenic rivers and lakes, serene rural landscapes and beautiful farmlands distinguishes itself as one of the Commonwealth's most progressive communities. Committed to improving the quality of life for all of its residents, promoting a healthy and supportive environment for rearing children, and developing a thriving economy with successful businesses, Brunswick remains steadfast in preserving its friendly, hometown atmosphere and identity while fostering continued growth and expansion.

One of Southside Virginia's most livable communities, Brunswick County is a place where residents and visitors benefit from its unlimited opportunities and enhanced vitality, including a wealth of cultural, educational, and recreational experiences, varied historic and natural resources, and healthy and secure neighborhoods.

Brunswick's elected leaders and staff thrive in preserving and advancing the community's human and fiscal resources to provide quality services. We are an open, collaborative, and fair government that values contributions from residents and businesses, along with working with our community and regional partners to achieve positive outcomes. Our desired future includes the following:

Premier Location for Economic Growth and Development

Brunswick County is economically competitive through innovative strategies for business attraction, growth, and retention that establish its prominence as a premier location of commerce and industry in Southside Virginia. Improvements to the County's infrastructure are strategically planned and developed to expand water, wastewater, natural gas, broadband, and other utility systems. The County government works collaboratively with the Commonwealth of Virginia, towns, regional governments, economic development agencies, and citizens to enhance development activities and create job opportunities. Brunswick County capitalizes on its central location with interstate and primary highway access, along with its other unique assets, to attract businesses and tourism.

Revitalized Neighborhoods and Rural Beauty

Brunswick County is characterized by beautiful, safe neighborhoods that foster a sense of community, while retaining its highly valued rural character. Residents and future residents can find a variety of housing options suitable for all ages and lifestyles. The flowing nature of our residential neighborhoods, lakefront sunsets and sunrises, and the beauty of well-tended farms gives one a sense of well-being.

Unlimited Tourism/Recreational Opportunities

Brunswick County promotes community health and wellness through varied tourism and recreational experiences and opportunities that serve people of all ages, abilities, and interests. Brunswick's wealth of organized tourism and recreational activities and facilities, along with its natural resources, ignites pride within its families and in the larger community. Its scenic rivers and lakes attract citizens and tourists with a love of water sports. The County's large forested area captures the essence of hunting game as a recreational pastime. Residents and visitors enjoy access to the statewide Tobacco Heritage Trail, providing extensive opportunities for walking, biking, and horseback riding. Brunswick County is recognized as a high quality tourist destination with focus on its extensive historic contributions and heritage sites. The County's open space is preserved, enhanced, and protected to enrich the quality of life for both present and future generations.

Diverse Education in a Global Society

Brunswick County is a recognized leader in preparing individuals to succeed in a rapidly changing, diverse, and highly technical world. An array of educational opportunities for all ages provided through its public, private, and higher educational institutions ensure that active learning occurs in diverse and inclusive educational environments. Our public schools are fully accredited, with highly qualified and dedicated teachers that create learning environments which capture student interest and motivation. Public schools, Southside Virginia Community College, other institutions of higher education and our business partners work together to create unparalleled career technical opportunities to prepare students for the 21st century jobs.

Inclusiveness through Arts and Culture

Brunswick County is a primary leader and catalyst in appreciating, embracing, promoting, and celebrating the diversity of arts and culture of all communities, groups, and individuals. The County presents a diverse spectrum of visual and performing arts programming through collaborative partnerships to encourage community growth, unity, and a sense of cohesiveness among residents who are diverse in age, ethnicity, educational level and economic status.

Healthy and Secure Community Environment

Brunswick County is a community where people feel healthy, safe, valued and welcomed. The County is dedicated to retaining and recruiting experienced, trained and competent law enforcement, fire, and rescue professionals who are committed to saving lives and property and to maintaining order. Emergency services personnel work collaboratively to maintain the safety of County citizens and stand ready to respond to all emergencies, including natural or man-made disasters. Brunswick County embraces the nation's healthy living initiatives through access to high quality healthcare and resources to promote healthy lifestyles and wellbeing.

Efficient and Effective Government

Brunswick County provides efficient and quality services to residents, businesses, and visitors in the management of personnel, finances, and physical assets.

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PRIORITIES**

I. Premier Location for Economic Growth and Development

Brunswick County is economically competitive through innovative strategies for business attraction, growth, and retention that establish its prominence as a premier location of commerce and industry in Southside Virginia. Improvements to the County's infrastructure are strategically planned and developed to expand water, wastewater, natural gas, broadband, and other utility systems. The County government works collaboratively with the Commonwealth of Virginia, towns, regional governments, economic development agencies, and citizens to enhance development activities and create job opportunities. Brunswick County capitalizes on its central location with interstate and primary highway access, along with its other unique assets, to attract businesses and tourism.

- 1.1 Work with stakeholders to strategically pursue new businesses and industries to locate in the County, encourage the growth of existing businesses, and provide local entrepreneurs with guidance and resources for their start-up ventures to create employment opportunities.
- 1.2 Continue to work with the IDA to ensure that we achieve our economic development goals, periodically evaluating success.
- 1.3 Establishment of a public service authority.
- 1.4 Develop a plan for infrastructure investment (i.e. water, wastewater, broadband, natural gas, and other technology related systems) in strategic locations throughout the County for business development and expansion, including the incorporation of a consistent funding mechanism.
- 1.5 Promote and market Brunswick County as a highly desirable location for business development, retention and expansion.
- 1.6 Maintain membership in the Virginia's Growth Alliance, Transatlantic Business Investment Council) and Southern Economic Development Council to attract domestic and foreign investment opportunities.
- 1.7 Work with the General Assembly to acquire the former Brunswick Correctional Center and market it for future development.
- 1.8 Acquire a hotel to locate in the County in accordance with the feasibility study.
- 1.9 Acquire and promote properties for economic development purposes.
- 1.10 Enter into a coalition of counties and cities to evaluate the feasibility of rail service to counties in Southside Virginia.

II. Revitalized Neighborhoods and Rural Beauty

Brunswick County is characterized by beautiful, safe neighborhoods that foster a sense of community, while retaining its highly valued rural character. Residents and future residents can find a variety of housing options suitable for all ages and lifestyles. The flowing nature of our residential neighborhoods, lakefront sunsets and sunrises, and the beauty of well-tended farms gives one a sense of well-being.

- 2.1 Maintain the Comprehensive Plan to guide the responsible use of County resources.
- 2.2 Acquire funding to revitalize County communities and neighborhoods.
- 2.3 Work with partners and stakeholders to implement the vision and strategies for housing in the County, to include increasing the amount of market rate housing.
- 2.4 Update the building permit process to further enhance the citizen and business experience.
- 2.5 Work with the Planning Commission to review and update the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances.
- 2.6 Repurpose the old Lawrenceville Primary School property for market rate housing development.
- 2.7 Establish a new solid waste convenience center on Evans Creek Road.

III. Unlimited Tourism/Recreational Opportunities

Brunswick County promotes community health and wellness through varied tourism and recreational experiences and opportunities that serve people of all ages, abilities, and interests. Brunswick's wealth of organized tourism and recreational activities and facilities, along with its natural resources, ignites pride within its families and in the larger community. Its scenic rivers and lakes attract citizens and tourists with a love of water sports. The County's large forested area captures the essence of hunting game as a recreational pastime. Residents and visitors enjoy access to the statewide Tobacco Heritage Trail, providing extensive opportunities for walking, biking, and horseback riding. Brunswick County is recognized as a high quality tourist destination with focus on its extensive historic contributions and heritage sites. The County's open space is preserved, enhanced and protected to enrich the quality of life for both present and future generations.

- 3.1 Establish a volunteer corps of docents to maintain weekend hours at the Byways Visitors Center.
- 3.2 Work with partners to promote the County's tourism, historical, and cultural opportunities to include projects such as:
 - A. Update and implement the Regional Virginia Outdoors Plan to connect people with outdoor recreational opportunities.
 - B. Update the Road Bicycle Plan and create a brochure to promote partnership within the Southside Planning District.

- C. Establish entry points from the Meherrin River canoe launch on Route 1 in partnership with the Southside Planning District Commission.
- D. Develop directional signage to attract visitors to the Byways Visitor Center.
- E. Continue the County's relationship with Virginia's Crossroad to promote and market the County and region for tourism opportunities.
- F. Encourage the public and private school system to utilize the Byways Visitor Center for field trips and educational opportunities.

3.3 Establish a state park in the County.

3.4 Establish a public day use recreation area on Lake Gaston.

IV. Diverse Education in a Global Society

Brunswick County is a recognized leader in preparing individuals to succeed in a rapidly changing, diverse, and highly technical world. An array of educational opportunities for all ages provided through its public, private, and higher educational institutions ensure that active learning occurs in diverse and inclusive educational environments. Our public schools are fully accredited, with highly qualified and dedicated teachers that create learning environments which capture student interest and motivation. Public schools, Southside Virginia Community College, other institutions of higher education, and our business partners work together to create unparalleled career technical opportunities to prepare students for the 21st century jobs.

- 4.1 Develop and implement a strategy to work with the public schools so that we achieve our desired outcomes, to include performance and financial accountability, addressing:
 - Accreditation
 - Quality education and the learning environment
 - Teacher quality
 - Desirable administrative/teacher ratio
 - Workforce needs; relevance to success in business attraction.
- 4.2 Work with Brunswick County Public Schools to determine the need to invest in new, renovated, or consolidated school facilities to maximize educational opportunities for students.
- 4.3 Maintain relationship with Brunswick County Public School Board, Superintendent and Finance staff to assist in achieving financial accountability within the public schools so that the County remains fiscally sound.

V. Inclusiveness through Arts and Culture

Brunswick County is a primary leader and catalyst in appreciating, embracing, promoting, and celebrating the diversity of arts and culture of all communities, groups and individuals. The County presents a diverse spectrum of visual and performing arts programming through collaborative partnerships to encourage community growth, unity, and a sense of cohesiveness among residents who are diverse in age, ethnicity, educational level and economic status.

- 5.1 Continue to support and enhance arts and cultural programs.

VI. Healthy and Secure Community Environment

Brunswick County is a community where people feel healthy, safe, valued, and welcomed. The County is dedicated to retaining and recruiting experienced, trained and competent law enforcement, fire, and rescue professionals who are committed to saving lives and property and to maintaining order. Emergency services personnel work collaboratively to maintain the safety of County citizens and stand ready to respond to all emergencies, including natural or man-made disasters. Brunswick County embraces the nation's healthy living initiatives through access to high quality healthcare and resources to promote healthy lifestyles and wellbeing.

- 6.1 Increase law enforcement for a stronger presence throughout the County.
- 6.2 Implement a County wide emergency communications system.
- 6.3 Support access to quality health care facilities.
- 6.4 Maintain Brunswick County Local Emergency Planning Committee to plan and prepare for natural and man-made disasters and to update emergency plans.
- 6.5 Maintain regional partnerships to provide effective correctional services.
- 6.6 Evaluate and restructure County and volunteer emergency medical services to ensure future effectiveness.
- 6.7 Apply for grants to obtain vehicles and equipment for Brunswick County Emergency Medical Services.

VII. Efficient and Effective Government

Brunswick County provides efficient and quality services to residents, businesses, and visitors in the management of personnel, finances, and physical assets.

- 7.1 Develop and implement a plan to effectively use the Brunswick County Conference Center.
- 7.2 Develop a plan to address aging and dilapidated County buildings.
- 7.3 Develop a long term financial plan to ensure sound financial practices.
- 7.4 Develop and implement a vehicle replacement plan.
- 7.5 Establish a network to secure County data offsite.
- 7.6 Enhance the County's positive communication and information sharing, including social media.