

# Vision Statement



## *Our Historic Past...*

James City County is a place of firsts. It was home to the first permanent English settlement and the first colonial government in America. From this region grew a powerful and prosperous collection of colonies that would eventually free itself from English rule and form a new nation. Because of this proud heritage, James City County is a place of special significance, not only for its residents, but also for citizens across the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States. Given the importance of our unique historical identity, we have a responsibility to preserve and protect our irreplaceable assets for future generations.

This responsibility requires that we preserve the legacy of our quality of life in James City County through wise planning, policy-making, and legislation. We must strive to manage growth and balance the needs of development with historical and environmental protection, the needs for infrastructure, transportation, quality schools, and the availability of water. We will not settle for less than first-class education, medical care, public safety, recreation, and entertainment that strengthen the fabric of our community. But our mission does not end there.

## *Our Sustainable Future...*

James City County also recognizes the importance of sustainability, which aims to leave the County in good shape – economically, socially, and ecologically – for all present and future residents and visitors. Sustainability for our purposes also addresses that which will strengthen and preserve what is best and most special in the County. To this end, we will work

to preserve the greenspaces and wetlands that lend their beauty to our County and support the health of our ecosystem. We will cooperate with private conservancies and landowners to protect these spaces. Residential units will be thoughtfully and logically placed and provide a wide range of choice. Industries that offer quality employment opportunities and that are compatible with the County's goals will be encouraged. Well-placed and well-planned commercial establishments will add to both the character and economy of our County. We will work to improve opportunities for all of our residents, and pay special attention to those most in need or at risk. We will strive to develop new jobs and career opportunities within our County, and to provide our population with the best possible education and training so that our citizens may fully realize these opportunities. Finally, a safe, efficient transportation network for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists will meet the everyday needs of our residents while at the same time fully integrating James City County with the rest of Hampton Roads and Virginia.

We will sustain the quality of life and economic vitality in James City County while preserving our special natural and cultural heritage. We will accomplish this by promoting smart and sustainable growth principles, adopting sustainable strategies, providing a variety of housing options, supporting economic development, and providing diverse recreational, cultural, and education opportunities for all ages. These actions will be implemented to the benefit of all County residents. James City County will uphold its identity as an exceptional area to visit and a special place to live and work.