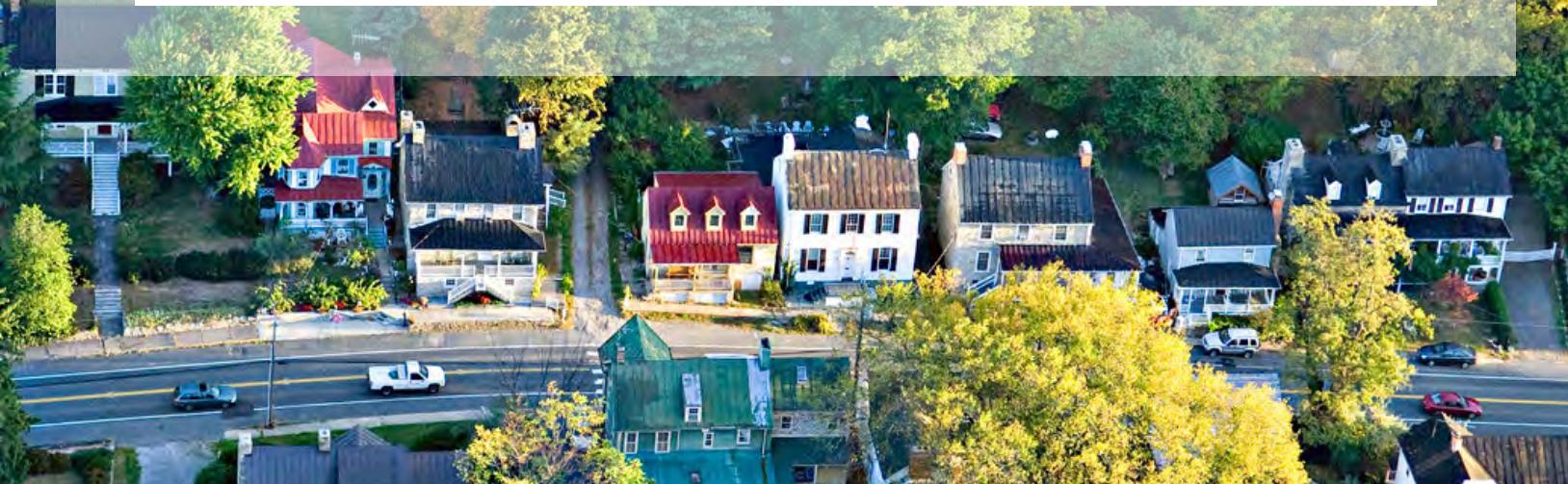




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LOUDOUN
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Foundations Report



February 2017

PREFACE

Our Planning Process: Envision Loudoun

Envision Loudoun is the County's public planning process that will have a lasting impact on the Loudoun community, helping to promote a continued high quality of life in the County. Envision Loudoun is a rare opportunity to plan for future growth, land use, transportation, community facilities and amenities, economic development, and fiscal management in Loudoun. It will result in a new Comprehensive Plan that will serve as Loudoun County community's guiding policy for the foreseeable future. The public input process is designed to achieve three goals:

- **Openness and Inclusivity** - This process is designed and facilitated so that everyone feels comfortable engaging and sharing their ideas. It is welcoming and respectful of the diversity of experiences and opinions.
- **Opportunity** - The planning process is a key means to explore opportunities, such as, creating a "complete community." The process is also a means of building upon the high quality of life we currently enjoy in Loudoun. It will make sure the County is moving forward to meet the challenges and embrace the opportunities of today and in the future. This process is intended to identify opportunities that the community is excited to pursue.
- **Connectivity** - The New Comprehensive Plan process is a County-wide initiative and an opportunity to connect people and issues to the future. The process is designed to motivate and facilitate deeper participation and connections with our neighbors and fellow residents. The County is diverse with respect to development (rural, suburban, and urban), varying points of view, and culture. This diversity presents us with exciting possibilities for shaping our future.

Why is it important to update our Comprehensive plan?

Estimates show that by 2045, Loudoun County may add an additional 120,000 new residents.

Where will these residents live? What types of services will they need? Where will they work? How will they get around? Will this increase in residents increase public service costs for the County?

These are important questions to be asking in preparation for the future of Loudoun. Envision Loudoun offers an opportunity to explore these questions and develop a common vision for our county's future.



Envision Loudoun provides the citizens of Loudoun with the opportunity to shape the County's future. This process began with a series of Listening and Learning Workshops in the fall of 2016 to gain insight about the future from residents and other stakeholders.



<http://envision-loudoun.org/>

The Plan for Creating Our Plan

On April 21, 2016, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the *Plan Charter*. This “plan to do the plan” was the first step in the New Comprehensive Plan effort.

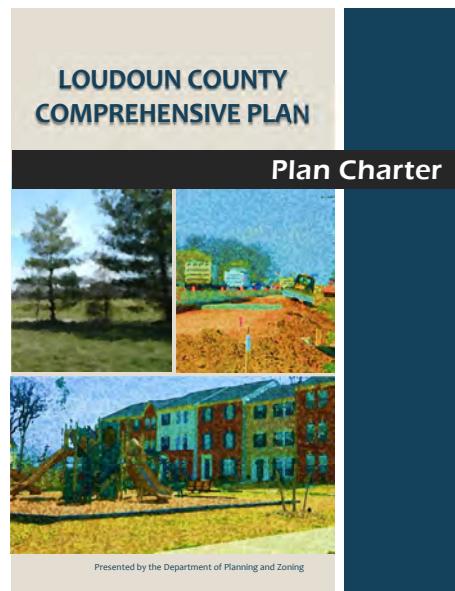
The *Plan Charter* contains pertinent background information and broad existing conditions, a preliminary list of the prominent issues the Plan should address, a description of the planning process and schedule, the organizational structure, a description of the community outreach and engagement strategy, and the role of consultants.

Key Planning Issues

The Plan Charter identifies nine key planning issues that will be addressed in the New Comprehensive Plan:

- Economic Development
- Transition Policy Area
- Residential Housing Choice and Diversity

- Redevelopment/Revitalization
- Suburban Policy Area
- Community Facilities and Supporting Infrastructure
- Quality Development
- Fiscal Management
- Growth Management



Want to check out the Plan Charter? Go to www.loudoun.gov/newcomplan

Our Planning Process



How can I get involved?

Envision Loudoun offers a unique opportunity to build the County’s new Comprehensive Plan. Citizens are encouraged to participate in Envision Loudoun by sharing their ideas through a broad range of community engagement opportunities.

How can I get more information?

For more information on Envision Loudoun and ways you can engage in the process, check out:

<http://envision-loudoun.org/>

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1. INTRODUCTION

Loudoun County has evolved from a collection of rural villages to a world renowned suburban community 25 miles from the nation's capital, known for its high quality neighborhoods, excellent schools, and growing technology business sector. In the early days, Loudoun was primarily an agricultural community with dairy farms located along the Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) Railroad that served Washington, DC customers. The closing of the railroad and opening of Dulles International Airport marked an important shift in Loudoun County's history, spurring development and prosperity.

The County has accommodated a high rate of growth over the past five decades by concentrating new development in the eastern portion of the County where utilities and roadways can serve the population more efficiently. Accommodating the planned growth while maintaining its rural landscape and agricultural economy is one of the reasons Loudoun is recognized as one of the best counties in the United States to live, work, and play.

However, changing market conditions since the last comprehensive planning effort -- including a shrinking supply of land designated to accommodate future residential development, new demand for urban type development, continued population growth, and new planned transit expansions -- have spurred Loudoun's leaders to review the planning policies that have shaped the County.

About This Foundations Report

This *Foundations Report* is the first product of the new Loudoun County Comprehensive Plan process - Envision Loudoun - that began in the spring of 2016 with the initiation and endorsement of the *Plan Charter*. It provides an overview of the fundamental planning influences of critical importance to this long-range planning effort, and presents a foundation for understanding the role of the Comprehensive Plan as well as conditions, trends, and current policies that impact Loudoun County. This *Foundations Report* was intentionally drafted to consider the nexus between land development activities, the County's fiscal sustainability, environmental quality, and quality of life. This report addresses how the economy is impacted by the County's transportation network, how growth affects the provision of public investment and operational costs, how housing choices impact local economic opportunities, and other similar relationships. Each of the following sections addresses three main components:

1. Past Trends and Future Forecasts
2. Relevant Policies and Planning Systems
3. Key Policy Questions for Further Exploration

The new Comprehensive Plan will include a robust array of community planning topics that relate to various aspects of life in Loudoun. The table below highlights the plan topics explored in this report.

Section	Focus
Our People	demographic trends, population growth and forecasts
Our Built Environment	land use policies, development trends, inventory of land
Our Housing	housing growth, housing inventory
Our Economy	economic trends, industry clusters, rural businesses
Our Community Infrastructure	capital planning, anticipated infrastructure needs
Our Transportation System	commuter trends, system performance, system gaps
Our Environmental, Agricultural, and Cultural Heritage	components of green infrastructure system: natural areas, productive lands, heritage places
Our Lifestyles	Loudoun's key characteristics, changing dynamics

What is Loudoun County's Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan is a community-based vision for the development of Loudoun County. It is intended to guide future land use development decisions, plan for the provision of community amenities and facilities, as well as inform the location and timing of future infrastructure investment.

What are the goals for creating the New Comprehensive Plan?

Envision Loudoun will create a new Comprehensive Plan that will be:

Strategic

The New Plan recommendations will be fiscally sound to balance growth with public investment and operations rooted in the realities of changing demographics and market conditions to serve as a foundation for economic prosperity for the County.

Easy to Understand

The New Plan will be highly illustrative, clear, concise, and easy to use. To ensure ease of comprehension and availability, multiple formats of the Plan will be available for easy dissemination to the general public.

Overarching

The Plan will bridge different functions and other County plans by including a broad vision, goals, and objectives for the County. The Plan will be integrated with other relevant County plans and policies, comprehensive to ensure widespread implementation across County operations, and instill confidence in the community to reach its policies and goals.

Flexible

The New Plan will be adaptable and enduring, able to accommodate changing technologies, demographics, and markets.

Why do we need a comprehensive plan?

A comprehensive plan is a “blueprint” document that provides guidance for elected officials and other governmental decision-makers as to where and how a community will grow in the long-term. Comprehensive plans typically consist of maps, goals, objectives and implementation strategies for addressing a number of issues relating to land use, housing, economic development, transportation, community character and design, parks, recreation, historic preservation and other planning topics.

Comprehensive plans provide an opportunity for communities to think collectively about the future of their community, and to develop a shared set of values and strategies intended to achieve a unified vision. They are critical tools for managing growth, the provision of capital facilities, and the fiscal health of communities. They are especially important for high growth communities like Loudoun County, where change can happen quickly, and a comprehensive plan is needed to guide that change.

The Commonwealth of Virginia requires that all local governments prepare a comprehensive plan to achieve “coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development” of land. The Code of Virginia § 15.2-2223 sets out requirements for localities to review their plans every five years to determine if updates are needed. Envision Loudoun complies with this requirement.

What is Loudoun’s Comprehensive Plan?

Loudoun County’s Comprehensive Plan is a collection of several plans that sets out Loudoun County’s vision for the future. The Comprehensive Plan’s two main components include:

The Revised General Plan

The Revised General Plan addresses a wide array of planning topics (land use, housing, employment, economic development, environmental protection, agriculture, historic and cultural preservation, etc.) The original General Plan was adopted in 1991, and was revised to its current form in 2001, with 27 approved amendments since that time. This document guides and assists staff, advisory boards, and the Board of Supervisors when making decisions about proposed developments, funding for capital improvements, and other community planning needs.

The Countywide Transportation Plan

The 2010 Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) guides future transportation infrastructure investment to be financed by federal, state, and local dollars as well as the private sector. The 2010 CTP also helps to inform residents and employers of the County’s approach to addressing mobility needs and how the future transportation system may impact a specific neighborhood or property.



What is Loudoun's current growth policy?

The County has a long history of strong community support for maintaining the quality of life and community character offered in Loudoun. County actions have been driven by policy directions included in the County's Comprehensive Plan founded on the principles of smart and managed growth. For decades, the County has supported the protection of its rural and agricultural areas to the west, and focused development in suburban areas to the east. The County has accommodated growth near existing infrastructure to support development in a fiscally sound manner, and in close proximity to Dulles International Airport and Washington, DC where the market forces are strongest for new residential and employment development.

"The Revised General Plan carries forward the central concept that development should be systematic, in compact communities, and in the right location, in order to function well and enable the County to provide adequate, and cost efficient, public services." -Revised General Plan

This policy has resulted in some of the most highly valued residential communities in the region. The Plan encourages new business development in designated areas to provide job opportunities to residents and reduce the tax burden on County citizens with business and commercial generated revenue.

The County plans for long-range capital improvements, while monitoring the County's fiscal health. This means that the County closely manages its budget to wisely use tax revenues. The County Board of Supervisors has supported these efforts through a robust set of policies and implementation strategies that have guided growth related decisions for decades. The policies and strategies have shaped much of the development pattern of present day Loudoun County that continues to attract new people and businesses to the County.



Envisioning the Future of Loudoun County

Loudoun County is rapidly transforming. The County has experienced tremendous growth over the past several decades, reaching the climax of its planned growth. The County also has growing market demand for new types of development and community amenities, continuing population growth, and plans for new transit lines. Taken together, these present significant questions regarding the future of Loudoun County. The changing market also spurs the need for a new assessment of existing conditions and a new plan that charts the path forward. By evaluating the conditions, trends, and current policies that impact Loudoun County, this Foundations Report provides the knowledge base to assist in preparing the new Loudoun County Comprehensive Plan.

What else is included in Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan?

In addition to the Revised General Plan and the Countywide Transportation Plan, the Comprehensive Plan also includes:

- **Strategic Plans:**
 - *Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Master Plan*
 - *Telecommunication Facilities Plan*
 - *Countywide Retail Policy Plan*
 - *Heritage Preservation Plan*
 - *Greenways and Trails Policies*
- **Small Area Plans and Area Management Plans:**
 - *Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Hamilton*
 - *Cub Run Area Management Plan*
 - *Dulles North Area Management Plan*
 - *Dulles South Area Management Plan*
 - *Eastern Loudoun Area Management Plan*
 - *Leesburg Area Management Plan*
 - *Round Hill Area Management Plan*
 - *Rt. 28 Policies and Corridor Plan*
 - *Rt. 50 - Arcola Area*
 - *Toll Road Plan*
 - *Waterford Area Management Plan*



2. OUR PEOPLE

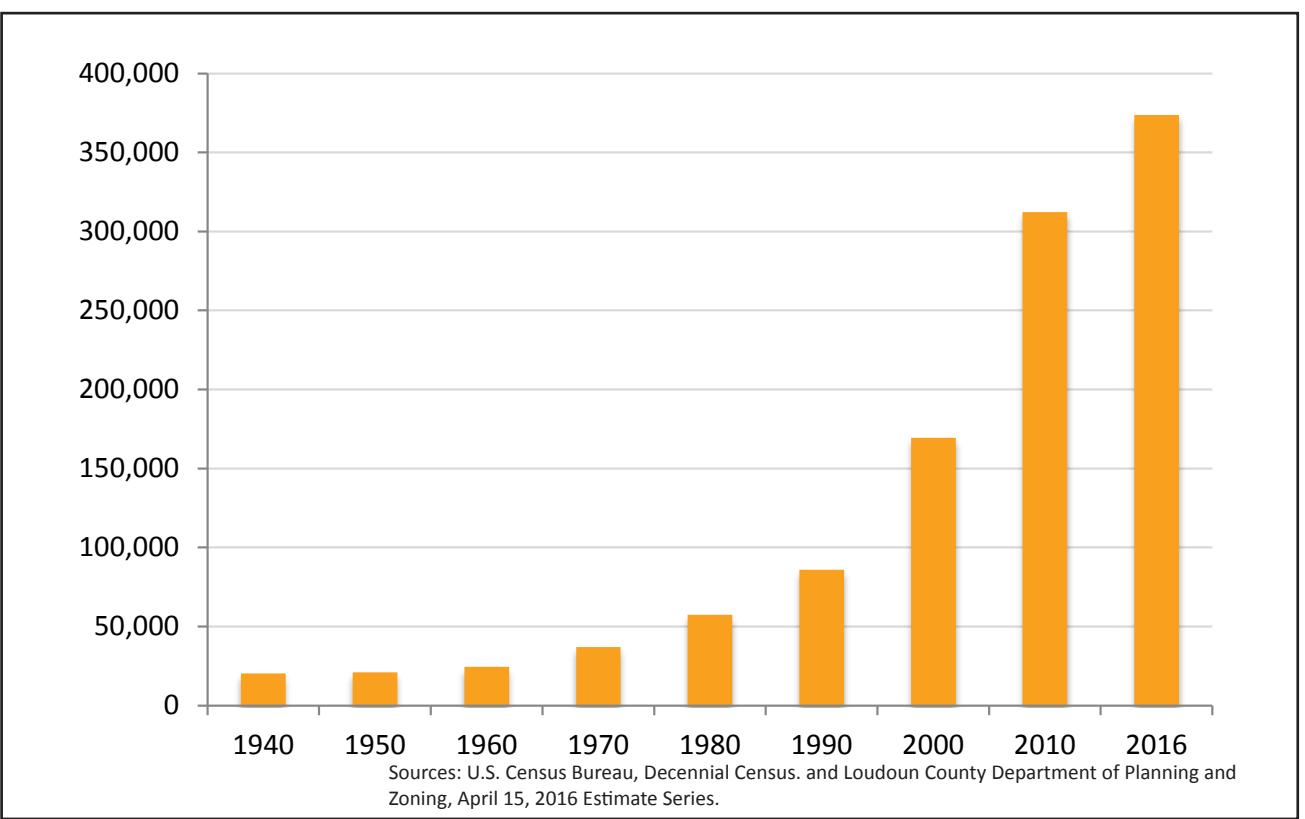
Loudoun is a fast growing and diversifying County. This growth is expected to continue, though likely at a slower pace. In addition to this overall population growth, the population has also grown increasingly diverse. More residents identify as an ethnic or racial minority than they did in the past. The County's residents are well educated and affluent, exceeding regional and national median household income figures. Poverty rates in Loudoun are significantly lower than regional and national poverty rates. Looking to the future, Loudoun will have to consider how these demographic trends will impact the amount and type of development that occurs within the County.

Who lives in Loudoun County and how has that changed since the last plan update?

More People Live In Loudoun than Ever Before

The population in Loudoun County has risen over the decades as the Washington, DC Metropolitan Region has grown and as Loudoun County has captured more of this regional growth. In 1940, the County's population was just over 20,000 people. Fifty years later, the population had quadrupled, totaling just over 86,000 people in 1990. Since 1990, the population has quadrupled again, with an estimated 373,000 people in 2016. However, this exponential growth is projected to slow as Loudoun continues to mature, a trend that may already be occurring. From 2000-2010, Loudoun was the 5th fastest growing county in the nation, but dropped to the 20th fastest growing county from 2010-2015.

Loudoun County Historic Population Trends



How has growth in Loudoun compared to counties across the country?

#5 county in the nation for growth (2000-2010)

#2 among counties with a population of 100,000 or more (2000-2010)

Where Are Loudoun Residents From?

24%

of Loudoun's residents identified as foreign born in 2015. Six countries make up over half of Loudoun's foreign born population:

20%

India

12%

El Salvador

5%

Philippines

5%

China

4.5%

Korea

4%

Vietnam

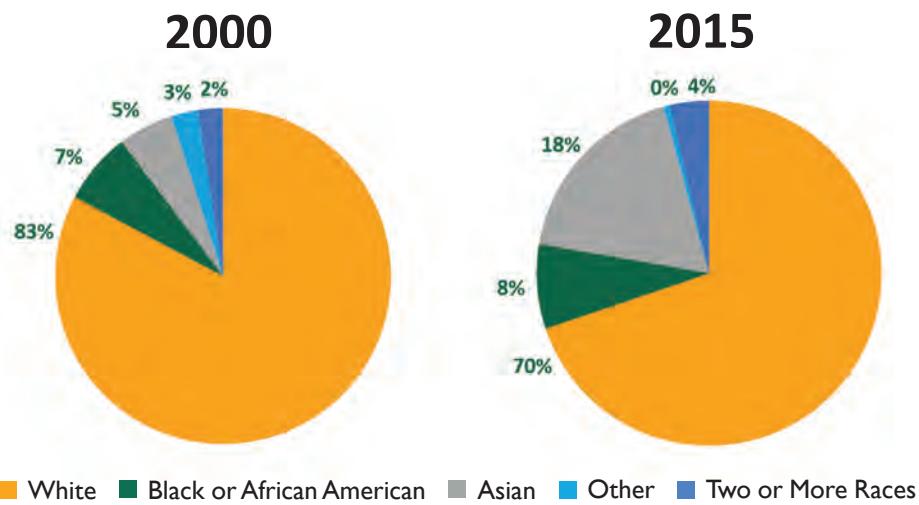


Similar to National Trends, Loudoun County Is Becoming Racially and Ethnically Diverse

The percentage of residents identifying as Hispanic or Latino or as a racial minority has grown in the past fifteen years. Between 2000 and 2015, the percent of people identifying as Hispanic or Latino more than doubled from 6% to 13.6%. Loudoun's foreign born population has grown in share to nearly one quarter of the population in 2015.

In addition to becoming more ethnically diverse, Loudoun is becoming more racially diverse. A growing percentage of the County's residents identifies one of the minority racial groups shown in the figure below. The percentage of the Loudoun population identifying as Asian has grown the most rapidly, and the percentage of the population identifying as Black or African American is also growing, but at a much slower rate.

Changing Racial Diversity



Place of origin for over half of Loudoun's foreign born population

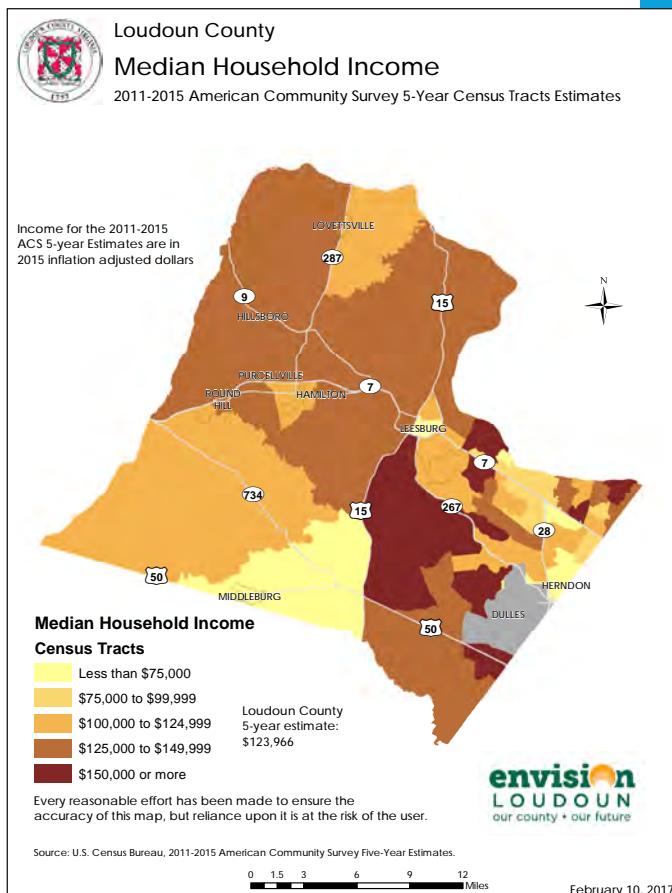
How does the age of Loudoun residents compare to the region and nation?

The median age of residents in 2015 at the county, regional, and national level:

35.3
Loudoun

36.3
Washington, DC Metro Area

37.6
Nationwide



Policy Topic to Explore: Impacts of the County's Changing Population on the Future of Loudoun

As Loudoun County's population becomes more diverse, so may the preferences of the new population. Aging seniors, empty nesters, millennials (persons generally born between 1980-2000), and racially and ethnically diversifying households may demand different housing types, public services, and lifestyle options than provided in the past. These trends may have an impact on how we design the community for the future. As the population continues to grow and diversify, there may be opportunities to capitalize on the increasing diversity and culture found in Loudoun, allowing the County to continue to thrive in a changing economy and world.

How does Loudoun's poverty rate compare to the region and nation?

In 2015 Loudoun's poverty rate was well below that of the region and nation:

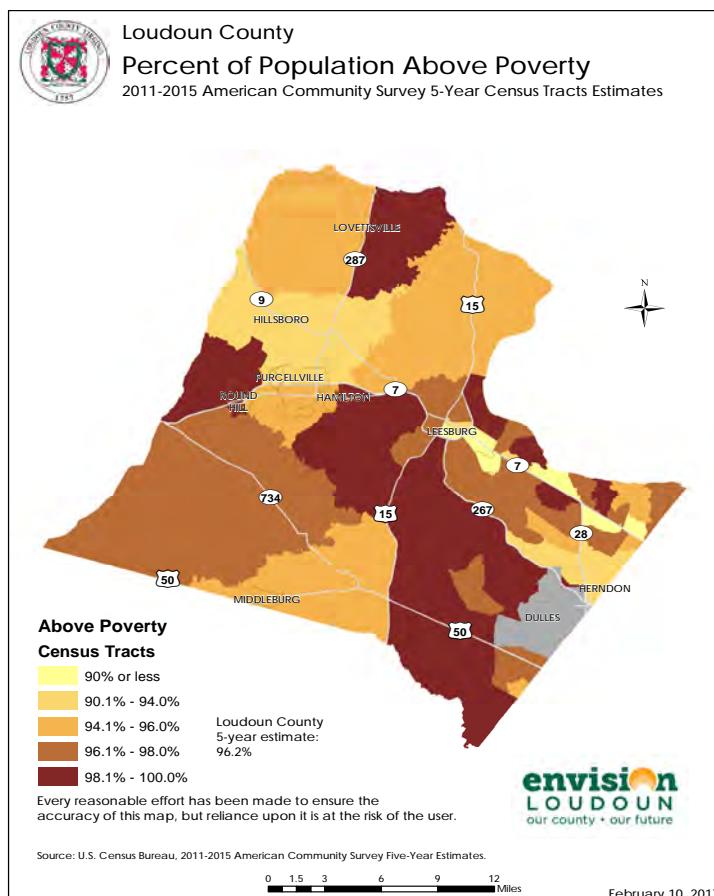
4.0%
of population below poverty level in Loudoun

8.3%
of population below poverty level in D.C. Metro Region

15.5%
of population below poverty level in Nation

What are the trends for households below the poverty level?

Loudoun has a low percentage of households living below the poverty level. The households seem to be clustered in areas of older development including along the Route 7 Corridor (90% or less above poverty). There are some people in need of assistance throughout the County, and the normal challenges of poverty can be exacerbated by higher costs of living.

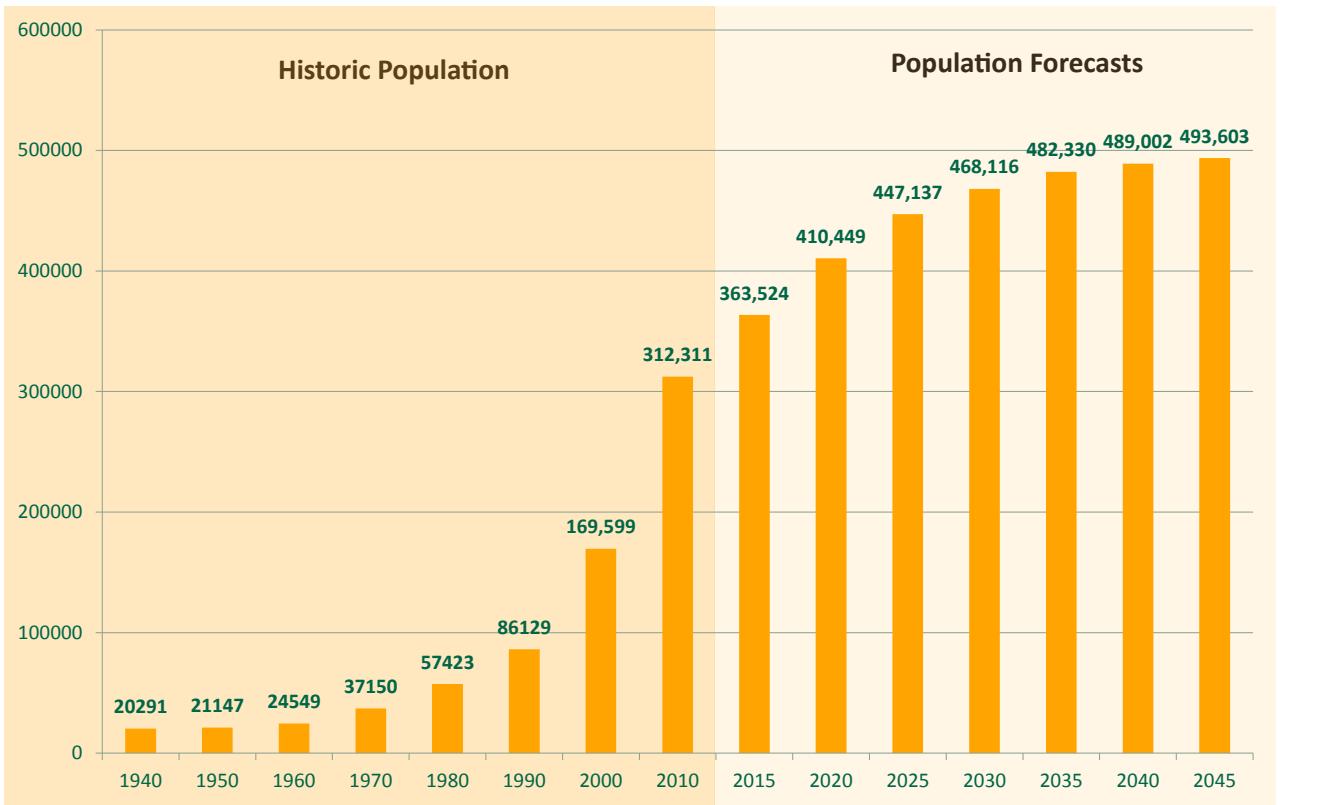


How is our population expected to change through 2045?

In the past, there has been exponential growth. As Loudoun matures, population projections show this growth slowing as land in the County becomes built out under the current Revised General Plan policies.

The County forecasts growth in conjunction with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG). The County's own growth projections are combined with the rest of the region and an entire snapshot is created. County forecasts are based on the land use policies included in the Revised General Plan and the market demand for housing and jobs as they relate to these land use policies. These forecasts will likely change as a result of the final Silver Line Comprehensive Plan Amendment expected to occur in 2017.

Loudoun County Population: Historic and Forecasted



Policy Topic to Explore: Comparison of County's Forecasted Population and Unconstrained Market Demand

Loudoun County's growth is largely driven by the land use policies in the Revised General Plan, and the same is true for the County's growth forecasts. While these growth forecasts do reflect market factors, they are also "constrained" forecasts in that they limit the amount of development, and population growth, that is forecasted to occur in the County per the land use policies in the Revised General Plan. The Envision Loudoun process provides an opportunity to consider "unconstrained" forecasts to better understand market demand for housing in Loudoun that is not constrained by current land use policies. This can allow for a comparison between the amount of forecasted development to house future populations per current policies, and unconstrained market demand.

By 2045, the population in Loudoun County is expected to increase by 120,000, for a total of nearly 1/2 million people.

Sources of Information Used for this Section

Population estimates are provided by the Loudoun County Department of Planning and Zoning's April 15, 2016 estimates. The forecasts for future population growth are from the Department of Planning and Zoning's December 2016 population forecast. Age, race, ethnicity, poverty, and household income are provided by the U.S. Census Bureau's America Community Survey, 2015 estimates. These sources can be found below.

[Loudoun County Demographics and Data](#)

[American Community Survey](#)

[Loudoun County Census Quick Facts](#)

3. OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Loudoun County has a long history of strong growth that has required its leaders to develop systems to maintain character and plan for community needs generated by new development. The County is now entering a phase where limited land is available for future development. This condition, and changing demographics and market preferences, pose many critical policy choices about the future of Loudoun County's built environment.

How has the County grown since the last plan update, and how does this relate to regional growth trends?

The County has Grown Significantly

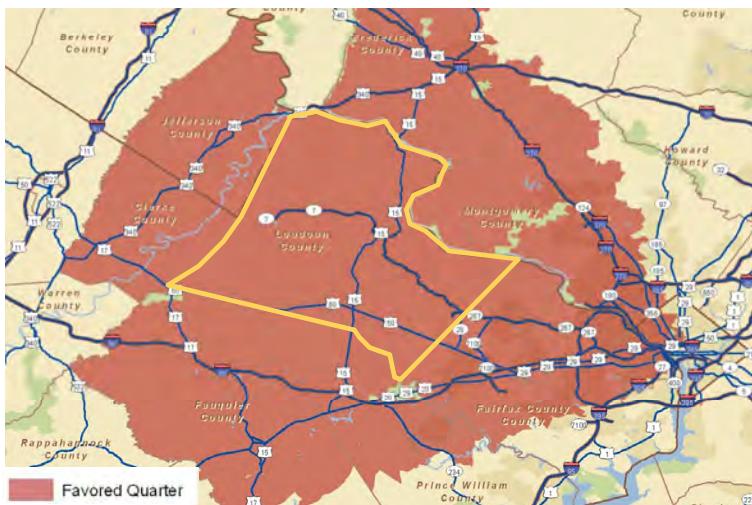
Loudoun County has grown significantly in the past 16 years. The population and number of housing units have more than doubled, while commercial space nearly doubled. Growth has mainly been along Belmont Ridge Road/NorthStar Boulevard. Residences built between 2000 and 2016 have mostly been on the western edge of the Suburban Policy Area and parts of the Transition Policy Area in a line running roughly south from Leesburg (see map on next page). There has been less concentration of new homes built in the western Rural Policy Area, though there has been more in the Towns and along US 15 than other parts of the west.

Loudoun County Grew Faster than the Region

Growth in Loudoun is spurred by the growth of the Greater Metropolitan Washington, DC region, taking into account the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments(MWCOG). From 2000 to 2015, the regional population increased from 4.5 million to 7.1 million people, using the Loudoun grew faster than the region as a whole, growing from 3.8% of the regional population in 2000 to 5.3% of the regional population today. Economic studies commissioned by Loudoun County have acknowledged that Loudoun sits in the heart of this "Favored Quarter," west of the District-- an area projected to see 44% of household growth and 48% of job growth for the region over the next two decades.

Loudoun County is Located in Washington DCs Favored Quarter

Source: Market and Fiscal Impact Analysis of the Phase 2 Metrorail Extension to Loudoun County by Robert Charles Lesser & Co.



History shows that the evolution of cities to larger metropolitan areas often includes a prominent direction outward from the city that is the focus of much of the economic growth, along with high-end housing and development. Loudoun County is located within Washington, DCs "favored quarter."

Recent Growth

Population



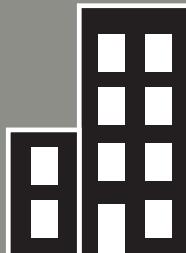
2000: 169,599
2016: 373,694

Housing Units



2000: 62,160
2015: 129,773

Commercial Space



2000: 44 Million Sq. Ft.
2015: 91 Million Sq. Ft.

Growth by the Numbers (2000-2016)

67,613

New Housing Units

45%

Single Family Detached

34%

Single Family Attached

21%

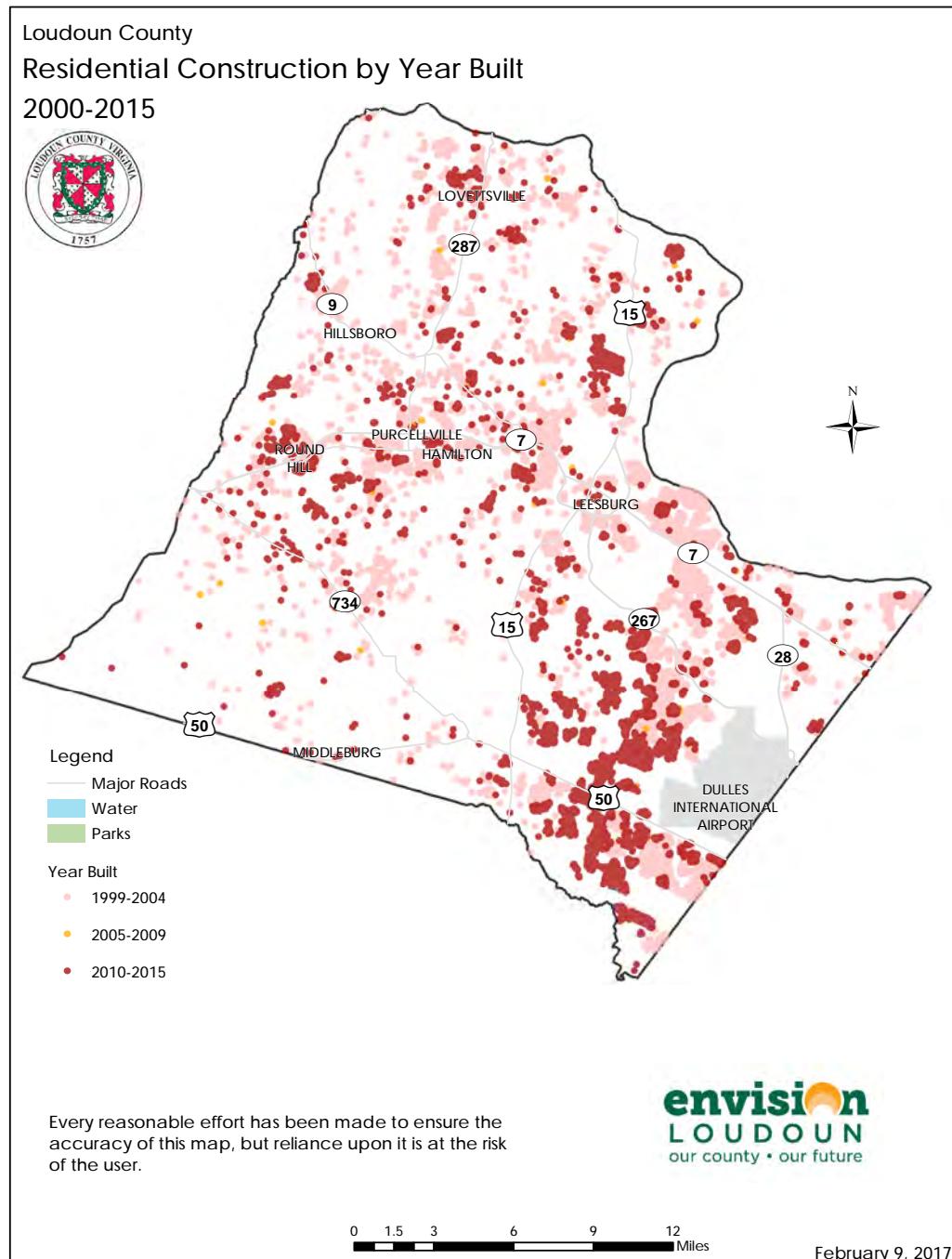
Multifamily

47,000,000

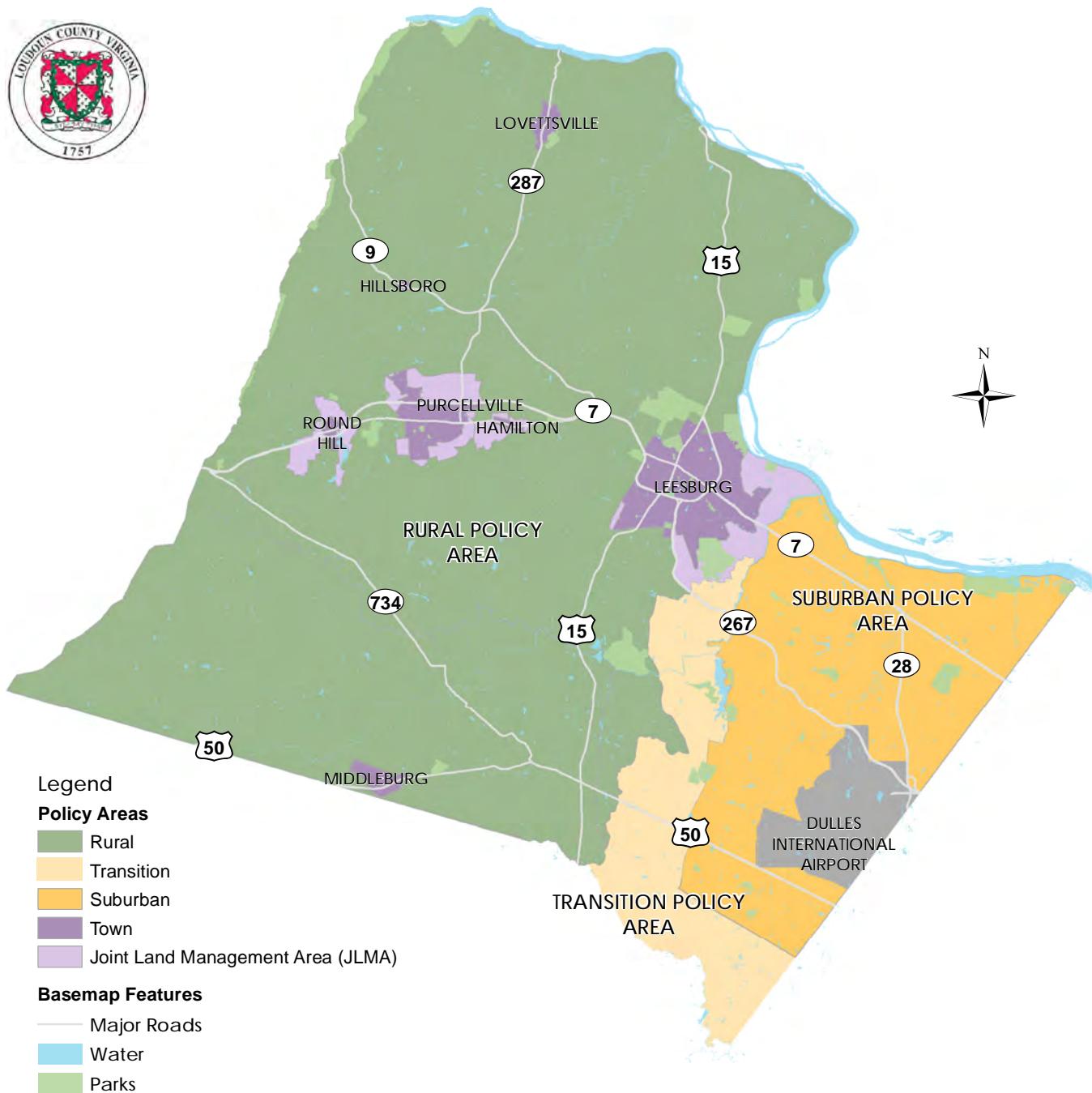
New Nonresidential Square Footage

What type of growth has occurred in the County since the last plan update and where has the growth been located?

Generally speaking, the majority of development in Loudoun County has occurred in the towns, and Suburban and Transition Policy Areas, with limited development in the Rural Policy Area. The map below illustrates the locations of residential construction by year, showing growth that occurred in the last five years in the red band leading southeast of Leesburg and Route 267. A non-residential construction inventory is currently being developed and will be included in future analyses.



Loudoun County Established Policy Areas



Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this map, but reliance upon it is at the risk of the user.

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January 13, 2017

What are Loudoun's "Policy Areas"?

The designation of Policy Areas in the General Plan is the core framework for land planning, and these Policy Areas represent the diverse character found in Loudoun County. The Suburban Policy Area is in the east near Dulles Airport and toward Washington, DC where the majority of development has occurred. The Rural Policy Area is located in the north and west of the County, and includes countryside farms and open spaces, as well as 13 established villages that historically grew at crossroad locations or around a railroad depot, mill, church, or store. The Transition Policy Area is between the other two, and as its name implies is intended to be a land use transition between the two. The Policy Areas are used to manage growth in a manner compatible with the respective landscape and character of each area by influencing the effect of development regulations and guiding the location, design, and timing of infrastructure investment.

Loudoun County's seven towns exercise planning and zoning controls within their corporate limits. In addition to the three Growth Policy Areas, the County has partnered with several of its towns to develop Joint Land Management Areas (JLMA) around the edges of the towns. The JLMA is a joint planning area where Loudoun and each respective town sets the limits for municipal water and sewer extension, which effectively serves as a growth boundary for each town. The map on the previous page illustrates the boundaries of these Policy Areas.

The Rural Policy Area:

200,000 acres
in western Loudoun

home to
6 of 7 Towns
&
12 of 13 Villages
in Loudoun

Rural Policy Area

The Rural Policy Area in the western portion of the County is designed to preserve the agricultural, historical, and natural heritage of Loudoun. The Revised General Plan states that the "Rural Policy Area land use pattern and design strategy is fundamentally committed to retaining the rural area as an essential asset of Loudoun County." This includes the rich agricultural and rural heritage of crossroads settlements, wineries, breweries, equine stables, abundant natural resources, and picturesque landscapes. It is composed of three areas: (1) a northern area where the minimum lot size for homes is 20 acres, (2) a southern area with an ingrained equestrian tradition where the minimum lot size for homes is 40 acres, and (3) rural villages. Additionally, all towns are surrounded by their Joint Land Management Areas and the Rural Policy Area.

The concept of the Rural Policy Area was developed in 2001 as a response to the conversion of land from agriculture to denser development and the decline of farming. In order to protect working lands, the policies for the area support rural-scale agriculture, tourism, and environmental protection. Agribusiness and agritourism is a growing part of the equation for allowing growth while maintaining a rural character. This includes wineries, vineyards, event spaces, and farm-to-table experiences.

Rural Policy Area Growth and Density (as of 2016)

14,296
Residential Units

11%
of All Residential Units in the County

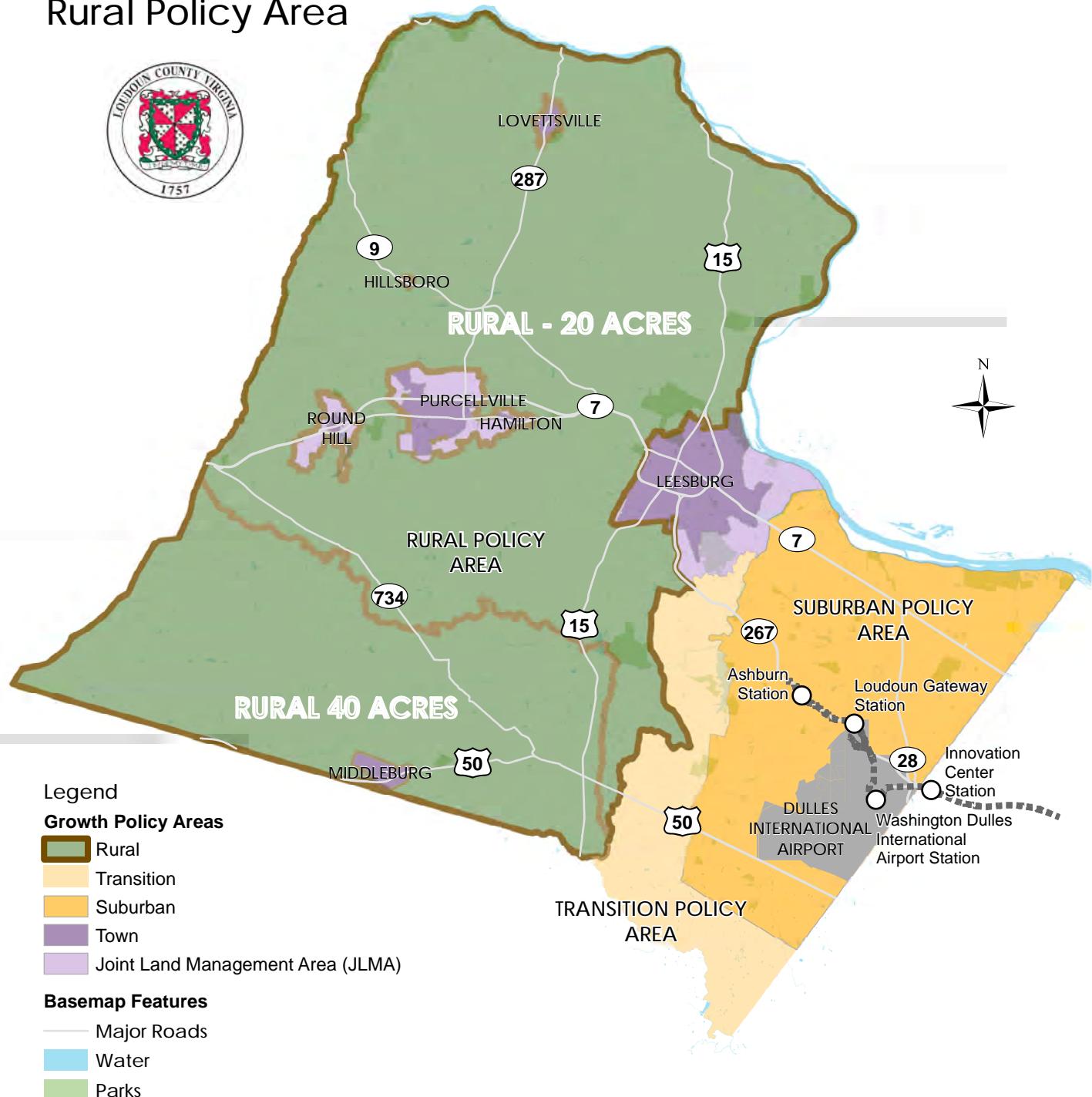
1:20

1 Dwelling Unit per 20 Acres in the Northern Rural Subarea, Can be Increased to 1 Dwelling Unit per 5 Acres if Clustered

1:40

1 Dwelling Unit per 40 Acres in the Southern Rural Subarea, Can be Increased to 1 Dwelling Unit per 15 Acres if Clustered

Loudoun County Rural Policy Area



Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this map, but reliance upon it is at the risk of the user.

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November 30, 2016

Suburban Policy Area

The Suburban Policy Area is broken into four suburban communities: Ashburn, Dulles, Potomac, and Sterling. According to the Revised General Plan, each of these communities are intended to be self-sustaining communities framed by open spaces and roads, and may become more distinct with enhanced development quality as future development and redevelopment is tailored to fit the existing contexts. Policy guidance for development in the Suburban Policy Area has focused on creating compact and walkable development, high quality design standards, and protection of open spaces. With the Silver Line extension under construction and land use and station planning underway, growth policies in the Suburban Policy Area near the stations may change.

The Suburban Policy Area is largely developed today, and it is expected that in the future the area will be prime for redevelopment of aging commercial centers, and possibly neighborhoods.

The Suburban Policy Area:

60,000 acres
in eastern Loudoun

is Loudoun County's designated
Growth Area

home to
**Potomac, Sterling,
Ashburn, and Dulles
Communities**

Suburban Policy Area Growth and Density (as of 2016)

86,568
Residential Units

66%
of Residential Units
in the County

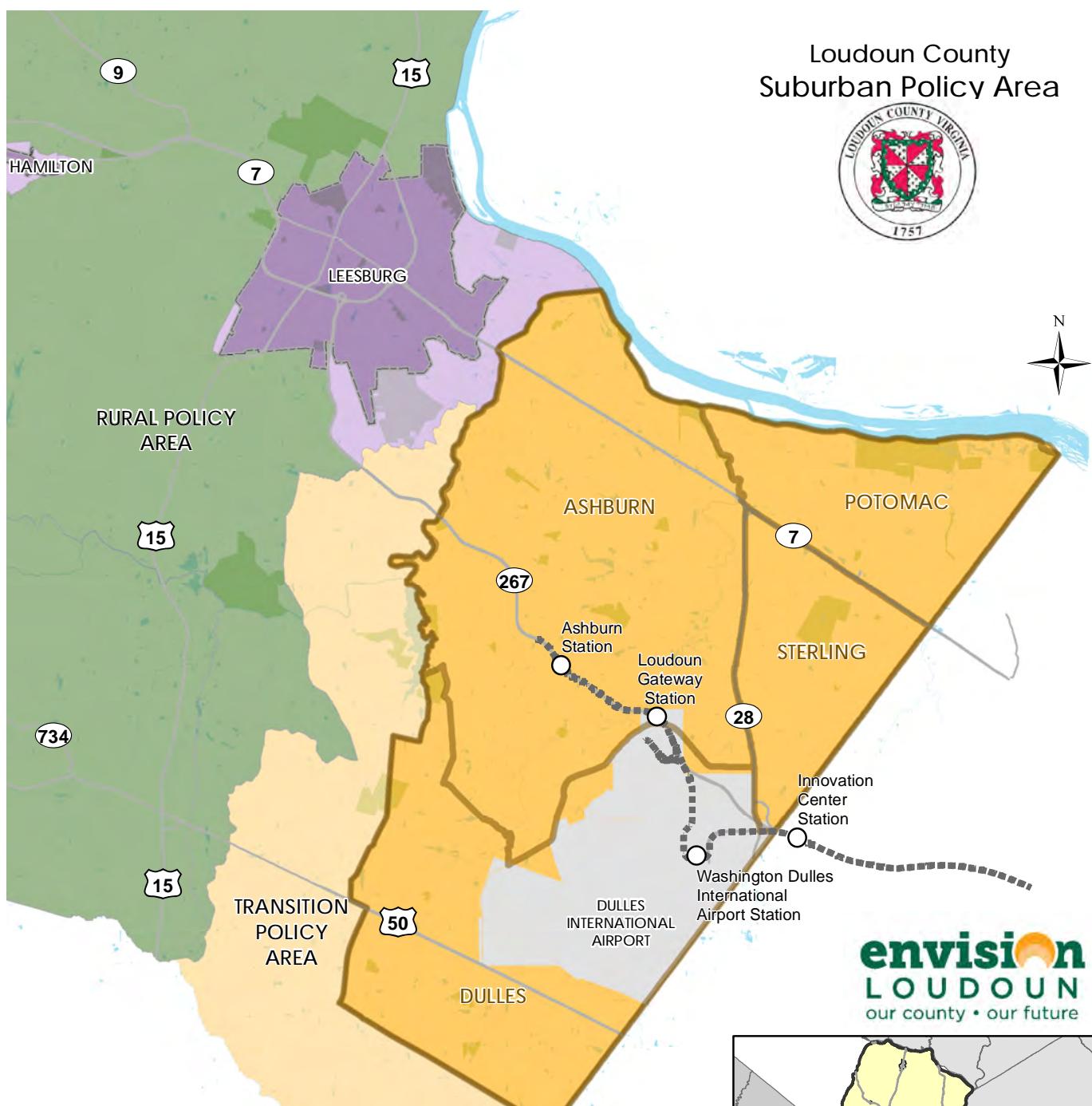
4:1

4 Dwelling Units per 1
Acre Average Density
Throughout the Suburban
Policy Area, Pockets of 8 to
24 Dwelling Units per Acre
in Designated High Density
Residential Areas

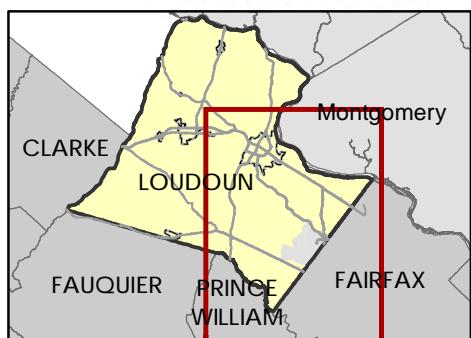
Policy Topic to Explore: Future Vision for Suburban Policy Area

The Suburban Policy Area is reaching its capacity as envisioned by current land use policies. Future development within the Suburban Policy Area will likely result in a shift toward redevelopment of existing sites and infill development of land with access to public infrastructure. The market for redevelopment will likely be driven by lifestyle preferences of the two largest segments of our population - aging baby boomers and maturing millennials - and the location of land available for development. What will this redevelopment look like? What types of uses will be accommodated through future redevelopment and infill development? Will these new developments be different in character than what is currently in the Suburban Policy Area? The form that future redevelopment and infill development will take is a critical question that will be addressed during the Envision Loudoun planning process.

Loudoun County Suburban Policy Area



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Legend

○	Future Metrorail Stations
-----	Future Silver Line Metrorail
—	Major Roads
———	Town Boundaries
———	County Boundary
———	Water
———	Parks

Policy Areas

- Rural
- Transition
- Suburban
- Town
- Joint Land Management Area (JLMA)

0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 6 Miles

Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this map, but reliance upon it is at the risk of the user.

January 16, 2017

Transition Policy Area

Established in 2001, the Transition Policy Area serves as a buffer between the Suburban and Rural Policy Areas. It includes six subareas defined on the map to the right, and extends across three watersheds and two potable water sources: Beaverdam and Goose Creek Reservoirs. Geologic characteristics (diabase rock) in the northern section of the Transition Policy Area pose challenges to groundwater extraction.

When the Transition Policy Area was established, only the Lower Foley and Lower Bull Run subareas were planned for central water/wastewater utilities. In 2005, this policy was changed through the Board of Supervisors approval a Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPAM) that opened up the entire Transition Policy Area to be served by central water and wastewater systems.

The area is predominantly residential, however there are some industrial spaces focused on quarry activity and energy infrastructure. The land use policy vision for this area is implemented primarily through protected open space and large lot or clustered developments. This Policy Area limits development and protects open space to protect drinking water resources and watersheds through a mandatory requirement of 50-70% open space for all residential and non-residential developments.

The Transition Policy Area:

20,000 acres
in eastern Loudoun

has

6 distinct Subareas

is or can be
served by public utilities

The Transition Policy Area is split into six subareas, each of which has a unique tailored density requirement. Due to the 2005 Comprehensive Plan amendment to extend utilities to all the subareas, the Transition Policy Area has seen increased residential development over the last decade.

Transition Policy Area Growth and Density (as of 2016)

5,543
Residential Units

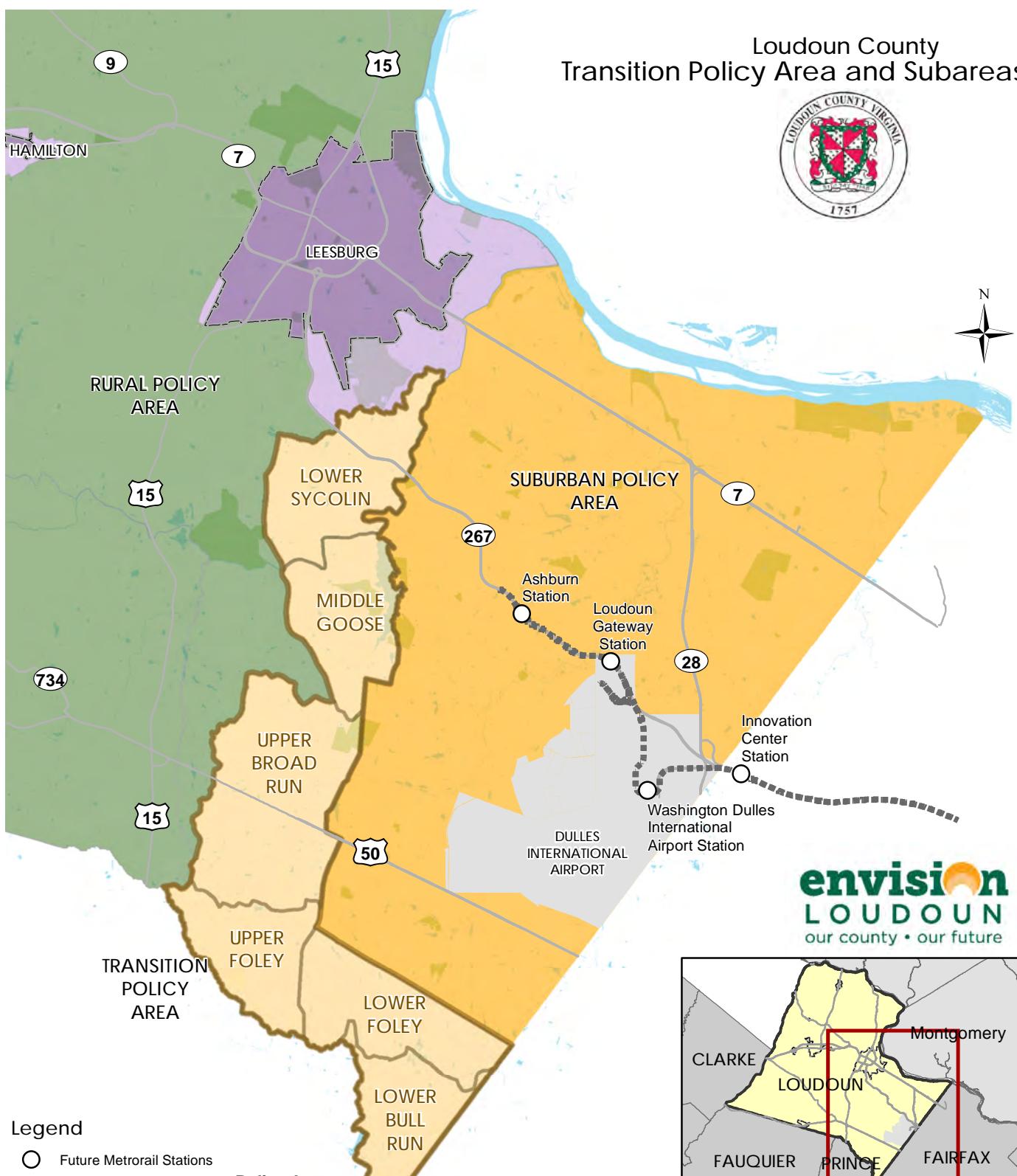
4%
of Residential Units
in the County

Varied
Residential Densities,
Specific to the
Character of the
6 Subareas

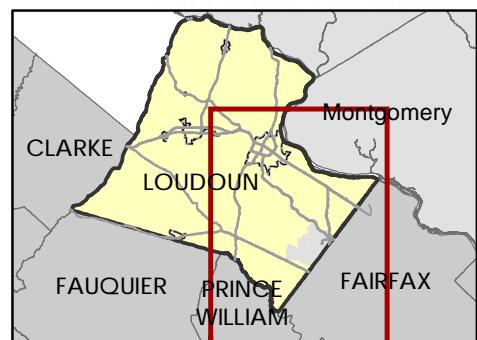
Policy Topic to Explore: Direction for the Transition Policy Area

Increasing development pressure is challenging existing policies in this area due to its proximity to the Suburban Policy Area, the fact that the Suburban Policy Area is reaching the development capacity envisioned by current land use policies, and that developments in the Transition Policy Area can be served by public utilities. In addition, previous entitlements that do not necessarily reflect the vision of the Transition Policy Area are coming to fruition. In addition, neighborhoods in the Transition Policy Area must travel to commercial centers in the Suburban Policy Area to the west for daily service needs. Envision Loudoun provides an opportunity for the County to define the future vision for the Transition Policy Area.

Loudoun County Transition Policy Area and Subareas



envision LOUDOUN
our county • our future



Legend

- | | |
|-------|------------------------------|
| ○ | Future Metrorail Stations |
| ----- | Future Silver Line Metrorail |
| — | Major Roads |
| ——— | Town Boundaries |
| ——— | County Boundary |
| ——— | Water |
| ——— | Parks |
- Policy Areas**
- Rural
 - Transition
 - Suburban
 - Town
 - Joint Land Management Area (JLMA)

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Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this map, but reliance upon it is at the risk of the user.

January 16, 2017

Towns and Surrounding Joint Land Management Areas

Six of Loudoun County's seven towns (Hamilton, Hillsboro, Lovettesville, Middleburg, Purcellville, and Round Hill) are located primarily in the Rural Policy Area, with Leesburg additionally abutting the Transition and Suburban Policy Area. These communities conduct their own planning and zoning activities within their corporate limits. Four of these communities (Leesburg, Purcellville, Hamilton, and Round Hill) have Joint Land Management Area plans that coordinate planning in areas of common interest on the edges of each town's corporate limits. These JLMA are served by town utilities and extension of services is based on future needs identified in local and JLMA plans.

Town and JLMA Growth (as of 2016)

25,123	19%
Residential Units	of Residential Units in the County

How are Loudoun's Policy Areas performing?

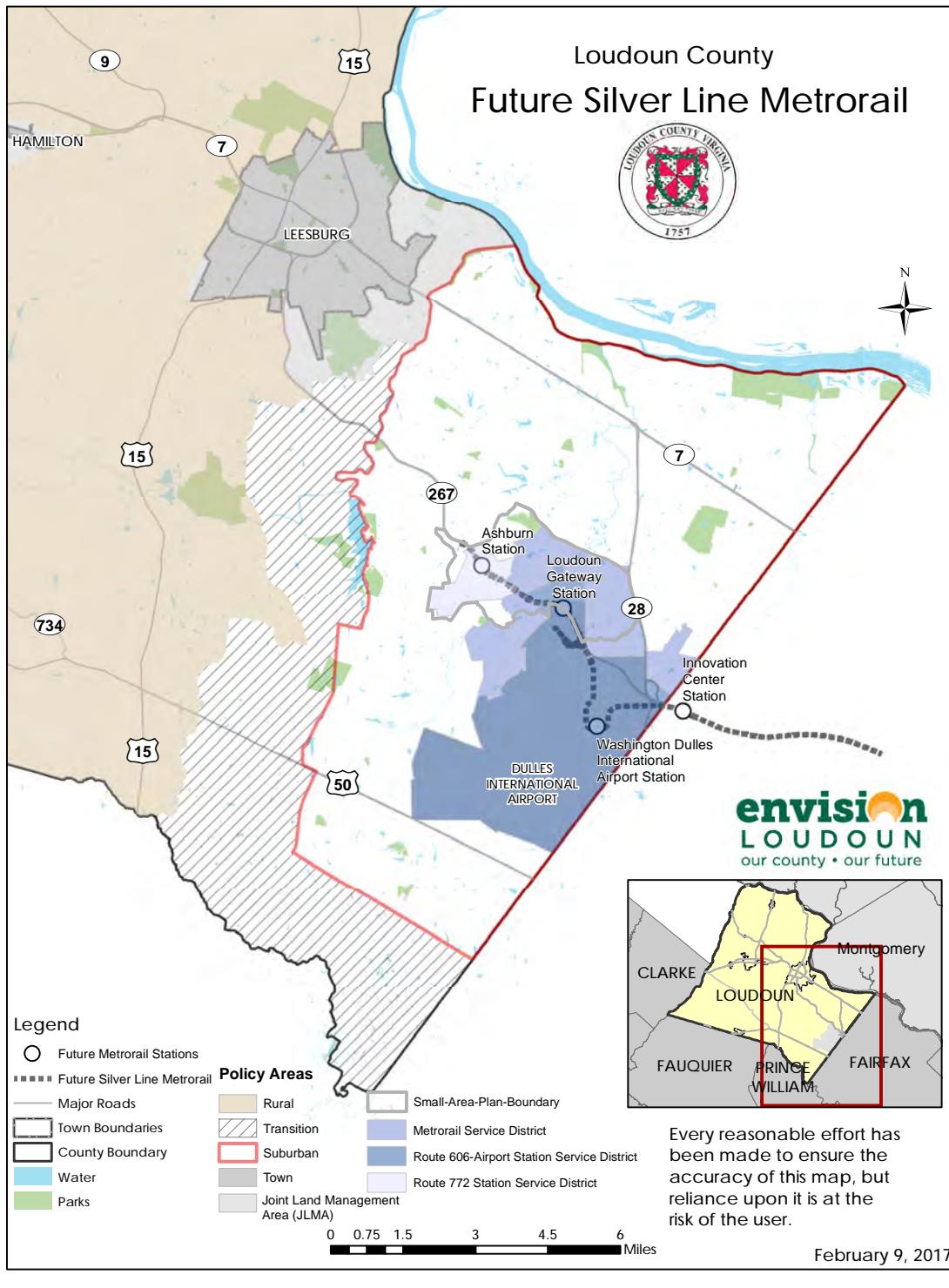
Conformance with the Comprehensive Plan is one of six standards considered by the Board of Supervisors for decisions on rezoning requests. Between 2002 and 2014, nearly two-thirds of the applications approved were determined to be in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan's land use policies, and one third were a departure from the policy guidance in the Revised General Plan. Most nonconforming approvals were located around the County's major corridors that include the Route 50 corridor, the Route 28 and Route 7 Interchange, the Route 7 corridor, and the Dulles Greenway Corridor (Route 267) where the cost of land tends to be greater than areas without access to significant infrastructure. Many of the non-conforming applications converted land planned for business use to residential use. The land areas planned for industrial uses west of Washington Dulles International Airport (along Old Ox Road) and the boundary between Suburban and Transition Policy areas south of Route 50 also attracted applications not in conformance with plan policy.

The approval of land development proposals that are not conforming with the current Revised General Plan is an indication of changing market conditions and potentially community preferences. This demonstrates the timeliness of the potential for reevaluation inherent in the Envision Loudoun process.

How will the new Comprehensive Plan relate to the Silver Line Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPAM)?

Loudoun County is currently engaged in another planning process to create a plan for the new Silver Line Metro Stations and the areas surrounding them. This is being developed as a formal amendment to Loudoun's current Comprehensive Plan.

Throughout Envision Loudoun, planners will be working to fold in the new information and guidance that is being provided through the Silver Line CPAM process. Ultimately, when the new Comprehensive Plan is adopted, it will carry forward the Silver Line policies and strategies and coordinate them with other community policies.



2045 County Forecasts for Development (based on the Revised General Plan Policies)

49,720

New Residential Units for a Total of 176,188 units

54 million

New Square Feet of Nonresidential Development for a Total of 144 million Sq. Ft.

Critical Planning Studies

Three ongoing planning initiatives or studies being undertaken by the County will likely have additional implications on future land use planning in Loudoun:

1. Silver Line Comprehensive Plan Amendment
2. Inventory of Nonresidential Development
3. Housing Needs Assessment

What amount and kind of development can the Revised General Plan support in the future? What can the market support?

Much of the Available Residential Land is Already Committed to Development

Loudoun County staff tracks development activity and creates forecasts for future developments using remaining lands available for development and the land use policies in the Revised General Plan. These analyses reveal that much of Loudoun County's residential land, particularly land in the Suburban and Transition Policy Areas, is either developed or is considered "in the pipeline" with some level of development approvals. The remaining uncommitted or underdeveloped residential land that could be developed in the future is approximately 1/3 of available residential land in the Rural and Transition areas and only 2% of residential land in the Suburban. These forecasts do not include land use policy changes that may come about as part of the Silver Line CPAM changes to the Comprehensive Plan.

Under the current Revised General Plan policies, the Suburban Policy Area is close to build-out, and the Transition Policy Area buildup is expected to occur within the next 20 years.

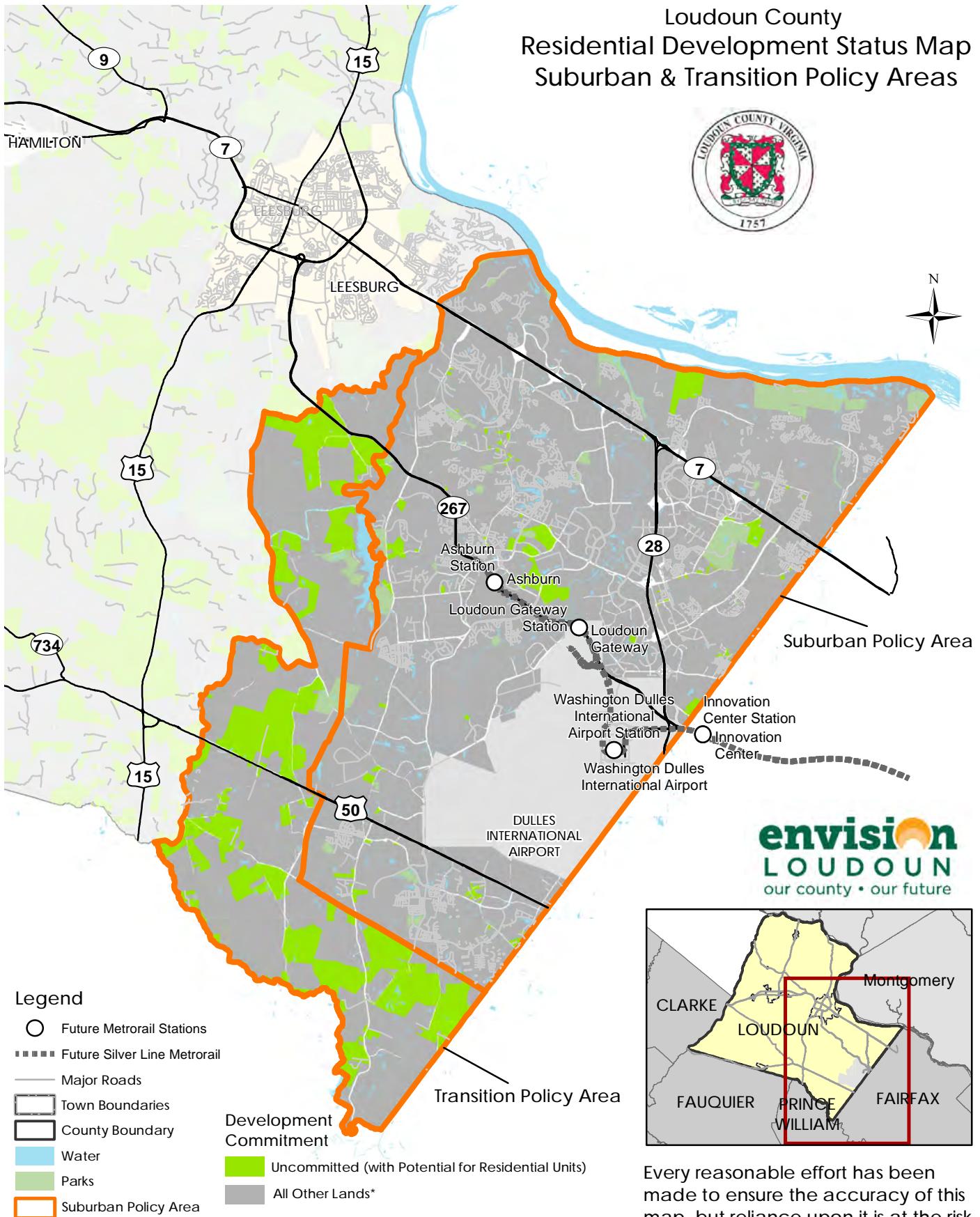
The map on the next page illustrates the lands available for future development in the Transition and Suburban Policy Areas.

Land Available for Development in the Policy Areas

	<u>RURAL</u>	<u>TRANSITION</u>	<u>SUBURBAN</u>
acres available for residential development	82,600	7,400	1,200
% of total area remaining for residential development	36%	33%	2%

Policy Topic to Explore: Planning for Remaining Undeveloped Land in Loudoun County

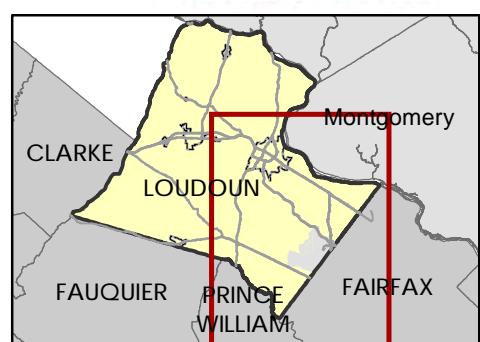
With limited land available for development in the Suburban and Transition Policy Areas, it is anticipated that these areas will be "built out" under current land use policies within the planning horizon of the new Comprehensive Plan. A critical question to answer through Envision Loudoun is whether or not the current land use policies should be amended to provide for additional demand for growth beyond what the current plan can support. This choice will be based on the values and aspirations of the community. Additional planning studies are underway that will help inform this policy discussion (see note to the left).



*All other lands includes:

- Committed and Uncommitted Property (Nonresidential Only)
- Pipeline Development (with Residential Units)
- Committed Property (with Residential Units)
- Under Developed Property (with Potential for Residential Units)

0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 6 Miles



Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this map, but reliance upon it is at the risk of the user.

February 10, 2017

[There is Market Demand for Residential Units, Commercial Space, and Specialty Developments Like Data Centers](#)

Loudoun will continue to be an attractive place for residential development given its geographic location in the region, school system performance, and notable quality of life measures. Demand for residential product will need to meet a wide variety of preferences, driven by attractiveness for families, young adults forming new households, and downsizing occurring in the Baby Boomer generation, as well as the County's assets, infrastructure, and hightech ecosystem. The extension of the Silver Line Metro into Loudoun County will create opportunities for higher-density residential that capitalizes on proximity to transit.

Demand for non-residential development will be driven by the addition of new households, the County's assets, infrastructure, and the County's high tech ecosystem. Retail users will follow new residential development, seeking locations that offer accessibility and visibility to an expanding customer base. Other employers seeking office and industrial space will locate in areas that serve their target needs. It is expected that retail and office space that is incorporated into mixed-use developments, like those proposed near the future Silver Line Metro, will be highly competitive.

There are seventeen million square feet of data center facilities completed, under construction, or planned. Future demand for data centers will need to be accommodated in places that have access to utilities, including electricity, water, and fiber. Supply of industrial and flex space is being outpaced by demand, resulting in low vacancy rates. As available greenfield sites in eastern Loudoun County become more limited, preservation of key tracts for targeted employment uses will be critical for future economic growth. This is particularly critical as the development of data centers is driving land prices up.

[What trends could affect future development opportunities?](#)

[Office Space Requirements Per Employee are Declining](#)

Nationally, average office space per employee has been on a long-term decline. Increasingly popular open floor-plans can accommodate more workers in less space. The decline is also attributable to fewer designated office spaces, reductions in size of electronics, and less reliance on paper and filing cabinets for on-site storage. Loudoun County's Fiscal Impact Committee (FIC) relies on an average factor of 200-250 square feet per employee for office space, depending on intensity. This average is higher than the estimated 150-square-foot per employee national average, reflecting a more suburban development pattern.

An increase in telecommuting is another contributing factor in the national decline in average space per employee. Working from home is on the rise. According to US Census data, the employed population over the age of 16 that rely on home workspace has more than doubled since 2005 and continues to rise. Many major employers are increasing the presence of shared 'hotel' work spaces for employees that are in the office only a portion of their time.

[The Silver Line Will Open New Opportunities in the County](#)

The County's connection to the regional Metrorail network through the Silver Line extension will have an impact on future development opportunities. The stations create an opportunity to address demand for a well-connected community. Specific planning for the areas around the stations is ongoing, and other Washington-area communities are taking advantage of new transit connections to increase the density of buildings around transit nodes. Design around transit is often complete streets, or streets that enable all forms of travel, from cars to buses to bicycles and pedestrians.

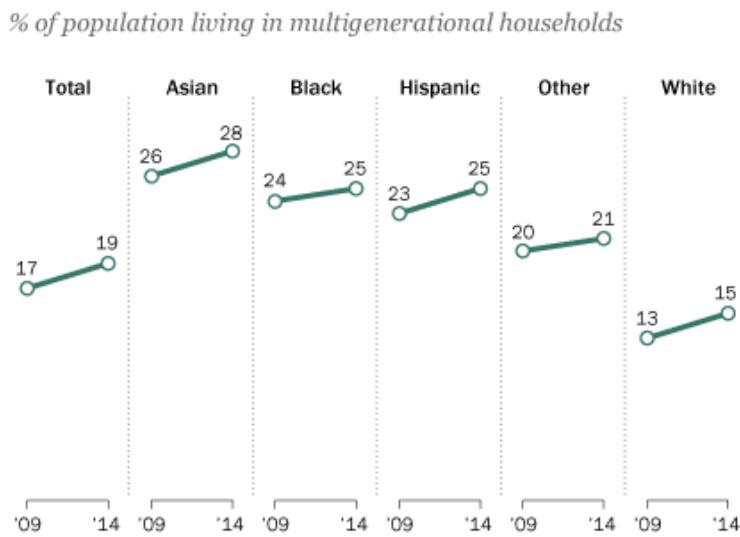
[Catering to a Millennial Workforce Leads to a Focus on Mixed Uses](#)

To attract top talent, many employers are focusing on employee satisfaction when considering locations and designs of office space. With a keen focus on the growing Millennial workforce - persons generally born between 1980-2000 - this is resulting in a resurgence for development

in urban or mixed-use locations. Employers in professional services, technology, and innovation sectors are shifting away from traditional suburban offices towards a “live, work, play” environment to enhance quality of life. This has more commonly taken shape through places where employees can walk to a cafe, movie, gym, or have a dinner with out-of-town colleagues or clients staying at a hotel nearby.

Growing Diversity May Lead to Demand for New Housing Types

National trends show that aging seniors, empty nesters, couples without children, millennials, and single person households may demand different housing types, public services, and lifestyle options than provided in the past. These trends may have an impact on how we plan for future development, particularly housing preferences. There is also a general trend toward more people living in multigenerational households (households where the kids remain home after school, where grandparents have moved in, or where extended family lives together). This trend exists across demographic categories. It also happens to be more pronounced in two minority populations that are making up an increasingly larger portion of the County: those identifying as Asian or Hispanic. Multigenerational households may require different types of units, with more bedrooms, bigger common areas, places for privacy, or other attributes that help accommodate growing household sizes.



Note: Hispanics are of any race. Asians include Pacific Islanders. Whites, blacks and Asians are single-race only and refer to their non-Hispanic component.

“Other” are single- or mixed-race non-Hispanics.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2009 and 2014 American Community Surveys (IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

How has the design of developments in the County changed since the last Plan update?

In general, changes in the type, density, and design of new developments in Loudoun since the last plan update have leaned toward maximizing the yield within existing regulations to meet rising demand, and to create a finer grained mix of uses within individual developments. This includes more four-story townhomes and slightly smaller lots that are 80 feet instead of 100 feet deep to accommodate more dwelling units. Developers will sometimes strategically request zoning a site to a mixed use district to be able to build higher density housing, and to provide amenities to residents not found in other neighborhoods in Loudoun. In some cases, existing neighborhoods are expanded, placing larger burdens on existing neighborhood amenities, such as parks and recreational centers, to serve new households.

How is the County responding to market pressure for mixed use developments and increasing density?

In the Past, Loudoun County Has Identified Strategic Locations for Increasing Density

In small area plans undertaken since the last major Revised General Plan update, the County has provided increased opportunities for density. The Route 28 Corridor Plan in 2011 increased opportunities to build office clusters and mixed use centers, while increasing development potential within a core area. However, the Route 28 Corridor Plan likely needs to be revisited as few developments have chosen to build at the densities set out in the plan. The Silver Line CPAM planning effort (still in progress) may include opportunities for higher intensity and mixed use buildings.

Other areas that are still planned for suburban office style development remain under-built, such as the Keynote Employment Area west of Dulles International Airport. This is a potential opportunity area for reconsidering land use policies to accommodate more uses and denser development. Redevelopment of aging commercial centers and declining neighborhoods offer other opportunities to consider land use policy changes.

Still other areas are meeting the increased density through reuse of existing buildings for more intensive land uses, or through infill projects that make use of land that was passed over in previous waves of development and maximize development potential of the land.



Crescent Place Infill Development in Leesburg, Virginia

Policy Topic to Explore: New Opportunities for Mixed-Use Developments

Suburban communities across the nation are encouraging the development of compact and efficient community development using mixed-use designs. The design and character of these developments differ based on market demand and community character preferences. Should Loudoun County decide that more of these types of development would benefit the County and offer new housing and commercial choices demanded by residents, it will be important to clarify the scale, density, design, and function of these centers. It will also be critical to develop the right set of planning and regulatory tools to encourage this type of development.

How has the County planned for a balance of land uses to achieve fiscal sustainability?

Loudoun County Has Conducted Several Major Fiscal Impact Studies in Recent History

The purpose of fiscal impact studies is to test the impacts of land use and development choices on the County's bottom line. These activities are separate from the capital facilities and operational budget planning activities the County undertakes annually. Fiscal impact models are focused on determining the fiscal impact of different land uses on both the County's revenues (such as real property taxes), and expenditures (such as costs for new students to attend schools) so that land use policy decisions can be made with a more complete understanding of the fiscal tradeoffs. Loudoun County has conducted fiscal modeling in the past:

- As part of the last General Plan update in 2001,
- As part of the planning for a transit-oriented development community at the Rt. 772 (now Ashburn) station,
- To test out the fiscal implications of extending the Silver Line Metrorail to into Loudoun in 2012, and
- To test out land use policies for the areas surrounding the County's two Silver Line Metro rail stations as part of the ongoing Silver Line CPAM planning process.

These modeling efforts have helped the County's leaders understand the fiscal tradeoffs of different land use policies, enabling them to calibrate the policies so that the final fiscal results for the Route 772/Ashburn Station and the last General Plan update modeling efforts were fiscally positive.

Policy Topic to Explore: Right Mix of Land Uses Needed to Achieve a Fiscal Balance

Part of Envision Loudoun is to undertake an evaluation of different land use policy choices and their impacts on many aspects of community planning - including the County's fiscal health. While it is not the only consideration for determining what mix of land uses are appropriate for the future, it is a critical consideration, and this information will be shared with the public.

Sources of Information Used for this Section

Data on existing residential and commercial development were provided by the Loudoun County Department of Planning & Zoning using the most recent available data: Sept. 19, 2016 FIC packet for non-residential development, Oct. 27, 2016 FIC meeting packet Table A-5 for housing unit growth by type, and 2016 residential building permit data available on Loudoun County's Demographics and Data website. Buildout analysis was taken from the Oct. 4, 2016 staff report to the Board of Supervisors.

[Market and Fiscal Impact Analysis of the Phase 2 Metrorail Extension to Loudoun County](#)

[Metropolitan Washington Council of Government Data](#)

[The Economic and Fiscal Contribution Data Centers Make to Virginia - Northern Virginia Technology Council](#)

[Pew Research Center Report on Multigenerational Housing](#)

[Rt. 28 Employment Policies and Corridor Plan](#)

[Loudoun County Facts](#)

[Loudoun County Demographics Maps](#)

[Loudoun County Forecasts](#)

[Loudoun County Revised General Plan](#)

[Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Staff Report on Residential Buildout \(Oct. 4, 2016\)](#)

4. OUR HOUSING

The 2001 Revised General Plan states that the County's primary housing objective is to assure that existing and future County residents and the workforce are served by a range of housing opportunities. These policies include direction for the County to facilitate the development of an adequate supply of varied types of housing, both rental and for-sale, in locations throughout the County, and that this is a fundamental ingredient of an enduring community. The creation of sustainable housing - it's design, density, location, and performance - requires that the pattern of residential development benefit the user now and over time. To accomplish this objective, the Revised General Plan includes policies for the development of a diversity of housing types in a broad range of prices in all areas of the County. Housing for special needs populations incorporating a programmatic approach are also addressed.

When this objective was set out, the number of housing units in Loudoun had increased by nearly 1000% over the previous half century. Nearly half of what existed in the year 2000 was built after 1990. In the decade and a half since the Plan was adopted, the number of housing units has doubled, reaching 129,733 by 2016. Growth of housing is expected to begin to slow as the County matures, but there is still significant demand from people who want to live in Loudoun County.

What is the status of housing in Loudoun County?

Single family homes are the predominant housing type currently in Loudoun County. Some of them are detached - completely separate structures from their neighbors - and some of them are attached to each other in duplexes, triplexes, or townhomes. The other major category is multifamily homes which are units within a building varying in size from a two unit building with one unit atop the other to a traditional multi-story apartment and condominium building near transit. The unit of analysis is the "dwelling unit" each of which is essentially a home of one of these varied types.

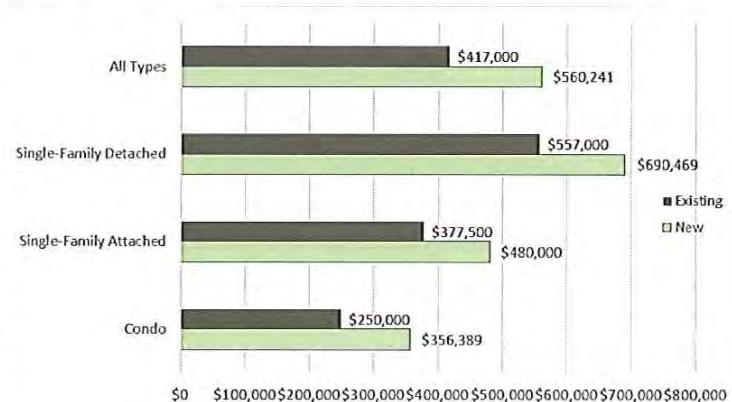
Housing Prices Remain Strong After Market Fluctuations

Housing in Loudoun was subject to the housing bubble and downturn in the mid to late 2000s but has had a relatively strong rebound. Between 2000 and 2014 , median existing home prices in Loudoun County jumped 116%. Median rents jumped 75.5% over the same period. New housing commands a premium and is selling for an average of 34.3% over existing housing.

In 2000, 71.7% of homes were sold for under \$300,000. The percentage of sales in this category plummeted to 6.9% at the height of the housing bubble in 2006, rose again to 40.4% in 2009, and has since stabilized near 15%. Single family detached homes generally command the highest price, followed by single family attached homes and condo properties.

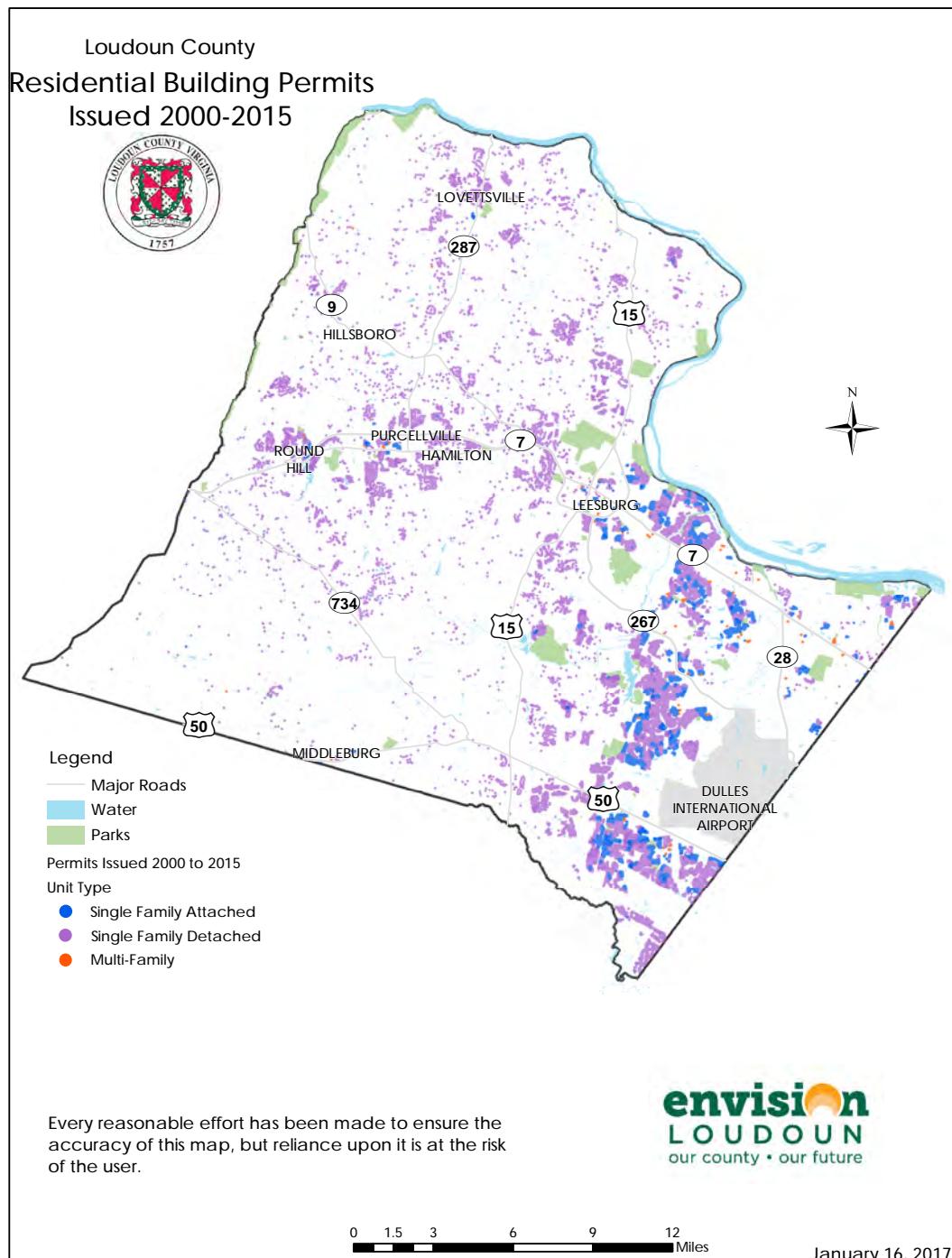
Rents in the Greater Washington Region have increased significantly since the year 2000. This effect was seen in counties on both sides of the Potomac. Loudoun's median rental price of \$1,674 per month was a 75% jump since 2000. In 2014, approximately 8,900 rental units were priced below \$1,500 per month, 11,300 were priced between \$1,500 and \$2,000 per month, and 6,500 were priced above \$2,000 per month in Loudoun County.

Median Home Sales Price, 2015



Residential Development Has Primarily Occurred at the Edge of the Suburban Policy Area

Over the past 15 years, construction of new housing has occurred throughout the County with the greatest number and diversity of permits occurring in the Suburban Policy Area. The map shown below illustrates the locations of units permitted between 2000 and 2015.



The following chart displays the number of development permits by housing type and Policy Area between 2000-2015. During this time period, approximately 65,700 units were approved countywide with the vast majority located in the Suburban Policy Area.

Development Approvals by Type and Policy Area (2000-2015)

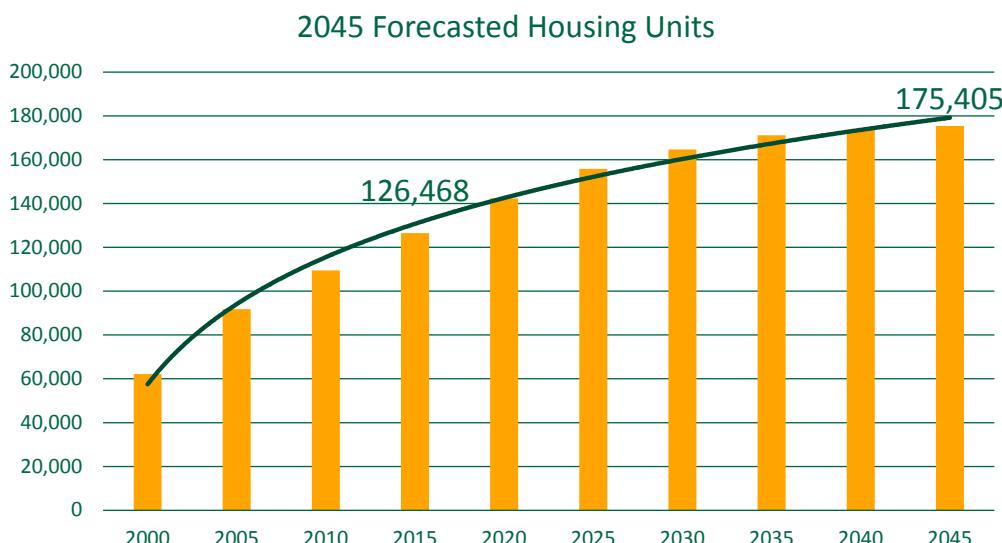
	Single-Family Detached	Single-Family Attached	Multifamily Units	TOTAL
Suburban	15,600	18,500	11,400	45,500
Transition	4,000	700	100	4,800
Rural	5,800	-	-	5,800
Town & JMLAs	5,200	3,400	1,000	9,600
TOTAL	30,600	22,600	12,500	65,700

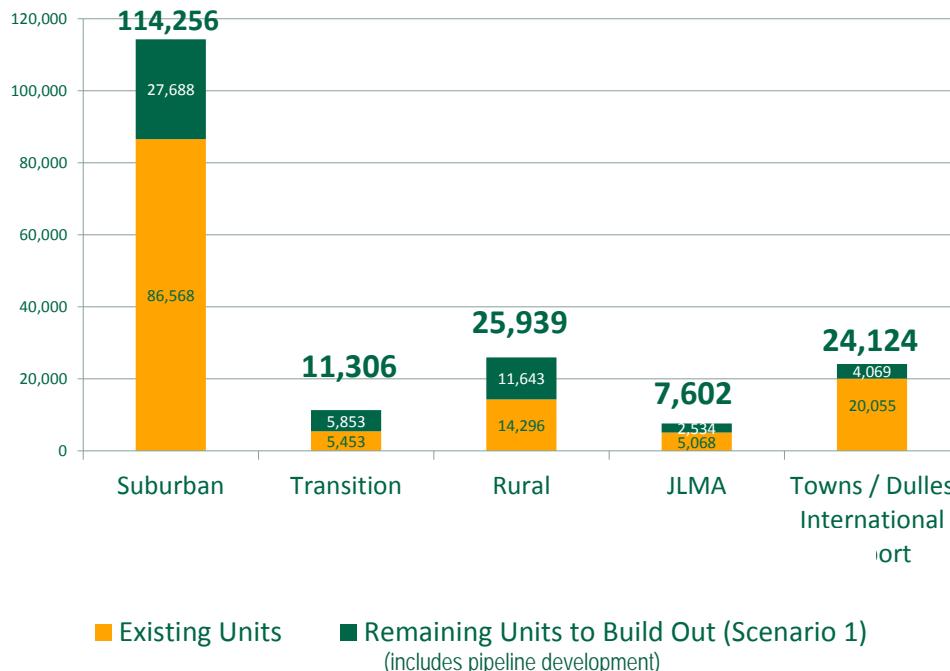
What is the expected demand for housing in Loudoun County through the planning horizon?

Loudoun County's Plan-Based Forecast Includes an Additional 50,000 Units

Loudoun County forecasts development of housing through the planning horizon (2045). These forecasts take into account existing development, residential development approved but not yet constructed (pipeline development), potential future housing development based on the land use policies of the Revised General Plan, permitting trends by neighborhood, and market demand.

By the year 2045, the forecast shows that the County will have 175,405 housing units, up nearly 50,000 from 126,468 in 2015. These forecasts do not take into account additional units that could be accommodated through the Silver Line CPAM land use policies that are in process of being finalized. If the Silver Line CPAM is adopted, additional residential units will be added to the Suburban Policy Area and countywide forecasts.





In 2016, Loudoun County prepared a residential buildout analysis to identify the number of units that could be developed under the current land use policies. While forecasts identify expected development through a certain point in time, buildout assumes that all available land is developed as planned for, and while unlikely to occur, it is a useful analysis to understand the potential for future development.

This detailed buildout analysis evaluated the residential development potential of all lands in the County. Broken down by Policy Area, the chart to the left demonstrates that the vast majority of existing and future buildout units are currently planned for the Suburban Policy Area, with remaining housing units available for development in the other four Policy Areas.

The Suburban and Transition Policy Areas are expected to reach buildout before 2045. However, there may be opportunities for redevelopment of existing developed areas.

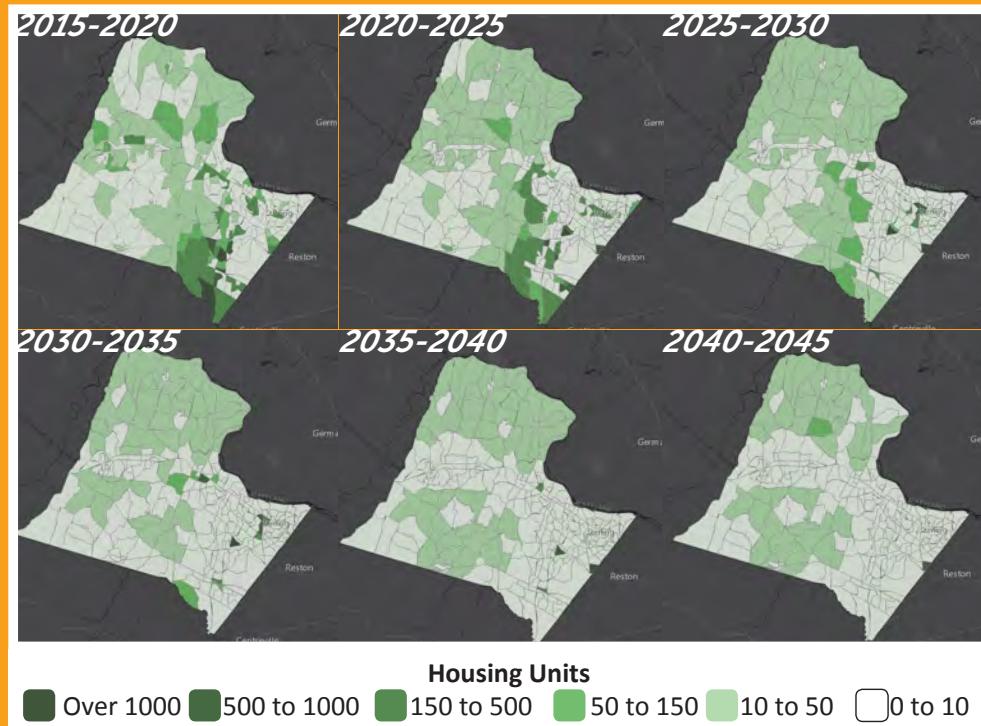
Included in the remaining units to build out are pipeline development projects that have received some level of development approval, but that have not fully completed construction of the housing development. These units, by Policy Area and unit type, are provided in the table below. In total, 29,000 units are included as pipeline development. The majority of these units are included in the Suburban Policy Area. An additional 2,700 units are included in the Transition Policy Area.

Pipeline Development by Policy Area (July 2016)

	Single-Family Detached	Single-Family Attached	Multifamily Units	Group Quarters	TOTAL
Suburban	835	4,709	16,637	483	22,664
Transition	3,135	-	102	-	3,237
Rural	1,309	-	-	-	1,309
JLMA	467	481	-	68	1,016
Towns/ Dulles International Airport	686	442	373	0	1,501
COUNTY TOTAL	6,432	5,632	17,112	551	29,727

Housing Forecast Over Time

2015-2045



The six maps shown above illustrate housing growth forecasts from 2015 - 2045 in five year increments. Green areas are where development is expected to occur. Darker areas illustrate where more concentrations of new housing units are expected to be constructed during that time period. Loudoun County's housing forecast analysis, formed in conjunction with the Washington Regional Council of Governments, suggests that the Suburban Policy Area will generally achieve its planned build out first by 2025 (although areas by the rail stations and along Route 28 may take longer), followed by the Transition Area in 2035.

Policy Topic to Explore: Implications of Achieving Housing Buildout

The Loudoun County housing forecast suggests that land available for new housing units within the Suburban and Transition Policy Areas will be built out by 2045 and possibly earlier. What this means is that if full build out is achieved under the current land use policies, there will be no land remaining for future growth in these Policy Areas, and will essentially mark the achievement of the current revised general plan. This buildout potential under the current Plan has implications for the County that will be considered during the Envision Loudoun process, including the value of housing and housing affordability, meeting demand for housing needs, fiscal impacts from reduced housing growth, and the implications of housing buildout on the local economy.

What demand for housing is not being met in Loudoun County?

A Housing Needs Assessment Study is being prepared for Loudoun County to forecast demand for housing and potential housing gaps within the County that exist today. The Envision Loudoun planning process will use this information to inform policy discussions undertaken by Loudoun residents and leaders.

Policy Topic to Explore: Accommodating Future Housing Demand

The County's Housing Needs Assessment is being developed to identify housing needs for the future. In light of the near term residential buildup expected within the Suburban and Transition Policy Areas, understanding demand within this planning horizon is an important consideration for the County. The findings of this report will be important to consider whether or not land use policies should be amended to accommodate additional growth in the future.

Existing County Programs Help to Establish a Broad Range of Housing Prices

The County operates several programs to help provide affordable housing including: the federally funded Housing Choice Voucher rent subsidy and the Community Development Block Grant programs and several homeownership loan and home improvement programs. The County has also used Board-allocated monetary proffers to help non-profit affordable housing developers, such Habitat for Humanity and the Good Shepherd Alliance, to purchase and renovate affordable housing. Affordable housing in the form of Low Income Housing Tax Credit apartments and other programs, developed by the private sector, are also located throughout the County, including in Middleburg, Purcellville, and Leesburg.

Not all residents of Loudoun or potential residents who are employed in Loudoun can afford the rents or purchase prices of available homes. To address this constraint to the workforce, the County operates an Affordable Dwelling Unit (ADU) program (including both rental and units for purchase) that requires new residential development to include affordable units, and an Unmet Housing Needs (UHNU) program consisting of proffered workforce housing units. ADUs are a zoning requirement for new residential development and UHNUs have been negotiated as part of residential zoning approvals. Most (88%) of them are in the Suburban Policy Area near employment and transit and where most new development has been located. There are a few ADUs in the Rural Policy Area. All total as of October 2016, there were 2,472 ADUs and UHNU units in the County.

Through build-out, the number of ADUs and UHNUs could increase to 4,556 units. These units are typically sold to the new homeowner with an affordable housing deed restriction that allows for the market sale of the home after 15 years, so long as the profits from the sale (the difference between the affordable sales price and the market sales price) are split between the homeowner and the County.

By 2045, over 2,100 ADUs will have passed the 15 year mark and could conceivably be sold back into market rate status, with an additional 336 ADU rental unit covenants also expiring. This represents the potential loss of nearly half of the potential buildup stock of affordable housing units in Loudoun.

Affordable Units with Deed Restrictions

2,472

*existing affordable units
(2016)*

4,556

*potential affordable units to
be built (2045)*

-2,436

*affordable units potentially
vulnerable to loss due to
deed restrictions timing out
(2045)*

Policy Topic to Explore: Ensuring an Adequate Supply of Affordable Workforce Housing

By 2045, half of the affordable housing stock that is forecasted to be developed by that time could potentially become market rate housing. This could have a significant impact on the local economy, as many industries need affordable housing for recruiting employees. Current affordable housing policies and regulatory programs will be revisited during the Envision Loudoun process to further evaluate options for ensuring an adequate supply of affordable workforce housing in the future. New solutions can also be explored, such as encouraging development of smaller market rate units that tend to be more affordable.

Sources of Information Used for this Section

Forecasts for residential development were provided by the Loudoun County Department of Planning and Zoning's December 2016 update, available on the Loudoun County Demographics and Data website. The Residential Buildout Analysis results were pulled from the Oct. 4, 2016 Board of Supervisors Staff Report on the same topic.

Loudoun County Housing Needs Assessment (Preliminary Existing Conditions Data)

[Loudoun County Build Out Analysis](#)

[2001 Revised General Plan](#)

[Loudoun County Data and Demographics Website](#)



5. OUR ECONOMY

Over the last 50 years, Loudoun County's economy has undertaken a dramatic shift from an agricultural production center, to a world class center technology and business center. The County has a strong economic base and is focused on growing its key industry clusters while further diversifying the local economy.

What are the key factors used to determine the health of Loudoun County's economy?

Loudoun County's notoriety for offering a superior quality of life has not only benefited residents, but also supported the attraction of a diverse commercial base. The County's Department of Economic Development tracks four key metrics on a monthly and annual basis to determine the overall health of the local economy: jobs and workforce, recruitment and retention of companies, investment, and commercial space. Three of the four factors are highlighted here, with indicators regarding jobs and workforce detailed later in this section.

Key Performance Metrics (2016)



Recruitment and Retention

Fiscal year (FY) 2015-2016 was a period of strong continued growth for Loudoun County. In the last year, the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development has directly worked with 70 companies, resulting in retention, expansion, or new recruitment. These 'wins' retained or created over 2,600 jobs for the County, and are a significant increase over the 57 wins the previous year. These efforts are shaping a more diverse economy that is less dependent on government contractors than most other counties in the region.

Investment

For FY2016, Loudoun County attracted nearly \$2.3 billion in commercial investment. The FY2016 measure represents the largest annual influx of new commercial tax revenue since the County began tracking the measure, and is a sizeable increase over the \$1.3 billion investment in FY2015.

The recent momentum in the data center sector has been a driving force in the rapid escalation in commercial investment. Per the 2016 year-end report by the Department of Economic Development, data centers are generating \$120 million in local tax revenue each year. This contribution to the revenue stream helps to fund government operations, keeping resident tax rates low.

2015-2016 Loudoun County Business Wins

- Airbus
- Saab
- Black Hops Farm
- Solebrity
- JK Moving Services
- PepperPath
- Hydro
- Brickyard
- FCI Federal
- Pilot Malt House
- Hanley Energy
- Xgility

Loudoun County was named

**#1 in business
investment**

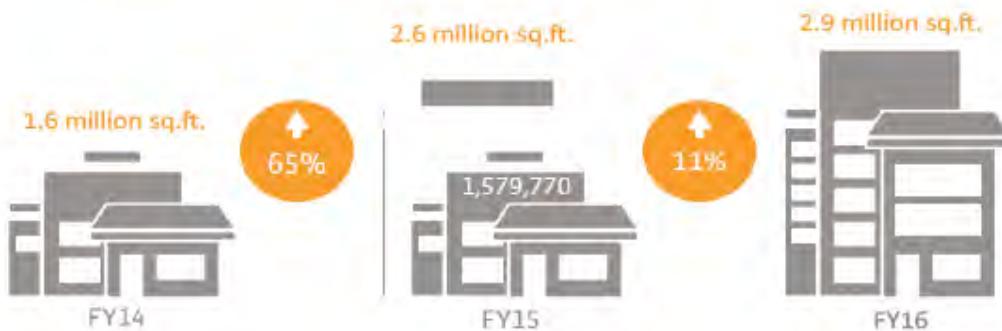
in Virginia

-SmartAsset, 2015 and 2016

Commercial Space

Loudoun County measures new non-residential space in terms of square footages recorded on pulled building permits. Annual commercial building permits have increased significantly from 1.6 million square feet in FY2014 to 2.9 million in FY2016. Flex space, which includes data centers, has comprised a large share of the total commercial permits in the last three years.

New Non-Residential Building Permit Trends



What industries are contributing to Loudoun County's economy?

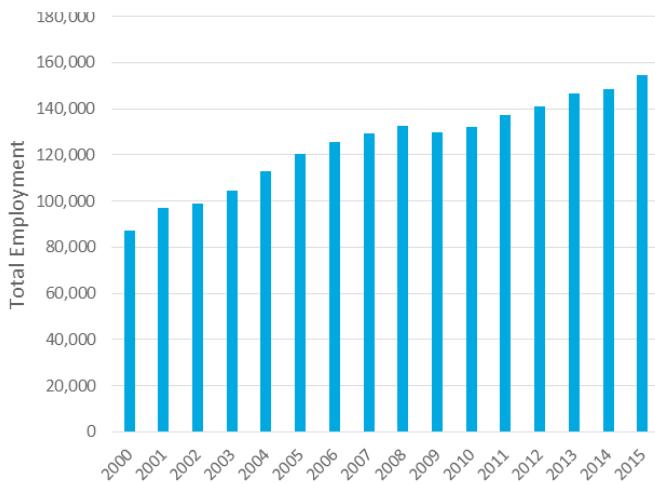
2/3
of total jobs in
Loudoun County
are in 4 sectors:

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities
Education and Health Services
Professional Services
Information and Communications

Employment in Loudoun County has increased nearly 77% since 2000, adding over 67,000 new jobs in a 15-year period. Since 2000, the rate of annual job growth in Loudoun has averaged 3.9%, with only one year of net losses in 2009, during the 2007-2009 Recession. Momentum in Loudoun's job base has been influenced by activity in the surrounding region, proximity to Dulles International Airport, a growing information and communications sector, agritourism, and a robust increase in households requiring a wide array of services.

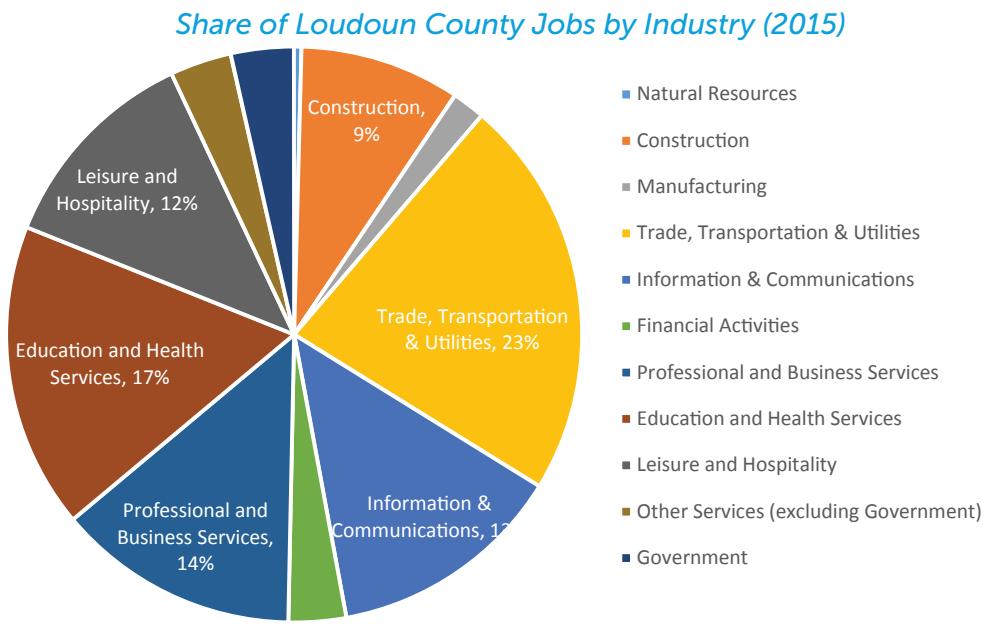
Loudoun County's surge in service-based jobs has mimicked regional and national trends. Nationally, service jobs make up a majority of the total employment and cover a wide expanse of industry sectors, most notably retail and wholesale trade, professional and business firms, healthcare, education, food and hospitality, and government. The national growth in service jobs began accelerating in the 1960s while manufacturing jobs have remained largely stagnant. More than three out of every four jobs in the national economy are service-related, and this sector's dominance is only expected to increase.

Historical Employment in Loudoun County (2000-2015)



Loudoun County's largest employment sectors in 2015 were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, Education and Health Services, Professional Services, and Information and Communications. Together, these four sectors comprised approximately two-thirds of the total jobs in the County.

Since 2000, four industries have more than doubled their total employment demonstrating extremely strong growth in the last 15 years. The County's largest absolute increase in the last 15 years was in Education and Health Services, growing by nearly 17,000 jobs, or 166%. This sector is particularly influenced by population growth, as both education and health jobs directly serve residents. Although the County has measured notable job growth, increases in population have been stronger. Since 2000, the number of jobs per resident has gradually declined from 0.51 in 2000 to 0.41 in 2015.



Entities Employing 1000+ workers in Loudoun

1. Loudoun County Public Schools
2. Loudoun County Government
3. Verizon Business
4. U.S. Department of Homeland Security
5. Orbital ATK, Inc.
6. United Airlines, Inc.
7. M.C. Dean, Inc.
8. Inova Loudoun Hospital
9. Raytheon Company
10. U.S. Postal Service
11. AOL, Inc.

**175 Businesses
Have 100 or More
Employees**

Policy Topic to Explore: Building on Loudoun's Competitive Advantage

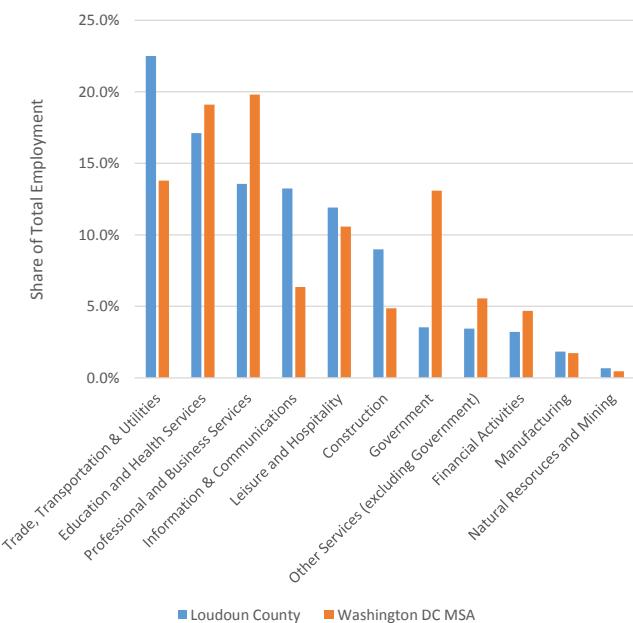
Building off the County's competitive advantages, the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development is undertaking an effort to prepare an Economic Development Strategic Plan that will identify key strategies and initiatives for growing and diversifying the local economy. The Envision Loudoun process provides an opportunity to reinforce these objectives and evaluate capital infrastructure and land use planning objectives that can support this new economic development strategy.

How does Loudoun County's job base compare to the region?

The 154,500 jobs in Loudoun County in 2015 represented 5.1% of the 3.0 million jobs in the 24-city and county Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Driven by new job growth, Loudoun County's capture of the total regional job base has increased from 4.2% in 2005 to 5.1% in 2015.

Industries in Loudoun County that capture the highest shares of regional growth include Information and Communications, Construction and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, largely driven by proximity to the Dulles International Airport. Each of these sectors comprised approximately 10% of the regional job base.

Share of Total Employment (2015)



Up to 70%
of the world's
internet traffic

passes through data centers located in Loudoun County on a daily basis

Although, the development of data centers has recently escalated in Loudoun County, these facilities host a limited number of jobs. Momentum in Information and Communication sector is largely attributable to the steady growth in other high-tech jobs, many beginning as small start-ups established by entrepreneurs. While data centers don't create a significant number of jobs alone, they attract a skilled labor force that can be shared across many high-tech company profiles. Additionally, these facilities generate significant local property and state income tax revenue.

Agricultural businesses in western Loudoun County, including wineries, breweries, farms, and equestrian facilities, have increasingly become an attractor for tourism. Although Loudoun accounts for 18% of the total agriculture jobs in the entire region, this impact is likely under-counted as data from the State only includes full-time equivalent jobs. Estimates by Woods & Poole indicate that Loudoun County's total farm employment in 2015 was over 1,800 positions.

Policy Topic to Explore: **Keeping Pace with Market Innovation and Changing Conditions**

Businesses operate in an ever evolving and quickly changing global and regional context. One of the tenets of the Envision Loudoun process is to develop strategies that will allow Loudoun County to maintain flexibility in times of change, and as new opportunities and challenges spur priority shifts. This planning process provides an opportunity to evaluate how that flexibility can be best manifested, such as through further diversification of industry sectors in the County, while also reinforcing the community's core values with respect to economic development and quality of life.

How are different commercial real estate sectors performing in Loudoun County?

Office Space

There is more than 195 million square feet of multi-tenant office space in the Washington DC/northern Virginia market, including DC, Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax City/County, Loudoun County, and Prince William County. Loudoun County's 17 million square feet of space accounts for 9% of the regional total.

Regionally, vacancy rates have been on the rise, impacted by the Recession, more efficient use of office space, and consolidations of professional service firms, most notably legal firms. In the last year, the region's strongest concentrations of leasing were reported in Rosslyn, Reston, and Tysons Corner. Office vacancy in Loudoun County is estimated at 13%, lower than the 18% regional average.

Office space in Loudoun County is largely represented by suburban-style office campuses. However, Class A office space offered as part Loudoun Station, located next to the future Silver Line Metro, currently achieves notable rent premiums, representing one of the few vertically mixed-use developments currently underway.

Industrial and Flex Space

A variety of users are seeking industrial or light industrial spaces in Loudoun County. The County is offering access to key transportation corridors, available utility infrastructure, and proximity to Dulles International Airport. Industrial space vacancy rates in the Washington DC region are nearing historic lows. Industrial vacancy in Loudoun County was estimated at approximately 5%. Vacancy for warehousing and transportation space is expected to remain low in Loudoun County given a limited pipeline of new construction due to elevated land values from data center growth.

Flex space, or space constructed in a way that can accommodate a variety of office and light industrial users, also has a low vacancy rate in Loudoun County at 7%. In fact, Loudoun has the lowest flex space vacancy rate of any tracked county in the region. The low vacancy rates in Loudoun County are primarily due to limited new supply, as well as competition for well-located space with non-traditional users, including data centers, breweries, gyms, and churches.

Data Centers

Data centers represent one of Loudoun County's most active real estate sectors. Loudoun hosts more than 70 data centers with approximately 10 million square feet in operation and another seven million square feet in the development pipeline. While these facilities generate high-paying jobs, the number of employees required for daily operation is lower than a traditional office building. In fact, approved assumptions by the Fiscal Impact Committee (FIC) show that the average data center in Loudoun County averages 3,700 square feet per employee compared to 200-250 square feet for professional office space and 600 square feet for flex/industrial. Data centers are also fiscal winners for the County, with every dollar on public services spent on data centers generating \$9.50 in tax revenue.

Retail

Driven by momentum in the residential sector, Loudoun County currently has 15.5 million square feet of retail space. The increase in new retail space is further exhibited in recent employment trends, with the Retail Trade sector nearly doubling in size since 2000. Retail Trade jobs now account for 12% of all employment in the County.

Performance in Loudoun County multi-tenant retail space varies by location, year constructed, and product type. Driven by demand generated by rapid population growth, the average 4% retail vacancy rate in the County is lower than the region's 5% rate.

Loudoun's Employment Spaces by the Numbers

17 million square feet

Data Centers

(new, under construction, or approved)

17 million square feet

Office Space

15.5 million square feet

Retail Space

**7%
vacancy rate**

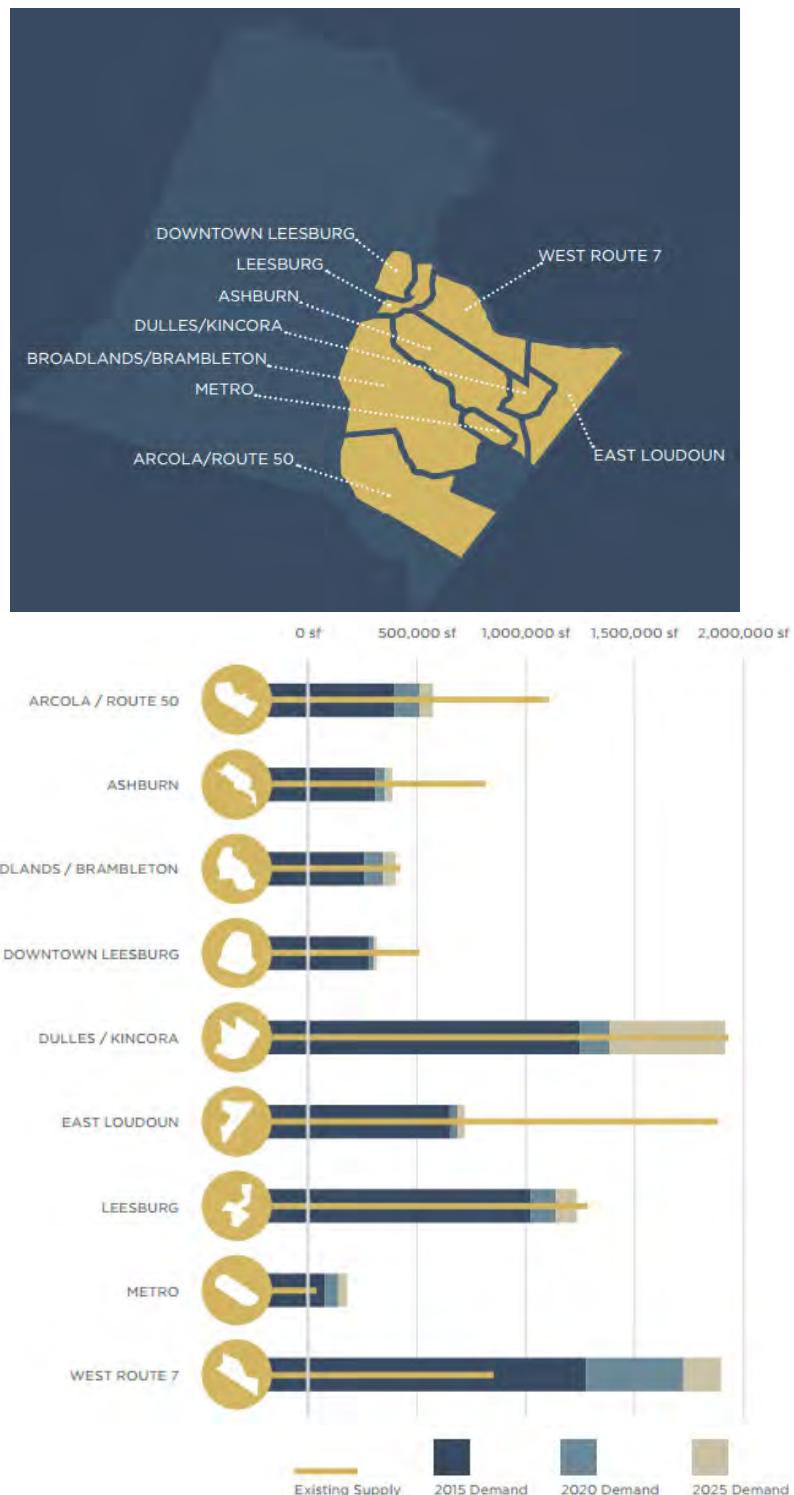
Flex Space

(lowest vacancy rate for flex space in the Washington Metro Region)

The Retail, Entertainment, and Culture Cluster Study, prepared for Loudoun County by Streetsense in 2016, compares existing supply with future retail demand for nine submarkets in the eastern part of the County. As shown in the graphic below, four of the nine submarkets have a current inventory that exceeds demand. Demand is based on a combination of households, income levels, visitors, and employment. In fact, only the West Route 7 submarket demonstrated any notable future demand for construction of new retail product that is not already in the development pipeline.

In the future, retail development will continue to be impacted by a shift towards e-commerce. While technology is likely to reduce overall demand in the future, it will not replace the need for brick and mortar stores. Many consumers are shopping for the best deals using both online and in-store options.

Projected Retail Demand by Submarket (2015)



Policy Topic to Explore: **Fostering Growth and Revitalization of Commercial and Employment Areas**

Some office developments in Loudoun are no longer performing as successfully as they once did. Market dynamics are changing for employment space, and the County must consider the types of developments that are going to be most successful in achieving Loudoun's economic development objectives. Envision Loudoun will include assessments of alternative employment designs that can be considered for the areas zoned and/or planned along Route 7, for office development along Loudoun County Parkway, areas such as the Keynote corridors, and potentially other locations where employment development is desired. This includes strategies to revitalize and redevelopment aging commercial and employment centers, and to plan for needed capital facilities to support future commercial and employment businesses.

How competitive is Loudoun County's workforce?

Loudoun County is nationally recognized as having a highly-educated workforce with 60% of residents over age 25 having earned at least a Bachelor's degree. As a point of comparison, 58% of residents in the larger Washington DC SA and 30% nationwide have the same levels of education. There are seven higher education facilities located in Loudoun County, furthering the creation of an educated and skilled workforce.

An evaluation of the consumer spending patterns and lifestyle attributes of Loudoun County households reveals that more than 50% of householders in each of the top three segments hold a Bachelor's degree, have high labor force participation, and most have two working professionals. Common employment industries include science, technology, healthcare, law, and finance.

Wages

Average wages in Loudoun County have increased 13.2% from \$54,132 in 2000 to \$61,256 in 2015. Comparably, wages in Loudoun County are lower than the \$71,556 measure reported for the larger Washington DC MSA in 2015. The sectors with the highest annual wages in Loudoun County in 2015 were Information, Manufacturing, Financial Activities, and Professional Services.

Wages generated by momentum with data center development is captured in the Information sector. While data centers typically generate wages far above the annual average for Loudoun County, the sector only accounts for 4.8% of the total employment base.

Accolades for Higher Education Attainment

Loudoun County has received numerous accolades based on demonstrated education levels:

Ranked **#5** nationally in 2015 for jurisdictions with a population 65,000 or greater

Ranked **#9** nationally for the 2010-2014 period out of all jurisdictions in the nation

60%

of Loudoun County residents over the age of 25 hold a Bachelor's or Graduate/Professional degree

Loudoun's Key Industry Clusters

- Data Centers
- Information and Communications Technology
- International
- Federal Government Contracting
- Aerospace and Defense
- Aviation and Transportation
- Health Innovation and Technology
- Agriculture and Related Businesses

What is the County's current economic development approach?

Loudoun County's Department of Economic Development is growing the local economy through three main strategic approaches: targeting key industries, supporting recruitment and expansion through strong business assistance programs, and assisting businesses with incentives and workforce training opportunities.

Targeting Key Industries and Foreign Investment

Loudoun County's Department of Economic Development strategically pursues industry clusters through recruitment and laying the groundwork necessary for its key industries to succeed. By focusing on targeted complementary clusters, the County grows its brand and economy together, with the two mutually reinforcing each other. Targeted industries are shown to the left. Courting foreign investment is also a key strategy for the County. The County can highlight its location near the capital and Dulles International Airport, data and technology sectors, community amenities, and its access to the global stream of commerce through connections to major transportation networks to market to foreign investors.

Business Recruitment and Expansion Support

The County works with existing and prospective businesses interested in locating in Loudoun to connect them with the resources needed. This includes guidance navigating business startups, serving as a clearinghouse for non-profit and government resources for small businesses, site location assistance, providing assistance for businesses going through the County's development process, and sharing information about the Fast-Track Commercial Incentive Program and other incentive, tax, and financing programs.

Workforce Training and Recruitment

The Department of Economic Development offers businesses with a variety of workforce training and recruitment services aimed at ensuring that firms are accessing top talent and workers are staying on top of job skills training. The Department works with local and regional partners, such as the Northern Virginia Workforce Development Board, the Workforce Resource Center, Loudoun Small Biz, higher educational institutions, and other partners to connect employees and employers with each other and training opportunities.

New Economic Development Strategic Plan

A full Department of Economic Development Strategic Plan is currently in production and will hone the strategies that will be used to realize Loudoun's economic potential. This Strategic Plan will be the key driver of economic development goals and strategies within the new Comprehensive Plan.

#LoudounPossible

The Office of Economic Development provides active assistance to aid the growth and development of local businesses including a video platform for owners to tell their own success story.

