

# **CHAPTER 2**

## **VISION**



# VISION STATEMENT FOR EFFINGHAM

## **Where will we be in 2022?**

Overall, input from the community shows that people envision that Effingham will maintain its rural character and become an economically viable, sustainable community.

**The small town, rural atmosphere is intact.** Opportunities exist for residents of all income levels to remain in the community and for future generations to meet their anticipated needs.

To accomplish this, we must:

- Protect, maintain and increase recreational areas.
- Collaborate with neighboring communities in mutually beneficial endeavors.
- Maintain and expand historic districts, preserve existing residential neighborhoods, protect the rural quality of life.
- Provide high quality municipal facilities and services to meet community needs.
- Communicate clearly and frequently with all residents to encourage broad involvement and participation in town decisions.

**New Business opportunities are plentiful, and current business is encouraged to expand.**

To accomplish this, we must:

- Establish an economic development committee to work towards making Effingham a desirable business environment, including identifying potential sites suitable for business development.
- Encourage the growth and development of small businesses through appropriate planning and facilitative regulations.
- Support existing businesses.
- Develop markets for local products within and outside of the community.
- Promote sustainable development and Best Management Practices guidelines.
- Promote and support the development of local agriculture.

**The town population continues to be good stewards of local resources.** To accomplish this, we must:

- Sustain a balance between natural resources and built environments.
- Utilize low impact development techniques and Best Management Practices in the protection of the watershed.
- Coordinate planning and policymaking by town officials with the other towns that comprise the watershed.
- Protect open spaces and preserve natural resources.

**Housing and public infrastructure** are safe, diverse, efficient, and of high quality.

To accomplish this, we must:

- Improve public infrastructure.
- Plan for housing to accommodate residents of all ages, abilities and income levels, while preventing overcrowding of land or sprawl, to encourage balanced land usage.

- Provide access to reliable and affordable telecommunication services consistent with the best available technology, linking Effingham to the global community for the benefit of residents and businesses.

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