



THE SUSSEX PLAN

# SUSSEX COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## COUNTY COUNCIL WORKSHOP



January 3, 2018

# HOUSING



# HOUSING



## ▶ Housing Discussion:

- Providing a variety of housing types, design, and price point are all important.
  - Mixed Housing Communities
  - Workforce Housing
  - Affordable Housing
  - Aging in Community
  - Well-Designed Density

# HOUSING



## ► Benefits of Mixed Housing Types

- Mixing lot sizes and housing sizes adds physical variety to a street and increases density without looking like high density.
- It allows for a mixture of incomes in the same development rather than clustering affordable housing in one location
- For retirees – rather than age in place, “age in community”.
- Communities designed with single family, townhomes, apartments, and possibly assisted living, allow people to transition into different home types as they age and have different needs

# HOUSING



## ▶ Workforce Housing

- People may fall into a gap where their incomes are too high to qualify for government affordable housing programs and yet not high enough for the County housing market.
- Usually for households with incomes between 65% and 120% of the Area Median Household Income.
- Example project: Conway Pines, CT
- Built to address the need to house hospitality and retail workers. Used federal programs and traditional market rate financing.





# HOUSING



## ▶ Affordable Housing

- Land Use Strategies for Affordable Housing:
  - Scatter affordable housing throughout the neighborhood rather than concentrating it.
  - Make affordable housing look like the other housing with the difference being in size of unit.
  - Encourage construction of accessory dwelling units.

# HOUSING



## ▶ Retirement Community with Housing Choices



# HOUSING



## ► Design Matters

- Density only tells us how many housing units are on an area of land, but tells nothing of the physical form or what it looks like. It doesn't have to look like this:



# HOUSING



- ▶ **Well designed Density – Density by Design**
  - **Cannery Village in Milton**



# HOUSING



- ▶ **Well-Designed Density – Density by Design**
  - **Village of Five Points in Lewes**



# HOUSING



- ▶ **Well-Designed Density – Density by Design**
  - **Cannon Mills in Dover**



# HOUSING



- ▶ **Well-Designed Density – Density by Design**
  - **The Overlook in Dover**



# HOUSING



## ► Benefits of Increasing Density

- Provide capacity for new residents.
- Helps to preserve land.
- Serves a broad population.
- Provides amenities.
- Provides convenience and choice.
- Allows for the ability to focus infrastructure investments.

# HOUSING



## ► Considerations for a New Strategy

- **Goal 8.2: Ensure that a diversity of housing opportunities are available** to meet the needs of residents of different ages, income levels, abilities, national origins and household configurations.
- **Objective 8.2.3:** Facilitate and promote land use policies that enable an increase in the supply of affordable housing in areas with adequate infrastructure.
- **Consider:** While there are strategies that discuss identifying areas where multifamily would be a permitted use, there is not a strategy that discusses allowing a mix of housing types in one development that are a mix of densities, higher than 2 units/acre but less than multifamily.

# HOUSING



- ▶ **Strategies Noted to Be of Concern:**
- ▶ **Objective 8.1.1 Improve housing quality and condition, without causing displacement.**
  - **Consider Amending:** Strategy 8.1.1.2 Identify a way to identify rental units throughout the County to assist in matching tenants looking for housing with landlords.

# HOUSING



- ▶ **Strategies Noted to Be of Concern:**
- ▶ **Objective 8.1.2 Encourage reinvestment in existing housing stock through rehabilitation and renovation and support removal of substandard dwelling units.**
  - **Amend or Remove:** Strategy 8.1.2.3 Consider development of a method to track dilapidated and abandoned structures in the County.

# HOUSING



## ▶ Strategies Noted to Be of Concern:

- ▶ **Strategy 8.1.1.5** Ordinance for campgrounds.
- ▶ **Strategy 8.1.3.3** Expand Rapid Re-housing & Permanent Supportive Housing the County.
- ▶ **Strategy 8.2.1.5** Develop Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program.
- ▶ **Strategy 8.2.17** Sliding scale fee structure for homebuyers below a certain income threshold.
- ▶ **Strategy 8.2.3.5** Broadening the product type in zoning that allows fee-waivers for affordable housing to include multi-family housing.
- ▶ **Strategy 8.2.3.6** Determine districts where multifamily housing is currently a conditional use and make it a permitted use if water and sewer are available.
- ▶ **Strategy 8.3.1.5** Training and technical assistance to municipal leaders and others about fair and affordable housing.
- ▶ **Strategy 8.3.1.6** Market available programs such as assessment fee deferrals for non-profits for development projects.



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January 3, 2018

# UTILITIES



## ► Utilities Discussion:

- Sussex County Wastewater Service Tiers
- Utilities Goals, Objectives, and Strategies Amendments
- Other Utility Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

# UTILITIES



## Sussex County Wastewater Service Tiers

- ▶ **Tier 1 – Sussex County Unified Sanitary Sewer District**
  - Areas currently served by County Sewer. Future development to be served by the County.
  
- ▶ **Tier 2 – Sussex County Planning Areas**
  - Any parcel or parcels immediately adjacent to an existing sanitary sewer district boundary capable of annexation.
  - Areas where the County has plans to install central sewer to serve existing and future development.
  
- ▶ **Tier 3 – Coordinated CPCN Areas**
  - Areas where multiple existing CPCNs have been issued to various Private Utilities and areas to be served by the County. This area will require coordination between County and the Private Providers. County concurrence letter required for new CPCNs.

# UTILITIES



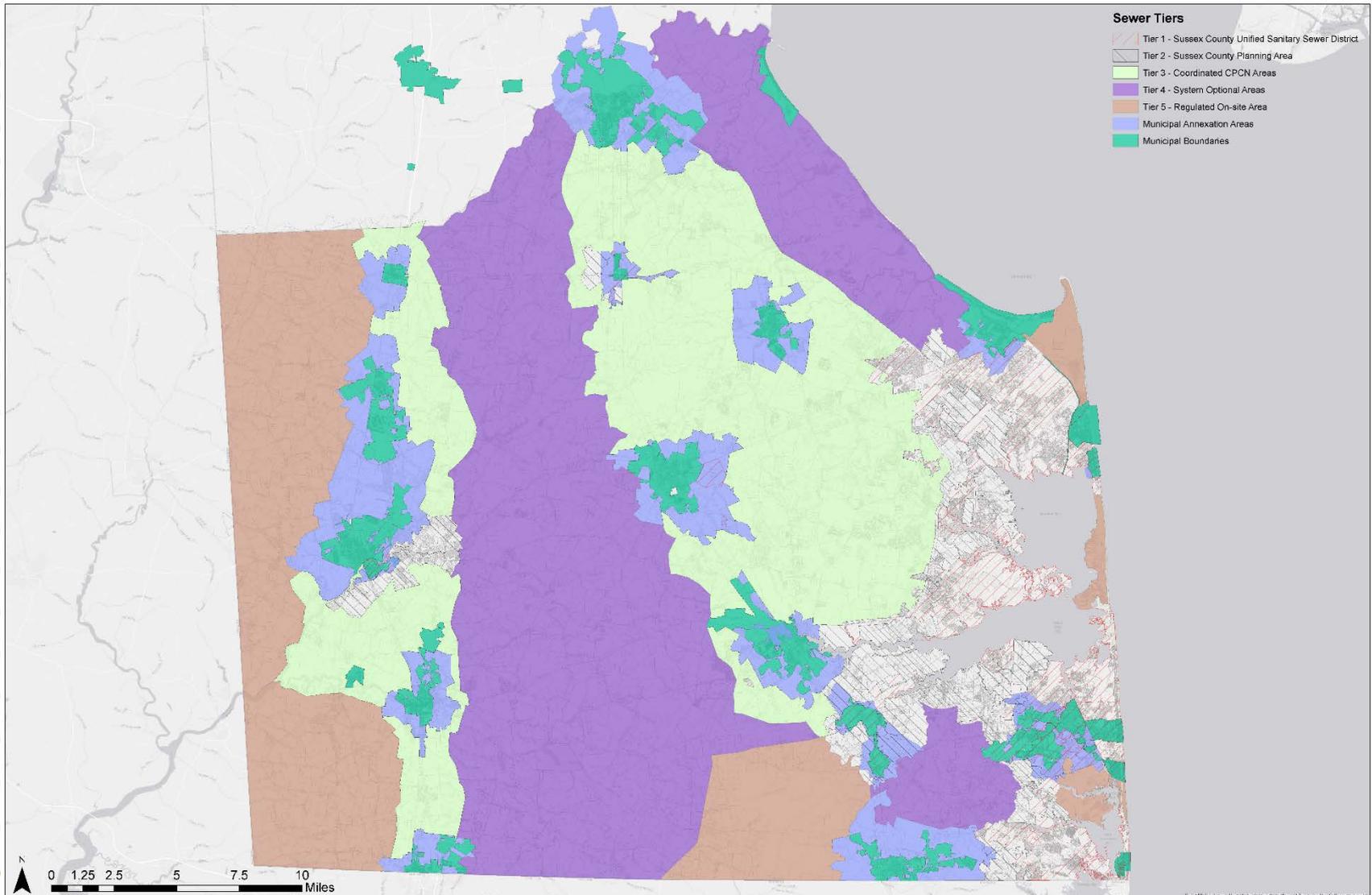
## Sussex County Wastewater Service Tiers

- ▶ **Tier 4 – System Optional Areas**
  - Areas where a central utility is desired for any future development, however individual on-site systems will be permitted. The area would primarily be served by Private Utilities, requiring CPCN's to be issued. County requests notification of application for new CPCN.
  
- ▶ **Tier 5 – Regulated On-site Area**
  - Areas that have been previously sub-divided and open to DNREC approved individually owned on-site systems.
  - Areas where the Environmental Benefit of centralized sewer does not out-weigh the cost to construct the infrastructure. Open to DNREC approved individually owned on-site systems or central systems exclusively served by Private Utilities with private funding.

**Areas located in a Municipality's Growth and Annexation area and adjacent to a Sussex County Sanitary Sewer District will be open to discussion with the County and Municipality.**

# UTILITIES

## ► Tier Service Area Map



# UTILITIES



- ▶ 2018 Utilities Goals, Objectives, and Strategies:
  - Goal 7.1: ~~Ensure~~ **Encourage** adequate central sanitary sewer service in a coordinated approach that anticipates future demand.

# UTILITIES



- ▶ 2018 Utilities Goals, Objectives, and Strategies:
  - Goal 7.2: **Support the availability of** ~~Ensure~~ that a safe and adequate water supply **that can** ~~is available to~~ meet the needs of future demand.

# UTILITIES



- ▶ 2018 Utilities Goals, Objectives, and Strategies:
  - **Goal 7.4: ~~Ensure~~ Support adequate drainage and management of stormwater.**

# UTILITIES



- ▶ 2018 Utilities Goals, Objectives, and Strategies:
  - **Goal 7.5: ~~Ensure~~ Encourage** adequate telecommunications coverage (e.g. internet, cable, cellular service) throughout the County to meet the needs of the County's residents.

# UTILITIES



- ▶ **2018 Utilities Goals, Objectives, and Strategies noted to be of concern:**
  - **Objective 7.1.1 Optimize existing sewer transmission and treatment infrastructure utilization, limiting if possible duplicate infrastructure installation.**
    - **Strategy 7.1.1.1 Work with the State Legislature to amend DelCode for optimization of the CPCN process.**

# UTILITIES



- ▶ **2018 Utilities Goals, Objectives, and Strategies noted to be of concern:**
  - Objective 7.1.3 Continue to encourage the public petition process initiating conversion of septic to public sewer to replace failing on-site systems or inadequate community sewer facilities.
    - Strategy 7.1.3.1 Work with DNREC to refine the on-site inspection and remediation process to work in coordination with County sewer expansion goals.

# UTILITIES



- ▶ **2018 Utilities Goals, Objectives, and Strategies noted to be of concern:**
  - Objective 7.1.5 Coordinate wastewater planning with land use planning to accommodate growth.

# UTILITIES



- ▶ **2018 Utilities Goals, Objectives, and Strategies noted to be of concern:**
  - Objective 7.2.2 Eliminate any single point-of-failure delivery systems to ensure that water supplies are available without interruption.

# UTILITIES



- ▶ **2018 Utilities Goals, Objectives, and Strategies noted to be of concern:**
- ▶ **Goal 7.3: Meet the future energy demand as the Sussex County population continues to grow.**
  - **Objective 7.3.1 Coordinate with energy service providers as they make improvements to and extend service based on projected market demand and market analysis.**
    - Strategy 7.3.1.1 Coordinate with and provide technical assistance to energy providers as they work to extend services to Sussex County residents, businesses, and institutions.
  - **Objective 7.3.2 Promote the utilization of existing transmission infrastructure to the fullest capacity.**
    - Strategy 7.3.2.1 Encourage dual-feed whenever critically required (for example providing backup power for hospitals and other life safety operations).

**Note: Does the County want to be involved in this?**

# UTILITIES



- ▶ **7.3.4 Renewable Energy – comment from Bonnie Ram ([Center for Carbon-free Power Integration](#) at the University of Delaware)**
- ▶ **Currently in the Plan – Brief discussion of Delaware’s requirement to have 25% of electricity in the state from renewable energy sources by 2026 and what types of renewable energy sources are currently in use in the State and Sussex. Statement that County should encourage development of renewable energy.**
- ▶ **Suggestions to add to the Plan –**
  - Discussion of wind turbines as possible additional income to farmers
  - Specific benefits of adding renewable energy sources



# THE SUSSEX PLAN

## SUSSEX COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COUNTY COUNCIL WORKSHOP



January 3, 2017

# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION





# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

## ► Intergovernmental Coordination Element

- **Mutual Impacts and Inter-Relationships**
  - State, county and municipal plans, school districts, private/non-profit institutions, and libraries
- **Intergovernmental Coordination Used in Preparing This Plan**
  - Coordination with the state and incorporated municipalities
- **Comparison of Other Relevant Planning Documents**
  - Hazard mitigation plan, wastewater studies, zoning code, subdivision and land development regulations, statewide housing needs assessment, DelDOT, National Register of Historic Places, DNREC
- **Intergovernmental Coordination Goals, Objectives, and Strategies**
- **Intergovernmental Coordination and Plan Implementation Priorities**
  - County Capital Improvement Program



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2008 Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies:**
  - Expand coordination with the County's 25 towns and cities, with particular focus on annexation, municipal zoning, future utility service areas, road improvements, large development applications, and historic preservation.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2008 Intergovernmental Coordination Plan Implementation Priorities:**
  - **Zoning Ordinance**
    - Heights of buildings
    - Percentage of a lot that may be covered by buildings and paving
    - Minimum distances that buildings may be placed from streets and property lines
    - Minimum size of lots
    - Maximum sizes and heights of signs
    - Protection of important natural features
  - **Subdivision Code**
    - Innovative ways to manage stormwater in a more environmentally-friendly manner through use of “best management practices (BMPs). This includes greater use of measures to promote infiltration into the groundwater and to filter pollutants out of runoff.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

## ▶ 2008 Intergovernmental Coordination Plan Implementation Priorities:

### ◦ Funding Sources

- Ensure adequate allocations to County departments and others from Sussex County's annual operating budget
- Larger endeavors will depend on the County's capital improvements programming, and state and federal funding sources

### ◦ Sussex County Capital Improvement Program 2008–2012

- Includes Non-Sewer/Non-Water Projects, and Sewer/Water Projects
- Invest over \$20 million in the Sussex County Industrial Airpark
- Expand libraries; build a larger emergency operation center; and construct additional County administration office space



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2008 Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies:**
- ▶ **Work closely with the Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination on the following matters that Sussex County views as critical:**
  - Updating of the County Zoning Ordinance (which will include additional **community design standards**) to better coordinate County and State perspectives on developments reviewed through the PLUS system.
  - Establishment of an effective, County-sponsored **Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)** system in Sussex County.
  - Confirmation that the **future boundaries of State Priority Spending Areas** (Levels I through IV) match the growth area delineations described in this Comprehensive Plan Update.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2008 Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies:**
  - **Coordinate with DeIDOT** in completing current and future traffic studies, in prioritizing the implementation of the road improvements recommended in those studies, and in new ways to fund road improvements.
  - Work with the Delaware Department of Agriculture Department to **preserve more Sussex County farms** through agricultural preservation easements and maximize the value of the compensation paid to the landowners.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2008 Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies:**
  - Cooperate with DNREC and relevant non-profits to formulate **stronger, yet locally acceptable, regulations** for better protecting groundwater, waterways, sensitive habitat areas and other critical natural lands in Sussex County.
  - Work with DNREC and the Delaware Department of Agriculture to continue **adding appropriate properties to the inventory of State-owned lands** in Sussex County, particularly to link together existing State-owned forests.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

## ► 2008 Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies:

- Seek guidance from the Delaware Department of Community Development and Housing, and relevant non-profits on how best to continue expanding Sussex County's response to local **affordable housing** problems.
- Work with all of the relevant state agencies and non-profit services to attract more **higher paying and diverse businesses** to locate in Sussex County.
- Expand the number of **State Police officers** stationed in Sussex County by continuing to fund 50% of new officers above and beyond the County's base allocation from the State.
- Continue seeking advice from, and providing County financial support to, appropriate nonprofit organizations that serve Sussex County in an exemplary way.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2018 Intergovernmental Coordination Goals:**
  - **Goal 11.1: Initiate and/or participate in the intergovernmental coordination activities needed to ensure consistency among federal, state, regional, county, and local governmental plans, policies, and activities.**
  - **Goal 11.2: Maintain and improve public services.**



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2018 Intergovernmental Coordination Goals and Objectives**
- ▶ **Goal 11.1: Initiate and/or participate in the intergovernmental coordination activities needed to ensure consistency among federal, state, regional, county, and local governmental plans, policies, and activities.**
  - Objective 11.1.1 Improve coordination efforts with **State agencies.**
  - Objective 11.1.2 Improve coordination with **regional agencies and neighboring counties.**
  - Objective 11.1.3 Improve coordination with the County's **municipalities, school districts,** and other agencies operating in the County.
  - Objective 11.1.4 Improve coordination efforts with **private, non-profit, and volunteer organizations.**
  - Objective 11.1.5 Coordinate government programs and services at all levels to **increase efficiency** in decision making.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2018 Intergovernmental Coordination Goals and Objectives**
- ▶ **Goal 11.2: Maintain and improve public services.**
  - Objective 11.2.1 Continue coordination and support for entities providing public facilities and services in the County.
  - Objective 11.2.2 Coordinate the planning efforts for public facilities and services with the timing of development in the County.
  - Objective 11.2.3 Continue to improve and grow County public services.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2018 Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies:**
  - Objective 11.1.1 Improve coordination efforts with State agencies.
  - Strategy 11.1.1.1 Coordinate with the Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination to collaboratively develop ways to improve the **PLUS process**.
  - Strategy 11.1.1.2 Coordinate with the Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination to confirm that future **boundaries of State Priority Spending Areas (Levels I through IV)** match the growth area delineations described in this Comprehensive Plan Update.
  - Strategy 11.1.1.3 Coordinate with **DeIDOT** on road improvements and other transportation projects. This includes coordination on construction to anticipate future road and infrastructure improvements needed to enhance mobility.
  - Strategy 11.1.1.4 Work with the **Delaware Department of Agriculture** to preserve more Sussex County farms through agricultural preservation easements as well as to maximize the value of the compensation paid to the landowners.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2018 Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies:**
  - Objective 11.1.1 Improve coordination efforts with State agencies.
  - Strategy 11.1.1.5 Cooperate with DNREC to formulate stronger, yet locally acceptable, strategies for better **protecting groundwater, waterways, sensitive habitat areas**, and other critical natural lands in Sussex County.
  - Strategy 11.1.1.6 Work with the DNREC and the Delaware Department of Agriculture to continue adding appropriate properties to the **inventory of protected lands** in Sussex County, particularly to link together existing State-owned forests and existing open space.
  - Strategy 11.1.1.7 Seek guidance from the Delaware State Housing Authority on how best to continue expanding Sussex County's response to local **affordable housing needs**.
  - Strategy 11.1.1.8 Continue coordination with the State Fire Marshal Office to ensure development complies with **State Fire Protection regulations**.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2018 Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies:**
  - Objective 11.1.2 Improve coordination with regional agencies and neighboring counties.
  - Strategy 11.1.2.1 Continue participation in the Delaware Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2018 Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies:**
  - Objective 11.1.3 Improve coordination with the County’s municipalities, school districts, and other agencies operating in the County.
  - Strategy 11.1.3.1 Continue coordination with the County’s 25 towns and cities, with particular focus on annexation, municipal zoning, future utility service areas, road improvements, large development applications, **recreation and open space**, and historic preservation.
  - Strategy 11.1.3.2 Continue to coordinate with local governments to ensure consistency in land use planning for lands adjacent to an incorporated area.
  - Strategy 11.1.3.3 Coordinate with the State Department of Education and school Districts to plan for future growth.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2018 Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies:**
  - Objective 11.1.3 Improve coordination with the County’s municipalities, school districts, and other agencies operating in the County.
  - Strategy 11.1.3.4 Continue participation in SCAT and the League of Local Governments.
  - Strategy 11.1.3.5 Continue education and outreach efforts to share information about the benefits of historic preservation with local officials, including the benefits of the creation of local historic districts and protections.
  - Strategy 11.1.3.6 Continue to support the Sussex Conservation District in the management and implementation of the Statewide stormwater regulations, tax ditches, and other programs.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2018 Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies:**
  - Objective 11.1.4 Improve coordination efforts with private, non-profit, and volunteer organizations.
    - Strategy 11.1.4.1 Cooperate with relevant non-profits to formulate stronger, yet locally acceptable, strategies for better **protecting groundwater, waterways, sensitive habitat areas, and other critical natural lands** in Sussex County.
    - Strategy 11.1.4.2 Work with the Sussex County Land Trust and non-profits to continue adding appropriate properties to the **inventory of protected lands in Sussex County**, particularly to link together existing State-owned forests and existing open space.
    - Strategy 11.1.4.3 Seek guidance from relevant non-profits on how best to continue expanding Sussex County's response to local **affordable housing needs**.
    - Strategy 11.1.4.4 Continue seeking advice from, and providing County financial support to, appropriate non-profit organizations that serve Sussex County in an exemplary way.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2018 Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies:**
  - Objective 11.1.5 Coordinate government programs and services at all levels to **increase efficiency** in decision making.
  - Strategy 11.1.5.1 Continue to strengthen the role of Sussex County in providing **technical assistance** and acting as a clearinghouse of information for municipalities, private organizations, and the public.
  - Strategy 11.1.5.2 **Increase coordination and cooperation** between and among County, State, and municipal agencies and school districts in order to reduce duplicative efforts.
  - Strategy 11.1.5.3 Identify ways to **streamline processes** to create efficiencies in the County land development review and approval process.

**Note: Is 11.1.5 necessary?**



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2018 Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies:**
  - Objective 11.2.1 Continue coordination and support for entities providing **public facilities and services** in the County.
  - Strategy 11.2.1.1 Continue to support the Delaware State Police **trooper allocation** for Sussex County.
  - Strategy 11.2.1.2 Continue to support **local volunteer fire, ambulance companies, local fire departments, libraries, and community groups.**



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2018 Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies:**
  - Objective 11.2.2 Coordinate the planning efforts for public facilities and services with the timing of development in the County.
  - Strategy 11.2.2.1 Improve coordination between the County Engineering Office and the Planning and Zoning Office.



# INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

- ▶ **2018 Intergovernmental Coordination Strategies:**
  - Objective 11.2.3 Continue to improve and grow County public services.
  - Strategy 11.2.3.1 Ensure that paramedic facilities and staffing are adequate.
  - Strategy 11.2.3.2 Continue to coordinate and improve utilities with the municipalities.

## 11.5 Intergovernmental Coordination and Plan Implementation Priorities

- **Move or strike from the Plan?**



# THE SUSSEX PLAN

## SUSSEX COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COUNTY COUNCIL WORKSHOP



January 3, 2018

# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE





# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

## ► Recreation and Open Space Element:

- Overview of Recreation and Open Space Opportunities
- State Recreation and Open Space
- Federal Recreation and Open Space Opportunities
- County and Local Recreation and Open Space Opportunities
- Greenways and Trails
- Delaware State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- Recreation and Open Space Strategies



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

## ► Open Space Definition

### ◦ Open Space:

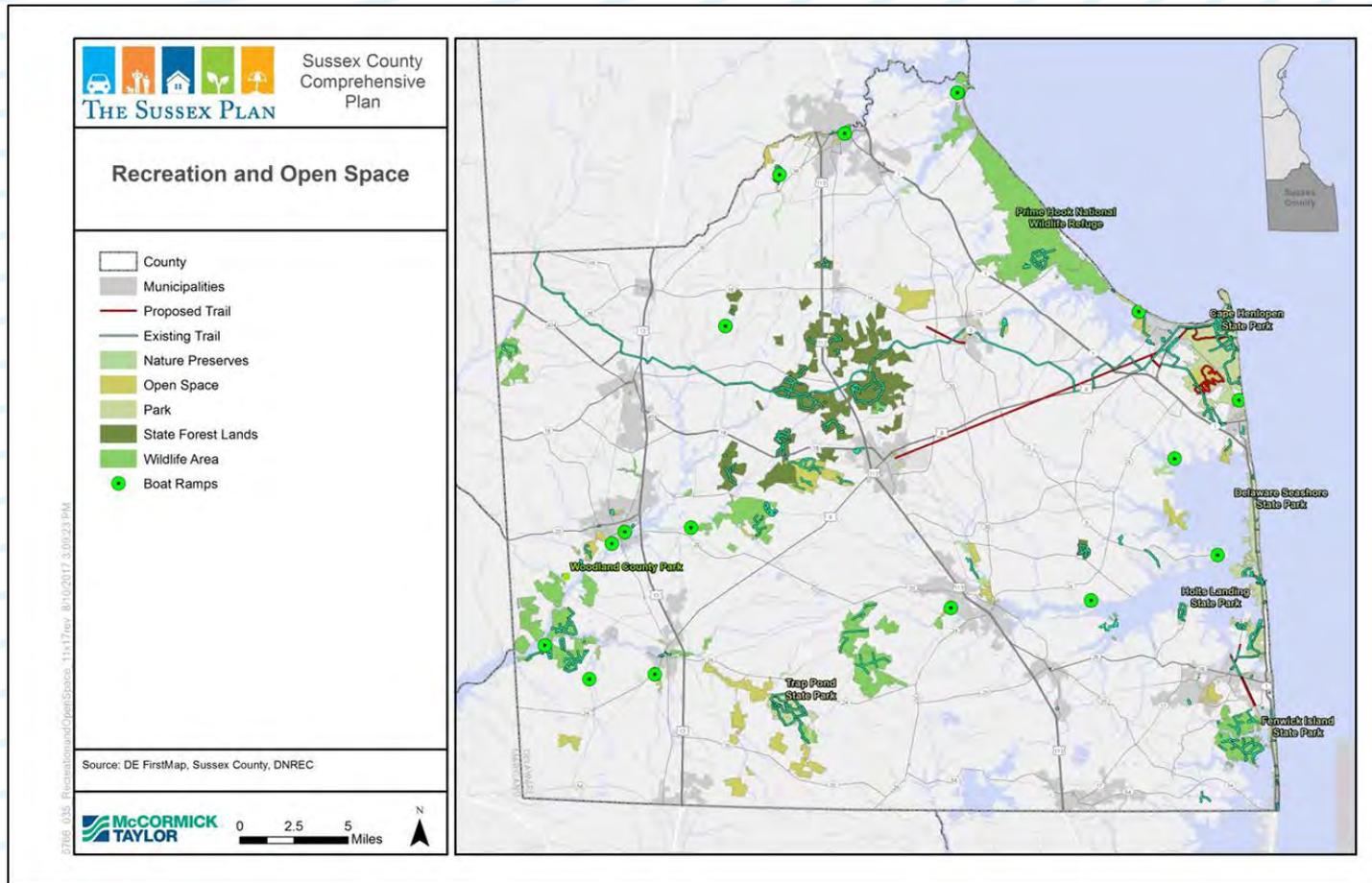
Forests, waterways, parks, greenways, wetlands, and otherwise undeveloped lands that support all of the living things that inhabit them, including the economy and people of Delaware. (DNREC)

### ◦ Sussex County's Open Space and Recreational Opportunities:

- Beaches
- State parks, forests, wildlife areas, and nature preserves
- National Wildlife Refuge
- Municipal parks
- Greenways and trails
- Docks, marinas, boat launches, and landings that provide access to the Atlantic Ocean, inland bays, lakes/ponds, rivers, and creeks

# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

## ► Recreation and Open Space

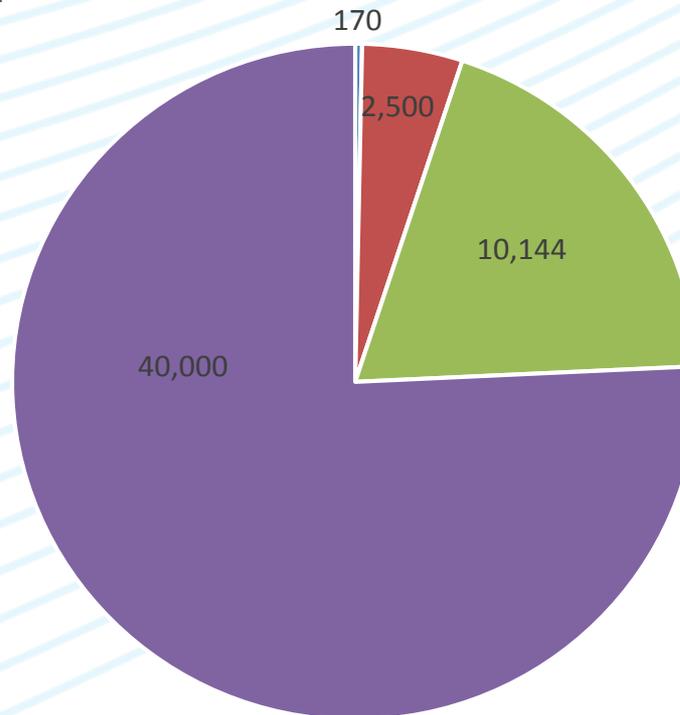


# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE



## ► Recreation and Open Space Snapshot:

Acres of recreation and open space by owner



■ County   ■ Incorporated Municipalities & Private Non-profits   ■ Federal   ■ State



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ▶ **2008 Recreation and Open Space Strategies:**
  - Continue to facilitate the preservation of more undeveloped land.
    - This should include recognition of the Sussex County Land Trust’s long-range vision to gradually create a “green ribbon” of connected open spaces throughout the County. This “green ribbon” concept should be referenced in formulating the County’s open space preservation priorities and strategies.



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ▶ **2008 Recreation and Open Space Strategies:**
  - Keep providing selected grant assistance to selected non-profit recreation providers that help meet high priority public recreation needs.
  - Periodically re-evaluate the possibility of becoming an active financial partner in establishing a public park, building an indoor recreation complex, or constructing a related recreation endeavor, such as a greenway trail. Council should evaluate these opportunities on a case-by-case basis as they may arise in the future.



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ▶ **2008 Recreation and Open Space Strategies:**
  - Adopt zoning and/or subdivision code amendments that would **require developers of larger residential projects to provide recreation facilities or multi-use trails** to serve their future residents.
    - The County should pursue these amendments in conjunction with its efforts to strengthen ordinance definitions regarding the types of land that should be considered acceptable as dedicated public open space in new developments.



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ▶ **2008 Recreation and Open Space Strategies:**
  - Continue working with DNREC and other state agencies to ensure **the State continues to add to the supply of active and passive recreation land and facilities in Sussex County.**
  - Require that recreation lands in new developments that are open to the public be **protected by covenants.**



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

## ► 2008 Recreation and Open Space Strategies:

- Delaware's 2003 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan contains many recommendations on what elected officials and other public policy makers can do to:
  - a) direct more investment toward public recreation; and
  - b) promote healthier and more active lifestyles.
- Health
- Linear Facilities
- Personal/Modal Access
- Maintenance & Operations



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ▶ **2018 Recreation and Open Space Goals:**
  - **Goal 6.1: Enhance the quality of life of County residents and visitors by sustaining and encouraging parks and recreation opportunities in the County.**
  - **Goal 6.2: Expand and improve the open space system of the County.**



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ▶ **2018 Recreation and Open Space Goals and Objectives**
- ▶ **Goal 6.1: Enhance the quality of life of County residents and visitors by sustaining and encouraging parks and recreation opportunities in the County.**
  - **Objective 6.1.1 Continue the County's role in parks, recreation, and open space planning in Sussex County.**
  - **Objective 6.1.2 Continue support of and increase coordination with the State and other entities to identify opportunities to increase public recreation lands and facilities in Sussex County.**
  - **Objective 6.1.3 Increase the network of greenways and trails in the County.**
  - **Objective 6.1.4 Maintain and improve public access to parks and recreation facilities, including coastal areas and inland waterways.**



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ▶ **2018 Recreation and Open Space Goals and Objectives**
- ▶ **Goal 6.2: Expand and improve the open space system of the County.**
  - Objective 6.2.1 Encourage the **preservation of open space** parcels.
  - Objective 6.2.2 Encourage development that **protects open space in new developments.**
  - Objective 6.2.3 Continue **work with resource protection programs**, federal and state agencies, and other organizations to target and preserve as open space.



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ▶ **2018 Recreation and Open Space Strategies:**
  - **Objective 6.1.1 Continue the County's role in parks, recreation, and open space planning in Sussex County.**
    - **Strategy 6.1.1.1 Evaluate if the establishment of a County Parks and Recreation Department or designation of existing staff to lead County parks, recreation, and open space planning efforts is desirable.**
    - **Strategy 6.1.1.2 Evaluate opportunities to provide financial support in the establishment of public parks, recreation centers, or trails.**
    - **Strategy 6.1.1.3 Be open to the possibilities of public-private partnerships for recreation opportunities.**



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ▶ **2018 Recreation and Open Space Strategies:**
  - Objective 6.1.2 Continue support of and increase coordination with the State and other entities to identify opportunities to increase public recreation lands and facilities in Sussex County.
    - Strategy 6.1.2.1 Keep providing selected and coordinated grant assistance to selected non-profit recreation providers that help meet high priority public recreation needs.
    - Strategy 6.1.2.2 Periodically re-evaluate the possibility of becoming an active financial partner in establishing a public park, building an indoor recreation complex, or constructing a related recreation endeavor, such as a greenway trail. Council should evaluate these opportunities on a case-by case basis as they may arise in the future.



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ▶ **2018 Recreation and Open Space Strategies:**
  - Objective 6.1.2 Continue support of and increase coordination with the State and other entities to identify opportunities to increase public recreation lands and facilities in Sussex County.
    - Strategy 6.1.2.3 Continue working with DNREC and other state agencies to ensure the State continues to add to the supply of active and passive recreation land and facilities in Sussex County.
    - Strategy 6.1.2.4 Support and partner with municipalities and school districts to create and enhance parks and recreation facilities.



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ▶ **2018 Recreation and Open Space Strategies:**
  - **Objective 6.1.3 Increase the network of greenways and trails in the County.**
    - Strategy 6.1.3.1 Continue to support the State, local municipalities, and private non-profit organizations on their greenway and trail goals.
    - Strategy 6.1.3.2 Support planning and construction of large facilities such as the Georgetown–Lewes Rail Trail.
  - **Objective 6.1.4 Maintain and improve public access to parks and recreation facilities, including coastal areas and inland waterways.**
    - Strategy 6.1.4.1 Require that recreation lands that are in new developments open to the public be protected by covenants.



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ▶ **2018 Recreation and Open Space Strategies:**
  - Objective 6.2.1 Encourage the **preservation of open space parcels.**
    - Strategy 6.2.1.1 Evaluate the County **density bonus program** to determine ways to better encourage use of the program and close loop holes associated with its implementation.
    - Strategy 6.2.1.2 Consider the **expansion of the density bonus program** into other districts in order to obtain funds for open space and natural resource preservation.
    - Strategy 6.2.1.3 Consider developing a program for **installation of signage at permanently preserved open space tracts** acknowledging that the land has been preserved by the County.
    - Strategy 6.2.1.4 Consider **County-level financing mechanisms** for open space preservation and management to leverage state and federal dollars.



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ▶ **2018 Recreation and Open Space Strategies:**
  - Objective 6.2.2 Encourage development that **protects open space in new developments.**
    - Strategy 6.2.2.1 Strengthen County development regulations to ensure that open space dedicated by developers contains **contiguous open space to facilitate environmental protection and/or passive recreation.**



# RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- ▶ **2018 Recreation and Open Space Strategies:**
  - Objective 6.2.3 Continue work with resource protection programs, federal and state agencies, and other organizations to target and preserve as open space.
    - Strategy 6.2.3.1 Continue to facilitate the preservation of more **undeveloped land**. This should include recognition of the Sussex County Land Trust’s long-range vision to gradually create a “green ribbon” of connected open spaces throughout the County.
    - Strategy 6.2.3.2 Continue and **expand partnerships** with organizations to manage open space and recreation properties such as James Farm.