

## RESOLUTION

### PRIMARY PRINCIPLES FOR FIVE FORKS AREA OF JAMES CITY COUNTY

WHEREAS, Economic Development Action 12G of the 2003 Comprehensive Plan recommends that James City County evaluate redevelopment and land use issues in the Five Forks area; and

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2004, the Board of Supervisors created the Five Forks Area Study Committee to conduct a comprehensive study of the area and develop a set of guiding principles for future development; and

WHEREAS, these principles will be used by citizens, staff, Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors to guide recommendations and decisions in future land use cases and other development activity in the Five Forks area; and

WHEREAS, after four public meetings the Five Forks Area Study Committee unanimously adopted primary principles for the Five Forks area of James City County; and

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2004, the James City County Planning Commission recommended the adoption of the primary principles by a vote of 7-0.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, does hereby endorse the following Vision and Principles to be used alongside the 2003 Comprehensive Plan when reviewing Rezonings, Special Use Permits, and other development activities in the Five Forks area:

#### **Primary Principles for the Five Forks Area of James City County**

Five Forks is an area with a unique village character. Bounded to the east by Mill Creek and to the west by the Powhatan Creek, Five Forks is within a significant natural area. Five Forks also supports a thriving commercial center and boasts a quality elementary school at its southern edge. Five Forks is generally understood to encompass the area that lies within three quarters of a mile of the intersection of John Tyler Highway and Ironbound Road.

Five Forks has grown and changed. With new growth, however, come questions about traffic levels, housing capacity, and preservation of the village qualities that make the area unique.

The Five Forks Area Study Committee was created by the Board of Supervisors to listen to the views of County citizens, particularly those who live and work in Five Forks. The Committee's purpose was to recommend principles that preserve and build upon the many positive qualities of Five Forks. These principles seek to protect the watersheds and safeguard the village character of the area. The principles will address residential growth, commercial development, traffic concerns, and alternative transportation. The principles will be incorporated into the next regularly scheduled update of the County's Comprehensive Plan. Until that time, these principles, when approved, serve as an addendum to the 2003 Comprehensive Plan.

## **Vision Statement**

Five Forks has a rich heritage and a community character unique to James City County. By cooperating with citizens and with local government we will preserve these qualities for future generations. Through these principles, the Committee envisions that Five Forks will be a place where future redevelopment or development:

- Improves or maintains water quality and other environmental features;
- Preserves Five Forks' unique village character;
- Does not overburden the road network beyond capacity;
- Provides adequate facilities for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Provides goods and services needed by citizens; and
- Ensures housing opportunities for all citizens.

### **I. Transportation Principles**

1. Capitalize on and Enhance Existing Roadway Network (see the Environmental Principles for relevant information related to these recommended actions):
  - Inventory/validate existing pavement and right-of-way width.
  - Reconfigure pavement markings/lane delineations to accommodate a 150-foot full-width exclusive right-turn lane for southbound Ironbound Road (i.e., north leg).
  - Construct a 150-foot full-width right-turn lane along the northbound approach of Ironbound Road (i.e. south leg).
  - Reduce the speed limit to 35 mph approximately a half mile from the intersection of Ironbound Road and John Tyler Highway.
  - Implement AM, Noon, PM, and Off-Peak signal timing modifications to best process traffic, maximize available and enhanced capacity, and to sustain acceptable level of operations for the isolated signalized intersection of Ironbound Road and John Tyler Highway.
2. In conjunction with any development proposals using Ingram Road West for access, encourage developers to make road improvements (reopening access from Ingram Road East from John Tyler Highway was considered but was not recommended. Such reopening might prove to be unsafe and possible benefits appear to be minimal. The initiative might prove to be beneficial at some time in the future depending on future development on Ingram Road East.):
  - Developers using Ingram Road West for access should rebuild this road as a two-lane roadway in accordance with current VDOT street requirements. Improvements could include:
    - 12 - 14-foot lanes to include roadway as well as curb and gutter;
    - 4-foot buffer between curb and sidewalk on one side of roadway;
    - Street trees and other aesthetic improvements; and
    - 25 mph posted speed limit.

3. Promote pedestrian and bicycle facility interconnectivity within Five Forks area (see the Land Use and Environmental Principles for relevant information related to these recommended actions):

- Utilize available funds in the Sidewalk Capital Improvement Program budget as well as alternate sources of funding including grants or private contributions to construct sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks in accordance with the phasing plan listed below.
- Ensure that new development either provides sidewalks along public road frontages in accordance with the recommendations of the sidewalk inventory, or contributes funds to the Sidewalk Capital Improvement Program.
- Coordinate the design and construction of roadway improvement projects with bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities should be designed with an emphasis on safety, adequate lighting, signage, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant features.

Phase I

- Using the Five Forks area sidewalk inventory, and considering existing and potential development, and existing sidewalk connections as a guide, develop an implementation plan to extend sidewalks to serve pedestrian activity within the businesses at the Ironbound Road/John Tyler Highway intersection.
- Stripe crosswalks and provide crossing ramps and pedestrian signals for each approach to the Ironbound Road/John Tyler Highway intersection.
- Provide paved shoulders on John Tyler Highway west of the Ironbound Road intersection during the next VDOT repaving to decrease road maintenance and provide more travel space for bicycles and pedestrians.

Phase II

- Using the Five Forks area sidewalk inventory, existing and potential development, and existing sidewalk connections as a guide, develop an implementation plan to construct sidewalk segments that provide greater connectivity between the central business area and Clara Byrd Baker Elementary School, neighborhoods, and recreational areas.
- In accordance with the Greenway Master Plan, construct a multi-use path along John Tyler Highway that can connect to Jamestown High School and the Greensprings Trail.
- Construct shoulder bikeways along Ironbound Road using Federal grants. In accordance with the Greenway Master Plan, construct a multi-use path along Ironbound Road that can connect to Mid-County Park/Monticello Marketplace Shopping Center.
- Utilize Greenway Funds in the Capital Improvement Program budget and other sources of funding such as grants to support the construction of the above multi-use paths.

4. Promote opportunities for bus service in Five Forks:
  - Work with Williamsburg Area Transport (WAT) to investigate areas and routes with the highest ridership and potential for enhanced service (e.g., to serve activity/employment centers).
  - Work with WAT and Traffix to promote public transportation incentives and the use of alternative commuting modes (park-and-ride, ride sharing, express routes, etc.) to both employers and employees.
  - Investigate opportunities to increase ridership to/from centers of activity, businesses, residential areas and special event attractions.
  
5. Maintain a "C" level of service for traffic conditions in Five Forks by adhering to new trip generation thresholds established in the Five Forks Area Study Traffic Impacts Alternative Analysis prepared by Kimley Horn and Associates when approving new development through the rezoning and special use permit process (trip levels above the threshold result in the Level of Service decreasing from C to D. These new trip generation threshold numbers are on top of projected 2008 background trips.):
  - Without Geometric Improvements
    - AM peak should not exceed 350 new trips
    - PM peak should not exceed 500 new trips
  - With Geometric Improvements recommended by Principle I.1
    - AM peak should not exceed 500 new trips
    - PM peak should not exceed 650 new trips
  - New development should be phased so that new trips do not exceed the lower thresholds until the improvements listed in Principle I.1 are either constructed or fully funded in the VDOT Six-Year Road Plan.
  - New development should provide a pro-rata share of the costs associated with implementing the geometric and signal improvements.

## **II. Environmental Principles**

1. Maintain and improve water quality and reduce flooding risk in the Mill Creek and Powhatan Creek Watersheds by minimizing the amount of additional impervious cover and treating existing and additional stormwater runoff:
  - Develop a coordinated stormwater master plan for Five Forks. The stormwater master plan should address possibilities for regional treatment or other treatment approaches for new and existing development as well as opportunities to reduce and/or treat runoff from the existing roadway into Powhatan Creek and Mill Creek.
  - Minimize drainage of new sidewalks, multiuse paths, or other transportation improvements. Encourage drainage of these improvements into a treatment facility such as a grassy swale, regional and structural Best Management Practices (BMP), or other appropriate options.

- For new or modified residential or commercial development in the Powhatan Creek and Mill Creek watershed, encourage the use of Low Impact Design (LID) and Better Site Design (BSD) techniques such as, but not limited to, those listed in the 2003 Comprehensive Plan; the Builders for the Bay James City County Local Site Planning Roundtable consensus document (expected to be completed in Fall 2004); and the booklet entitled “*Better Site Design: An Assessment of the Better Site Design Principles for Communities Implementing Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.*”
  - Work with the Village Square Homeowners Association to ensure maintenance of the Village Square BMP and encourage the community to improve the existing BMP by pursuing a grant through the County PRIDE mini-grant program. Explore options for retrofitting and/or maintaining other Five Forks area BMPs.
  - Investigate options for and encourage the undertaking of stream restoration projects in the Powhatan Creek and Mill Creek Watersheds.
2. Ensure that any new development in the Powhatan Creek Watershed implements the recommendations of the Powhatan Creek Watershed Management Plan:

Watershed Management Plan Recommendations:

- Non-tidal mainstem (west of Ironbound and North of Ingram Road): Encourage the use of expanded buffers along the Powhatan Creek mainstem (not endorsed by the Board and subject to individual project discussions with applicants).
  - Tidal mainstem (West of Ironbound Road and South of Ingram Road): Encourage the use of expanded buffers along the Powhatan Creek mainstem (not endorsed by the Board and subject to individual project discussions with applicants); stormwater management with an added focus on fecal coliform removal.
  - Stormwater Recommendations: Use of Special Stormwater Criteria; specialized on-site BMP design with emphasis on removal of nutrients and bacteria; minimize stormwater outfalls on steep slopes.
3. Explore options for land conservation in Five Forks:
- Through the rezoning and special use permit process; encourage developers to set aside land as permanent open space.
  - Continue to target County Green Space Acquisition Funds to acquire properties that are environmentally sensitive or preserve the John Tyler Highway Community Character Corridor.

### **III. Land Use Principles**

1. Promote mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly land-use patterns (see Principles III.6 for Land Use recommendations, including recommendations on moderate- and low-income housing):
- Pursue regulatory and investment strategies that promote a safe and healthy mix of uses (e.g., retail, residential, office, and public facilities).

- Continue to promote Five Forks as a center of community activity with complementary mixed uses.
  - Promote development patterns that support compact development, interconnected streets (connections to existing neighborhoods should be permitted only where practical and desired by those residents), sidewalks, etc., in an effort to encourage walkable neighborhoods within the Five Forks area.
2. Identify and re-utilize vacant buildings and properties that are no longer utilized:
- Encourage master planning of available land for redevelopment or new uses in order to promote shared parking, fewer entrances onto arterial roads, better utilization of land and increased open space.
  - Promote reuse and redevelopment of blighted and no longer utilized properties.
  - Target capital investments by James City County (e.g., infrastructure, underground utility lines, streetscape improvements, etc.) to support private reinvestment and redevelopment.
  - Through the Office of Housing and Community Development, investigate ways to renovate and rehabilitate the existing housing stock in the Five Forks area where appropriate. Work with private nonprofit groups such as Habitat for Humanity, the Community Action Agency and Housing Partnerships, Inc., to improve the condition and availability of the existing housing stock and assist residents that may be displaced by new development.
3. Reduce conflicts between incompatible land uses:
- Promote transitional uses between different land uses.
  - Through the rezoning/special use permit process and standards in the subdivision and zoning ordinance, reduce the impacts of higher intensity on lower intensity uses (requirements for landscaping, buffering, signage, screening, noise, odor, light, traffic, etc.).
4. Connect the land use pattern to a supportive, multi-modal transportation system:
- Establish compact, mixed-use development patterns that create a walkable environment and reduce the need to use the automobile by local residents.
  - Provide convenient pedestrian access from outlying residential areas to the Five Forks community activity center in accordance with Principle I.4.
5. Establish guidelines to define and maintain the historic, cultural, and aesthetic character of the Five Forks area:
- As part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update, designate Five Forks as a Community Character Area and incorporate the following guidelines as part of the Community Character element:
    - Building architecture, scale, materials, spacing, height, and color should respect the architectural context of existing structures such as the historic schoolhouse and veterinary

clinic and maintain the village character of Five Forks. New buildings should attempt to emulate distinguishing architectural elements of existing structures such as windows, roof lines, and cornices.

- Buildings that are traditional in character, massing, and detailing are preferred. Contemporary interpretations of traditional architecture are acceptable, if based on the scale and proportions of traditional architecture, and compatible with the context of the Five Forks village character.
  - Building facade materials and architectural treatment should be consistent on all sides of buildings, including side and rear elevations.
  - Where possible, parking should be located to the rear of buildings and should be well landscaped with shrubs and street trees. Shared access and parking should be pursued before constructing new access breaks and parking facilities.
  - Existing specimen trees and shrubs should be preserved to the extent possible. New landscaping should be of a type, size, and scale to complement and enhance the building and site design. Native plant and tree species are encouraged.
  - Signage should be of a scale, size, color, and materials to complement the village character of the area. Monument style signs, rather than pole signs, are the preferred type.
  - All mechanical equipment should be screened from view with architectural elements, fencing, or landscaping.
  - In addition to the above standards, residential buildings should have varied roof lines, wall articulations, window placements, and other features to reduce building mass and unbroken building lines. Arrangement and siting of buildings should preserve the buffers along the Community Character Corridor and complement existing structures such as the historic schoolhouse and maintain the village character of Five Forks.
- Develop and maintain defining traits that can be reflected through landscaping or streetscape design.
  - Protect and enhance the visual character of John Tyler Highway and Ironbound Road. Transportation improvements and new development should be carefully sited to minimize loss to the existing tree canopy over the roads.
6. Ensure that future residential and non residential development/redevelopment is compatible with the vision and principles for the Five Forks area:
- Ensure new trip generating developments do not exceed new trip thresholds in accordance with Principle I.5 through the rezoning/special use permit process.
  - Ensure proposed land uses are in compliance with the land use section of the 2003 Comprehensive Plan. The following descriptions provide additional guidance on acceptable land use proposals:

- Low Density Residential: Recommended gross densities are 1 to 3 dwelling units per acre. Higher densities should provide public benefits such as setting aside property for low- and moderate-cost housing developments; low- and moderate-income (Low income housing is defined as housing for persons earning less than 50 percent of area median income. Moderate income housing is defined as housing for persons earning 50 percent to 80 percent of the area median income.) housing; mixed-cost housing; or extraordinary environmental protection, including low impact design, better site design, open space preservation and implementation of the Powhatan Creek Watershed Management Plan.
  - Moderate Density Residential: Recommended gross densities are 4 to 10 dwelling units per acre. Higher densities should provide public benefits such as setting aside property for low- and moderate-cost housing developments; low-income housing (including persons earning less than 30 percent of area median income); moderate income housing; mixed cost housing; or extraordinary environmental protection, including low-impact design, better site design, open space preservation and implementation of the Powhatan Creek Watershed Management Plan. Recommended housing types include townhouses, apartments, or attached cluster housing.
  - Mixed Use: The recommended mix of uses includes offices and community commercial uses serving residents of the Five Forks area. Moderate-density housing may be a secondary use provided it is designed in accordance with these principles.
- As part of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan update, incorporate the above guidance into the Land-Use element.

#### **IV. Economic Development Principle**

1. Promote and facilitate economic growth through development/redevelopment:
  - Facilitate the location of a new anchor tenant in Governor's Green Shopping Center should Winn-Dixie close.
  - Support the development of remaining undeveloped commercial land and vacant buildings in Five Forks to provide goods and services desired by residents of the Five Forks area.
  - Advise the Economic Development Authority on the outcomes of the Five Forks Study so that they may capitalize on future economic opportunities.

---

Bruce C. Goodson  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

---

Sanford B. Wanner  
Clerk to the Board

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, this 28th day of September, 2004.

fiveforkredev.res