

Planning & Development Services

Preparation of the *Saratoga Town Plan* began in mid-2014 and continued into 2015. This new plan exemplifies town planning for a small community. It was developed to help guide Saratoga's current and future growth and development. Additionally, it helps protect critical environmental resources, promotes opportunities to address town improvements including public infrastructure, service needs, and other interests. Of particular importance was community interest in the development of this plan, a community survey, community forum, and utilization of a Town Board of Commissioners' appointed steering committee to help guide the overall effort.

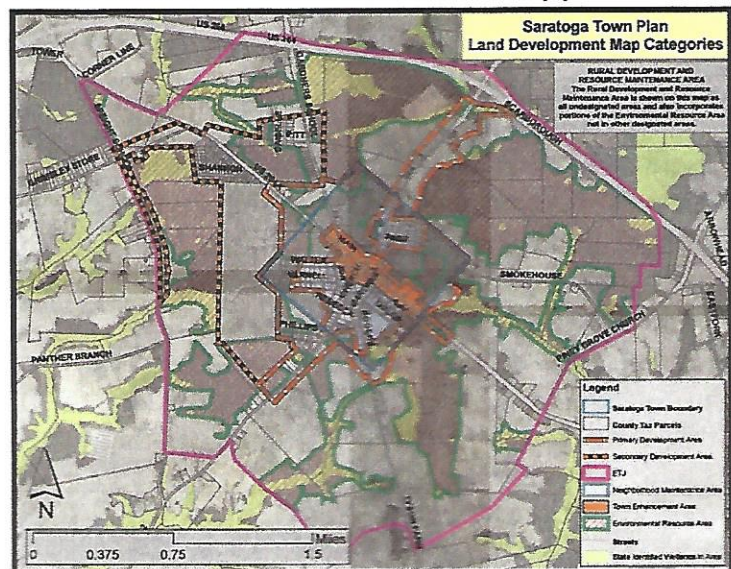
Three major themes for the *Saratoga Town Plan* were derived from citizen involvement including:

1. economic development,
2. town/community improvement, and
3. work together as a community

A vision statement for the plan was developed with assistance of the steering committee that not only reflected these themes, but also provided overall direction for the plan:

A Caring Family-Oriented Destination Town Proud of its Past, Creating Opportunities for Improved Prosperity and Quality of Life

The fact that Saratoga is a bedroom community with 97% of the employed residents working out of town was recognized. Quality of life issues are of importance, and the steering committee worked to ensure the plan addressed the need for increased services, businesses and local opportunities. The Saratoga Town Plan identified opportunities to improve quality of life issues, as well as, set forth strategies to help create a town ready for private investment, including downtown improvement options, establishment of a unifying advisory committee for economic/community development, creation of appealing neighborhoods, strengthening citizen involvement, and fostering affordable attractive residential development within the town. The specific map categories are designated to be consistent with the town's resources and interests while reinforcing economic development opportunities, protecting valuable environmental



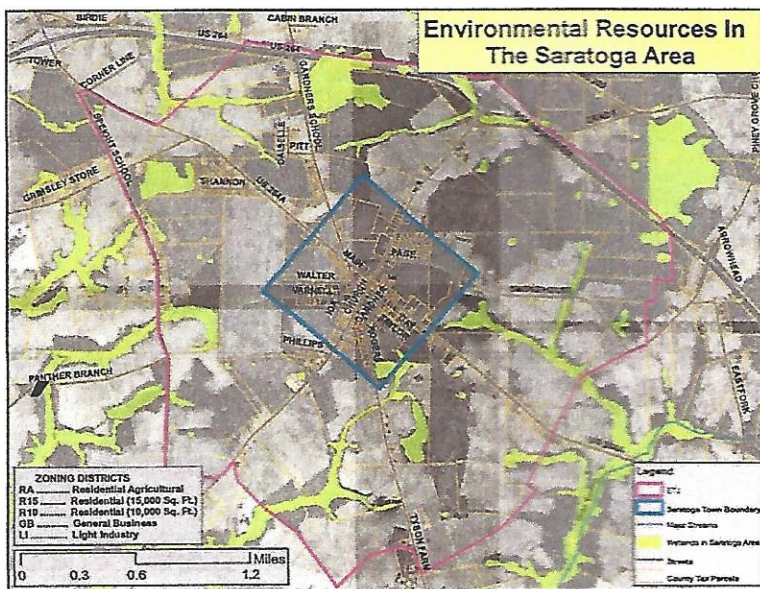
Planning & Development Services

resources and promoting orderly growth strategies. The map categories include initial development areas (primary town growth area) as well as future development areas (secondary town growth area). The Town Enhancement Area supports downtown improvements and revitalization.

Once approved the *Saratoga Town Plan* will serve as the official "comprehensive plan" for the town in order to meet state law requirement. For example, when a requested rezoning application is received by the town, the *Saratoga Town Plan* and accompanying policies and Land Development Plan Map can be consulted as a guide to determine consistency (or inconsistency) with the town's "comprehensive plan".



The *Saratoga Town Plan* provides more value than simply meeting state law. It



provides a meaningful guide for Saratoga in addressing development-related interests, offers manageable guidance for public facilities and services, reflects shared community vision and values and addresses a variety of community interests like downtown and neighborhood appearance. The plan embraces improvement opportunities for greater overall livability and a healthier community, and should remain a viable guide for the Town of Saratoga over the next five to ten years or longer.

Planning and Development Services are available to meet all our towns needs.

The Saratoga Town Plan was approved and adopted by the Board of Commissioners on October 7, 2015.