



1. INTRODUCTION

The *Framework for the Future* involves citizens in planning their City's future. It articulates their vision and goals for Newport News, and recommends the policies, strategies and methods of implementation necessary to accomplish them.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

The Newport News City Council initiated the *Framework for the Future* in 1989 to prepare a new and expanded comprehensive plan for the City, using broad citizen participation and input. The *Framework for the Future* deals

with issues which are important to citizens: crime and public safety, drug abuse, traffic congestion, public education, environment, air and water quality, housing for low and moderate income people, health care, AIDS, and job opportunities, in addition to the usual planning concerns of land use, economic development, transportation and community facilities.

In 1997 City Council requested that the *Framework for the Future* be updated with the same level of citizen participation that was used in preparing the original *Framework for the Future*.

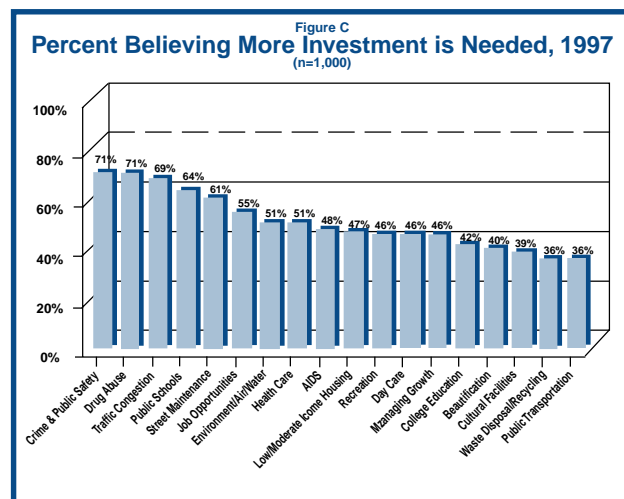
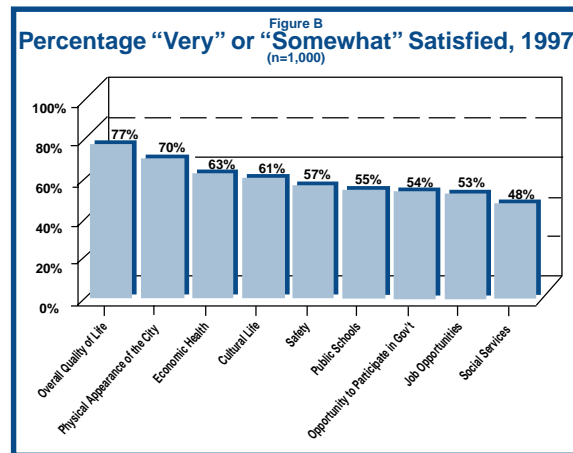
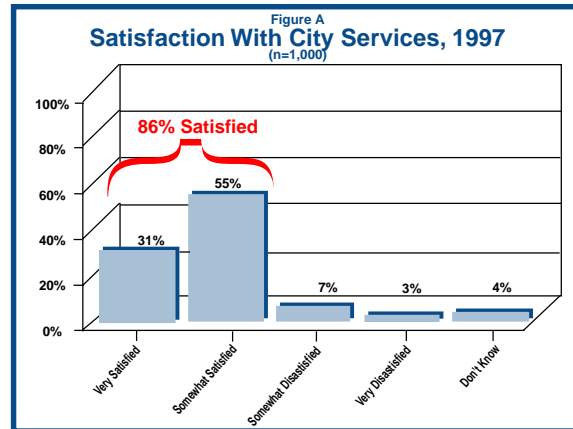
Citizen Surveys

While preparing the Framework for the Future and the *Update*, telephone surveys of the City's residents were used to identify priority issues. In 1990 and again in 1997, the Wessex Group, Ltd. questioned by telephone 1,000 randomly selected households about their concerns, opinions and satisfaction with life in Newport News. The maximum estimated margin of error for a sample of 1,000 is + 3%. A few questions were added to the 1997 survey, but the original questions posed to residents in 1990 remained unchanged.¹

In 1997, 86% of the respondents indicated they were satisfied with City services and 77% said they were satisfied with the overall quality of life in Newport News.

As in 1990, the top five concerns identified by citizens as issues facing the City that deserve more public investment were crime and public safety (71%), drug abuse (71%), traffic congestion (69%), street maintenance (64%) and job opportunities (61%). Solid waste disposal and recycling was a concern of more than half (58%) of the 1990 respondents; however, in 1997 far fewer (36%) identified this as a concern. Four issues that raised more concern in 1997 than they did in 1990 were street maintenance and repair, (61%) job opportunities (55%), the environment and air and water quality (51%) and health care (51%). Needs of the City mentioned most often were job training opportunities, neighborhood playgrounds, industrial parks, curbs, gutters, sidewalks and rapid rail transit.

¹ Citizens' Perceptions of Newport News to Help Guide the Revision of the *Framework for the Future*, The Wessex Group, Ltd., October 1997



FRAMEWORK ORGANIZATION

The City Planning Commission appointed members to five citizen task forces to insure maximum citizen participation. Four task forces focused on their respective planning districts. The fifth task force, the Youth Task Force, operated City-wide. It involved students from the City's high schools. The Department of Planning and Development gave staff support to all task forces. Each task force began with twenty-five members. During the update of the *Framework*, the task forces' memberships varied during the program's three year life, with each task force averaging between 10 and 15 active members.

The five task forces received direction from an Oversight Committee appointed by the City Council. The Oversight Committee provided overall direction and project management to the Framework process. The chairman of each citizen task force was a member of the Oversight Committee. Other members were the City Manager, the Director of Planning and Development, two planning commissioners, two at-large citizen members and the City Planning Commission Chairman, who chaired the committee.

Figure 1-1 illustrates the organizational structure of the *Framework for the Future*.

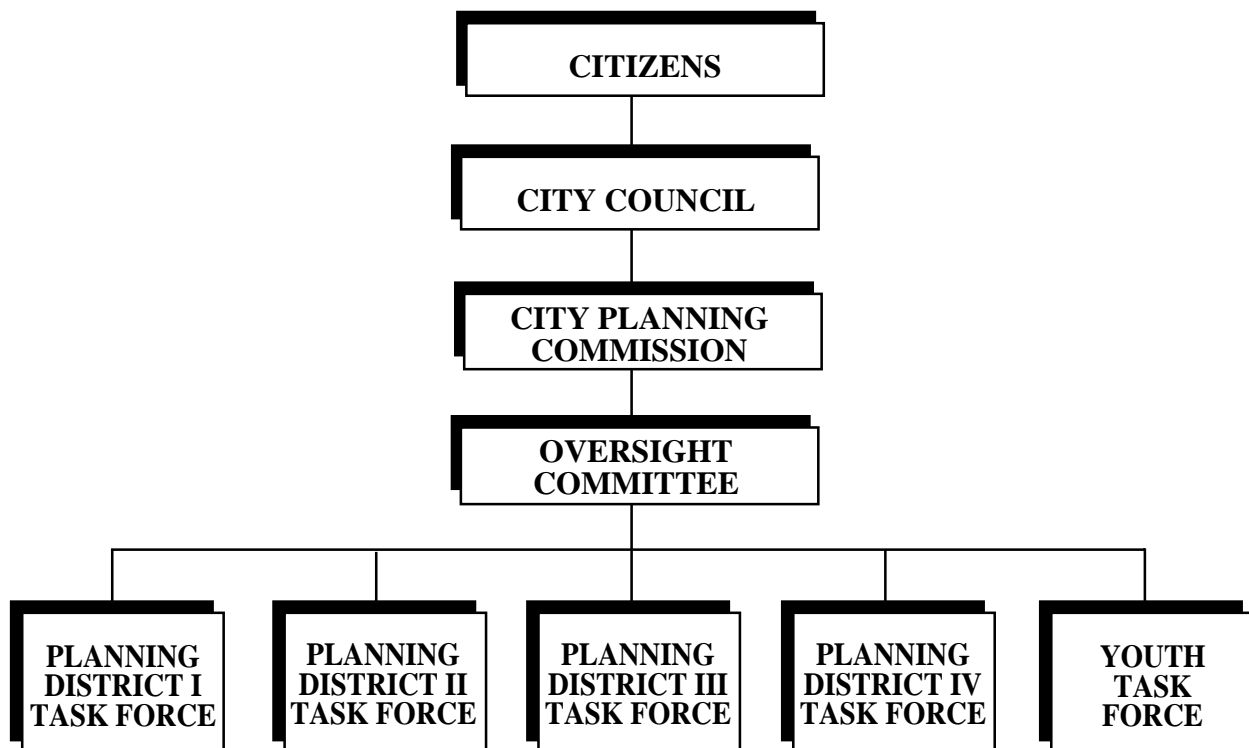


Figure 1-1 • Organizational Structure, *Framework for the Future*

TASK FORCES' ACTIVITIES FOR UPDATE

The task forces met monthly to review the Chapters in the adopted *Framework*, including the adopted Land Use Plans. They reviewed the chapters at the same time. Usually, City staff and agencies such as the School Administration participated in the review as well. For example, the Police and Fire Departments participated in the review of the Public Safety Chapter. When the review of a Chapter was completed, the Task Forces' recommended changes were presented to the Oversight Committee by their Chairmen. The Oversight Committee ultimately decided by consensus which changes would be made. Every six months all task forces met in Congresses to review the consensus changes to the Chapters.

The *Update* began in May 1997 with an orientation of all Task Force members. During the *Update*, the Task Forces held 150 total meetings and the Oversight Committee met more than 30 times. There were five task force Congresses and a special meeting on Education with the School Administration and School Board.

Ultimately, the *Framework Update* will be reviewed and recommended by the City Planning Commission after its public hearings. The City Council will take action on the *Framework Update* after its own public hearings. Figure 1-2 illustrates the *Framework for the Future Update* process.



Figure 1-2 • Framework for the Future Process

FRAMEWORK CHAPTERS & TERMS

The *Framework for the Future* organizes the recommendations of the task forces into the following chapters and concludes with a new land use plan for the City's physical environment.

Economic Development
Land Use
Transportation
Education
Parks and Recreation
Housing
Public Safety
Historic Preservation
Human Services
Culture
Environment
Urban Services
The Land Use Plan

Each chapter begins with a vision statement which describes a desired future. There then follows background information which introduces the topic and covers the condition of the City. Each chapter concludes with goals the task forces have recommended for the subject, and associated policies, strategies, and implementation actions.

After recommendation by the City Planning Commission, and adoption by the City Council, the *Framework for the Future Update* will be the City's new comprehensive plan and serve as the basis for the City's strategic actions.

In this plan the words *shall*, *will*, *should* and *may* frequently are used. Only the word *shall* is considered mandatory, i.e. something which one must do. However, the *Framework for the Future*, unlike an ordinance or a law, is a plan which the courts in Virginia treat as a general guide. Therefore, in the context of this plan, the word *shall* indicates an idea that ought to be done. The word *will* expresses a future end or inevitability. The word *should* is used to describe an action that is strongly encouraged. The word *may* indicates a wish, desire or permissible action. These words, as well as other technical terms and acronyms, are defined in the glossary.

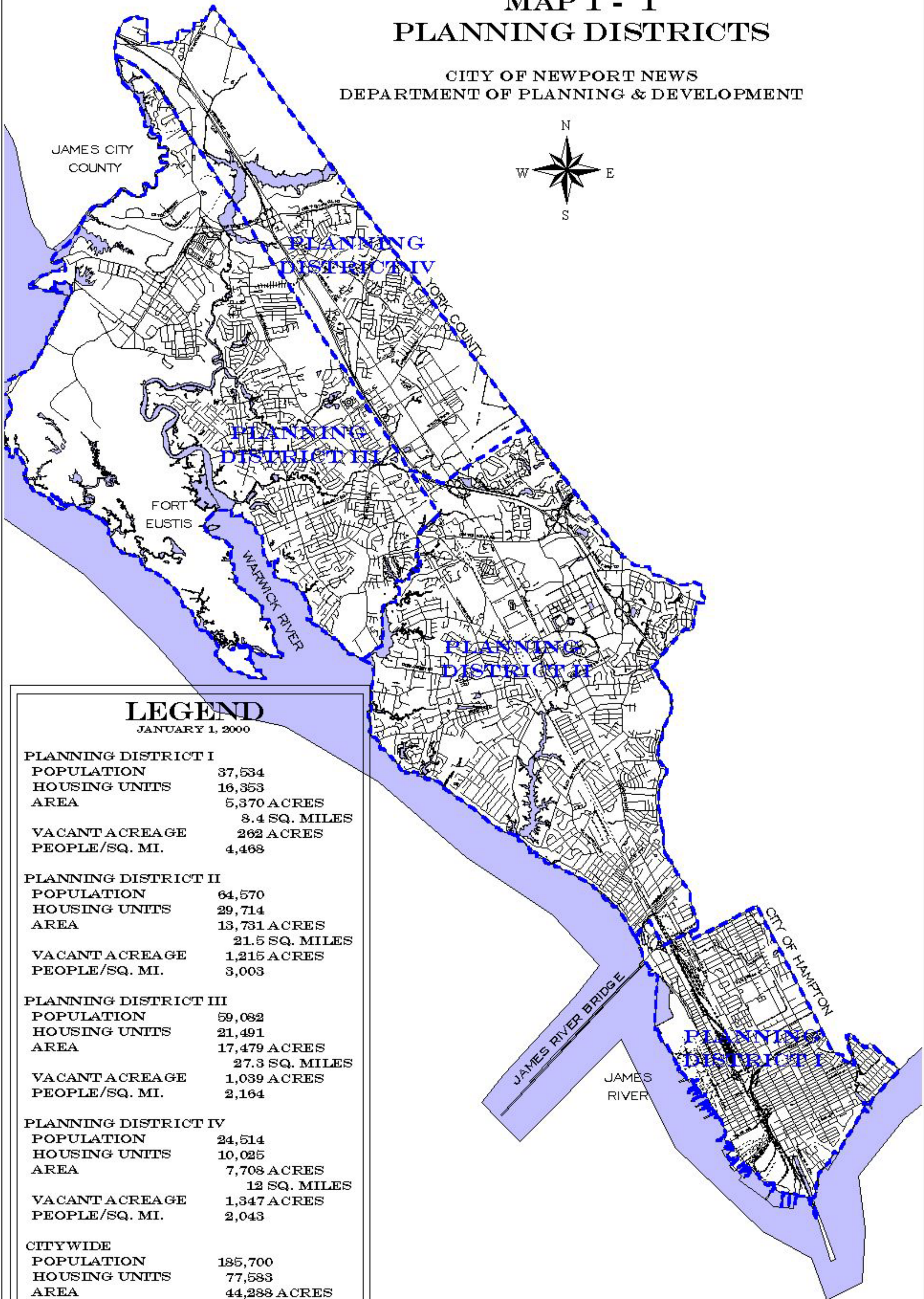
Finally, in this *Update of the Framework for the Future*, new or changed goals, policies, strategies and implementation are indicated by *italics* and deletions by strike-outs.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE

MAP 1 - 1 PLANNING DISTRICTS

CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT



LEGEND

JANUARY 1, 2000

PLANNING DISTRICT I

POPULATION	37,534
HOUSING UNITS	16,353
AREA	5,370 ACRES
	8.4 SQ. MILES
VACANT ACREAGE	262 ACRES
PEOPLE/SQ. MI.	4,468

PLANNING DISTRICT II

POPULATION	64,570
HOUSING UNITS	29,714
AREA	13,731 ACRES
	21.5 SQ. MILES
VACANT ACREAGE	1,215 ACRES
PEOPLE/SQ. MI.	3,003

PLANNING DISTRICT III

POPULATION	59,082
HOUSING UNITS	21,491
AREA	17,479 ACRES
	27.3 SQ. MILES
VACANT ACREAGE	1,039 ACRES
PEOPLE/SQ. MI.	2,164

PLANNING DISTRICT IV

POPULATION	24,514
HOUSING UNITS	10,025
AREA	7,708 ACRES
	12 SQ. MILES
VACANT ACREAGE	1,347 ACRES
PEOPLE/SQ. MI.	2,043

CITYWIDE

POPULATION	185,700
HOUSING UNITS	77,583
AREA	44,288 ACRES
	69.2 SQ. MILES
VACANT ACREAGE	3,863 ACRES
PEOPLE/SQ. MI.	2,684

7000 0 7000 Feet

JANUARY 1, 2000