



James City County Planning Division  
P.O. Box 8784  
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Re: Comments for the Comprehensive Plan

Due to conflicts in my schedule, I am unable to attend any of the Community Conversations that are scheduled, therefore, I am writing my comments for your consideration. There are three as follows:

**Cap County Population**

I believe we should seriously consider a cap on the population of James City County. The cap should lie somewhere between a reasonable preservation of the rural atmosphere (which has been a driving force attracting so many new residents) and a reasonable amount of future residential growth...including the ability to provide adequate water supplies. The target cap could apply to residential housing only, and be structured to allow a reasonable amount of growth at a planned pace (say over a 10-15 year horizon). This would allow the county to properly plan the necessary infrastructure support. A cap could be structured to include all currently approved housing development projects plus new ones. It might be prudent to also require subsequently approved residential developments to agree to a beginning of a "build out" period. If they are unable to achieve that goal then the approval is cancelled and they must return to the queue seeking new development approval. Some end point for the development would also need to be agreed upon. I would not cap acreage for industrial development. Hopefully that will shift the remaining land available toward industrial growth which would be a longer term fix to maintaining a healthy tax structure for the county.

**Focus More Attention on the Actual Environmental Quality of our Watershed Creeks.**

I am not aware on any overall activity that monitors the actual results of the "environmental planning" that is done during the planning phase for new construction projects. Simply stated we do not know if the engineering is

successful until we have a failed creek. Powhatan and Mill creeks are examples of that failure. Without any ongoing monitoring our local creeks become the "canary in the coal mine." If so we need do significantly more monitoring of their health and vitality. Finding "impaired" creeks is the catastrophic result of a lack of knowledge, testing and foresight.

We should stop all further development in the Powhatan and Mill Creek watersheds until the watersheds are returned to their intended use as designated by the State. We should also closely monitor all the remaining watersheds to get an early forecast of impending problems so corrective action can be taken before such drastic measures (such as ceasing development) need be undertaken.

**Provide a More Efficient Means To Maximize Local Volunteer Efforts**

The County is blessed with a host of volunteers and organizations capable and willing to help in so many areas. I find however that all too often there is duplication of efforts, lack of insight to a bigger picture and lots of wasted efforts. The county should develop some strategic long range plans that are important to James city in areas that volunteer groups can rally around...have a coordinator or discussion leader to create the interchange among the volunteer groups and coordinate activities.

Some suggested areas might be:

- Environmental Quality Improvement
- Assistance to our Aging Population
- Assisting at Risk Students

Earlier there was an attempt to do something like this in the environmental area. It was called the "Community Conservation Partnership" and it brought together about 6-8 interested volunteer groups, but to my knowledge it never really got off the ground due to lack of leadership. My suggestion is that the County step up and provide the leadership and direction to help direct and coordinate these and similar volunteer interest groups.

