

Town of South Hill Strategic Plan 2025–2028

Mission Statement

The Town of South Hill is dedicated to fostering a safe, inclusive, and vibrant community where families thrive, businesses succeed, and natural beauty is preserved. Through exceptional public service, purposeful growth, and deep community collaboration, we proudly blend small-town charm with bold innovation—making South Hill truly so unexpected.

Vision Statement

Founded by a pin on the map in 1901, the Town of South Hill envisions a dynamic and inclusive community where innovation flourishes, opportunities abound, and every resident has the tools to thrive. We aspire to be a regional leader—valued for our exceptional manufacturing and industrial infrastructure, our commitment to education and youth development, and our vibrant cultural and recreational experiences.

As we grow, we remain rooted in our heritage, honoring the traditions that shaped us while embracing the promise of a bold, forward-thinking future. Our town is a place where small-town charm meets cutting-edge ambition—where businesses, families, and visitors alike discover something so unexpected. Together, we are building a resilient, connected, and prosperous South Hill—one that stands as the heartbeat of progress in Southern Virginia.

Strategic Goals & Action Plan

Goal 1: Revitalize and Repurpose Dilapidated Properties

Objective: Improve neighborhood vitality, promote public safety, and expand opportunities for redevelopment.

Action Items for Staff:

- Conduct a comprehensive survey of dilapidated and vacant properties (by Q3 2025).
- Create a property database with ownership, tax status, and code violations.
- Develop a **Blight Reduction Strategy**, including code enforcement, rehabilitation incentives, and demolition where appropriate.
- Partner with the Southside Planning District Commission to seek CDBG or other redevelopment grants.
- Collaborate with local developers and non-profits to promote affordable infill housing or mixed-use redevelopment.

Council Role:

- Review and adopt updates to local ordinances that strengthen code enforcement and support redevelopment, to include the implementation of a **Community Revitalization Fund** and **Vacant Property Registry**.
- Approve budget allocations for a Community Revitalization Fund and grant-matching funds.

Goal 2: Enhance Workforce Readiness and Development

Objective: Strengthen local talent pipelines to meet employer needs, especially in manufacturing, trades, and public service.

Action Items for Staff:

- Establish a **Workforce Development Task Force** with representatives from education, industry, and regional workforce boards (Q4 2025).
- Collaborate with Southside Virginia Community College, local schools, and area businesses to:
 - Expand internship, apprenticeship, and job-shadowing programs.
 - Host a semiannual “Youth Career Expo” at the community college or high school.
 - Support credentialing programs in logistics, advanced manufacturing, and skilled trades.
- Promote Town job openings, particularly in public works and public safety, through outreach to the community college, local high schools, and job centers.
- Explore incentives (e.g., relocation assistance or signing bonuses) for hard-to-fill municipal positions.

Council Role:

- Advocate at the regional and state levels for workforce training funding.
 - Support development of local career pathways through public-private partnerships.
 - Champion youth engagement and career awareness programs.
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Goal 3: Modernize and Improve Infrastructure

Objective: Ensure the Town’s core infrastructure—streets, utilities, stormwater, and broadband—meets current and future needs.

Action Items for Staff:

- Complete and regularly update a **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)** prioritizing infrastructure projects.
- Pursue state and federal grants for water/sewer, broadband, and transportation upgrades (e.g., VDOT, USDA, ARC).
- Initiate a phased street resurfacing and sidewalk repair program.
- Inventory existing stormwater systems and develop a stormwater management plan (Q2 2026).
- Work with providers to identify and expand broadband access zones.

Council Role:

- Approve and annually review the CIP.
 - Advocate for infrastructure funding at the state level.
 - Support policy updates and zoning adjustments that align with future infrastructure capacity.
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Goal 4: Promote Affordable and Diverse Housing

Objective: Expand access to affordable housing for families, seniors, and the local workforce.

Action Items for Staff:

- Use the **Regional Housing Study** prepared by Southside Planning District Commission to identify opportunities to collaborate with housing authorities and regional partners.
- Identify underutilized parcels suitable for housing development.
- Explore adoption of housing overlay zones or incentives for affordable units in new developments.
- Partner with nonprofits and developers to build or rehabilitate affordable units (use tools like Low-Income Housing Tax Credits).

Council Role:

- Support zoning reforms and incentives that promote a mix of housing types.
 - Encourage regional collaboration on housing initiatives.
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Implementation and Monitoring

- **Annual Strategic Review:** Town staff will prepare a year-end strategic progress report for Council each December.
- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):**
 - Number of blighted properties remediated or redeveloped.
 - Participation rates in workforce programs and youth internships.
 - Grant funding secured for infrastructure projects.
 - Units of new affordable housing developed.
 - Attendance and participation in town events and programs.
- **Community Involvement:** Residents will be invited to participate through public forums, volunteer initiatives, and advisory boards.