

II. VISION STATEMENT

The vision for the Lake Shore Small Planning Area was developed using comments relating to issues and concerns from the committee members and participants at the public forums. The vision was used to assist with the development of the goals and recommendations of this plan, including policies for land use, economic development, community facilities, transportation and natural resources.

The vision is the cornerstone of the plan, and depicts how Lake Shore should develop in the next twenty years. It is the guiding principle(s) that will be used by the County in its decision-making processes to ensure that the area develops and transforms into the Lake Shore that is contemplated by its residents.

Lake Shore Small Area Plan Vision:

The phrase ‘We like it the way it is’ sums up the sentiment of most residents and the Small Area Planning Committee of the Lake Shore Peninsula. It is our vision that our existing quality of life is maintained while our rural area and our environmental and aquatic resources are protected. The area will be a green hub, and a model for smart growth and environmental sensitivity.

Our Plan includes policies and recommendations that will: preserve the fragile environment and our rural and water-oriented communities; control growth; improve pedestrian and bike access; provide greater access to the natural environment, both open space and waterways; reduce traffic problems and provide a safe road network; address safe drinking water; provide more opportunities for seniors and family activities; improve the quality and design of existing commercial; and which will ensure that size and placement of new commercial development best serves the local population with least impact.

- *The Lake Shore area will be readily identifiable and known as a green hub; a gateway to the Chesapeake Bay. It will be an area where the citizens respect and protect the environment, and where education about the Bay and its environs are used as tools to educate newcomers and future generations.*
- *A series of parks and greenways will be identified that seeks to set aside the most important networks for open space, recreation, and wildlife.*
- *Commercial uses will be focused into defined areas. Plans and ordinances will be developed that ensure design standards for new and redeveloping commercial facilities are utilized.*
- *Future residential buildout will be controlled and will maintain a sustainable level that will not adversely affect the natural and environmental resources of the area, and which will retain the rural character and lifestyle that exists.*

- *Recreational and housing opportunities for seniors will be enhanced.*
- *A community center will be developed that provides a variety of cultural and recreational opportunities for families.*

- *Future development will be planned and controlled in such a way as not to add to the existing traffic concerns or create new traffic problems. Transportation improvements including roads, sidewalks and public transportation will be considered and implemented in a timely fashion in order that the road network can serve the residential population in a safe manner.*

- *Public facilities including schools, police stations, fire stations and libraries will be upgraded in a timely manner as necessary to meet the growing needs of the area.*

- *Enforcement of existing laws and regulations will be a priority of the County. Stricter zoning enforcement will occur in a more timely matter.*