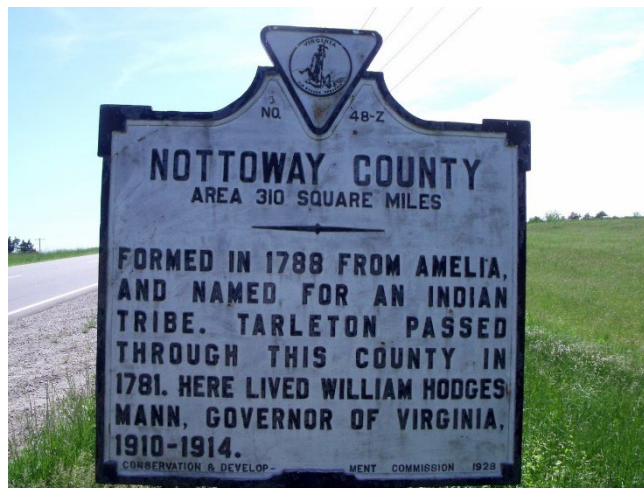


# NOTTOWAY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2023 – 2028



Prepared by the Nottoway County Planning Commission and:  
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**ADOPTED BY THE NOTTOWAY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON JULY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

## NOTTOWAY COUNTY

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Alex Wilson, Timmons Group  
All of the citizens who participated and provided input during the process

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# Nottoway Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

## Executive Summary

As the Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2010, a comprehensive update of the Plan was undertaken. This involved the development of a new Plan for the County – including new information and new maps. Notable components of this new Plan include:

**Developing a New Plan:** The introduction to the Plan includes information on the process for developing a new Plan. *Page 2*

**Methods for Identifying Issues:** For this update, the County utilized both online and paper surveys to assist in gathering citizen input. Written surveys were made available to citizens, and links to online surveys were provided to gather input. In addition, a community meeting was held in the beginning of the process as an additional method to identify issues. *Page 3*

**Education - Accreditation Status:** The Virginia Board of Education has revised its accreditation standards to provide a more comprehensive view of school quality. The School Accreditation ratings included in the Plan reflect this new approach to accountability. *Pages 13-15*

**Commutation Patterns:** Data was provided by the U.S. Census American Community Survey and the Virginia Employment Commission. In addition to how far residents drove to work, this data examined top destinations for out-commuters and top localities from which workers commute into the County. *Pages 19-21*

**Employment:** Employment data was gathered based on Spring 2021 figures, and includes the following: growth occupations (South Central Workforce Investment Area, which includes Nottoway County), unemployment, and employment by industry. *Pages 21-26*

**Transportation:** The Code of Virginia requires that prior to the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, the locality submit the transportation section to VDOT for review and comment. VDOT reviewed the transportation section and provided comment prior to finalizing the Plan. *Pages 29-58*

**Community Facilities and Services:** This section included information on facilities in the County (schools, industrial parks, recreational facilities, etc.). In addition, language regarding Telecommunications & Broadband services was added and mapping was provided to display those services in the County. *Pages 58-75*

**Land Use:** Mapping was added to display current land use in the County. A general future land use map for the County was also added. In addition, special considerations that could affect future land use (renewable energy, state and federal facilities, etc.) were added to help guide decision makers as they review the County's ordinances. *Pages 87-92*

**Special Policy Areas:** This new section was added to the Plan for the purpose of identifying issues deemed to be of more significant importance, and examine those issues in more detail than is typically done in the Goals, Objectives, and Strategies. These issues were identified through citizen input (community meeting and citizen surveys) and input from the Working Committee. *Pages 93-106*

**Goals, Objectives, and Strategies:** New goals, objectives, and strategies were developed to reflect issues/concerns identified from surveys and the community meeting. Additionally, an Implementation Plan was added to aid the County in implementing the Plan. *Page 107-124*



# Nottoway Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

## I. Introduction

### A. Purpose and Legal Basis for a Comprehensive Plan

Every community faces challenges when it comes to planning for the future and managing the process of change. While the physical manifestations of change vary from time to time and place to place, perhaps the most reliable constant in life is that change – whether we like it or not – does occur and things will not remain as they are. Nottoway County faces its own unique set of challenges, given its proximity to the Richmond and Petersburg metropolitan areas and the recent opening of a new training center for U.S. diplomatic personnel at Fort Pickett, near the Town of Blackstone.

To help address growth and change, the Code of Virginia mandates that jurisdictions prepare and regularly revise a Comprehensive Plan to guide the physical development of their communities. The Code of Virginia, Section 15.2-2223, requires that local governments develop, review, and update their Comprehensive Plan. A Comprehensive Plan is a document used for community assessment, identifying current concerns, forecasting future needs, developing policies, and implementing problem solving strategies. A Comprehensive Plan is developed by the Planning Commission and adopted by the governing body. Furthermore, Section 15.2-2230 of the Code requires localities to review and update their Comprehensive Plans every five (5) years at a minimum.

#### **Title 15.2-2223**

##### **Comprehensive Plan to be prepared and adopted; scope and purpose.**

The local planning commission shall prepare and recommend a comprehensive plan for the physical development of the territory within its jurisdiction and every governing body shall adopt a comprehensive plan for the territory under its jurisdiction.

In the preparation of a comprehensive plan the commission shall make careful and comprehensive surveys and studies of the existing conditions and trends of growth, and of the probable future requirements of its territory and inhabitants. The comprehensive plan shall be made with the purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of the territory which will, in accordance with present and probable future needs and resources, best promote the health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity and general welfare of the inhabitants.

Section 15.2-2223 further states that the Comprehensive Plan shall be general in nature in that it shall:

- Designate the general or approximate location, character, and extent of features shown on the plan, including where existing lands or facilities are proposed to be extended, removed or changed;
- Show the long-range recommendations for the general development of the territory and may include such items as the designation of areas for different kinds of public and private land use, a system of transportation facilities, a system of community service facilities, historical areas, and areas for the implementation of groundwater protection measures.

In Virginia, the local Comprehensive Plan is a guide for the governing body to follow in making both long-range and day-to-day decisions regarding all aspects of community development. The governing body can

## **Nottoway Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028**

exercise discretion in how strictly it interprets and follows the plan. However, the Code provides that the construction, extension or change in use of streets or other public facilities be subject to review and approval by the Planning Commission as to whether the general location, character and extent of the proposed facility is in substantial accord with the adopted Comprehensive Plan. The Plan, therefore, has great control over the construction of public facilities and utilities, as well as private land uses.

A Comprehensive Plan is an important document to a local government as it serves as a tool for community preservation and development. This Plan reflects the interests of public and private stakeholders with the assurance that the community's needs are identified and met accordingly. As a community's character evolves, the Comprehensive Plan adapts through the compilation of corresponding citizen input and assessments accompanied with other data sources.

### **B. Developing a New Comprehensive Plan for Nottoway County**

The County's existing Comprehensive Plan was last amended in October 2006 and is in need of a comprehensive update to bring the Plan up to-date. In January 2021, Nottoway County contracted with the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) for assistance in updating the County's Comprehensive Plan. The process for updating the Plan took 18 months. This included regular meetings between CRC staff and the Nottoway County Planning Commission, to review data and materials and develop/update goals, objectives and strategies. Once completed, the Plan was presented to the public for review and comment and then to the Nottoway County Board of Supervisors for adoption.

This Comprehensive Planning Process addressed the major concerns of the County by identifying the fundamental, long-term goals for community development for the next five to 20 years. Furthermore, the Plan serves as a guide for setting policies for public facilities, utilities, and land use which the County will need to implement in order to achieve those goals.

### **C. Process for Plan Development and Adoption**

The CRC assisted the Nottoway County Planning Commission in updating the Plan, gathering public comment, and presenting the Plan to the Board of Supervisors for adoption. The Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan includes seven (7) phases. The phases are as follows:

- Phases I and II: Collecting/updating/analyzing data, including:
  - Population
  - Education
  - Income
  - Commutation Patterns
  - Employment/Unemployment
  - Economic Activity
  - Housing
  - Transportation
  - Community Facilities/Services
  - Historical Sites
  - Natural Resources
- Phase III: Evaluating current land use and updating the County's Future Land Use Map.

## Nottoway Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

- Phase IV: Identifying/updating issues, and setting goals and prescribing actions.
- Phase V: Executive Summary.
- Phase VI: Public Hearing and recommendation for adoption by the Planning Commission.
- Phase VII: Public Hearing and adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

### D. Overview of Methods for Identifying Issues

A range of issues, now and in the future facing Nottoway County, has been identified. Review and analysis of these issues by the public, the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors provided the basis for establishing the planning goals and policies for this Comprehensive Plan. For a more detailed review of all the input received from the issue identification methods, please refer to the Appendix materials.

The major issues outlined in this Plan were identified through four methods:

1. **Community Meeting:** CRC staff held a community meeting on July 20, 2021 at the Nottoway County General District Court Room. The *Blackstone Courier-Record* ran stories about the meeting, and a flyer was developed for distribution to local businesses. A total of 12 people attended this meeting. The input received from attendees proved useful in developing the survey instrument and updating the Plan.
2. **Citizen Opinion Survey:** CRC staff assisted the Planning Commission with the development and distribution of the survey instrument. Surveys were made available at government offices and businesses throughout the County, and an online survey instrument was made available on the County's web site and Facebook page. Surveys were distributed on October 27, 2021, with a deadline of November 30, 2021 to submit completed surveys. The *Crewe-Burkeville Journal* and the *Blackstone Courier-Record* ran stories about the surveys. A total of 152 surveys were completed and returned.
3. **Research and Analysis of Available Data:** CRC staff collected and analyzed data on a range of aspects on the County. These elements included land use patterns, environmental features, transportation conditions, population growth trends and capital facility needs. Much of the information is contained in this Plan and has helped to further enhance the understanding of many of the issues identified by local citizens and by other efforts as outlined in this section.
4. **Meetings with the Planning Commission Working Committee:** The Nottoway County Planning Commission set up a Working Committee to work with CRC staff in the development of this Plan. CRC staff held 16 meetings with the Working Committee between April 2021 and December 2022, plus multiple meetings with the full Planning Commission during the first half of 2023. During these meetings, the Working Committee reviewed citizen input along with technical information and contributed its own analysis of the issues presented.

# Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

## II. Community Profile

### A. Regional Setting and History

Nottoway County is located in the Piedmont Region of Virginia, so named for the rolling foothills that comprise the picturesque landscape of the region. Nottoway County is also part of a region known as Southside Virginia, given its proximity to the Virginia-North Carolina State Line in the southern tier of Virginia (see Map 1). Nottoway Court House, the County Seat, is located less than seven (7) miles west of Blackstone and less than 30 miles east of Farmville, which are regional hubs for the larger region. Nottoway Court House is located approximately 61 miles from Richmond, 41 miles from Petersburg, 51 miles from Emporia, 35 miles from South Hill, and 115 miles from Raleigh, North Carolina. The County's proximity to larger urban areas, namely the Richmond and Petersburg areas, help to make the County an ideal community for small town economic development and revitalization.

Nottoway County has three towns – Blackstone, Burkeville, and Crewe (see Map 2). Located near Blackstone is Fort Pickett, which is home to a National Guard unit and the recently opened Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC), a U.S. government facility that provides security training to Department of State personnel and members of the foreign affairs community. In April 2023, Fort Pickett was renamed Fort Barfoot, per an initiative by a Congressionally-appointed commission to rename select military bases in the southern United States. The new name honors Colonel Van T. Barfoot, a World War II Veteran and Medal of Honor recipient who lived in Central Virginia after retirement. Located just outside of Burkeville are three state facilities: Nottoway Correctional Center, a level-3, closed custody state prison; Piedmont Geriatric Hospital, a facility for persons aged 65 and over who are in need of inpatient treatment for mental illness; and the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation, a treatment facility for sex offenders.

Nottoway County got its name from the Nadowa, a tribe of Indians from the Iroquois Nation that inhabited areas along what is today the Nottoway River. Nadowa is an Algonquin word meaning “rattlesnake.” The name “Nadowa” was anglicized to “Nottoway” by English settlers who came to the area during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries. According to historical records, explorers and traders visited the area as early as 1650 and settlers began to populate the area during the early 1700s. These early English settlers, along with craftsmen and laborers from Continental Europe and West Africa, produced an independent and resourceful population living in what was then the frontier of the Virginia Colony. Present-day Nottoway County was part of Amelia County when it was formed in 1734 from parts of Prince George and Brunswick Counties. Nottoway Parish was established as a district in Amelia County and remained as such until 1788, when Nottoway Parish was split from Amelia County by legislative action and became Nottoway County.

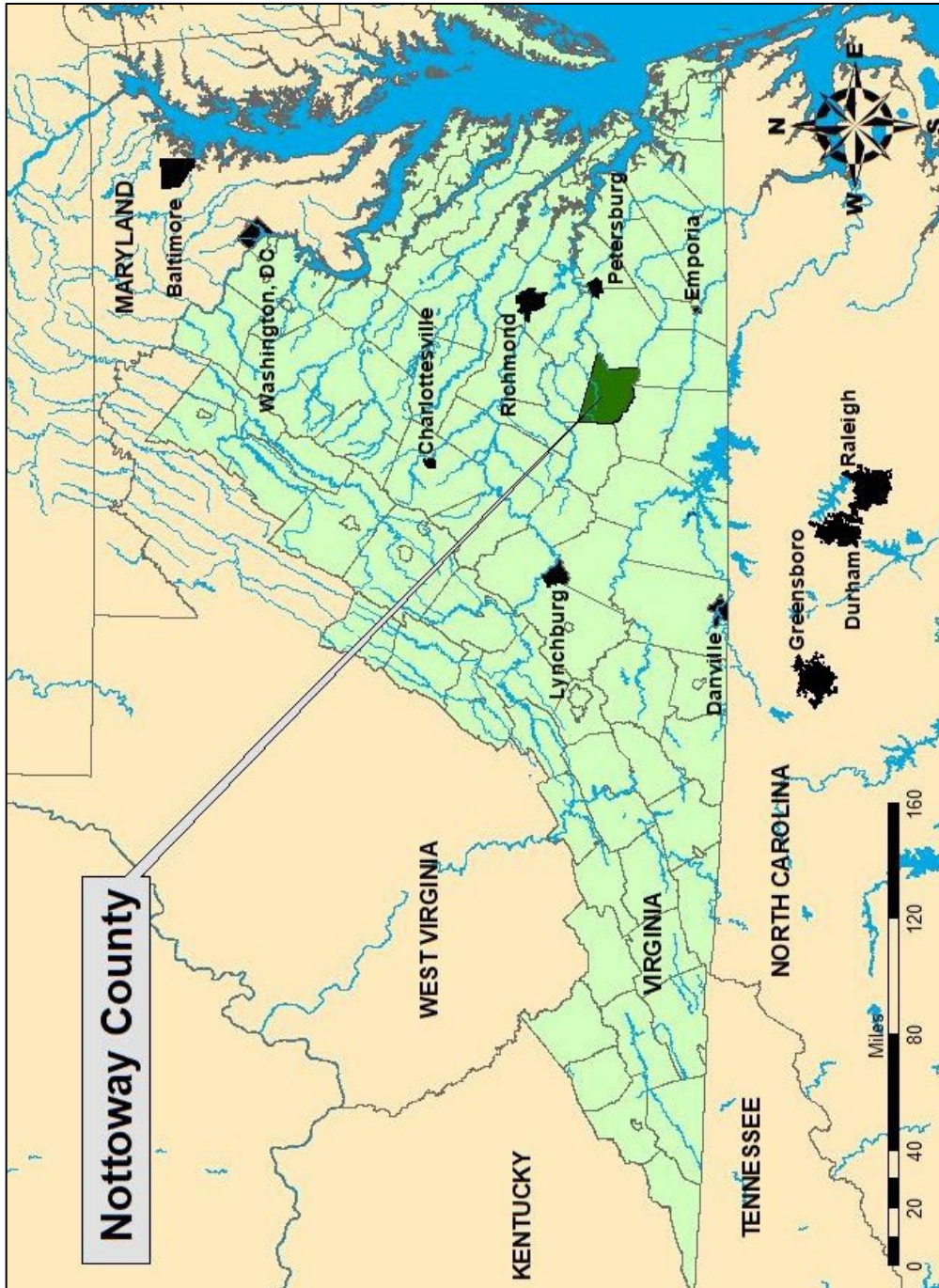
Not much is known about present-day Nottoway County's role in the American Revolution, though historical records tell of a skirmish near West Creek between a small contingent of British troops and Peter Francisco – an American patriot and soldier who fought in the Revolutionary War – that occurred in full view of the British Calvary under Colonel Tarleton. A small detachment of soldiers told Francisco that he was their prisoner and attempted to pillage the house where he was staying. Francisco engaged the British detachment, wounding two soldiers before fleeing. During the Civil War, Nottoway County was the site of the “Battle of the Grove,” which was fought over control of the rail line in the County that served as a major supply line for General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Additionally, the route of the Wilson-Kautz Raid Trail – a driving trail that tells the story of a Union Calvary campaign in 1864 to destroy rail lines in Southside Virginia – includes a number of stops in Nottoway County. William Hodges Mann, Nottoway County's first judge (from 1870 to 1892), served in the Virginia State Senate from 1899 to 1910 then as Governor of Virginia from 1910 to 1914.



## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Nottoway County's three towns were incorporated during the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century – Burkeville in 1877, Blackstone in 1888, and Crewe in 1894. Nottoway County's economy was largely agricultural during the period between American Revolution and the Civil War. After the Civil War, and especially after the Towns were incorporated along the U.S. 460/Norfolk Southern Railway Corridor, the County's economy became more diversified to include agriculture, industry, and commercial businesses. Today, Nottoway County's economy includes those sectors plus state and federal government facilities now located in the County.

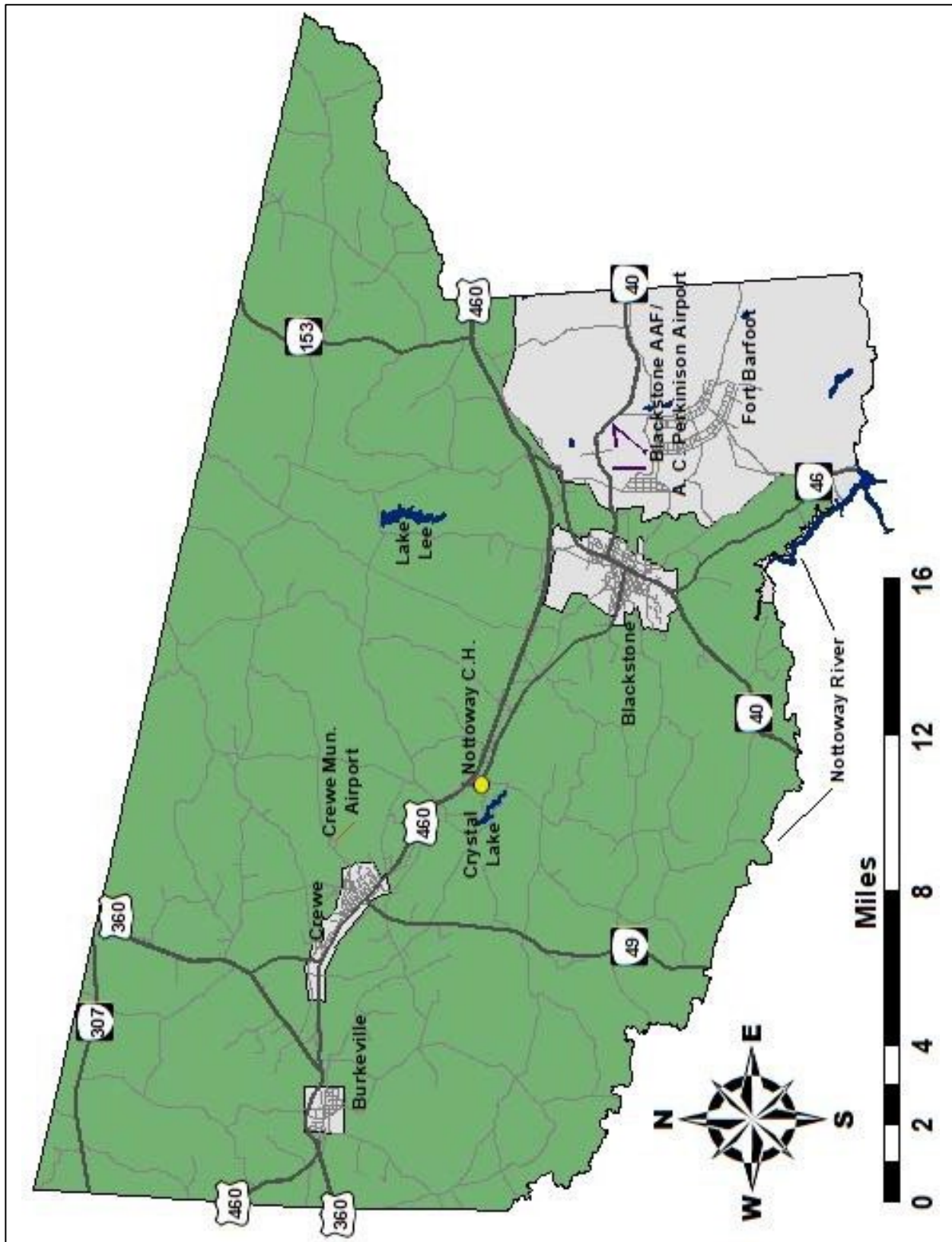
**Map 1 – Location of Nottoway County**



Map created by CRC – May 2021

# Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Map 2 – Nottoway County



Map created by CRC – September 2022 (revised May 2023)

# Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

## B. Population

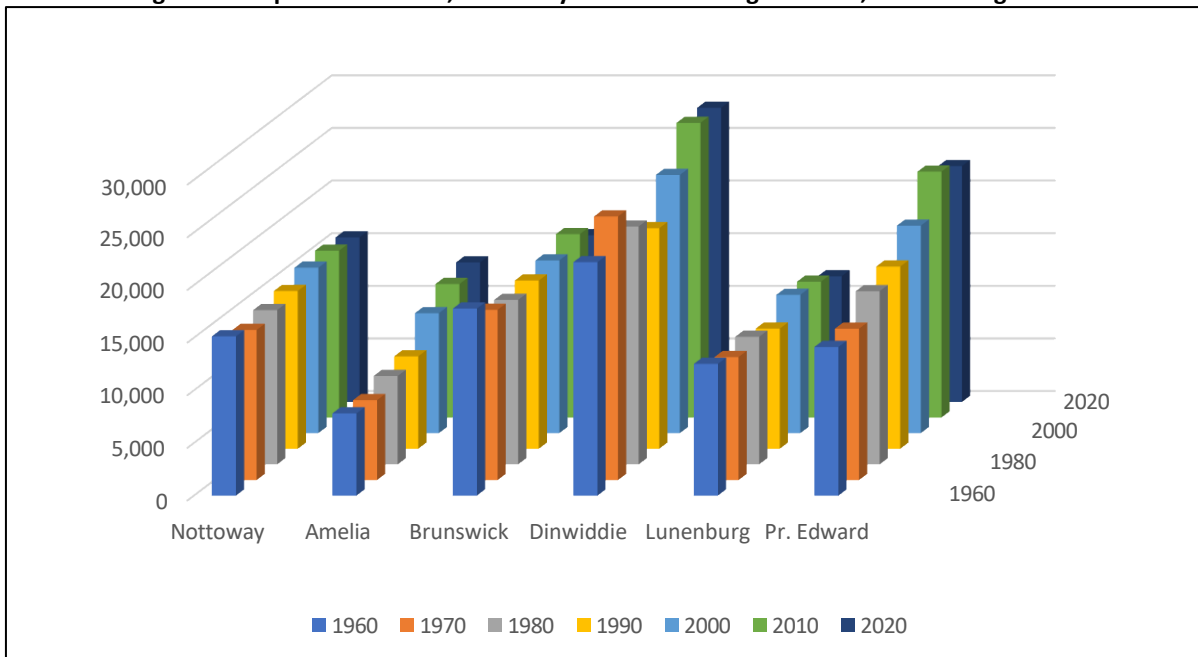
### Introduction

The population section of the Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan includes an analysis of the population characteristics of the County. Population analysis often concentrates on increases or decreases in population. Important factors include changes in characteristics (age, sex and race), rate of growth and the distribution, which can affect planning for a community. Population trends affect land use, housing, community facilities and other aspects of community development.

### Past Population Trends

For the past 60 years, Nottoway County has seen its population remain steady with the exception of a small but noticeable dip in 1970. The U.S. Census Annual Estimate of Residential Population estimated the population for Nottoway County to be 15,520 in 2020 – a 2.1% decrease from the 2010 U.S. Census (see Figure 1). It should be noted that the 2020 estimate is based on the U.S. Census Annual Estimate of Residential Population – which is produced on July 1 of years after the last published decennial census. This estimate uses data series such as births, deaths, federal tax returns, Medicare enrollment, and immigration, are used to update the decennial census base counts.

**Figure 1 – Population Trends, Nottoway and Surrounding Counties, 1960 through 2020**



	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Nottoway	15,141	14,260	14,666	14,993	15,725	15,853	15,642
Amelia	7,815	7,592	8,405	8,787	11,400	12,690	13,265
Brunswick	17,779	16,172	15,632	15,987	16,419	17,434	15,849
Dinwiddie	22,183	25,046	22,602	20,960	24,533	28,001	27,947
Lunenburg	12,523	11,687	12,124	11,419	13,146	12,914	11,936
Pr. Edward	14,121	14,379	16,456	17,320	19,720	23,368	22,417

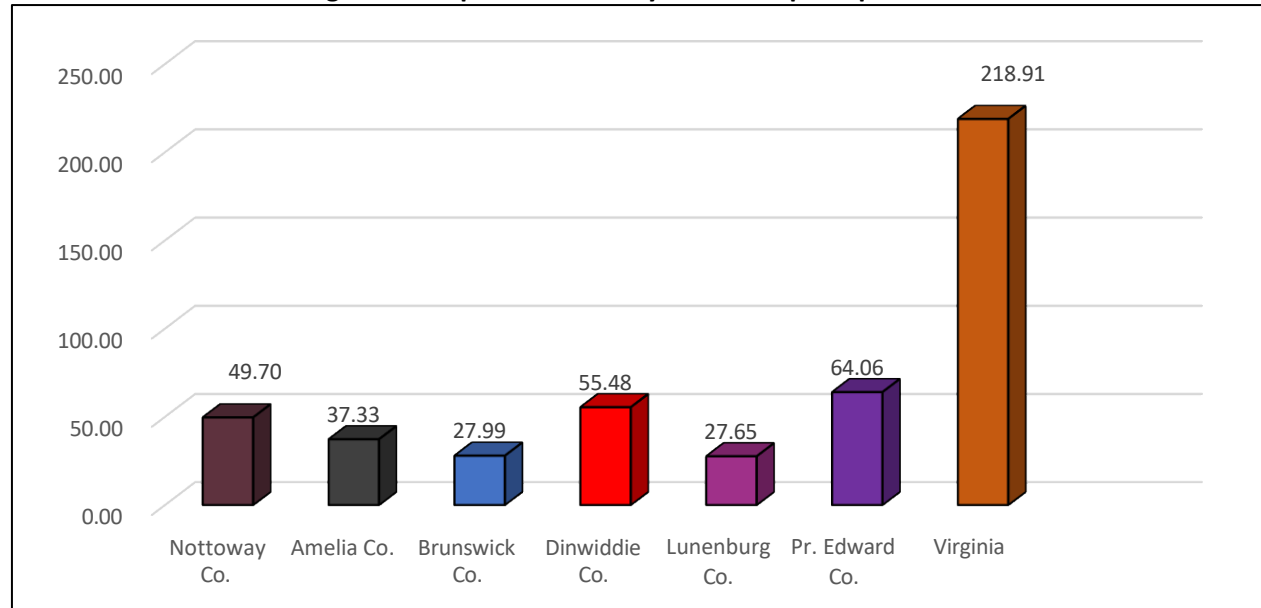
Sources: U.S. Census Historical Data, University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

### Population Density

Population density is an often reported and commonly compared statistic for localities. Population density is the measure of the number of persons per unit area. It is commonly represented as people per square mile (or square kilometer). Based on the 2020 U.S. Census Residential Population estimate of 15,642 and a land area of 314.7 square miles, the County's population density is 49.70 persons per square mile. Figure 2 compares Nottoway County's population density with surrounding counties.

**Figure 2 – Population Density – Persons per Square Mile**



**Sources: University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center (population), Index Mundi (land area)**

### Population Change Factors

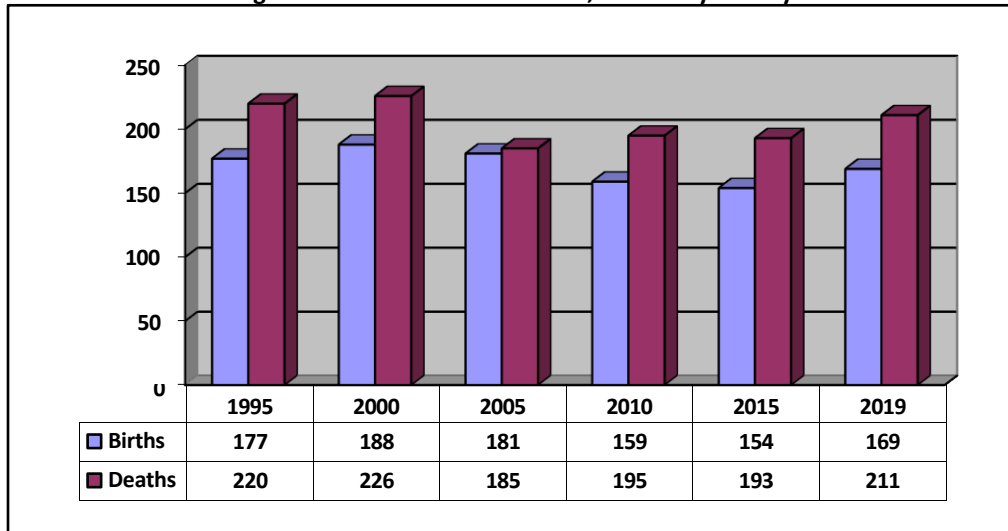
There are a handful of factors that affect population change. There are three ways in which a locality can experience population increase. The first is through having more births than deaths in a given period of time (See Figure 3). Birth rates are affected by such factors as nutrition, fertility, attitudes about abortion, social value, culture, and the availability of contraception. Death rates are affected by disease, medical technology, improved health care, transportation development and nutrition. The second is when more people move into a locality versus more people leaving a locality. Pull factors for people moving into a locality are characteristics that attract people to the locality. Push factors for people leaving a locality are those characteristics of a place that cause people to leave. Finally, the most common way is a combination of both factors.

For 2019, there were 169 births and 211 deaths in Nottoway County. For select years going back to 1995, using every five (5) years as a benchmark, deaths outpaced births (even though the margin between deaths and births in 2005 was slim). Given these trends, it can be predicted that the County will have a modest decrease in resident population in future years.



## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

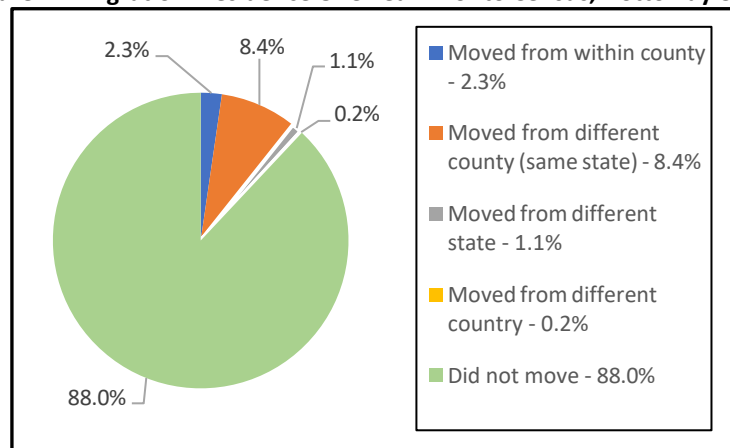
Figure 3 – Birth and Death Rates, Nottoway County



Source: Virginia Department of Health, Division of Health Statistics, 1995-2019

Migration patterns are provided by the U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS). It is sent to a small percentage of our population on a rotating basis. The ACS collects detailed information on the characteristics of our population and housing. Since the ACS is conducted every year, rather than once every ten years, it provides more current estimates throughout the decade. Migration statistics for Nottoway County are in Figure 4.

Figure 4 – Migration: Residence One Year Prior to Census, Nottoway County



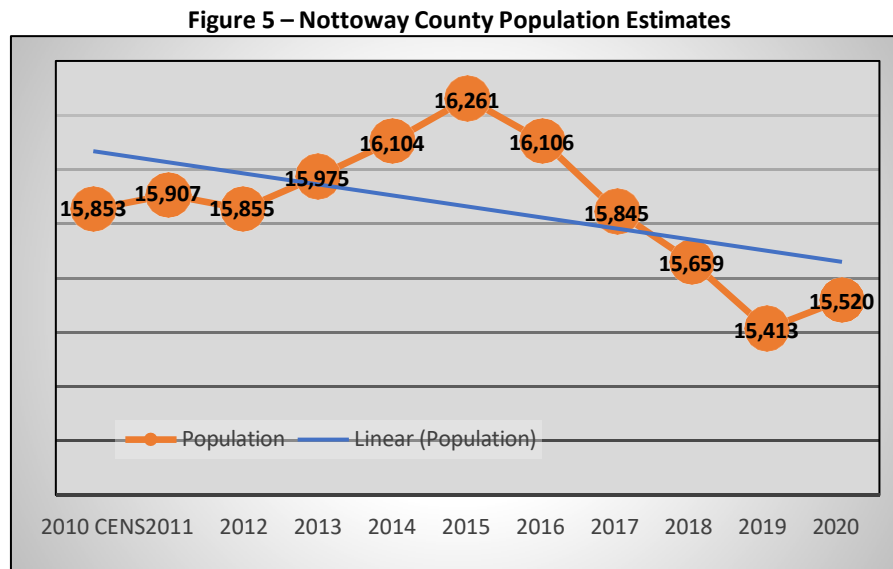
Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019 five-year estimates

### Population Estimates

Population estimates used in this Plan were developed by the University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center (see Figure 4). Population estimates look to the present or the recent past. They are usually much more accurate than projections because they can make use of current indicators – data series like births and deaths, licensed drivers, and school enrollment that are direct measurements, usually derived from governmental agency records. These estimates are used in funding formulae based on per capita allocations, in planning, budgeting, applications for grants, approving and setting salaries for certain public officials, and in all manner of state agencies from VDOT to the Virginia Department of Education.

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

The locality estimates are for the mid-year, July 1, population and are released on the last Monday of the following January. For example, July 1, 2011 estimates were released on January 30, 2012. The seven-month period between the estimate date and release date is the time required to collect and clean input data from multiple state agencies, to produce the estimates, and to prepare for the release on the website and to the public. While Nottoway County saw a brief increase in population during the middle of the decade, the overall trend – as indicated by the blue line in Figure 5 – shows a slight decline in population.



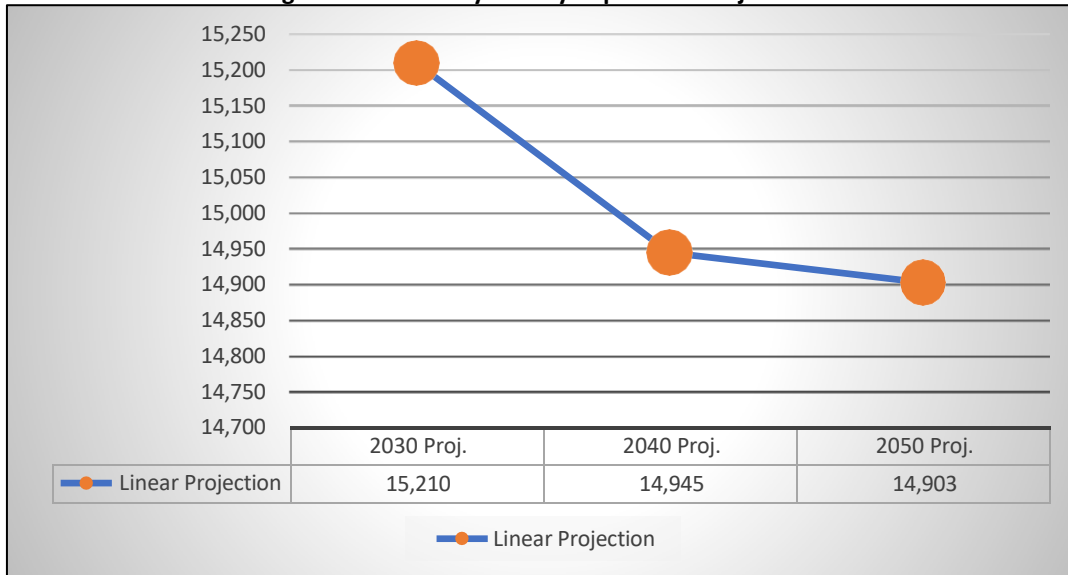
### Population Projections

Population projections look to the future. They aim to produce a quantity that represents the size of a population ten, twenty, thirty years from now. As a result, projection quantities like births, deaths and net migration are an integral part of doing a projection. Additionally, most population projections are based on past trends combined with knowledge of prospective activities that may modify those trends. Projections based on past trends tend to be less accurate for areas with smaller numbers of people than for those with larger numbers. Unexpected events can drastically alter a small area's population, while only insignificantly affecting a larger area's population.

The projection of population is essential for determining the land needs for future residential, commercial, industrial and public uses. Also, population projections can provide an indication of needs for community services, such as schools, parks and police protection to serve the future population. Figure 6 provides population projections for Nottoway County. As you can see, the County's population is projected to decline steadily over the next 20 years.

# Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

**Figure 6 – Nottoway County Population Projections**



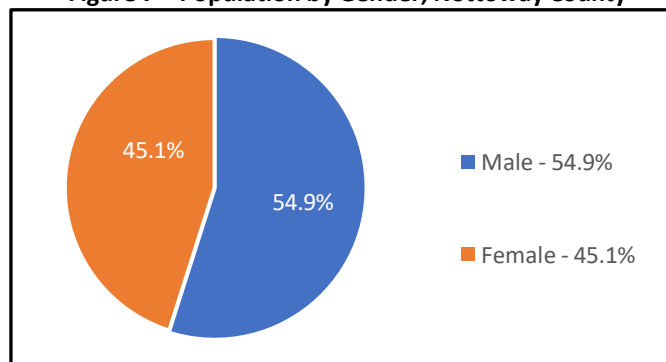
**Source: University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center**

## Age and Sex Characteristics

By analyzing the population's gender and age characteristics, it is possible to evaluate a locality's needs for community facilities, commercial services and housing. The data in Figures 7 and 8 is based on the 2015-2019 U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates. The ACS replaced the decennial census long form in 2010, and collects information throughout the decade rather than only once every 10 years. The ACS produces population, demographic, social, housing and economic data in 1-year, 3-year or 5-year estimates based on a locality's population.

While the ACS produces regular estimates, census population estimates (like the ones in Figures 1 and 2) produce official population estimates for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns as well as estimates of housing units for states and counties. Additionally, since ACS data is based on a sample as opposed to all people, it has a degree of uncertainty (also known as a sampling error). As can be seen by these figures, males outnumber females in the County. Another pattern shown by the numbers is that approximately 74 percent of Nottoway County residents are under the age of 60. However, AARP has identified aging in place as an increasingly popular trend for older adults. Thus, the proportion of Nottoway County's population aged 60 and over – currently just under 26 percent – can be expected to increase in the future.

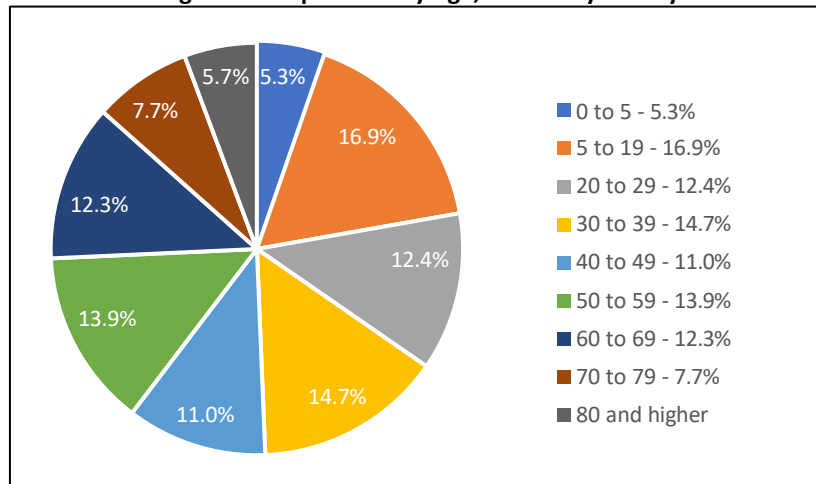
**Figure 7 – Population by Gender, Nottoway County**



**Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019 five-year estimates**

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Figure 8 – Population by Age, Nottoway County

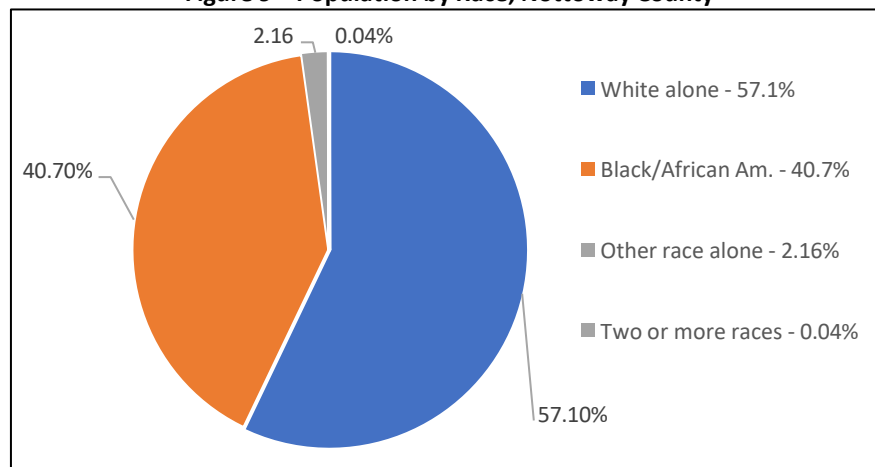


Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019 five-year estimates

### Racial Characteristics

Figure 9 shows the racial characteristics for Nottoway County, based on data from the 2015-2019 U.S. Census ACS Estimates.

Figure 9 – Population by Race, Nottoway County



Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019 five-year estimates

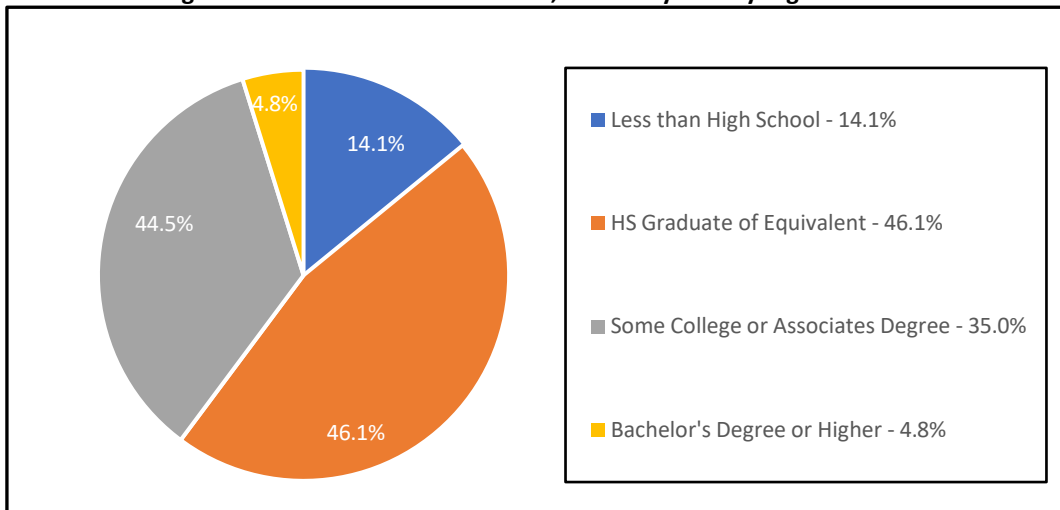
### C. Education

Multiple schools have served the County through the years. Today, Nottoway County is served by seven (7) schools. Blackstone Primary School and Crewe Primary School serve students in Grades Pre-K through 4. Nottoway Intermediate School serves Grades 5 and 6. Nottoway Middle School serves Grades 7 and 8. Nottoway High School serves Grades 9 through 12. The Amelia-Nottoway Technical Center, located on U.S. 360 near the Nottoway-Amelia County line, offers vocational and job training for high school students in both counties. Kenston Forest School is a private school located in Blackstone which serves students in grades Pre-K through 12 and includes students from Nottoway and surrounding counties.

Educational Attainment for Nottoway County residents is shown in figures 10 and 11. These numbers are based on data from the 2015-2019 U.S. Census ACS Estimates.

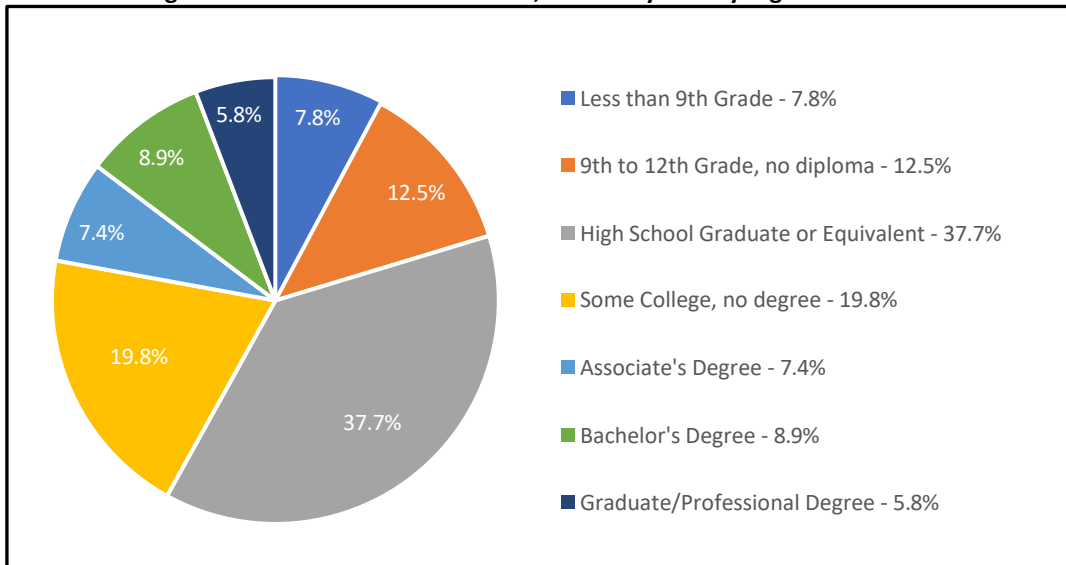
## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Figure 10 – Educational Attainment, Nottoway County: Ages 18 to 24



Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019 five-year estimates

Figure 11 – Educational Attainment, Nottoway County: Ages 25 and Older



Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019 five-year estimates

The Virginia Board of Education has revised its accreditation standards to provide a more comprehensive view of school quality, starting with the 2018-2019 school year. Under the previous standards, a school's accreditation status was based on student achievement on Standards of Learning tests in English, Mathematics, History/Social Science and Science. The revised standards go beyond the tests and measure performance on multiple school-quality indicators. Under the revised standards, schools are evaluated on the following indicators:

### Elementary and Middle Schools

- Overall proficiency and growth in English reading/writing achievement (including progress of English learners toward English-language proficiency)
- Overall proficiency and growth in mathematics

## **Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028**

- Overall proficiency in science
- English achievement gaps among student groups
- Mathematics achievement gaps among student groups
- Absenteeism

### **High Schools**

- Overall proficiency in English reading/writing and progress of English learners toward English-language proficiency.
- Overall proficiency in mathematics
- Overall proficiency in science
- English achievement gaps among student groups
- Mathematics achievement gaps among student groups
- Graduation and completion
- Dropout rate
- Absenteeism
- College, career and civic readiness (starting with the 2021-2022 school year)

Performance on each school-quality indicator is rated at one of three levels: Level 1 – meets or exceeds standard or sufficient improvement; Level 2 – near standard or making sufficient improvement; Level 3 – below standard.

Under the new system, schools earn one of the following accreditation ratings:

- Accredited – Schools with all school-quality indicators at either Level 1 or 2.
- Accredited with Conditions – Schools with one or more school quality indicators at Level 3.
- Accreditation Denied – Schools that fail to adopt or fully implement required corrective actions to address Level 3 school quality indicators. A school rated as Accreditation Denied may regain state accreditation by demonstrating to the Board of Education that it is fully implementing all required corrective action plans.

The revised Standards of Accreditation prescribes that all schools and divisions, after conducting a comprehensive needs assessment, develop a multiyear plan that will be reviewed annually. The plan should

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

include actions for all performance levels to support continuous improvement for all schools on each school-quality indicator.

Figure 12 – Nottoway County Public Schools Accreditation Status, 2022-2023

School	AA English	AG English	AA Math	AG Math	AA Science	Chronic Absent. *	Grad & Compl Index	Dropout Rate	Overall Status
<b>Blackstone Primary</b>	L1	L1	L1	L2	NA	L2	NA	NA	Accredited
<b>Crewe Primary</b>	L1	L1	L1	L1	NA	L2	NA	NA	Accredited
<b>Nottoway Intermediate</b>	L1	L2	L1	L2	L1	L1	NA	NA	Accredited
<b>Nottoway Middle</b>	L2	L3	L2	L3	L2	L2	NA	NA	Accredited w/ Conditions
<b>Nottoway High School</b>	L1	L3	L1	L3	L2	L2	L2	L2	Accredited w/ Conditions

**Source: Virginia Department of Education (DOE), 2022-2023 School Year**

**Level 1** – meets or exceeds standard or sufficient improvement

**Level 2** – near standard or making sufficient improvement

**Level 3** – below standard

**AA – Academic Achievement**

**AG – Achievement Gap**

**Chronic Absent. – Chronic Absenteeism (\*waived for 2022-2023 accreditation per DOE website)**

**Grad & Compl Index – Graduation and Completion Index**

**College, Career, and Civic Readiness Index (Not included as it is not effective until 2021-2022)**

### D. Income

#### Introduction

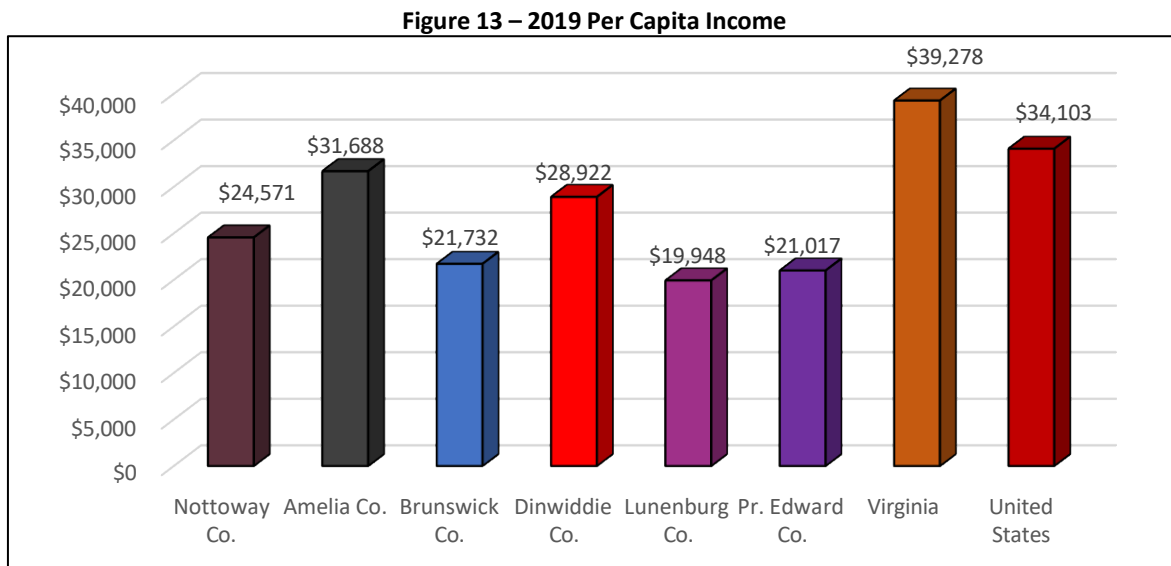
The income section of the Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan includes an analysis of the income characteristics of the County. Income analysis often concentrates on increases or decreases in the income levels of area residents. The following section on income attempts to review the most current information available to analyze differences between the County, State, and Nation as a whole.

#### Per Capita Income

The per capita personal income of local residents is an indicator of the living standard of a locality's citizens and the strength of its economy. The per capita personal income is the average annual income of each person residing in the locality. Income includes such sources as wages, dividends, pensions, social security

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

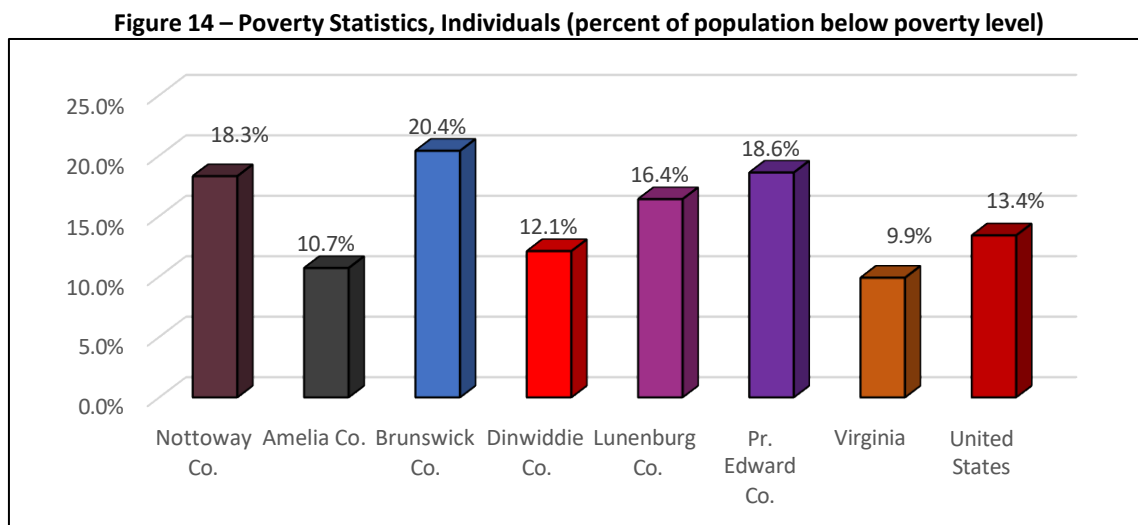
benefits and public assistance. As seen in Figure 13, Per capita income for Nottoway County compares favorably to some of the surrounding counties but not others and is well below the State and Nation. This data is from the 2015-2019 U.S. Census ACS Estimates.



Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019 five-year estimates

### Poverty/Low-to-Moderate income

Poverty information is shown in Figures 14 and 15. The numbers are based on the 2015-2019 U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates. As can be seen from those numbers, poverty rates for individuals and families in Nottoway County are higher than a number of surrounding counties as well as the State and Nation. Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) information is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD). Individuals or households whose household income is equal to or less than the Section 8 lower income limited established by HUD are determined to be LMI. The most recent data available from HUD is based on 2011-2015 ACS five-year estimates. Based on that data, just less than half (47.31 percent) of Nottoway County's residents are classified as LMI.

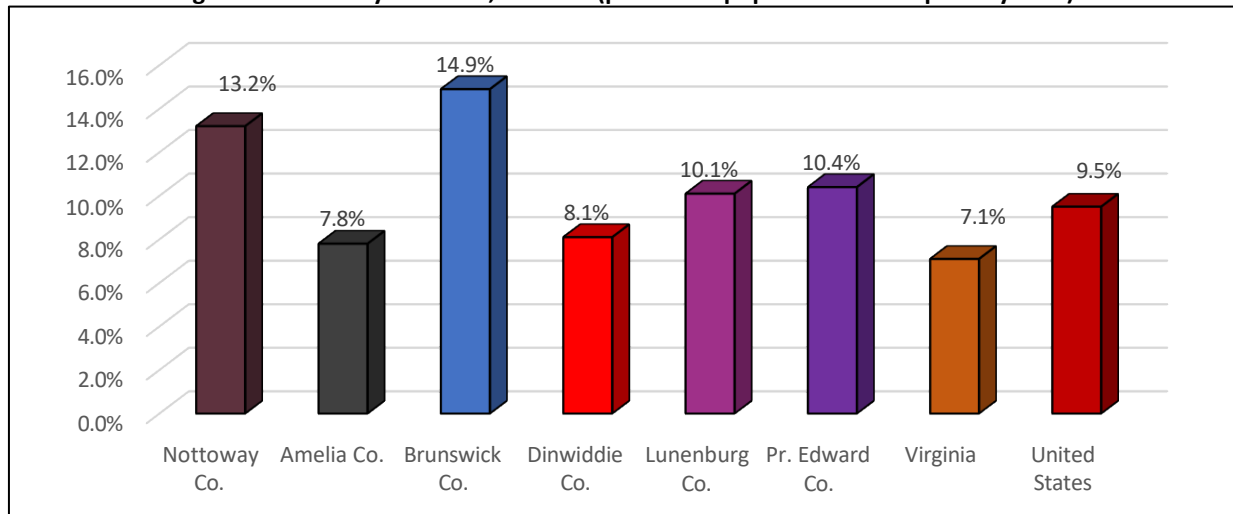


Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019 five-year estimates



## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

**Figure 15 – Poverty Statistics, Families (percent of population below poverty level)**



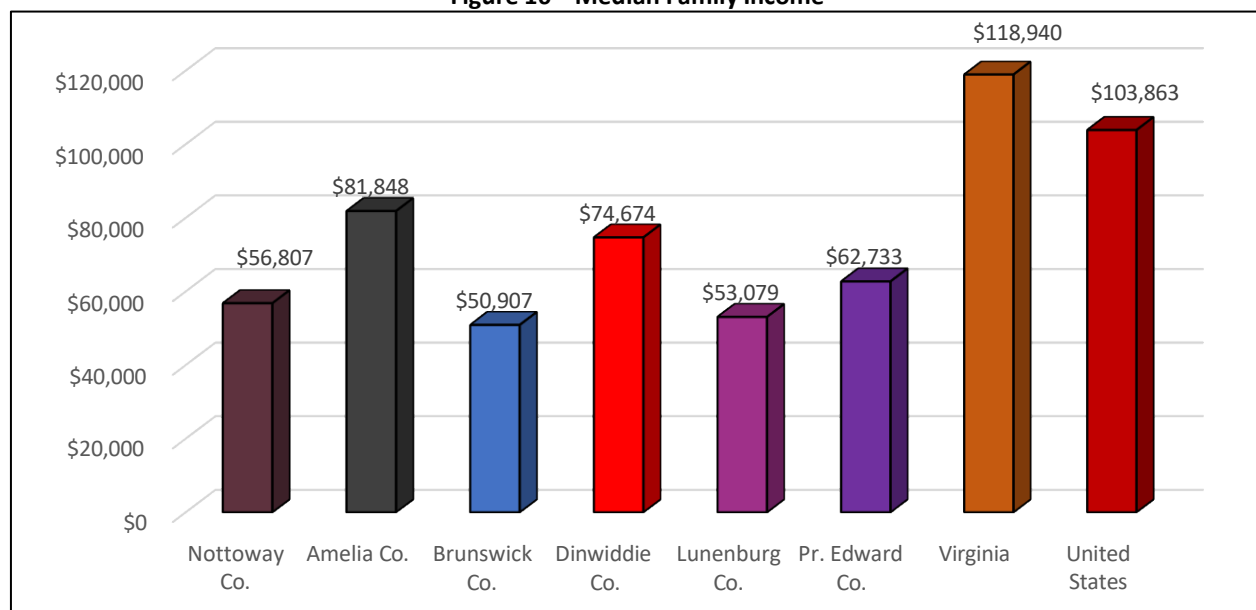
Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019 five-year estimates

### Median Family Income/Median Household Income

A family household is defined as any two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption and living together. For Nottoway County, the estimated median family income per the 2015-2019 ACS was \$84,812 (see Figure 16). This was in the middle compared with surrounding counties but lower than the statewide estimated median family income of \$118,940 for the same time. A household includes all persons who occupy a housing unit.

For Nottoway County households, the estimated median household income per the 2015-2019 ACS was \$45,535 (see Figure 17). This was also in the middle compared with surrounding counties but lower than the statewide estimated median household income of \$74,222 for the same time.

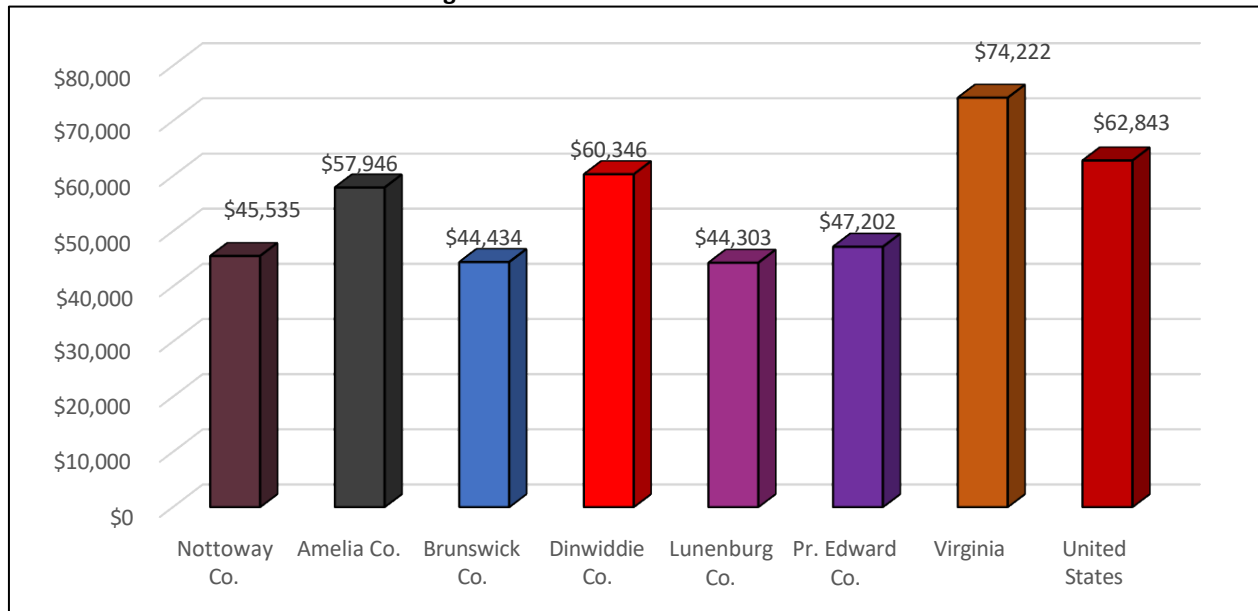
**Figure 16 – Median Family Income**



Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019 five-year estimates

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Figure 17 – Median Household Income



Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019 five-year estimates

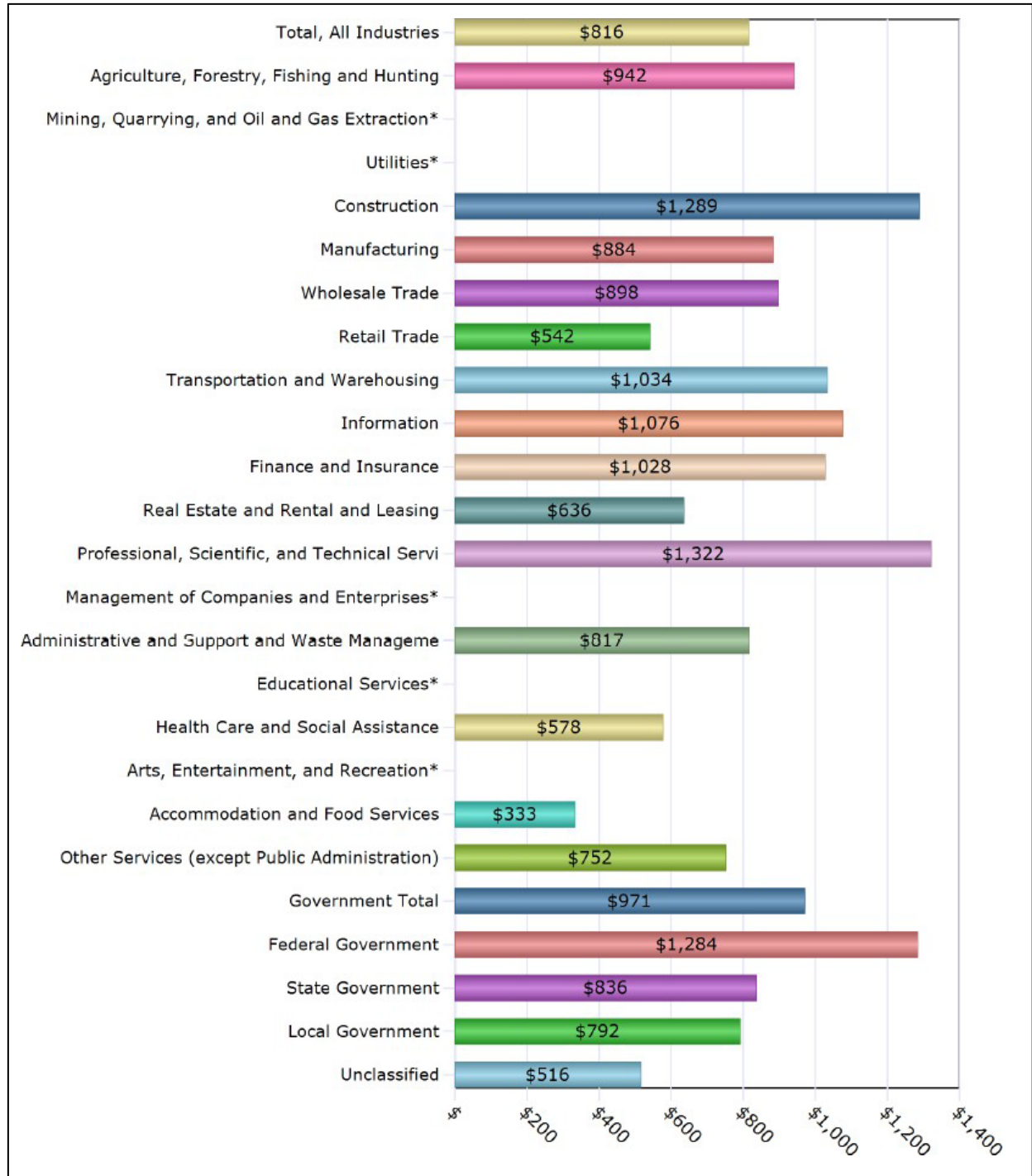
### Wages

Figure 18 shows the average weekly wage by industry for workers in Nottoway County during the fourth quarter of 2020. These figures, derived by the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) – Labor Market Information, are from reports by local establishments on both their total monthly employment and their total quarterly gross wages. This is required for unemployment insurance taxes.

The average weekly wage is found by dividing quarterly gross wages for the industry by the average employment for the quarter for the industry and then dividing by thirteen weeks. If a sector is identified by an asterisk (\*) in the chart, that means VEC considers the data to be non-disclosable.

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

**Figure 18 – Average Weekly Wage by Industry, Nottoway County  
Fourth Quarter (October-December), 2020**



Source: Virginia Employment Commission

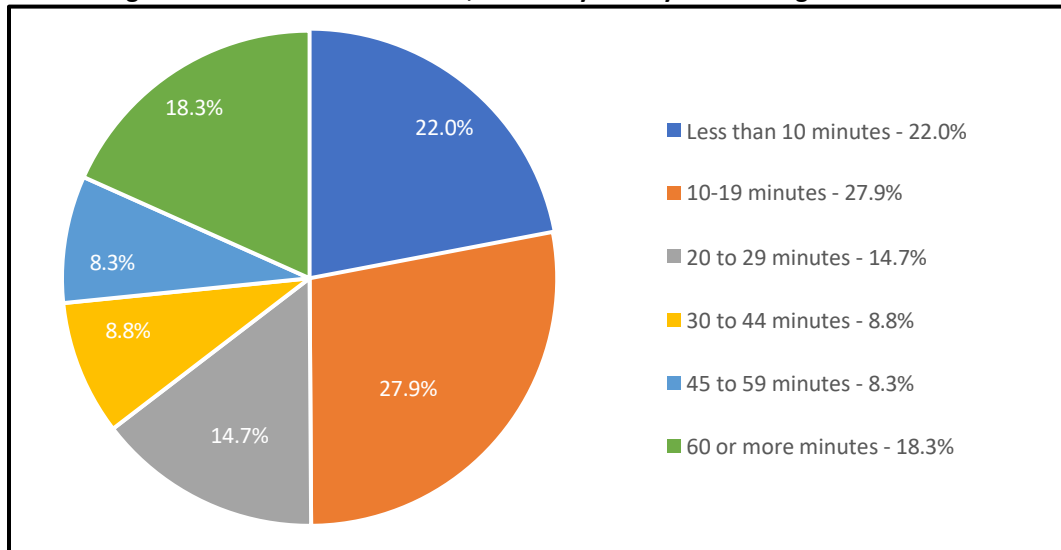
### E. Commutation Patterns

Commuting patterns measure the daily travel between places of residence and places of work. According to the Virginia Employment Commission's Community Profile for Nottoway County, last updated in April 2021, Nottoway County has slightly more out-commuters (4,231) than in-commuters (3,404). The data also

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

shows that 1,977 people live and work in the County. According to the 2015-2019 ACS five-year estimates, the average commute to work for a worker in Nottoway County was 28.6 minutes. The data also shows that just under 65 percent of workers commute less than 30 minutes to work. The breakdown is as follows:

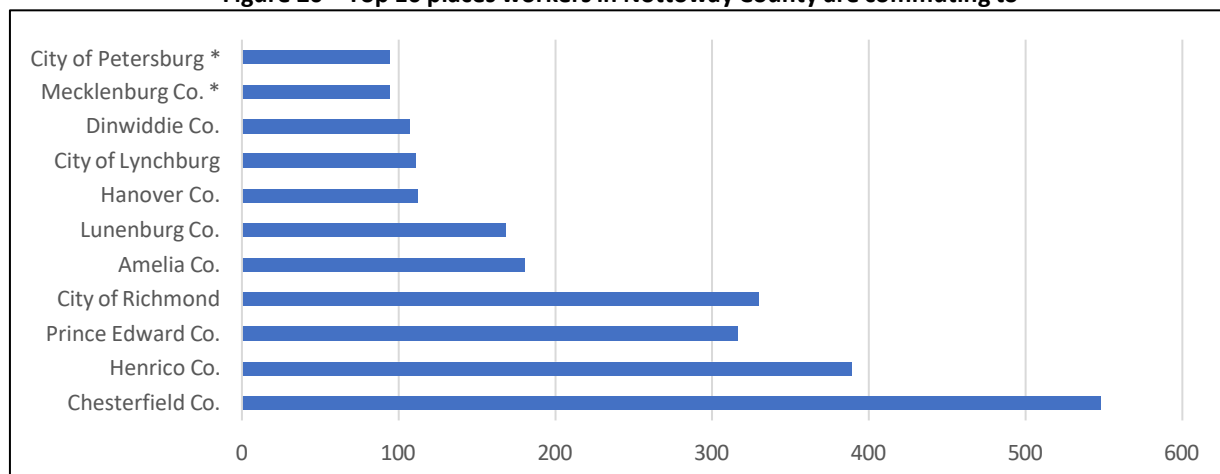
**Figure 19 – Travel Times to Work, Nottoway County Workers Ages 16 and Older**



Source: American Community Survey 2015-2019 five-year estimates

According to data from the Virginia Employment Commission's Community Profile for Nottoway County, the top 10 destinations for out-commuters include some surrounding counties (Prince Edward, Lunenburg, Dinwiddie, Amelia) but also Chesterfield and Henrico Counties plus the Cities of Lynchburg, Richmond and Petersburg. Figure 20 includes 11 localities because the City of Petersburg and Mecklenburg County are tied for tenth on this list. The Community profile data also shows that the top 10 localities from which workers commute to Nottoway County are all other counties. They include some surrounding counties – Lunenburg, Prince Edward, Dinwiddie, and Amelia – plus others a little further away including Buckingham and Cumberland. This could be due to the state and federal facilities that are located in Nottoway County. See Figure 21.

**Figure 20 – Top 10 places workers in Nottoway County are commuting to**

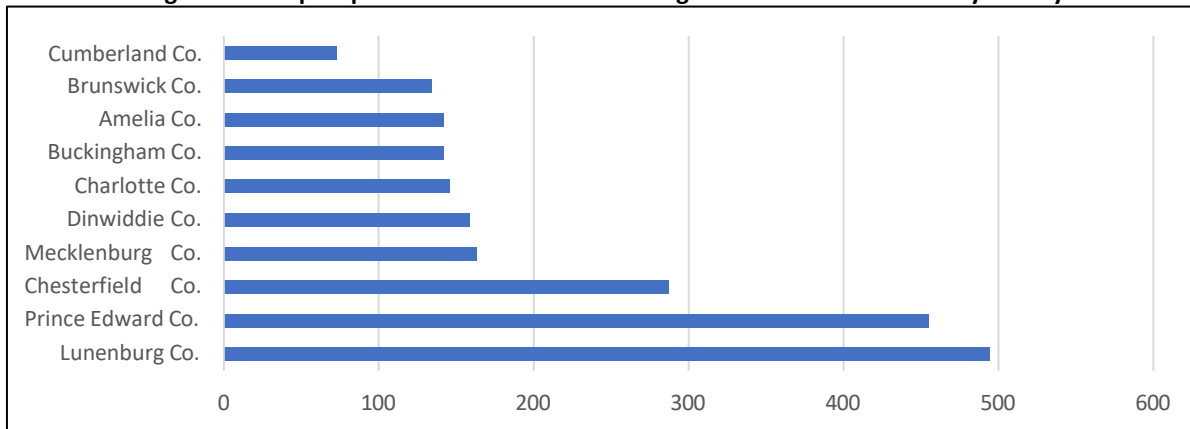


Source: Virginia Employment Commission

\*Mecklenburg County and the City of Petersburg are tied for tenth place on this list.

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

**Figure 21 – Top 10 places workers are commuting from to work in Nottoway County**



Source: Virginia Employment Commission

### F. Employment/Unemployment

#### Occupations

The Virginia Employment Commission, in its Community Profile for Nottoway County (last updated in April 2021), identified 20 occupations that are poised for growth and 20 that are expected to decline for the South-Central Workforce Investment Area (Region 8 – which covers Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties). Those occupations are identified in Figures 22 and 23. If a sector is denoted with three asterisks (\*\*\*) , that means VEC considers the data to be non-disclosable.

Growth occupations include the healthcare support, personal care and service, and healthcare practitioners and technical, community and social service, and computer and mathematical occupations. Declining industries include production jobs, postal service workers, cooks and fast-food workers, and administrative jobs.

**Figure 22 – Growth Occupations, South Central Workforce Investment Area (Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties)**

Occupation Type	Employment			Openings		
	Estimated 2014	Projected 2024	Change	Replacements	Growth	Total
Healthcare Support Occupations	1,976	2,528	27.94%	45	55	100
Personal Care and Service Occupations	2,533	3,168	25.07%	36	64	100
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	3,457	4,116	19.06%	76	66	142
Community and Social Service Occupations	1,020	1,165	14.22%	22	14	36
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	418	469	12.2%	6	6	12
Legal Occupations	231	261	12.99%	4	3	7
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	284	316	11.27%	8	4	12
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	1,256	1,392	10.83%	27	14	41

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Education, Training, and Library Occupations	4,786	5,284	10.41%	104	50	154
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	2,198	2,391	8.78%	44	19	63
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	848	920	8.49%	20	8	28
Construction and Extraction Occupations	2,747	2,967	8.01%	46	22	68
Management Occupations	1,532	1,642	7.18%	36	12	48
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	2,467	2,632	6.69%	58	18	76
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	4,286	4,563	6.46%	145	33	178
Protective Service Occupations	2,402	2,527	5.2%	65	14	79
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	4,660	4,900	5.15%	102	24	126
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	8,045	8,334	3.59%	169	47	216
Sales and Related Occupations	5,211	5,372	3.09%	176	17	193
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	529	533	0.76%	14	2	16

**Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics,  
Long Term Industry and Occupational Projections, 2014-2024.**

**Figure 23 – Declining Occupations, South Central Workforce Investment Area (Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward Counties)**

Occupation Type	Employment			Openings		
	Estimated 2014	Projected 2024	Change	Replacements	Growth	Total
Textile Knitting and Weaving Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	***	***	***	***	***	***
Postal Service Mail Carriers	171	138	-19.3%	3	0	3
Cooks, Fast Food	261	218	-16.48%	7	0	7
Grinding and Polishing Workers, Hand	***	***	***	***	***	***
Helpers – Production Workers	239	212	-11.3%	8	0	8
Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic	119	108	-9.24%	4	0	4
Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers	***	***	***	***	***	***
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	176	160	-9.09%	1	0	1
Sewing Machine Operators	***	***	***	***	***	***
Butchers and Meat Cutters	***	***	***	***	***	***
Tellers	245	230	-6.12%	10	0	10
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	585	551	-5.81%	6	0	6
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks	260	246	-5.38%	6	0	6
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	160	152	-5.0%	4	0	4
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	316	302	-4.43%	5	0	5

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

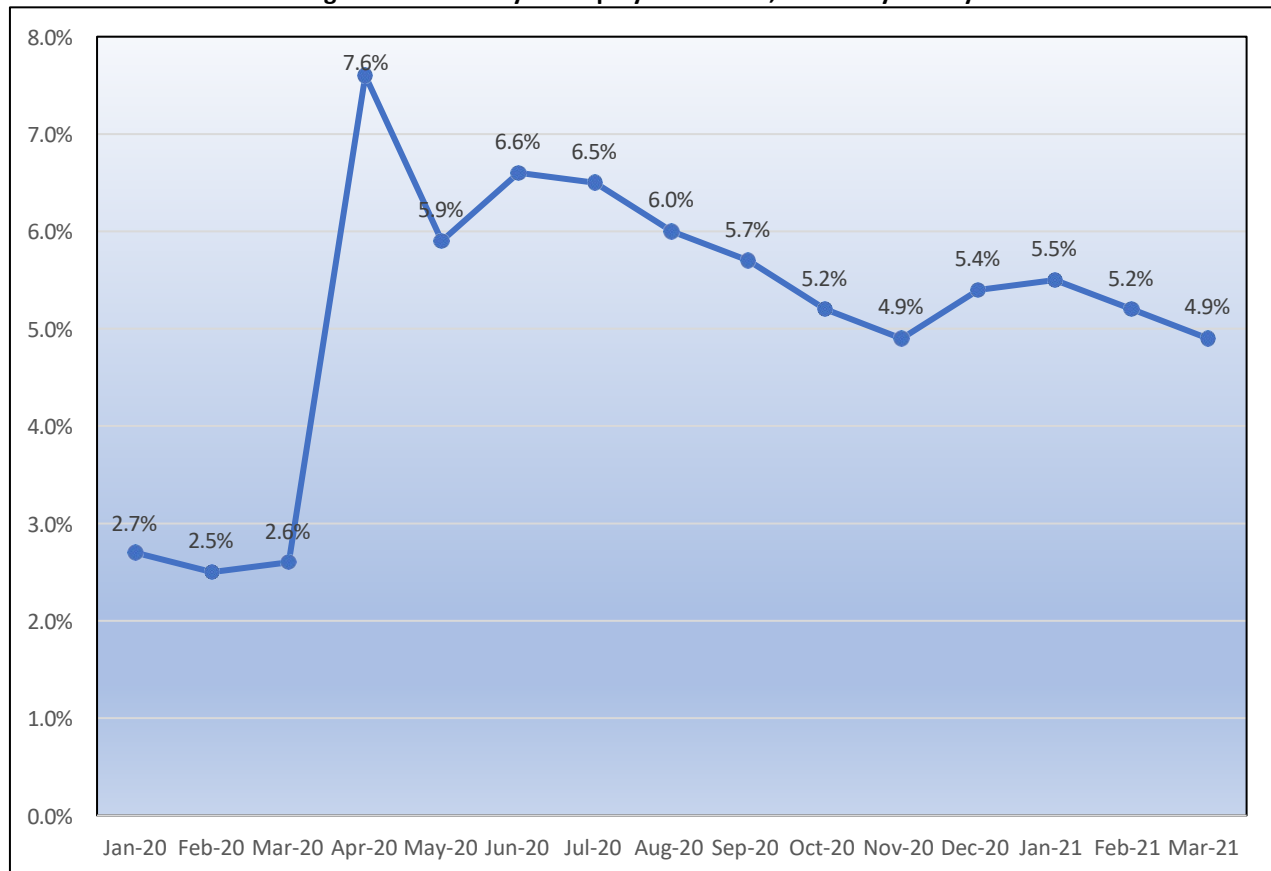
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	137	132	-3.65%	1	0	1
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	795	769	-3.27%	8	0	8
Machinists	355	346	-2.54%	10	0	10
Cashiers	2,225	2,217	-0.36%	95	0	95
Customer Service Representatives	336	335	-0.3%	8	0	8

**Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Economic Information & Analytics, Long Term Industry and Occupational Projections, 2014-2024.**

### Unemployment

The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) was the source for the unemployment statistics in this Comprehensive Plan (see Figures 24 and 25). The monthly unemployment figures for Nottoway County, run from January 2020 through March 2021. Annual unemployment figures are for Nottoway County run from 2010 to 2020. Nottoway County was not immune to the recession that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The County has taken some time to recover, and unemployment rates – while they have come down from a high of 7.6 percent early in the pandemic – have not yet returned to their pre-pandemic levels. On an annual basis, the County's unemployment rate came steadily down from the levels seen during the Great Recession of 2008-2009, and continued a downward trend until the pandemic.

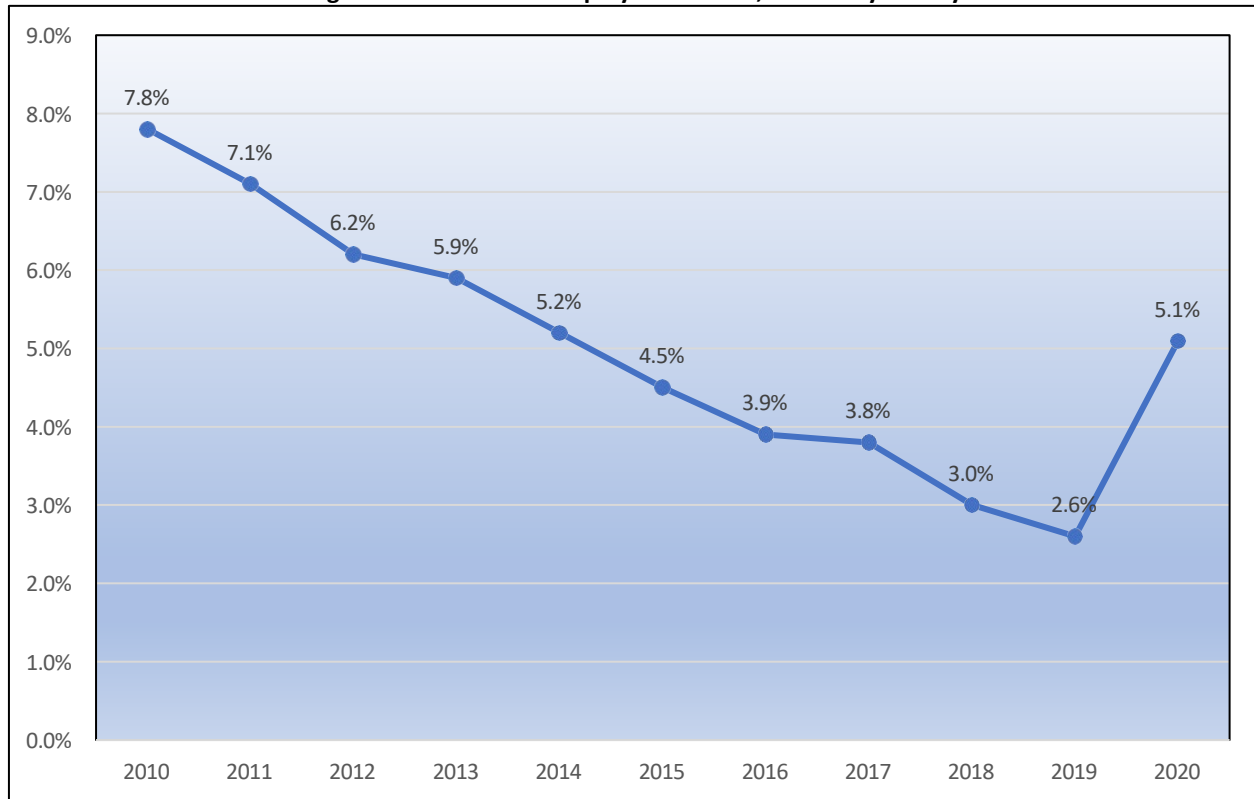
**Figure 24 – Monthly Unemployment Rates, Nottoway County**



**Source: Virginia Employment Commission**

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Figure 25 – Annual Unemployment Rates, Nottoway County



Source: Virginia Employment Commission

### G. Economic Activity

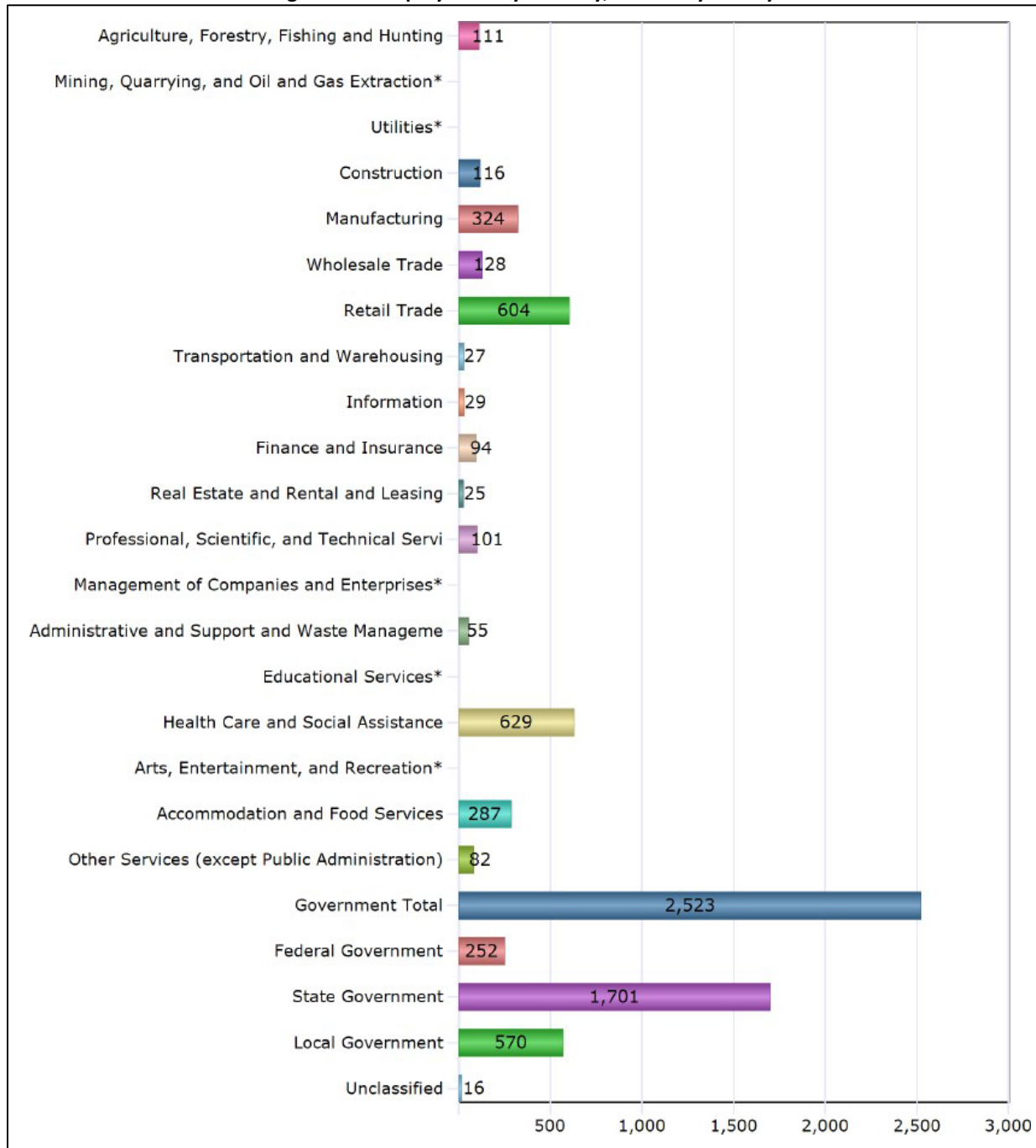
#### Local Industry

According to data from the Virginia Employment Commission (Community Profile for Nottoway County, last updated in April 2021), the top employment sectors in the County are government, health care and retail. Other prominent job sectors are manufacturing and accommodation/ food services. See Figure 26.



# Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

**Figure 26 – Employment by Industry, Nottoway County**



Source: Virginia Employment Commission

## Major Employers

Nottoway County's top employers as of the Fourth Quarter of 2020 are shown in Figure 27.

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

**Figure 27 – Top Employers, Nottoway County**

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Type</b>
Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation	State Government
Nottoway Correctional Center	State Government
Piedmont Geriatric Hospital	State Government
Nottoway County Public Schools	Local Government
Virginia Department of Military Affairs	State Government
U.S. Department of Defense	Federal Government
U.S. Department of State/FASTC	Federal Government
Heritage Hall	Private
Wal Mart	Private
Nottoway County	Local Government
Town of Blackstone	Local Government
Arbortech Forest Products	Private
Southside Electric Cooperative	Private
Reiss Manufacturing	Private
Lunenburg-Nottoway Educational Foundation	Non-profit
Food Lion	Private
Citizens' Bank and Trust Company	Private
Hickory Hill Retirement Community	Private
McDonald's	Private
Home Recovery	Private
Hardee's	Private
Dolgencorp LLC (Dollar General)	Private
Virginia State Police	State Government
Crewe Station	Private
Town of Crewe	Local Government
U.S. Postal Service	Federal Government
Tyson Farms	Private
Wilkerson Tire Company	Private
S. Walker Construction	Private
Skookum Contract Services	Private
Structural Concepts & Com, Inc.	Private
VPI (Virginia Tech)	State Government
Luck Stone Corporation	Private
Southside Livestock Market Inc	Private
Crewe Medical Center	Private
Circle Sales	Private
UAV Pro	Private
Pembleton Forest Products	Private
Trout River Lumber	Private

**Source: Virginia Employment Commission, Nottoway County**

# Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

## III. Inventory and Analysis: Community Resources

### A. Housing

#### Introduction

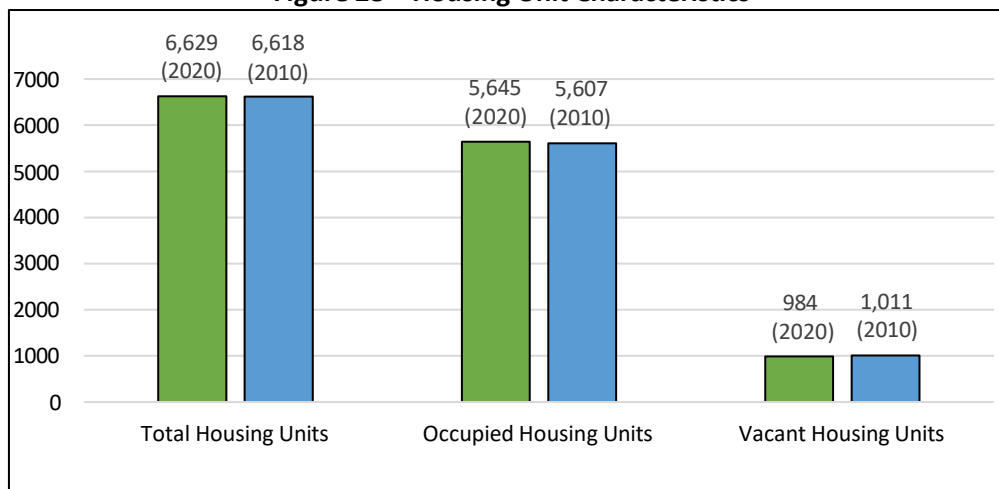
Attractive, safe, and affordable housing is a basic requirement of any community. Good quality housing aids in higher land valuation and better living conditions for the population. The availability of proper housing may take on an even greater significance in Nottoway County, given the recent opening of the FASTC facility. In addition, the availability of good quality housing can be an excellent enticement for facilitating the relocation of new industry/ residents to the area. New industry can bring new workers into the community. Incoming personnel are more easily enticed by sufficient and appealing housing. This creates a more prosperous and desirable community in which to live, work and grow.

This section will examine housing in Nottoway County by type, quality, vacancy rate and household characteristics, such as household size and race. Furthermore, general trends and concerns relating to future housing needs will be discussed. Although the provision of housing is largely the responsibility of the private sector, which includes builders, developers, realtors, bankers and others, there has always been a close interdependence between the public and private sectors which is essential in meeting the needs of a community. This Plan will provide the basis for analysis of the current status of housing in the area as well as a broad base to aid in future growth decisions.

#### Housing Units

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a housing unit is defined as a house, apartment, mobile home or trailer, group of rooms, or single room occupied as separate living quarters, or if vacant, intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live separately from any other individuals in the building and which have direct access from outside the building or through a common hall. For vacant units, the criteria of separateness and direct access are applied to the intended occupants whenever possible. Statistics for Nottoway County reflect a slight increase in the number of housing units from 6,618 in 2010 to 6,629 in 2020. Occupied housing units increased slightly from 5,607 units to 5,645 units from 2010-2020; an increase of 38 units. There was a decrease in vacant units from 1,011 units to 984 units from 2010-2020; a decrease of 27 units (see Figure 28).

**Figure 28 – Housing Unit Characteristics**



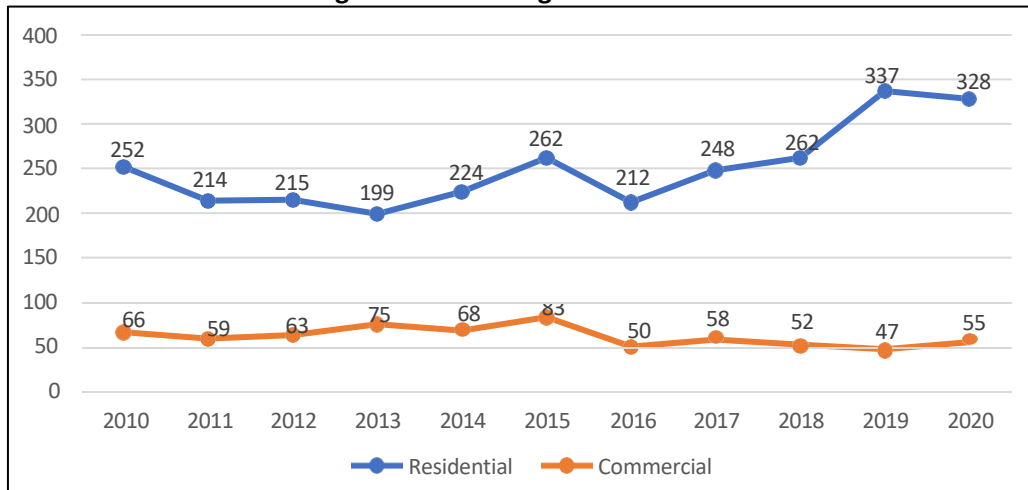
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020, 2010 Selected Housing Characteristics Estimates

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

### Housing Growth (Building Permits Issued)

According to data provided by Nottoway County, based on available records, the County issued a total of 3,429 building permits from 2010 to 2020 (see Figure 29). Of those, 2,753 were residential and 676 were commercial. Building permits for Blackstone, Burkeville, and Crewe are handled by the County.

**Figure 29 – Building Permits Issued**

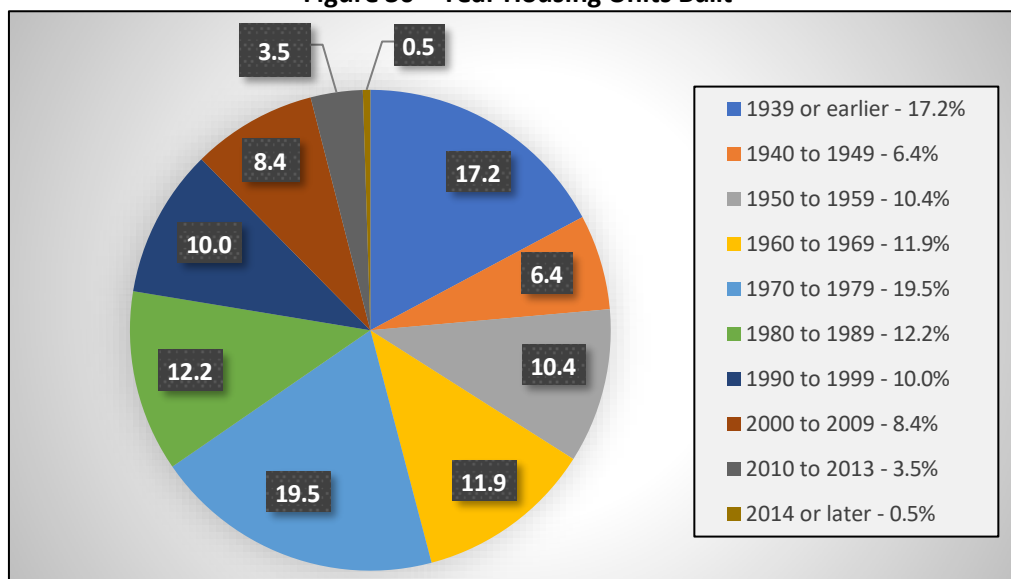


Source: Nottoway County Building Inspector's Office

### Housing Quality

Indicators of housing conditions selected for this analysis include rental characteristics, owner occupied housing values, and housing deficiency characteristics. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2019 5-year estimates, of the 5,446 occupied housing units in the County, 3,522 were owner occupied and 1,924 were renter occupied. The data also shows that 17.2% of the total housing units in the County were built before 1939, 19.5% were built between 1970 and 1979, and 12.2% were built between 1980 and 1989 (see Figure 30).

**Figure 30 – Year Housing Units Built**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2014-2019 American Community Survey Estimates

# Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

## Nottoway County Governmental Policies

The Nottoway County Zoning Ordinance contains intents and purposes, permitted uses by right and by special exception, as well as rules and regulations for the various zoning districts found in Nottoway County. The Ordinances also lay out how they will be enforced, including penalties for violations, and the process for appeals for variances or appeals of decisions that are thought to be in error.

Building inspections for Nottoway County and the Towns of Blackstone, Burkeville, and Crewe are handled through the Nottoway County Building Inspector's Office. The County has adopted the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, which sets standards for the construction, alteration, adoption, repair, removal, use, location, occupancy and maintenance of all buildings. This code standardizes the requirements for and quality of construction of all housing regardless of the type or ultimate price.

Per the Virginia Department of Taxation, for tax year 2018, the real estate tax rate in Nottoway County was \$0.48 per \$100.00 of assessed value.

## **B. Transportation**

### Introduction

Several factors must be considered in analyzing the transportation facilities for Nottoway County. A transportation system must first and foremost be safe and efficient. Residents expect to be able to transport themselves and their materials in the shortest period of time while being ensured they will arrive at their destination safely. The relationship between the transportation system and existing and proposed land use activities of the area are an additional concern. Greater transportation facilities will be needed for some anticipated land uses than for others. This may have some bearing on the location of transportation facilities. Additionally, it is critical that the perceived transportation needs and desires of County residents be met.

### Highways and Roadways

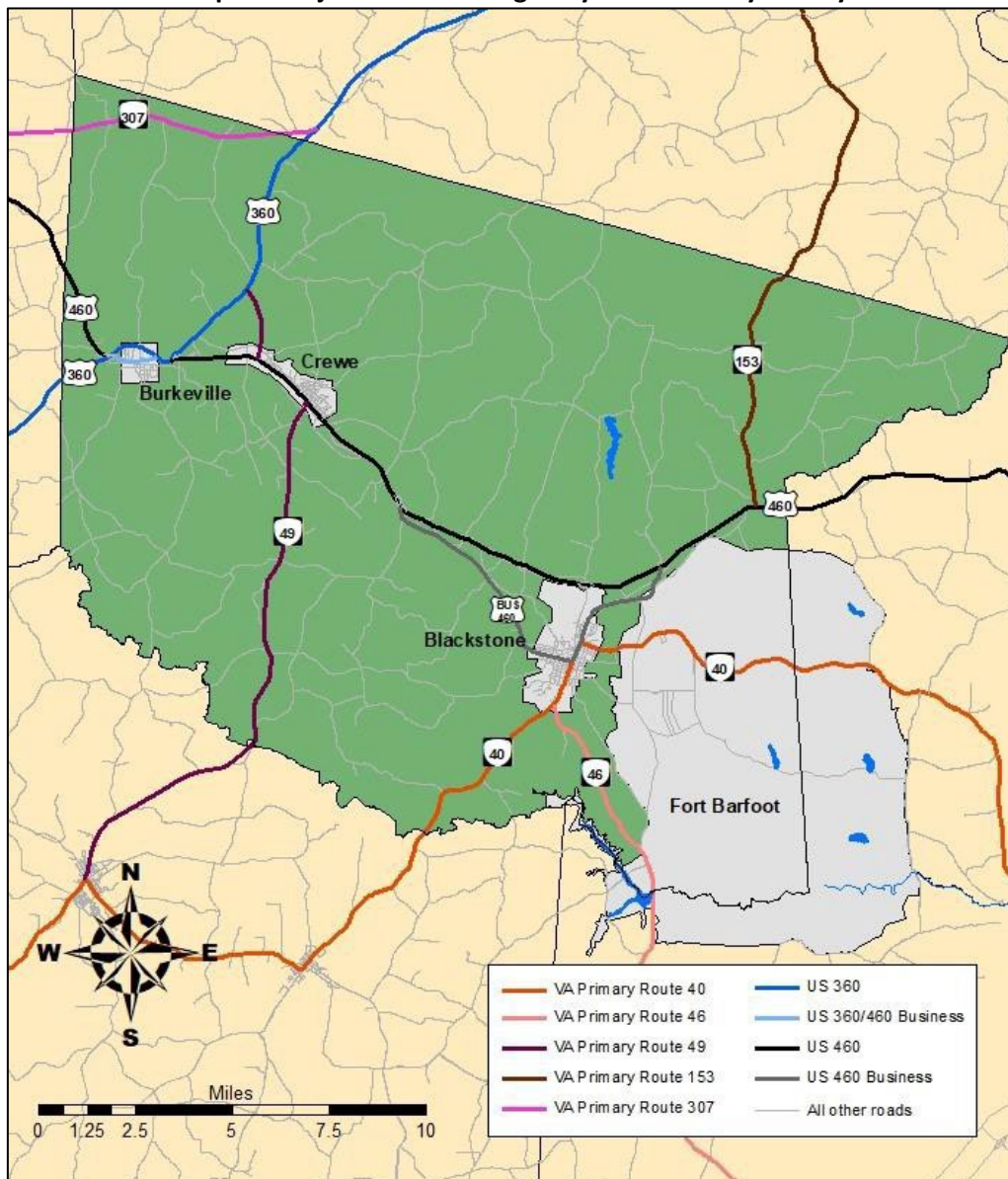
No interstate highways are located in Nottoway County. There are two four-lane highways in the County: U.S. Highway 360 passes through the western part of the County, and U.S. 460 passes roughly through the center portion of the County. U.S. 360 and U.S. 460 are National Highway System/Strategic Highway Network (NHS/STRAHNET) routes in the County. NHS/STRAHNET routes are deemed necessary for emergency mobilization and peacetime movement of heavy armor, fuel, ammunition, repair parts, food, and other commodities to support U.S. military operations. Map 3 highlights the major roads and highways in Nottoway County.

- U.S. Highway 360, a four-lane divided high-volume arterial passing through the Town of Burkeville and the western portion of Nottoway County from west to east. U.S. Highway 360 connects the County with Richmond to the northeast and South Boston to the southwest.
- U.S. Highway 460 is a four-lane highway that passes roughly through the center of the County and also passes through Blackstone, Burkeville, and Crewe. U.S. 460 connects the County with Petersburg to the east, and Farmville and Lynchburg to the west.
- Virginia Primary Highway 40, a two-lane highway that passes through the Town of Blackstone, connecting the southeast portion of the County with Kenbridge and Victoria to the south and McKenney and Interstate 85 to the east.

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

- Virginia Primary Highway 46, a two-lane highway that connects Blackstone with Lawrenceville and points south.
- Virginia Primary Highway 49, a two-lane highway that connects U.S. 360 just north of Burkeville and Crewe with Lunenburg County and points south.
- Virginia Primary Highway 153, a two-lane highway that connects U.S. 460 near Blackstone with U.S. 360 in the eastern portion of Amelia County.
- Virginia Primary Highway 307, a two-lane highway that connects U.S. 460 in Prince Edward County with U.S. 360 in Amelia County.

**Map 3 – Major Roads and Highways in Nottoway County**



Map created by CRC – June 2021 (revised May 2023)

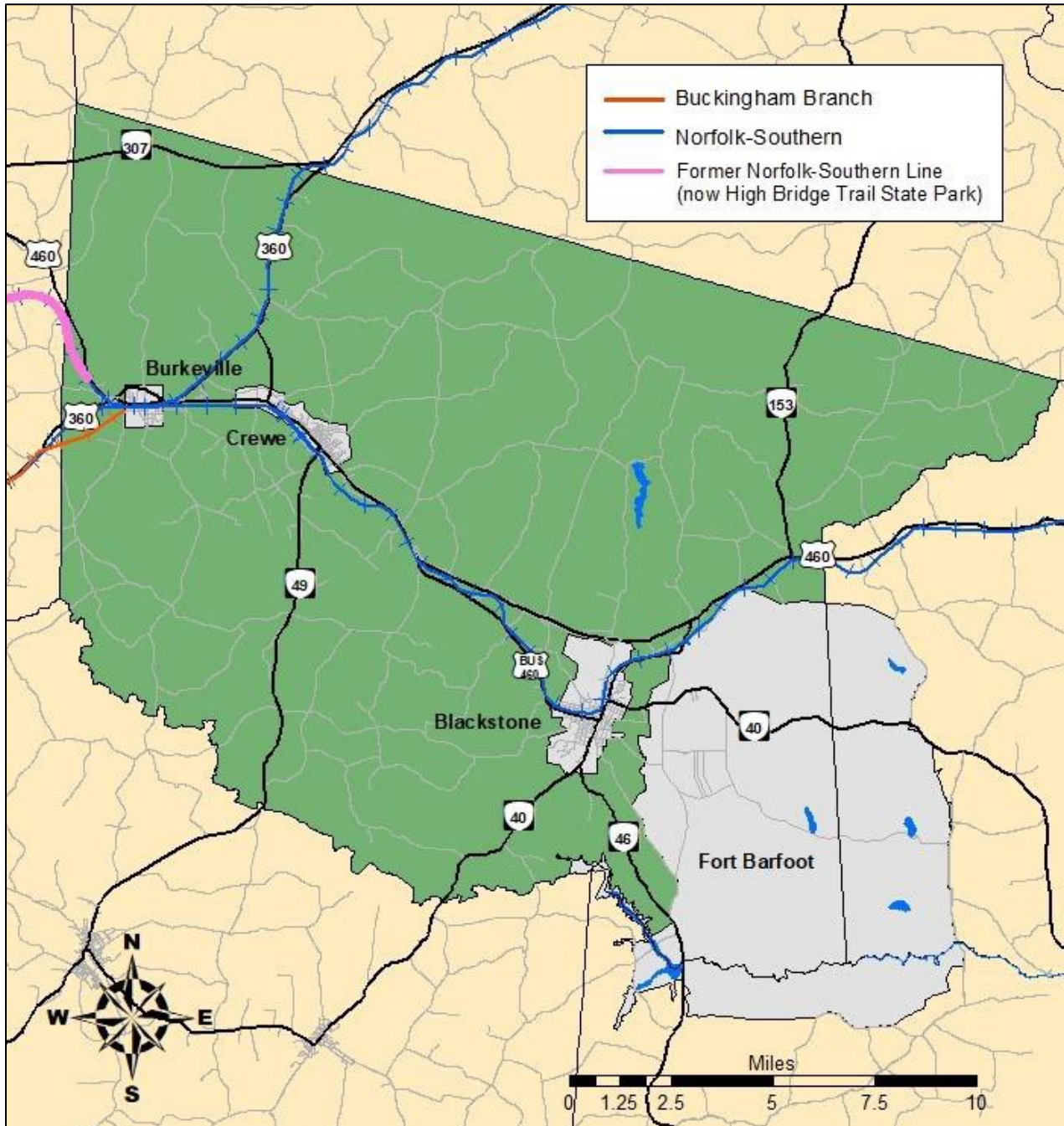


## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

### Rail Service

A rail line owned by the Buckingham Branch Railroad passes south from Burkeville through Keysville then into Lunenburg County and points south. Two rail lines owned by Norfolk-Southern extend east from Burkeville – one roughly along the U.S. 360 Corridor into Amelia County and point east, and one roughly along the U.S. 460 Corridor into Dinwiddie County and points east. There is no passenger rail service in the area. The closest passenger rail is in Richmond and Lynchburg, which both provide Amtrak services.

**Map 4 – Railroad Tracks in and Around Nottoway County**



Map created by CRC – August 2021 (revised May 2023)

Source: VDOT, Buckingham Branch Railroad, Norfolk-Southern

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

### Airports

The nearest airport with scheduled commercial air passenger service is Richmond International Airport in Richmond, Virginia (68 miles). Lynchburg Regional Airport in Lynchburg, Virginia (76 miles) and Raleigh-Durham International Airport in North Carolina (116 miles) also offer scheduled commercial air passenger service. Nottoway County has two airports with paved runways:

- Crewe Municipal Airport is located just east-northeast of Crewe. It has a 3,300x60-foot asphalt runway and is classified as a *local service* facility.
- Allan C. Perkinson Airport at the Blackstone Army Airfield is located at Pickett Park, adjacent to Fort Barfoot and just outside of Blackstone. It is classified as a public/military airport per the Virginia Department of Aviation. It has two concrete runways, one 4,632 by 150 feet and one 4,032 by 75 feet.

There are two other airports with paved runways in Planning District 14: Farmville Municipal Airport, and the Lunenburg County airport.

### Road Maintenance

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) maintains and provides maintenance funds for Nottoway County's road system. The criterion for the amount of funding depends on whether a road is classified as primary or secondary. Primary roads are a statewide network connecting cities, towns and other points of interest. They include all roads with state and federal route numbers below 600 and numbered roads that serve as extensions to primary roads. All other public roads in the area are secondary roads. There are nine (9) construction districts in the State. Nottoway County is included in the Richmond District. This District covers a total of 14 counties – Amelia, Brunswick, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico (primary routes only), Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, New Kent, Nottoway, Powhatan, and Prince George – and the cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond.

### Highway Functional Classification Plan

According to the Virginia Department of Transportation, highway functional classification is a grouping of highways into systems according to the character of service that they are intended to provide (see Map 5 and Figure 31). All roads within Nottoway County are considered rural. The following are the Virginia Department of Transportation definitions for the rural road classifications:

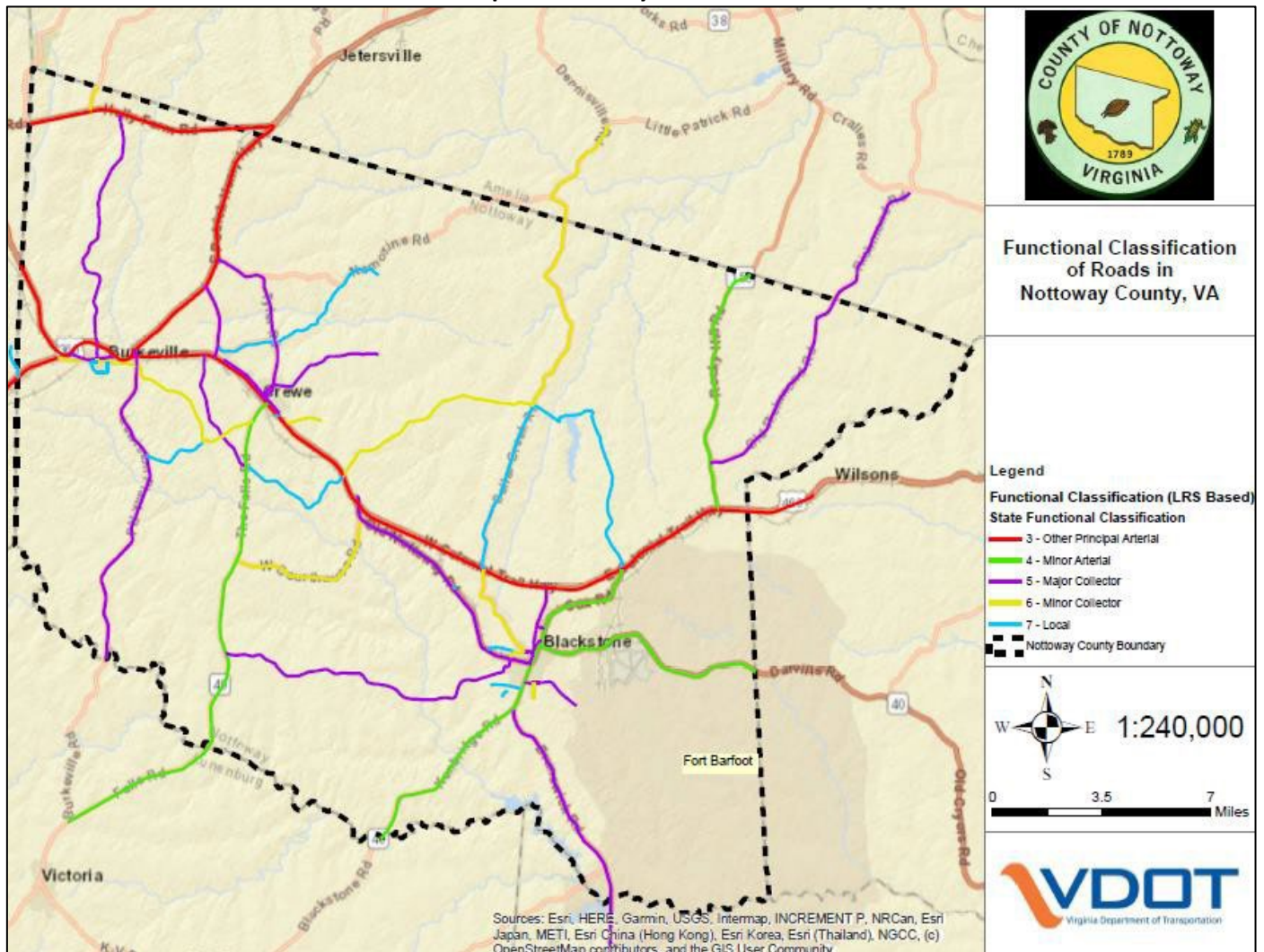
- Principal Arterial – These highways provide an integrated network of roads that connect principal metropolitan areas and serve virtually all of the demands of an urban area such as statewide and interstate travel. Traffic on this type of road normally has the right-of-way except in areas of high hazard, and then controls are used.
- Minor Arterial – These highways link cities and large towns and provide an integrated network for intrastate and inter-county service. They supplement the principal arterial system so that geographic areas are within a reasonable distance of an arterial highway. They are intended as routes that have minimum interference to through movement.
- Major Collector – These highways provide service to any county seat, large towns or other major traffic generators not served by the arterial system. They provide links to the higher classified routes and serve as important intra-county travel corridors.



## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

- Minor Collector – These highways collect traffic from local roads and bring all developed areas within a reasonable distance of a collector road. They provide service to small communities and link important local traffic generators with the rural areas.
- Local – These roads provide access to adjacent land and serve travel of short distances as compared to the higher systems.

**Map 5 – Roadway Classification**



Source: VDOT

**Figure 31 – Total Roadway Miles in Nottoway County**

Total miles	480.52
Principal Arterial	171.60
Major Collector	161.24
Minor Arterial	80.22
Minor Collector	67.46

Source: VDOT

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

### Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation Plans for Road Improvements

The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, through the Commonwealth's Transportation Board, promulgates the Virginia Transportation Development Plan, formerly known as the Six Year Improvement Program. This plan is updated annually and is divided into two (2) sections for developing highway projects. In the first section, the Feasibility phase, federal and state laws and regulations require various studies. During this phase, the scope, schedule and budget of a project are at their most tentative stage and significant delays often occur. In the second section, the Capital Improvement Program phase, projects are refined and approaching construction. The plan also includes information on all roadway systems, except secondary roads.

The Six-Year program includes two projects in Nottoway County:

- U.S. 460 Business Bridge Rehab over U.S. 460 near Nottoway Court House.
  - Project UPC: 111298
  - Total project allocation as of June 2021 \$3,994,000
- Route 618 (Indian Oak Road) Bridge Replacement, approximately one mile south of Route 613 (Turkey Island Road).
  - Project UPC: 101238
  - Total project allocation as of June 2021: \$2,528,000

The secondary road program is developed annually by each county in conjunction with VDOT. Consequently, each county has its own Six-Year Improvement Program for secondary roads. The Program includes eight projects in Nottoway County:

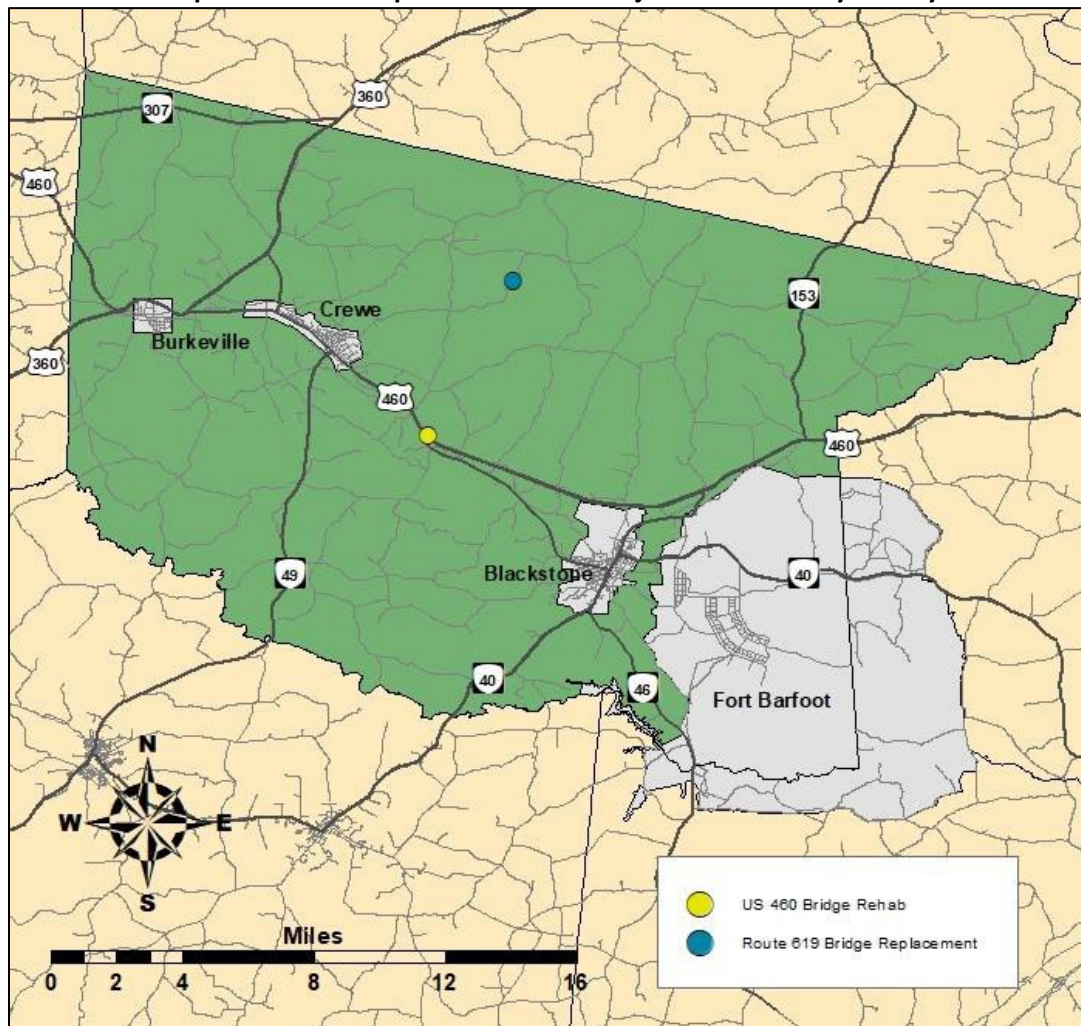
- Route 723 (Lewiston Plank Road), from U.S. 460 to the Lunenburg County line: Install guardrail.
  - Project UPC: 115873
  - Total project allocation as of June 2021: \$299,000
- Route 703 (Loveland Road), from Route 661 to the dead end: Treat non-hard surface road.
  - Project UPC: 112720
  - Total project allocation as of June 2021: \$45,000
- Route 670 (Highpoint Road), from U.S. 360 to the dead end: Treat non-hard surface road.
  - Project UPC: 112723
  - Total project allocation as of June 2021: \$73,000
- Route 647 (Jennings Ordinary Road), from Route 307 to the Amelia County line: Treat non-hard surface road.
  - Project UPC: 115816
  - Total project allocation as of June 2021: \$79,000
- Route 684 (Crystal Lake Road), from Route 607 to the end of state maintenance: Treat non-hard surface road.
  - Project UPC: 115817
  - Total project allocation as of June 2021: \$0 (future funding expected for the project)

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

- Route 655 (Williamson Road) intersection study: Intersection of Route 625 to 0.4 mile from intersection of Route 625.
  - Project UPC: 119251
  - Total project allocation as of June 2021: \$25,000
- Route 655 (Williamson Road), from Route 625 to the end of state maintenance: Treat non-hard surface road.
  - Project UPC: 115817
  - Total project allocation as of June 2021: \$0 (future funding expected for the project)
- Route 686 (Barnes Lane), from Route 627 to the end of state maintenance: Treat non-hard surface road.
  - Project UPC: 118884
  - Total project allocation as of June 2021: \$0 (future funding expected for the project)

Map 6 shows all of the Six-Year Program projects for Nottoway County.

**Map 6 – Six-Year Improvement Plan Projects in Nottoway County**



Maps created by CRC – November 2021 (revised May 2023)

Source: VDOT, Nottoway County

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

### VDOT Smart Scale Program

SMART SCALE is a statewide program that distributes funding based on a transparent and objective evaluation of projects that will determine how effectively they help the state achieve its transportation goals.

There are two main pathways to funding within the SMART SCALE process—the Construction District Grant Program (DGP) and the High Priority Projects Program (HPPP). A project applying for funds from the DGP is evaluated against other projects within the same construction district. A project applying for funds from the HPPP is evaluated against projects statewide. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) then makes a final decision on which projects to fund.

Projects must address improvements to a Corridor of Statewide Significance, Regional Network, or Urban Development Area (UDA) that meet a need identified in the statewide multimodal long-range transportation plan, VTrans. Project types can include highway improvements such as widening, operational improvements, access management, intelligent transportation systems, transit and rail capacity expansion, and transportation demand management, including park and ride facilities. Projects may also address a documented safety need.

Applications may be submitted through the SMART Portal by regional entities including Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Planning District Commissions (PDCs), along with public transit agencies, and counties, cities, and towns that maintain their own infrastructure. Projects pertaining to UDAs and safety needs can only be submitted by localities. Applications may be for eligible project types only and sufficiently developed such that benefits can be calculated. There are five factors evaluated for all projects: Safety, Congestion Mitigation, Accessibility, Environmental Quality, and Economic Development. Projects in MPOs with a population greater than 200,000 are also evaluated by a land use factor.

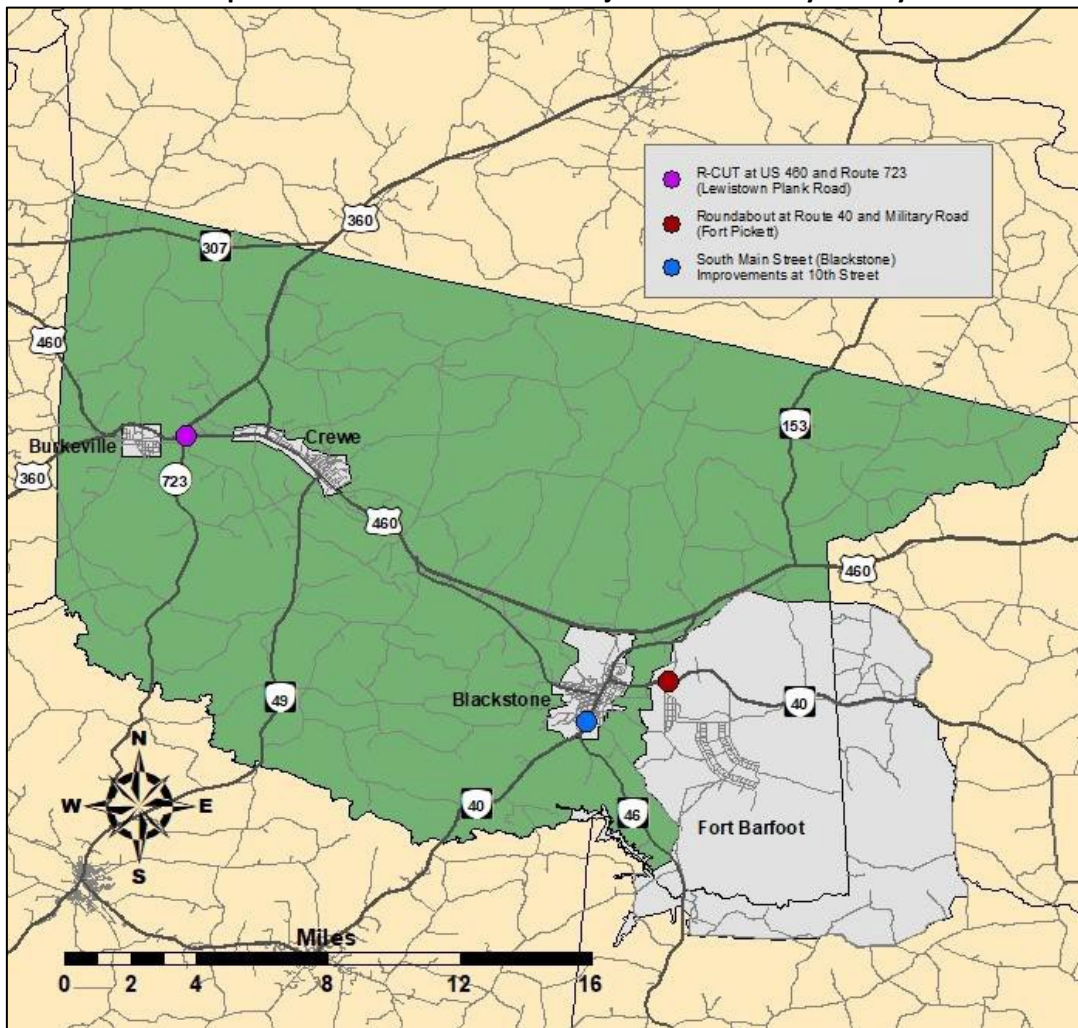
Beginning with the FY2018-FY2023 SYIP Update, the application cycle began alternating every other year with funding generally applied to projects in the last two years of the SYIP. Applications are generally accepted beginning in the Spring through Fall. Approximately \$500-600 million is expected to be available per cycle. Funding includes both state and federal sources. Projects that can be developed as federal projects will follow the federal process. There are three current SMART SCALE projects in Nottoway County that have received funding (see Map 7):

- U.S. 460, R-Cut at Route 723 (Lewiston Plank Road).
  - Project UPC: 115405
  - Total project allocation as of June 2021 \$2,828,000
- Route 40, Roundabout at Military Road.
  - Project UPC: 115403
  - Total project allocation as of June 2021 \$7,268,000
- Reconstruct South Main Street (Blackstone) from 10<sup>th</sup> Street to the Southern Corporate Limits.
  - Project UPC: 90175
  - Total project allocation as of June 2021 \$243,000



## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Map 7 – Funded SMART SCALE Projects in Nottoway County



Map created by CRC – September 2021  
Source: VDOT

### CRC 2035 Rural Long-Range Plan

The Commonwealth Regional Council's (CRC) 2035 Rural Long-Range Plan identifies a number of transportation needs in Nottoway County. The Plan identifies a total of 45 needs for the County and its three Towns – 11 for the County, 26 needs for Blackstone, two (2) for Burkeville, and six (6) for Crewe (see Maps 8, 8a, and 8b):

### Nottoway County

- 1) Route 307 (Holly Farms Road) from Prince Edward County Line to Amelia County Line: Long-term reconstruct as rural three-lane roadway.
- 2) Route 40 (Dinwiddie Street) from Blackstone's East Corporate Limits to the Dinwiddie County Line: Limit Long-term widen to four lanes with median.
- 3) U.S. 460 Business (N. Main Street) from Blackstone's North Corporate Limits to U.S. 460 East: Long-term widen to four lanes with median.

## **Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028**

- 4) Route 650 from Route 691 to Route 624 (First Street SE)/Route 723: Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (including full-width lanes and shoulders).
- 5) Route 615 from Route 630 to Route 613: Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies, including full-width lanes and shoulders.
- 6) Route 613 from Route 615 to Route 617: Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies, including full-width lanes and shoulders.
- 7) Route 607 from U.S. 460 East to Primary Route 49 (The Falls Road): Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (11-foot lanes).
- 8) Route 699 from U.S. 460 Business (Old Nottoway Road) to Route 726: Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies, including full-width lanes and shoulders.
- 9) Route 606 from Route 607 to Route 609: Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (11-foot lanes).
- 10) U.S. 460 Business (Cox Road) over Norfolk Southern Railroad: Short-term replace bridge.
- 11) Route 692 (Fairview Road) from Route 606 to Dead End: Short-term repave roadway.

### **Blackstone**

- 12) Route 40 (Dinwiddie Street) from U.S. 460 (North Main Street) to Blackstone's East Corporate Limits: Long-term reconstruct as rural four-lane roadway.
- 13) Elm Street from Brown Street to U.S. 460 (South Main Street): Long-term consider relocating parking to off-street locations and access management.
- 14) Brown Street from Elm to Broad Street: Short-term widen to standard two-lane urban roadway.
- 15) Brown Street from Broad to Division Street: Short-term widen to standard two-lane urban roadway.
- 16) Route 40 (S. Main Street)/U.S. 460 (Church Street): Short-term improve turning radii at intersection.
- 17) Brown Street/U.S. 460 (Church Street): Short-term improve turning radii and provide traffic signal at intersection.
- 18) US 460 (N. Main Street)/Division Street: Short-term improve turning radii at intersection.
- 19) Brown Street /Division Street: Short-term improve turning radii at intersection.
- 20) Division Street from Brown to N. Main Street: Long-term widen to standard two-lane urban roadway.
- 21) U.S. 460 Business (Church Street) from Amelia Avenue to Brown Street: Short-term provide turn channelization; Long-term restripe to four-lane roadway.

## **Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028**

- 22) Route 40 (S. Main) from Tenth Street to W. Entrance Road: Short-term coordinate traffic signals and restripe roadway.
  - 23) Route 40 (S. Main) from W. Entrance Road to U.S. 460 (Church Street): Mid-term restripe to three-lane urban roadway.
  - 24) N. West Avenue/Rail Spur Crossing: Short-term install warning light at railroad crossing.
  - 25) Dinwiddie Street Extension from Main to Brown Street: Mid-term extend Dinwiddie Street to Brown Street as two-lane roadway.
  - 26) Route 40 (S. Main) from Route 46 to Blackstone's South Corporate Limits: Mid-term widen to standard two-lane urban roadway.
  - 27) Route 40 (S. Main) from Tenth to Route 46: Mid-term widen to standard two-lane urban roadway.
  - 28) U.S. 460 Business (N. Main) from Division to Barco Street (Access Rd.): Short-term provide continuous sidewalk.
  - 29) U.S. 460 Business (N. Main) from Barco Street (Access Rd.) to Blackstone's East Corporate Limits: Short-term provide continuous sidewalk.
  - 30) S. Amelia Avenue from Church to Fourth Street: Long-term widen to standard two-lane urban roadway.
  - 31) Fourth Street from S. Amelia Avenue to S. Freeman Street: Long-term widen to standard two-lane urban roadway.
  - 32) S. Freeman Street from Fourth to Blackstone's South Corporate Limits: Long-term widen to standard two-lane urban roadway.
  - 33) Courthouse Rd. from Adams Street to Blackstone's North Corporate Limits: Long-term widen to standard two-lane urban roadway.
  - 34) College Avenue from Beach Cliff Road to Tenth Street: Long-term widen to standard two-lane urban roadway.
  - 35) U.S. 460 (N. Main Street)/Broad Street: Short-term improve streetscape and remove on-street parking.
  - 36) N. West Avenue/Barco Street (Access Road): Short-term install traffic signal.
  - 37) Tavern Street from Main Street to Brown Street: Mid-term reconstruct to standard two-lane urban roadway.
- Burkeville
- 38) Route 698 (Fourth Street) from Route 678 (Oak Street) to Route 697 (Dimmick Street): Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies, including full-width lanes and shoulders.

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

39) Route 697 (Dimmick Street) from Route 698 (Fourth Street) to Route 624 (First Street SE): Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies, including full-width lanes and shoulders.

Crewe

40) U.S. 460 from Route 618 to Route 49: Long-term widen to urban four lanes with median.

41) U.S. 460 from Route 49 to Route 1005: Long-term widen to urban four lanes with median.

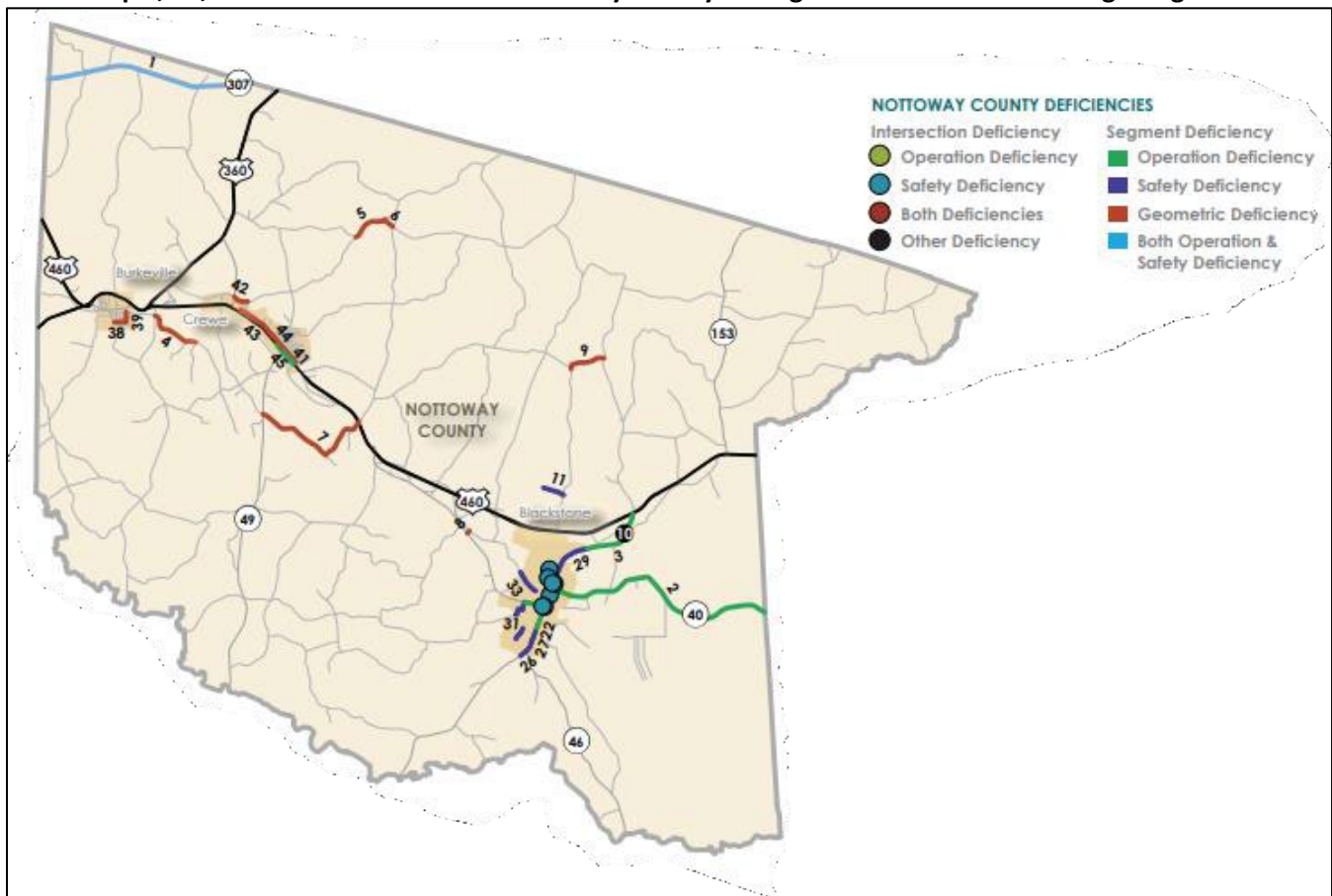
42) Route 630 from Route 49 West to Crewe's Northern Corporate Limits: Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies (11-foot lanes).

43) Route 1001 (E. Carolina Avenue) from Route 1044 to Route 1027: Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies, including full-width lanes and shoulders.

44) Route 1001 (E. Carolina Avenue) from Route 1027 to Route 1025 (Tyler Street): Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies, including full-width lanes and shoulders.

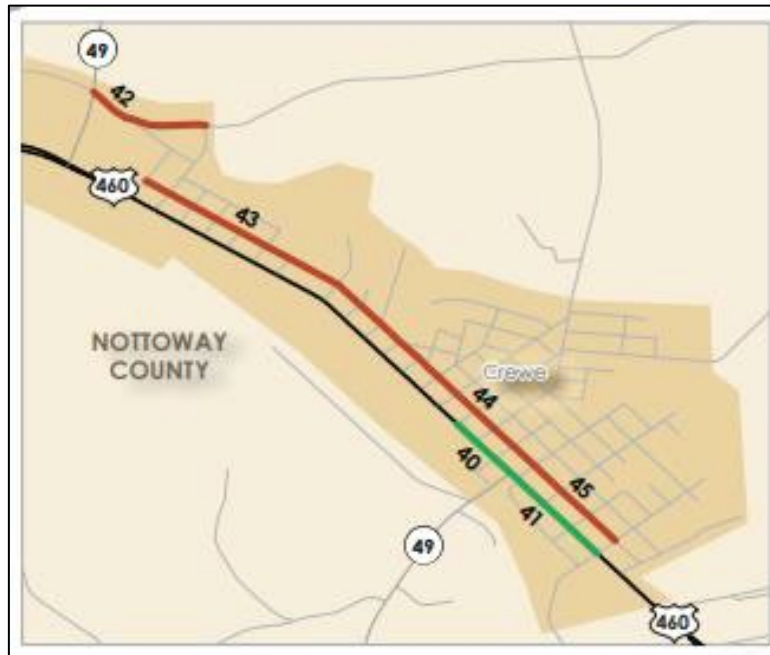
45) Route 1001 (E. Carolina Ave.) from Route 1025 to Route 1005: Long-term reconstruct road to address geometric deficiencies, including full-width lanes and shoulders.

**Map 8, 8a, 8b – Needs Identified in Nottoway County through the CRC 2035 Rural Long-Range Plan**





## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028



Source: CRC 2035 Rural Long-Range Plan

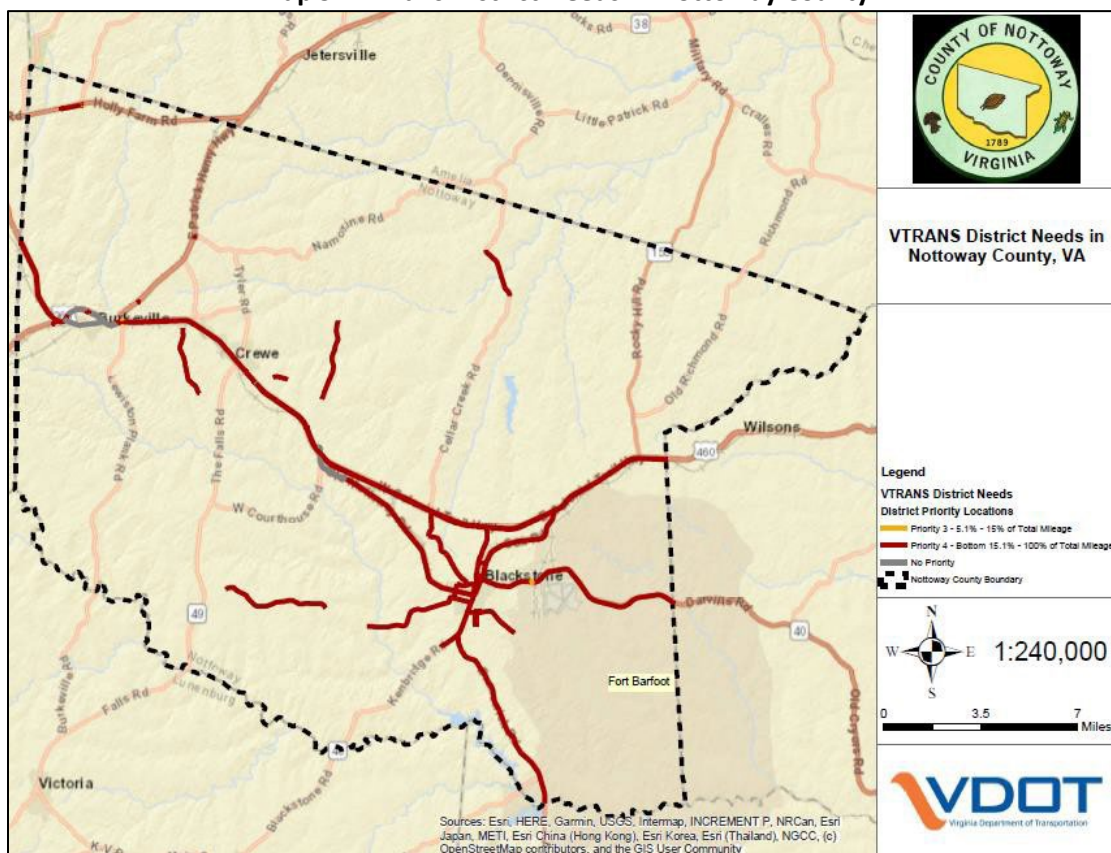
## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

### VTrans

VTrans is the long-range, statewide multimodal policy plan developed by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) that lays out overarching Vision and Goals for transportation in the State of Virginia. It identifies transportation Investment priorities and provides direction to transportation agencies on strategies and programs to be incorporated into their plans and programs. The VTrans2025 Report was adopted by the CTB in 2004, and the VTrans2035 Report was adopted in 2009. The interim update of VTrans2035 (VTrans2035 Update) did not establish a new horizon year or include a fully updated analysis of anticipated long-range transportation needs. Rather, it focused on transforming the existing components of VTrans2035 into a new framework for linking system-wide performance evaluations to planning, policy development, and funding decisions. Using this “performance-based planning” framework, transportation agencies and decision-makers can use information about projected transportation needs with assessments of current system performance to develop cost-effective strategies that simultaneously address existing transportation needs and anticipated future conditions.

VTrans 2040 was adopted by the CTB in 2018. The most recent iteration of VTrans is the VTrans Update, which is currently underway (the CTB is moving away from including the year on each update). The VTrans Update notes VDOT is working with 20 PDCs/Regional Councils throughout the Commonwealth to evaluate the state's rural multimodal transportation system and to recommend a range of improvements that address existing and future needs. Nottoway County is located in the Commonwealth Regional Council (Planning District 14) region. Identified District Needs in Nottoway County are denoted in Map 9. Identified Statewide Needs for Nottoway County are denoted in Map 10.

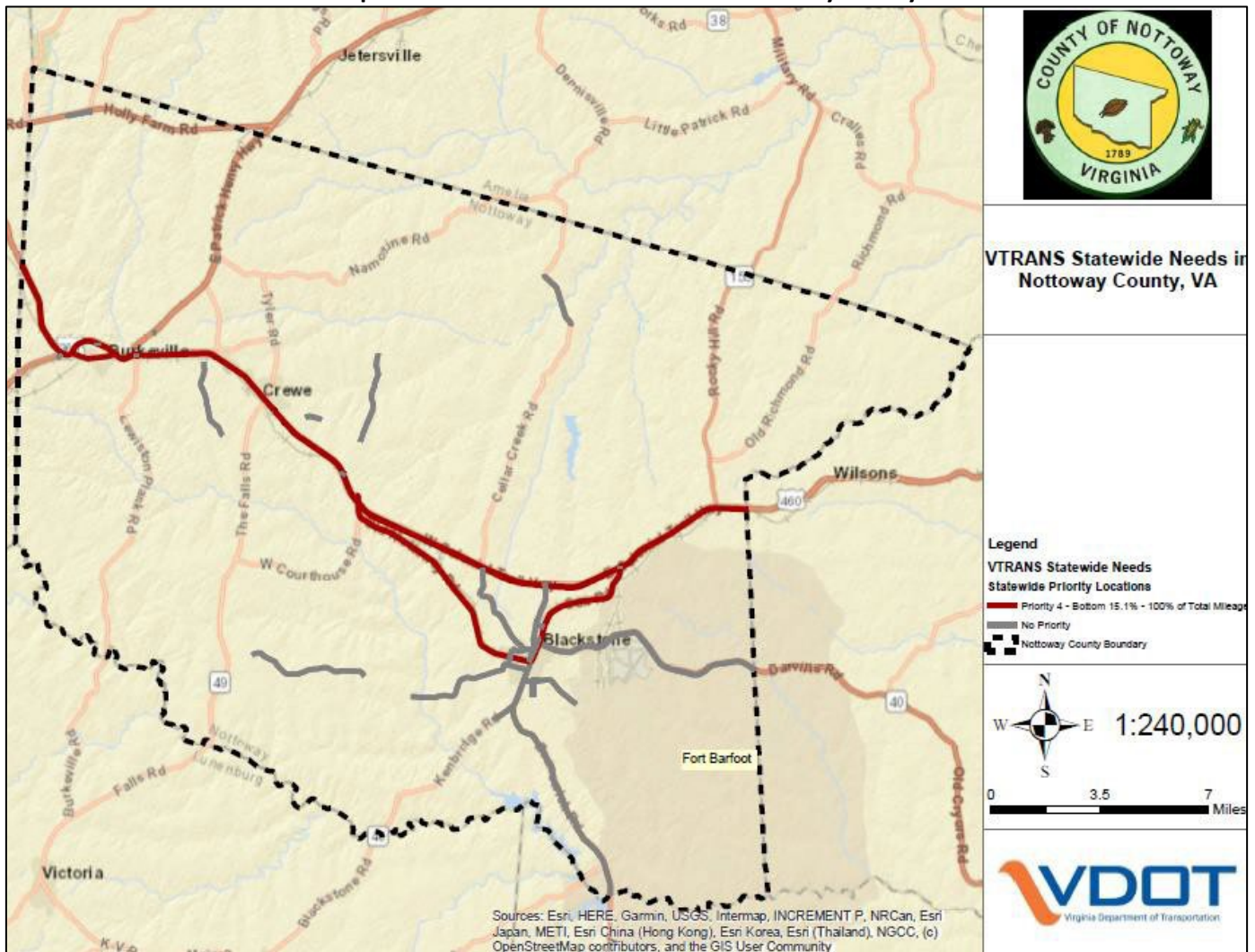
**Map 9 – VTrans District Needs in Nottoway County**



Source: VDOT

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Map 10 – VTrans Statewide Needs in Nottoway County



Source: VDOT

### Traffic Volumes

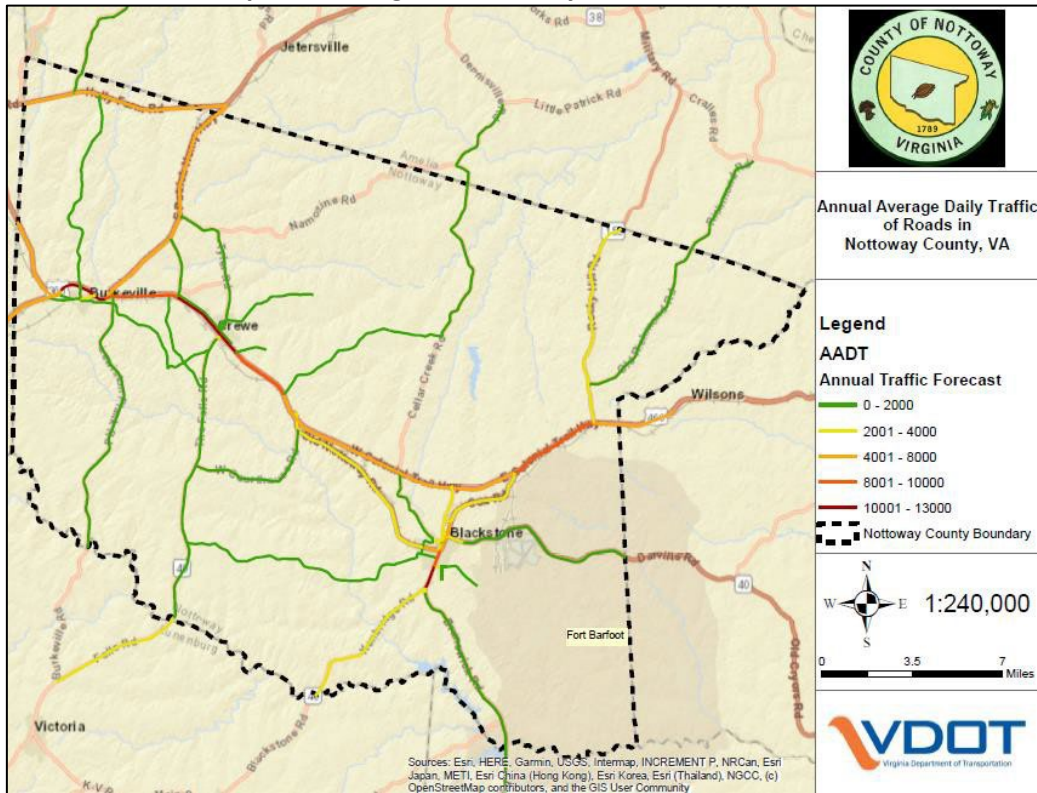
The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) compiles data to assess the condition of roads, highways, bridges, and large culverts. VDOT conducts a program where traffic count data is gathered from sensors in or along roads and highways. From these data, estimates of the average number of vehicles that traveled each segment of road are calculated.

Annual data going back to 2001 can be seen at <http://www.virginiadot.org/info/ct-TrafficCounts.asp> (Traffic Volumes Maps). VDOT also calculates future traffic projections for roads and highways. Maps 11 and 12 show present and projected future traffic volumes for Nottoway County.

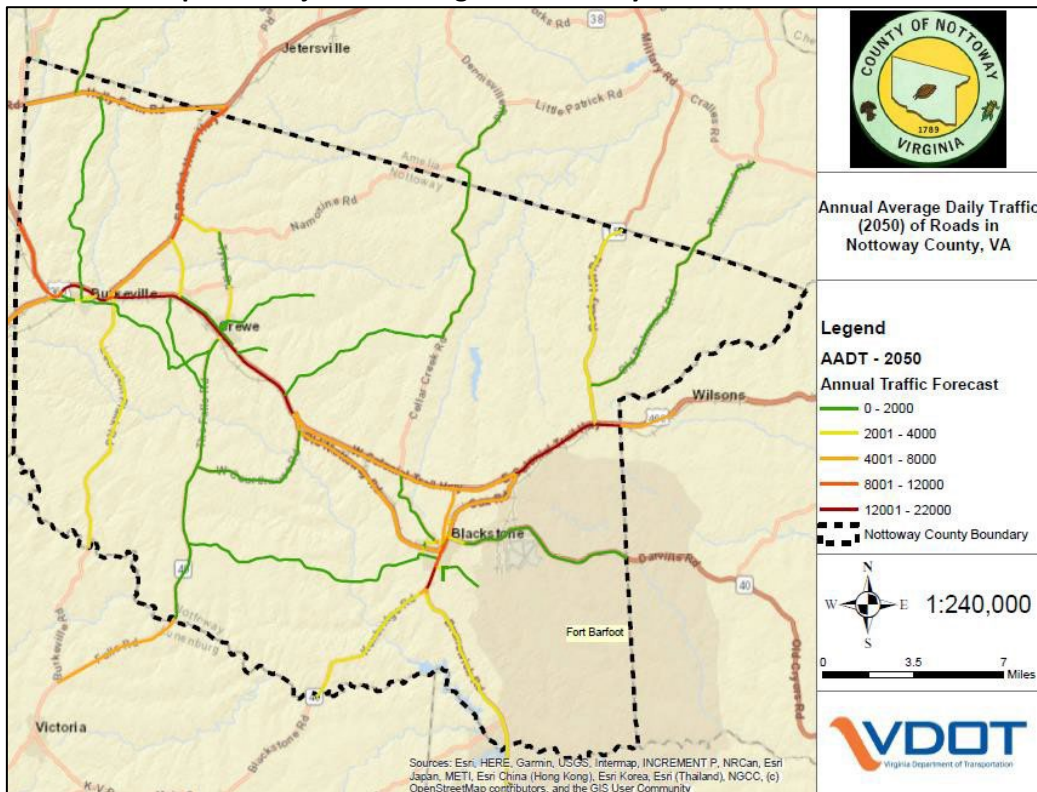


# Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Map 11 - Average Annual Daily Traffic Volumes - 2019



Map 12 – Projected Average Annual Daily Traffic Volumes - 2050



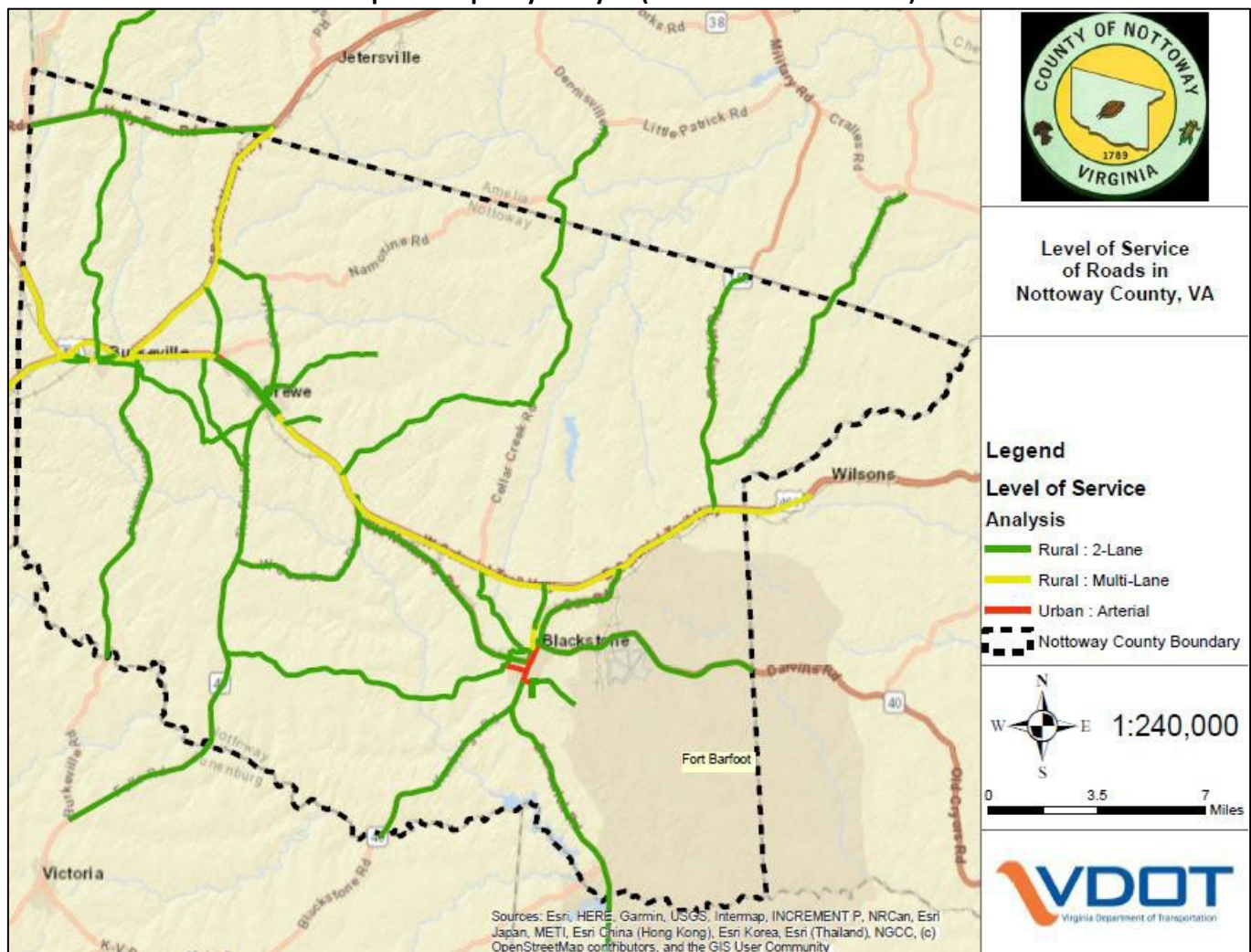
Source: VDOT

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Map 13 shows present Level of Service for the major roads in Nottoway County. Level of Service is defined as follows:

- Level of Service A: Free-flow traffic with individual users virtually unaffected by the presence of others in the traffic stream.
- Level of Service B: Stable traffic flow with a high degree of freedom to select speed and operating conditions but with some influence from other users.
- Level of Service C: Restricted flow that remains stable but with significant interactions with others in the traffic stream. The general level of comfort and convenience declines noticeably at this level.

**Map 13 – Capacity Analysis (Current Level of Service)**



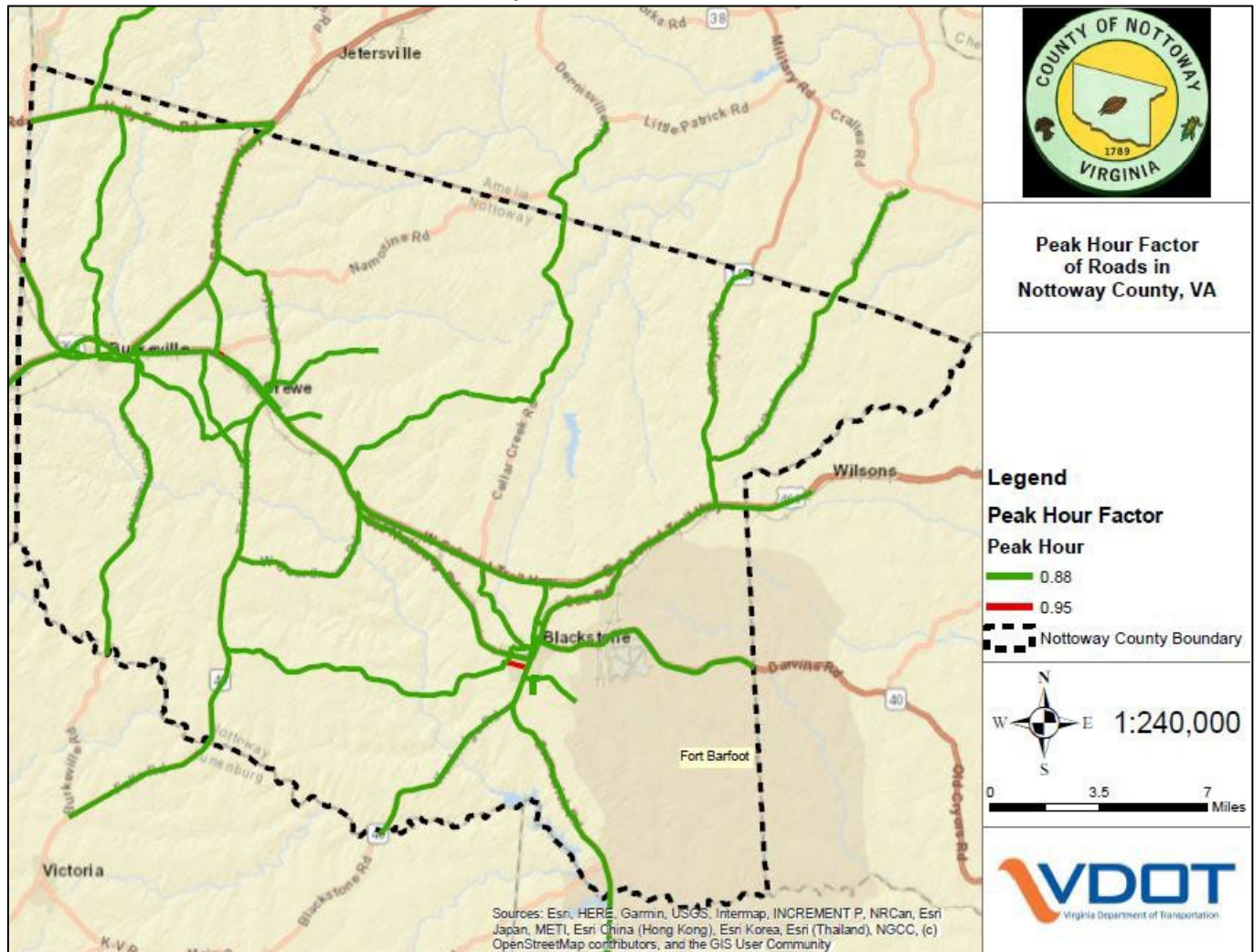
Source: VDOT



## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Map 14 shows the current Peak Hour Factor of roads in Nottoway County. A factor of less than 0.85 generally means that traffic volume capacity is adequate and vehicles are not expected to experience significant delays. A ratio of closer to 1.0 means that traffic flow may become unstable, and delays are possible. A ratio of more than 1.0 means that traffic flow is unstable, and excessive delays can be expected.

**Map 14 – Peak Hour Factor**



Source: VDOT

Figure 32 breaks out crash data for roads in Nottoway County from 2014 through 2021. There were 1,614 total crashes during this seven-year span, which averages just over 230 crashes per year. A large majority of crashes, just under 65 percent, involved only property damage. A little more than two percent involved fatalities.

Map 15 shows historical locations of vehicular crashes in Nottoway County during that time. Map 16 shows locations of bicycle and pedestrian crashes in Nottoway County from 2015-2020.

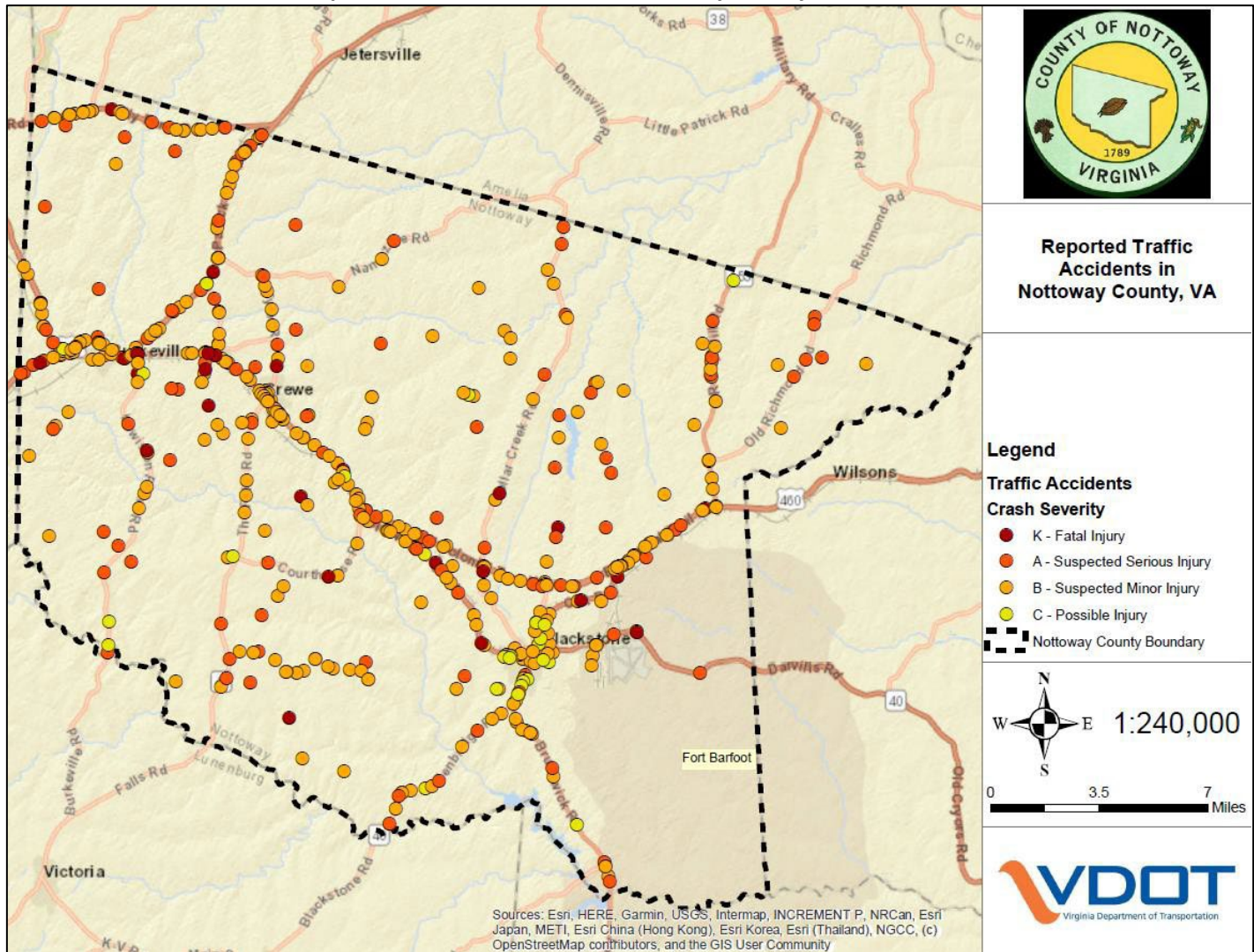
## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Figure 32 – Vehicular Crash Data for Nottoway County, 2014-2021

Property Damage Only	Possible Injury	Suspected Minor Injury	Suspected Serious Injury	Fatal Injury	Total
1,034	32	364	151	33	1,614

Source: VDOT

Map 15 – Vehicular Crashes in Nottoway County, 2014-2021

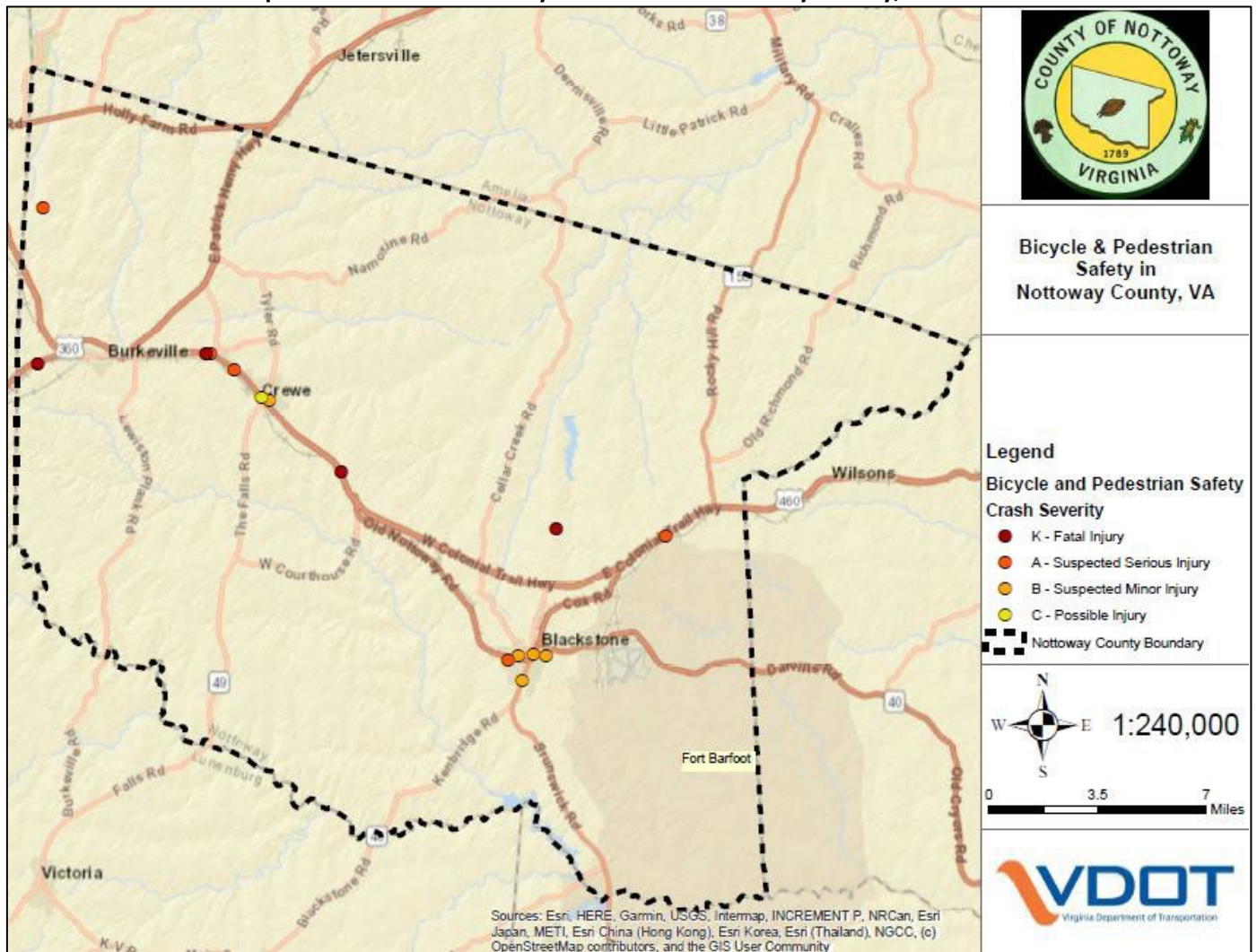


Source: VDOT



# Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Map 16 – Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes in Nottoway County, 2015-2020



Source: VDOT

## Public Transportation

Residents of Nottoway County have limited access to public transportation. Limited or no access to public transportation is a common characteristic of the entire region. Services are extremely limited in the Commonwealth Regional Council area, with vast areas and many communities not served by the limited transportation systems that do exist. The Blackstone Area Bus System (BABS) provides service throughout the region. Different routes connect Blackstone to neighboring counties:

- The Blackstone line provides service within the Town of Blackstone.
- The Crewe-Burkeville Express provides service from Blackstone to Burkeville and Crewe, including service in the Nottoway Court House area.



## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

- Town and County Transit has two lines that serve Lunenburg County. The Green Line provides limited service between Blackstone via Kenbridge and Victoria to Southside Virginia Community College in Keysville.
- The Brunswick Express provides service between Blackstone and the Towns of Alberta and Lawrenceville in Brunswick County.
- Piedmont Area Transit provides limited service between the BABS Transfer station and points in Amelia and Prince Edward Counties.
- The Dinwiddie Express provides service between Blackstone and the Town of McKenney and other parts of Dinwiddie County.
- The Buckingham-Cumberland Line provides service between the BABS Transfer station and points in Buckingham and Cumberland Counties.
- The Fort Pickett Line provides service between Blackstone and Fort Barfoot (formerly Fort Pickett).

### Other (Bike, Waterways, Pedestrian)

Bicycling and walking are fundamental travel modes and integral components of an efficient transportation network. Appropriate bicycle and pedestrian accommodations provide the public, including the disabled community, with access to the transportation network; connectivity with other modes of transportation; and independent mobility regardless of age, physical, constraints, or income. Effective bicycle and pedestrian accommodations enhance the quality of life and benefit the environment. Bicycling and walking are successfully accommodated when travel by these modes is efficient, safe, and comfortable for the public. Under the 2004 VDOT Policy for Integrating Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations, VDOT will initiate several policies relating to bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. These policies are as follows:

- VDOT will initiate all roadway construction projects with the presumption that the projects shall accommodate bicycling and walking;
- VDOT will promote the inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations in transportation activities at Local, Regional and Statewide levels;
- Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations can be developed through projects that are independent of highway construction either within the highway right-of-way or on an independent right-of-way;
- Highway construction funds can be used to construct bicycle and pedestrian accommodations either concurrently with highway construction projects or as independent transportation projects;
- Bicycle and pedestrian accommodation project will be funded in the same manner as other highway construction projects for each system; and
- All accommodations will be designed and constructed, or installed, using guidance from VDOT and AASHTO publications, the MUTCD and the American with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).

## **Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028**

Blackstone, Burkeville, and Crewe have sidewalk systems that are maintained by VDOT. The only sidewalks in the County are located in the Nottoway Court House area.

In June 2000, the Piedmont Planning District Commission (PPDC) prepared the Piedmont Regional Bicycle Plan in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and Virginia Department of Transportation. The FY 2002 Rural Transportation Planning Grant under the Rural Transportation Program funded the project. In order for any locality or region to be eligible for VDOT funding for highway projects, including bicycle facilities, the local government participating must have an adopted bicycle plan. The Commonwealth Regional Council (formerly the PPDC) completed the CRC Bicycle Plan Update in 2010. The Bicycle Plan identifies two (2) routes that go through Nottoway County: Route A, which runs north-south; and Route B-1, which runs in and around Blackstone. Additionally, Route N runs through Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park near Nottoway County. See Maps 17 and 17a.

Nottoway County has an abundant scenic natural environment that includes rivers, streams and forests. These resources offer great potential for the development of special transportation facilities including bikeways, pedestrian paths and boat ramps. The County also offers close proximity to a number of bike/ped trails for riders and walker/hikers. These scenic routes can be found in Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park, Twin Lakes State Park, High Bridge Trail State Park, and the Town of Victoria (see Map 18).

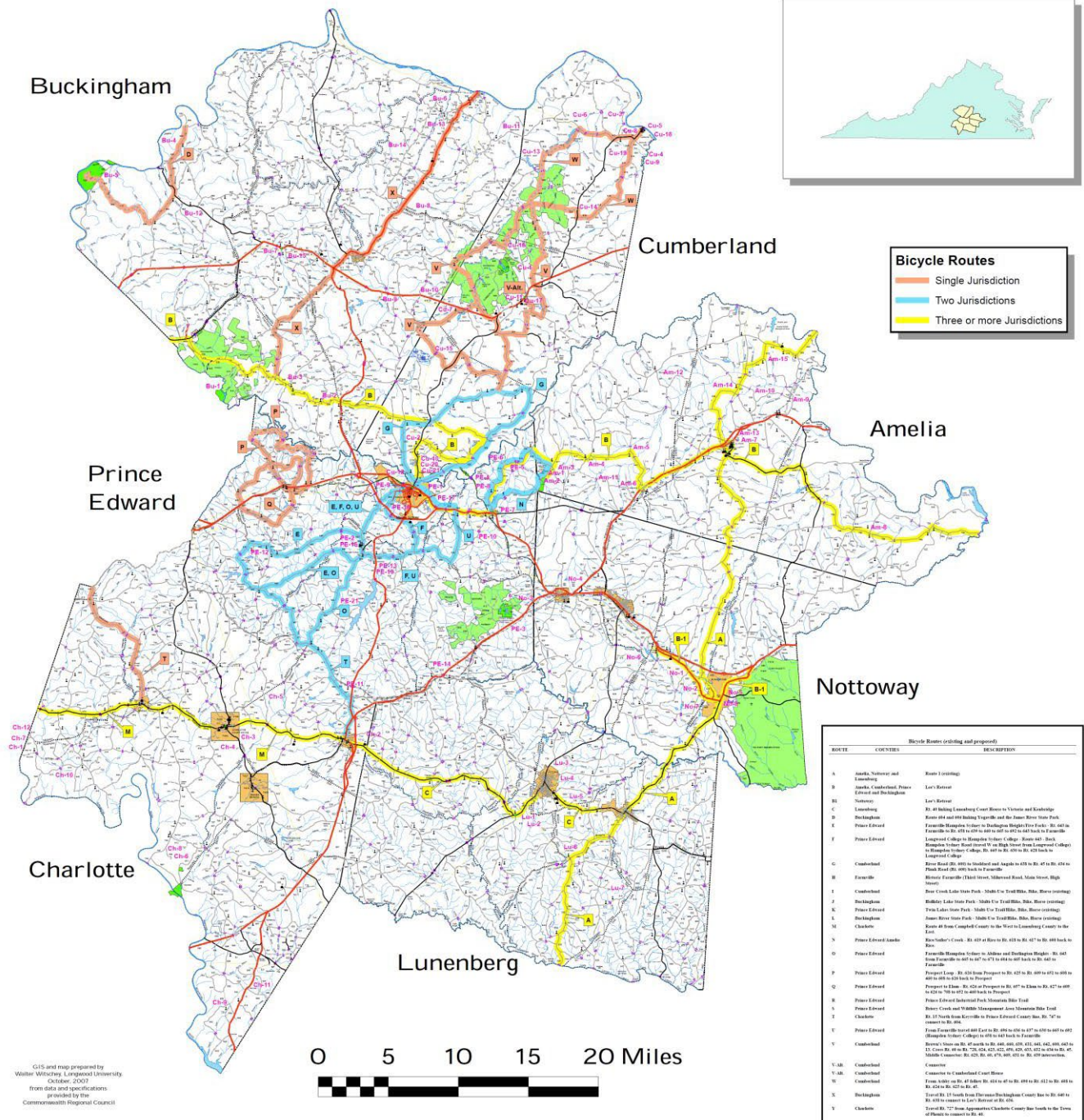
High Bridge Trail is 31 miles long and ideally suited for hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. The eastern end of the trail is less than a mile from Burkeville. Once a rail bed, the trail is wide, level and generally flat. Its finely crushed limestone surface and dimensions make it easy to enjoy. The park's centerpiece is the majestic High Bridge, which is more than 2,400 feet long and 125 feet above the Appomattox River. It is the longest recreational bridge in Virginia and among the longest in the United States.

Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park in Amelia County offers seven trails with interpretive signs totaling just over three miles. The individual trails range in length from 0.1 mile to 0.9 mile.

Twin Lakes State Park in Prince Edward County offers areas for swimming, fishing, and boating. The park has six miles of hiking trails that go through hardwood forests and along the two lakes, and an eight-mile (non-loop) multi-use trail in the adjacent Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest for hikers, bikers and horses.

Starting in 2010, the Town of Victoria (in Lunenburg County) began work on a trail network in and around the Town. The current trail network consists of approximately four (4) miles of multi-use trails that run in the Town and go toward the Lunenburg County Airport. Much of the trail network runs along the abandoned Virginian Railroad rail bed. The trail network is part of the Tobacco Heritage Trail, a multi-use trail system that – when completed – will connect multiple towns in Southside Virginia, mainly through abandoned railroad right-of-way. Portions of the trail system are completed.

# Commonwealth Regional Council Bicycle Plan Routes and Points of Interest

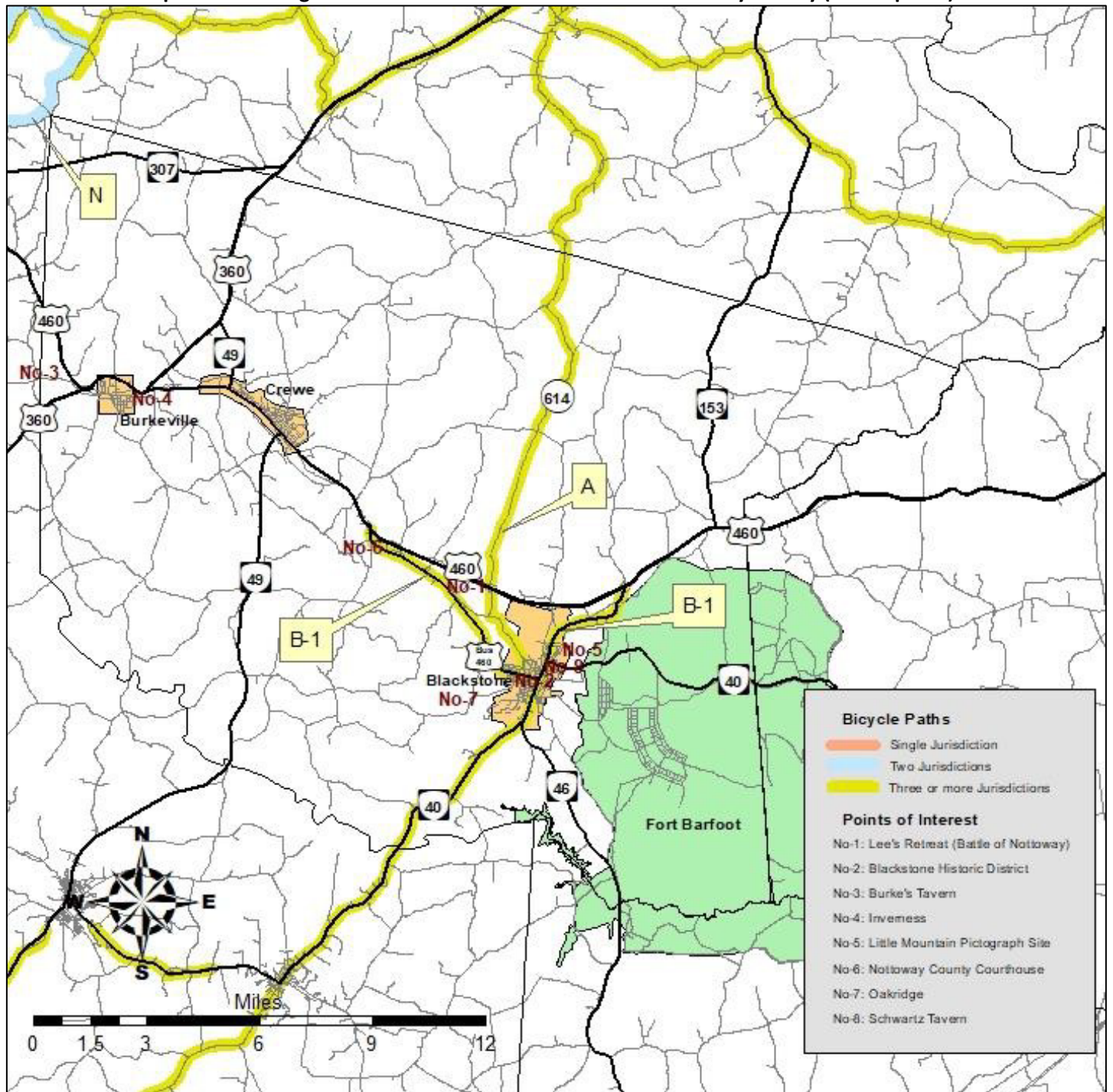


Source: CRC Regional Bike Plan, 2010



# Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

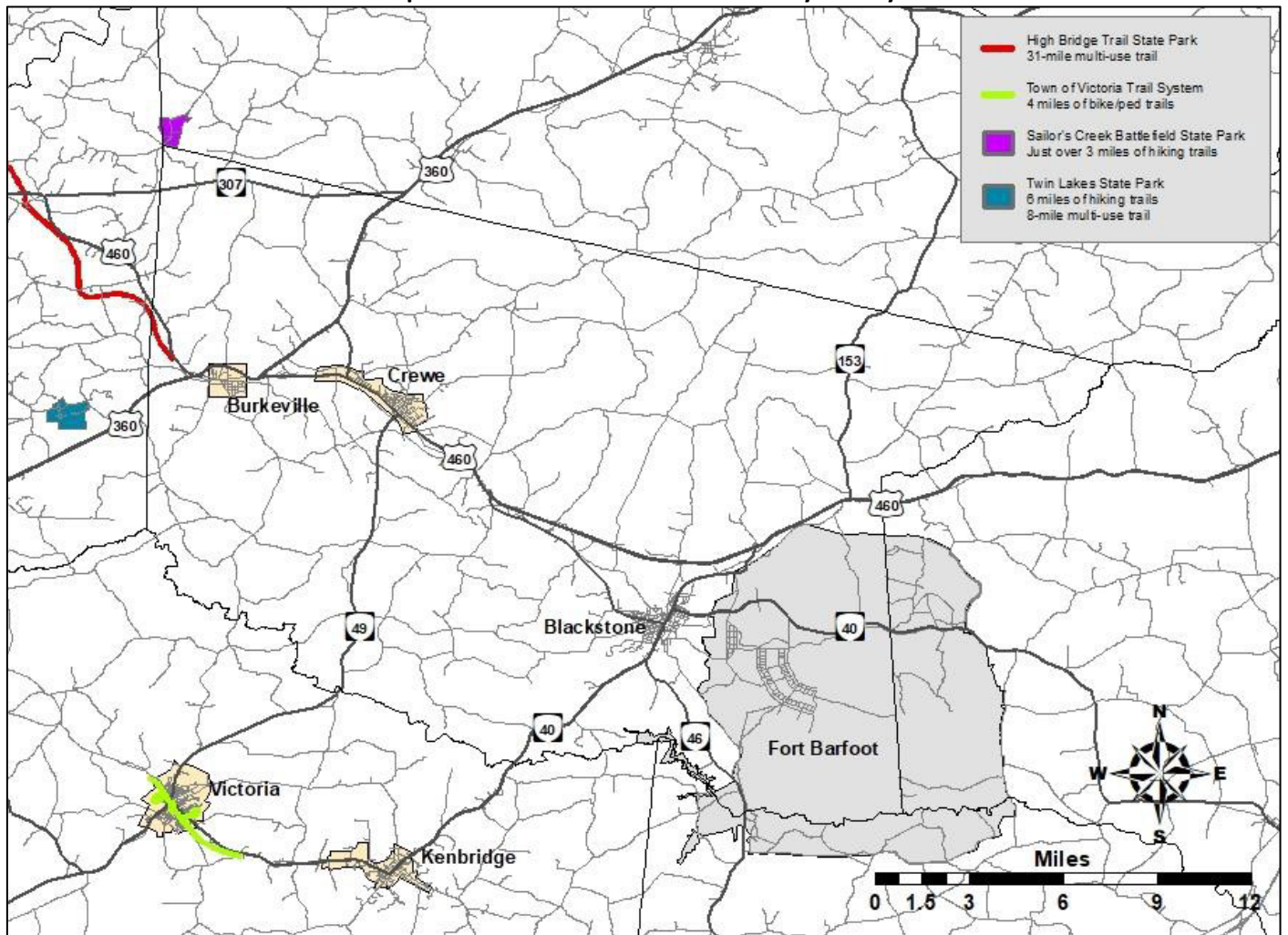
Map 17a – CRC Regional Bike Plan Routes in and around Nottoway County (2010 Update)



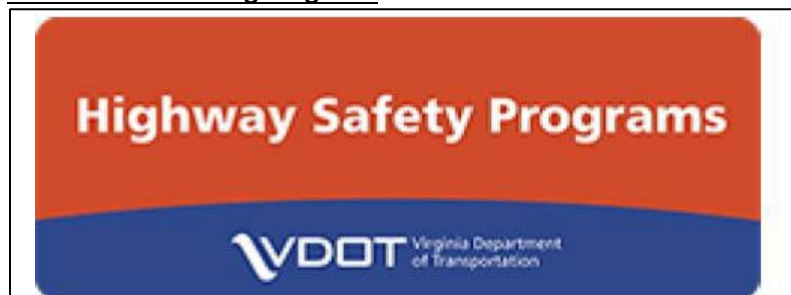
Source: CRC Regional Bike Plan, 2010

# Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Map 18 – Trails in and around Nottoway County



## Other VDOT Funding Programs



### Purpose

This federal transportation program is structured and funded to identify and improve locations where there is a high concentration, or risk, of vehicle crashes that result in deaths or injuries and to implement strategies to attain Virginia's Towards Zero Deaths vision.

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

### Funding

There are several core safety programs, including Highway Safety, Systemic Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety, and Highway-Rail Safety.

### Eligible Projects

Projects involve the identification of high-crash spots or corridor segments, an analysis of crash trends and existing conditions, and the prioritization and scheduling of improvement projects. Submitted projects must demonstrate a cost benefit and must:

- Be relevant to the program purpose of reducing severe crashes or risk to transportation users.
- Address hazardous situations through good safety planning and identified by safety data driven network screening.
- Demonstrate compliance with the appropriate VDOT design guideline and standards.

### Eligible Applicants

The Highway Safety Programs (HSP), Rail-At-Grade-Crossing and the Bicycle Pedestrian Safety Program (BPSP) applications must be submitted through the SMART Portal by local governments, VDOT District and Regional Staff.

### Evaluation Criteria

The eligibility criteria and process for the safety programs are different. The Portal automatically scores each application based upon the various factors such as: Benefit/Cost ratio, PSI listing, supporting documents, complete cost estimate/schedule etc. The (HSP) application targets vehicle only crashes and requires a benefit-cost (B/C) ratio analysis, or the Systemic Safety Improvement (SSI) application can utilize a risk assessment methodology that addresses these risks throughout a network of roadways. The Rail Safety and Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety applications require a risk analysis due to the unpredictability of the crash types.

### Funding Cycle

The funding cycle for the Highway Safety program will be every year. Approximately \$60 million is available per year. Applications are generally accepted August through October of each year. All funding is federal.

### Website

[http://www.virginiadot.org/business/ted\\_app\\_pro.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/business/ted_app_pro.asp)



### Purpose

This program is intended to help sponsors fund projects that expand non-motorized travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historical, and environmental aspects of transportation infrastructure. It focuses on providing pedestrian and bicycle facilities and other community improvements.



## **Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028**

### Funding

TAP is not a traditional grant program and funds are only available on a reimbursement basis. The program will reimburse up to a maximum 80% of the eligible project costs and requires a minimum 20% local match. These are federal transportation funds and therefore require strict adherence to federal and state regulations including Americans with Disability Act (ADA) design standards. Funding is allocated statewide and to specific population areas as set forth in federal regulation. Funds are awarded by the CTB and the MPOs in Virginia's Transportation Management Areas (TMAs).

### Eligible Projects

- On-road and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and shared use paths.
- Infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers to access daily needs.
- Conversion and use of abandoned railway corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized transportation users.
- Construction of turnouts, overlooks and viewing areas.
- Inventory, control or removal of outdoor advertising (billboards).
- Preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities including train depots, lighthouses and canals.
- Vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way.
- Archeological activities relating to impacts from implementation of a transportation project.
- Environmental mitigation activities to address storm water management control and water pollution related to highway runoff.
- Wildlife mortality mitigation activities to decrease negative impacts of roads on wildlife and habitat connectivity.

### Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted through the SMART Portal by local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, natural resource or public land agencies, school districts, local educational agencies, schools, tribal governments, and any other local/regional entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails.

### Evaluation Criteria

- Project funding.
- Project concept.
- How the project improves the existing transportation network.

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

- Sponsor's experience administering federal-aid projects.
- Project's readiness to proceed

### Funding Cycle

Beginning with the FY2019-2024 SYIP Update, the application cycle began alternating every other year with allocations available in the first and second year of the SYIP. Approximately \$20 million is available per year with a maximum request of \$1M per year (\$2M per application). Applications are generally accepted August through October of every other year. All funding is federal.

### Website

<http://www.virginiadot.org/business/prehancegrants.asp>



### Purpose

This program provides additional funding for use by a county, city, or town to construct, reconstruct, improve, or maintain the highway systems within such county, city, or town and for eligible rural additions in certain counties of the Commonwealth. Locality funds are matched, dollar for dollar, with state funds, with statutory limitations on the amount of state funds authorized per locality.

### Funding

Application for program funding must be made by resolution of the governing body of the jurisdiction requesting funds. Project funding is allocated by resolution of the CTB. The Revenue Sharing program will match, dollar for dollar, eligible project costs up to limitations specified in CTB Policy

### Eligible Projects

- Supplemental funding for projects listed in the adopted in the SYIP.
- Construction, reconstruction, or improvement projects not including in the adopted SYIP.
- Improvements necessary for the specific subdivision streets otherwise eligible for acceptance into the secondary system for maintenance (rural additions).
- Maintenance projects consistent with the department's operating policies.
- New hard surfacing (paving).
- Deficits on completed construction, reconstruction, or improvement projects



## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

### Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted through the SMART Portal by any county, city, or town in the Commonwealth. Evaluation Criteria:

- Priority 1: Construction projects that have previously received Revenue Sharing funding.
- Priority 2: Construction projects that meet a transportation need identified in the Statewide Transportation Plan or projects that will be accelerated in a locality's capital plan.
- Priority 3: Projects that address deficient pavement resurfacing and bridge rehabilitation.
- Priority 4: All other projects

### Funding Cycle

Beginning with the FY2019-2024 SYIP Update, the application cycle began alternating every other year with allocations available in the first and second year of the SYIP. Approximately \$100 million in state funding is available per year. Applications are generally accepted August through October of every other year. All funding is non-federal.

### Website

[http://www.virginiadot.org/business/local-assistance-accessprograms.asp#Revenue\\_Sharing](http://www.virginiadot.org/business/local-assistance-accessprograms.asp#Revenue_Sharing)



### Purpose

SGR provides funding for the Commonwealth of Virginia's pavements and bridges. The funds are used for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of deteriorated pavements on the Interstate and Primary Systems, including Primary Extensions, as well as the replacement and rehabilitation of structurally deficient bridges on all systems.

### Funding

Funding is allocated to each district based on needs for VDOT and locality owned bridges and pavements. Allocation of the funding is based on a needs prioritization methodology as approved by the CTB. All nine construction districts will receive funding in a given year, with no district receiving less than 5.5% or more than 17.5% of the funds in a given year.

The Code of Virginia allows for two waivers in the SGR. The first waiver allows the CTB to remove the cap and allocate the SGR funds to a key need or project. The second waiver allows the CTB to allocate 20% of the funds to secondary pavements if the Department does not meet its secondary pavement performance targets.

### Eligible Projects

Projects must meet the three tests as depicted in the following chart prior to receiving funding:

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Tests	Pavement	Bridge
1	Improves to fair or better status	Removes from structurally deficient status
2	Meets definition of pavement rehabilitation and reconstruction in FHWA's memo dated 9/12/2005	Meets definition of bridge rehabilitation and replacement in FHWA's Bridge Preservation Guide dated August 2011
3	Adds or restores strength	
FHWA Memo Links	<a href="#">FHWA's Memo – September 12, 2005 - Pavement Preservation Definitions</a> <a href="#">FHWA's Memo - February 25, 2016 - Pavement Preservation</a>	<a href="#">FHWA's Bridge Preservation Guide – August 2011 – Maintaining a State of Good Repair Using Cost Effective Investment Strategies</a>

### Eligible Applicants

Localities may submit applications for primary extensions and work notification forms for structurally deficient bridges through the SMART Portal. If a locality has multiple structurally deficient bridges, the locality is required to submit work notification forms for all bridges to show what work will be completed in order to remove the deficiency.

### Evaluation Criteria

The SGR Program requires the prioritization process to consider mileage, condition and costs for pavements while considering number, condition and costs for bridges. For additional detail related to the prioritization process, refer to: <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/resources/2016/june/reso/Resolution1.pdf>

### Funding Cycle

The funding cycle for SGR will be every year. Approximately \$300 million is available per year beginning in FY 2021. Applications are generally accepted November through January. Funding includes both state and federal sources.

### Website

[http://www.virginiadot.org/business/local\\_assistance\\_division\\_funding\\_programs.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/business/local_assistance_division_funding_programs.asp)

## **C. Community Facilities and Services**

### Introduction

Community facilities and services are made possible by individuals, families, businesses and industries working together to serve Nottoway County. The provision of such facilities and services is usually determined by the tax income that can be obtained from local population and businesses.

The following inventory analysis summarizes the public resources for which the County has primary responsibility and control. However, it also considers other important resources and activities of other levels of government such as federal and state agencies. In addition, some private or quasi-public facilities such as educational institutions and some utility systems are important resources for the local community and must be taken into account when analyzing the full range of public resources available to the citizens of this locality.

### Administrative Facilities

The Nottoway County Administration Office, located in the Nottoway County Courthouse Complex on Route 625 (Courthouse Road), serves as the center for government business in the County. The County

## **Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028**

Administrator, who reports to the Board of Supervisors, oversee the daily business for the County. In addition, the County Courthouse Complex houses the Nottoway County courts and related offices plus the County's constitutional officers – the Commissioner of Revenue, Sheriff, Commonwealth's Attorney, Treasurer and Clerk of Court – plus other departments including the Department of Health, the Department of Social Services, and the local office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension.

### State and Federal Facilities

Nottoway County has a number of state and federal facilities. In addition to providing much-needed services, these facilities contribute to the local economy by providing jobs for residents in the region. Those employees also patronize local businesses. State and local facilities in Nottoway County include:

- Fort Barfoot, formerly Fort Pickett, is located just east of Blackstone. Originally established in 1942 to help the U.S. military prepare its war efforts, the facility is currently used by the Virginia National Guard and Air Guard. It is also home to the recently opened Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC), which provides lifesaving security training to Department of State personnel and members of the foreign affairs community. The Camp Pickett Officers Club is used by Nottoway County schools for proms and homecoming dances. It is also used as a wedding venue for people from around the State. Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC) and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) operate educational/job training programs out of Fort Barfoot. They include the SVCC Power Line Worker Program, which is the only program of its type in Virginia.
- Piedmont Geriatric Hospital (PGH) is a 123-bed psychiatric facility located between Burkeville and Crewe. Originally opened in 1918 as Piedmont Sanitorium, it was the first residential facility in Virginia to treat African American patients with tuberculosis. The site was also home to the Piedmont Nurse Training Program, training African American women to work as nurses and graduating at least 350 women between 1920 and 1960. In 1967, the General Assembly transferred the hospital to the State Department of Mental Hygiene and Hospitals. Subsequently, the hospital became a mental health facility and was renamed Piedmont State Hospital. The name was changed to its current name, Piedmont Geriatric Hospital, in 1977. Today, PGH is the only facility in the State dedicated solely to serving mental patients over the age of 65.
- The Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation (VCBR) is a 450-bed treatment facility for sex offenders, located next to PGH between Burkeville and Crewe. Opened in 2008, the facility is currently undergoing an expansion to allow VCBR to handle resident volumes that have exceeded the originally planned capacity.
- Nottoway Correctional Center/Nottoway Work Center is a level-3, close custody state prison located just outside of Burkeville. The Center gets its water from the Town of Crewe. The Center's sewer treatment facility serves the Town of Burkeville plus PGH and the VCBR. The Work Center provides job skill training for inmates. The Correctional Center was built in 1984, and the Work Center was added in 1995. In 2014, it is estimated that inmate labor from the Work Center saved the County \$167,000.00. This was the last year for which estimates are available. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Work Center did not release any work gangs into the community from approximately March 2020 until July 1, 2021.

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

### Education Facilities

- Blackstone Primary School: Public school that serves students in Grades Pre-K through 4.
- Crewe Primary School: Public school that serves students in Grades Pre-K through 4.
- Nottoway Intermediate School: Public school that serves Grades 5 and 6.
- Nottoway Middle School: Public school that serves Grades 7 and 8.
- Nottoway High School: Public school that serves Grades 9 through 12.
- Amelia-Nottoway Technical Center: Located on U.S. 360 just across the line in Amelia County, offers vocational and job training for high school students in both counties.
- Kenston Forest School: Private school in Blackstone which serves students in grades Pre-K through 12 and includes students from Nottoway and surrounding counties.

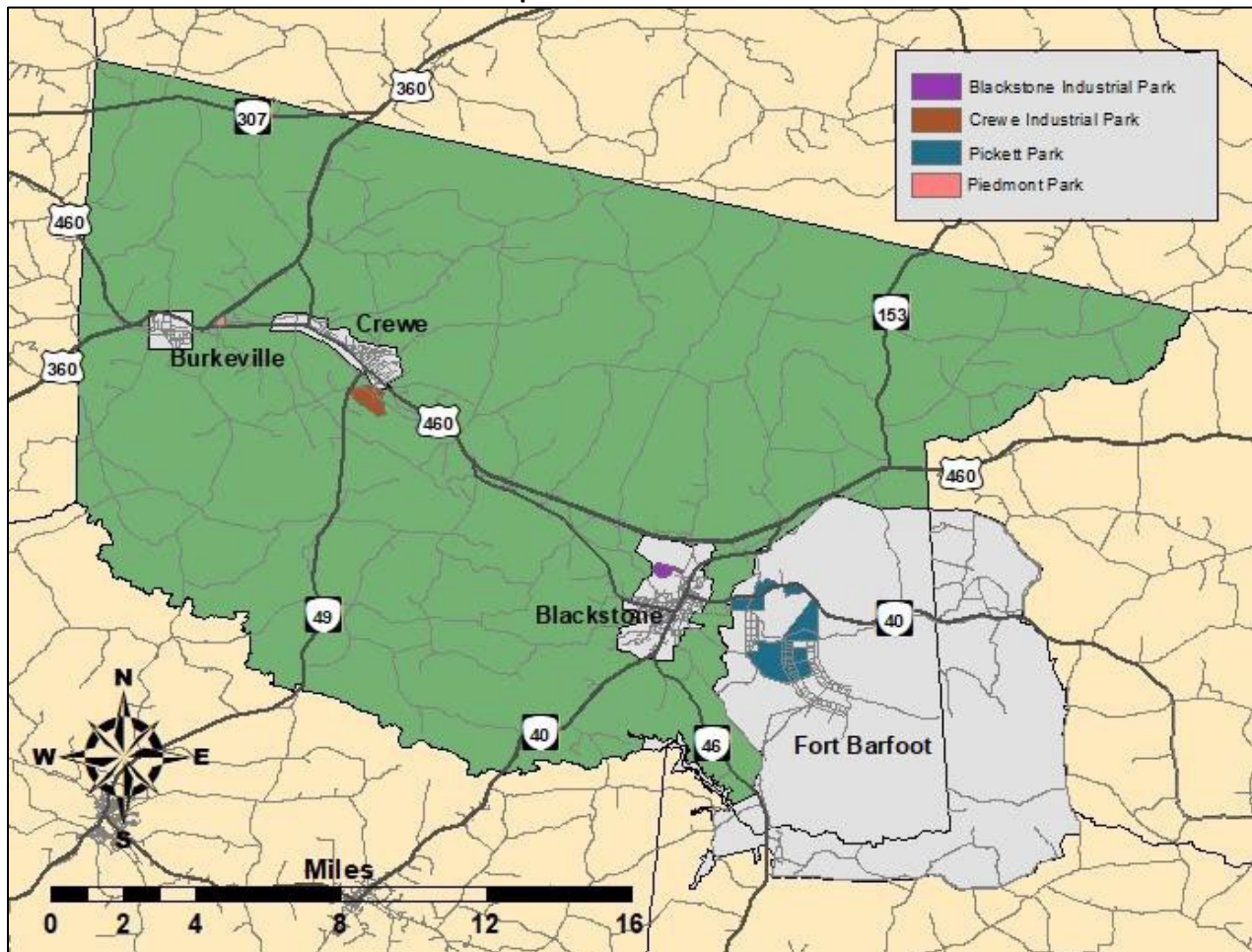
### Industrial Sites

Nottoway County has four business/industrial sites (see Map 19).

- Blackstone Industrial Park: Located on just under 100 acres in the northern part of Blackstone, with water and sewer service provided by the Town of Blackstone.
- Crewe Industrial Park: Located on 200 acres along Crewe's southern boundary, with water and sewer service provided by the Town of Crewe.
- Piedmont Park: Located on just under 20 acres near Burkeville, under development. As of December 2022, all parcels in this Park are privately owned.
- Pickett Park: Located on 1,675 acres in Fort Barfoot, with water and sewer service provided by the town of Blackstone. SVCC and VCU operate job training programs out of this location. The Park is also a colocation node on the Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC) Network. Many lots in Pickett Park have been sold, with a handful of lots still available as of December 2022.

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Map 19 – Industrial Sites



Map created by CRC – September 2021 (revised May 2023)

Source: VEDP, Nottoway County

### Health Care

Nottoway County residents are within approximately 60 miles of the following hospitals/urgent care facilities:

- Centra Southside Community Hospital (Farmville, Virginia)
- Centra Southside Medical Center (Farmville, Virginia)
- Bon Secours St. Francis Medical Center (Midlothian, Virginia)
- Chippenham Johnston Willis (CJW) Medical Center (Richmond, Virginia)
- Bon Secours Southside Regional Hospital (Petersburg, Virginia)
- VCU Medical College of Virginia (Richmond, Virginia)

## **Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028**

- VCU Health Community Memorial Hospital (South Hill, Virginia)
- Swift Creek Emergency Center (Chesterfield, Virginia)
- Sentara Halifax Regional Hospital (Halifax, Virginia)

There are also a number of other health care facilities located within Nottoway County.

- Crewe Medical Center
- Housecalls M.D., LLC
- Centra Medical Group – Burkeville
- Blackstone Family Practice
- Tisha Stewart, M.D.
- Dr. Sherry Sandlin (Family Medicine)
- Nottoway County Health Department
- Progressive Therapy
- Commonwealth Dentistry Crewe
- Mai Truong, DDS (General Dentistry)
- Blackstone Family Dentistry
- Commonwealth Vision (Optometrist)

### Nursing Homes

There are three (3) nursing home facilities in Nottoway County: Heritage Hall and Clay's Assisted Living, both in Blackstone; and Hickory Hill Retirement Community, located south of Burkeville.

### Libraries

The Nottoway County Public Library has three branch locations:

- Blackstone: located on South Main Street.
- Burkeville: located on Second Street NW
- Crewe: located on Tyler Street.

These branches provide programs and amenities including books, computers/internet service, Wi-Fi hotspots, fax and copy services, meeting space, local history rooms, adult GED classes, literacy programs,



## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

story time, and summer reading programs. In addition, to the three main branches, the Library also has three Little Free Libraries located throughout the County. Materials in the Little Free Libraries are not in the library catalog and can either be kept or returned.

### Museums

Nottoway County has a number of museums. They include:

- Robert Thomas Carraige Museum (Blackstone): The museum has a collection of 28 fully-restored horse drawn vehicles including pleasure vehicles, hearses, sleighs, surreys, wagons, and various buggies. The museum also has guides and interpretive signs, plus accessories of early travel including saddles, lap robes, harness, foot warmers, and tools of the carriage industry.
- Schwartz Tavern (Blackstone): The oldest building in Blackstone, the site operated as a tavern until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. After that, it was a private residence for multiple owners before being deeded over to the Town of Blackstone. The site now houses a museum and the Blackstone Chamber of Commerce.
- Crewe Railroad Museum: Located on U.S. 460 in Crewe, on land donated by the Norfolk Southern Railroad, the museum pays tribute to the history of the railroad in the Town. It is run by a non-profit group and staffed by volunteers – some of whom worked for the Norfolk & Western (and later Norfolk Southern) Railroad.
- WSVS Historic Radio Museum (Crewe): The site of the former radio station WSVS, it has been restored as a museum to honor roots-based American music and hosts live music on Saturdays. The museum has been nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

### Religious Facilities

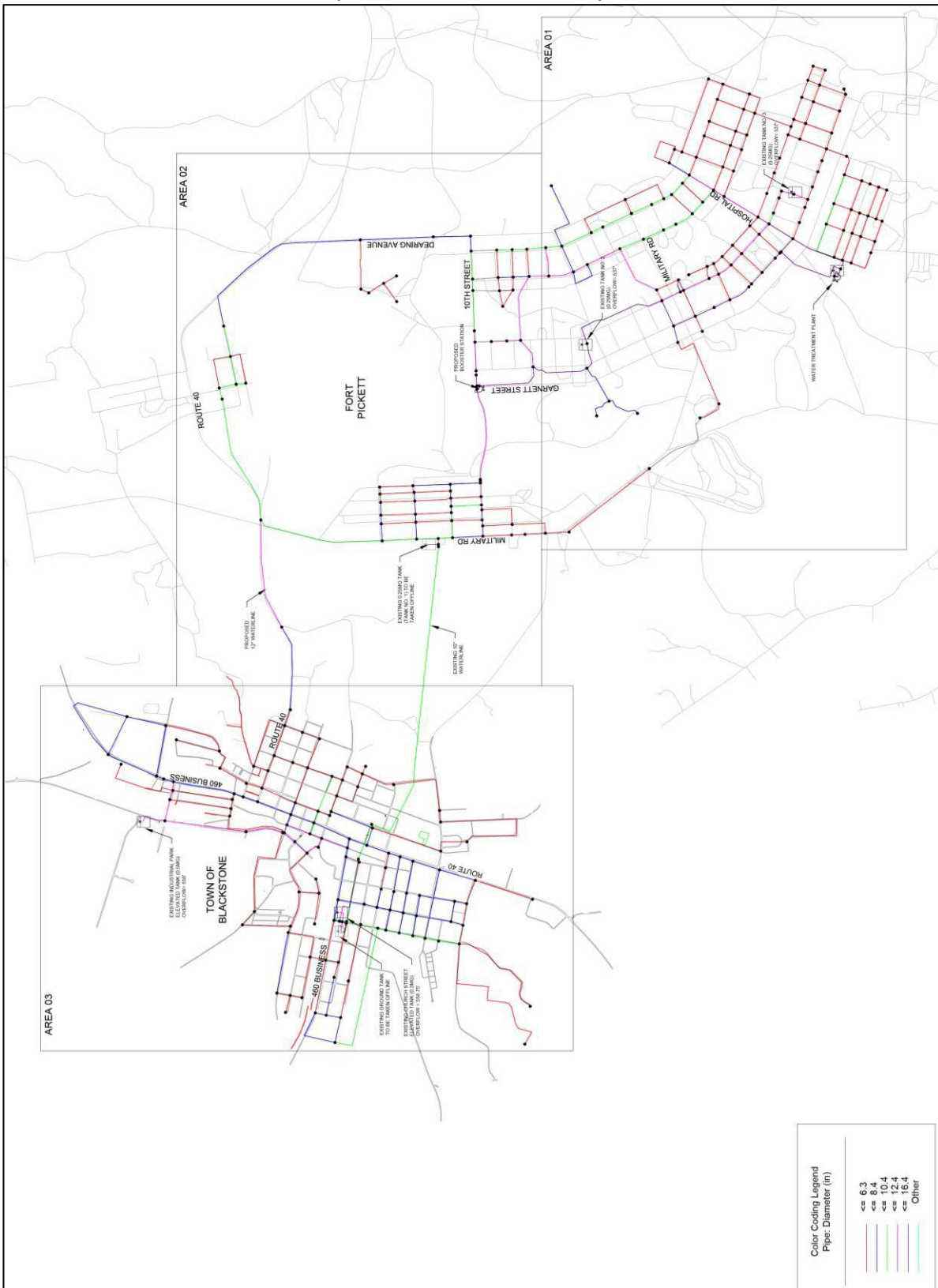
Nottoway County has more than 50 religious facilities of various denominations. They include Apostolic, Assemblies of God, Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Church of Christ, Church of God, Episcopal, Jehovah's Witness, Methodist, Latter-Day Saints (Mormon), Nazarene, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, and Seventh-Day Adventist.

### Water Service/Sewer Service

The three towns in Nottoway County provide their respective residents and some surrounding areas with water service. See Maps 20a, 20b, and 20c. Blackstone owns and operates its own water plant. The Town assumed operating responsibility of the facility from Fort Barfoot, formerly Fort Pickett, in 1997. The Town gets its water from the Fort Pickett Reservoir and serves the Town, Fort Barfoot, and adjacent areas. Burkeville provides water for residents and businesses through a system of well and water lines. Crewe owns and operates its own plant. The Town gets its water from Crystal Lake, in the Nottoway Court House area. This system provides water to the Town, state facilities in the Crewe-Burkeville area, the Nottoway County Courthouse Complex, the Nottoway County School Complex, and several adjacent areas. The rest of the County, outside of these areas, does not have public water and homes/businesses rely on wells for their water supply. The Towns of Blackstone and Crewe own and operate their own sewer plants. Blackstone's facility serves the Town, Fort Barfoot, and some surrounding areas. Crewe's facility serves residents and businesses within the Town. Sewer service in the Town of Burkeville is provided by nearby Nottoway Correctional Center. The rest of the County, outside of those areas, is not served by public sewer and homes/businesses have to rely on private septic systems.



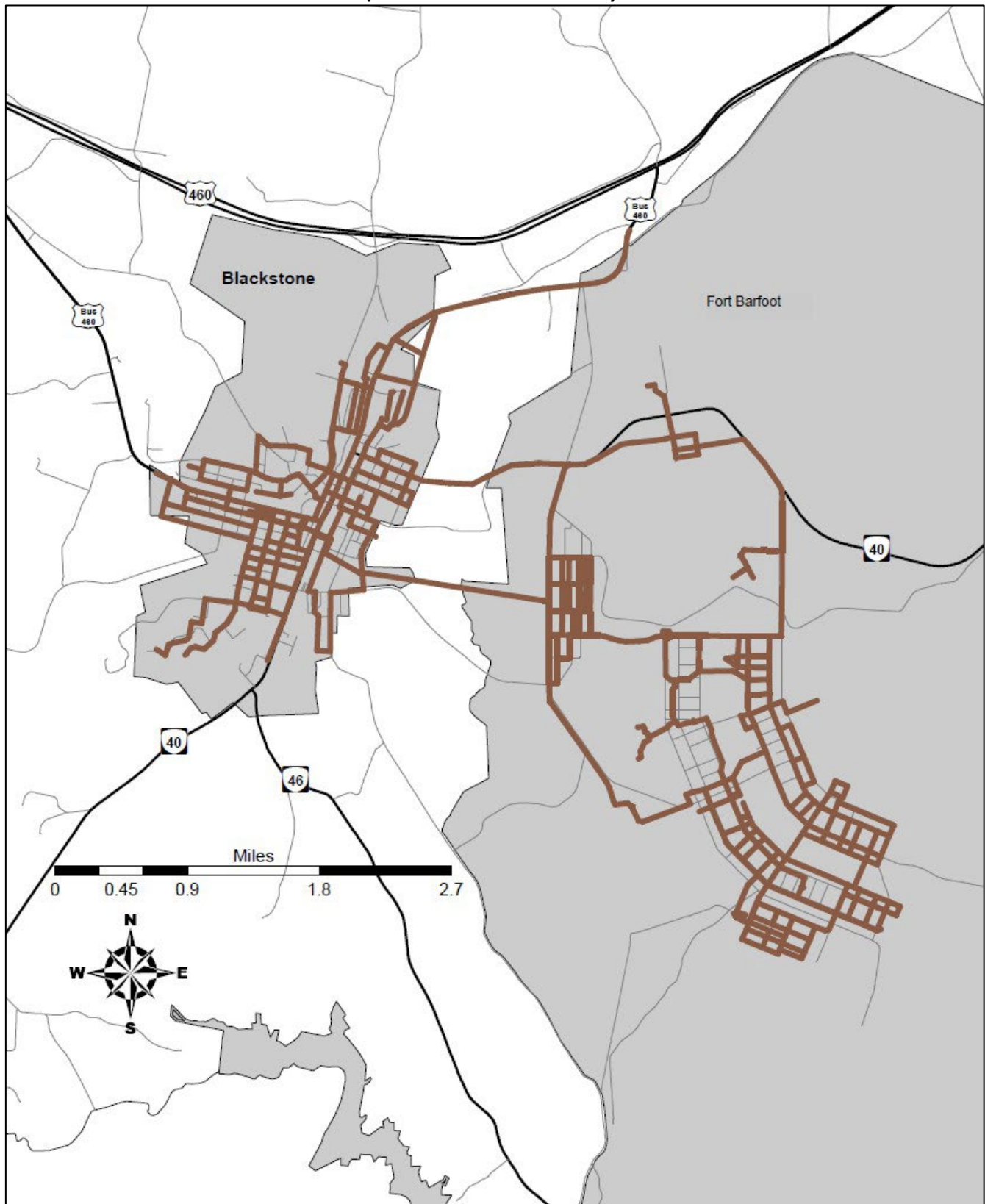
## Map 20a – Blackstone Water System



Source: B&amp;B Consultants, Inc.

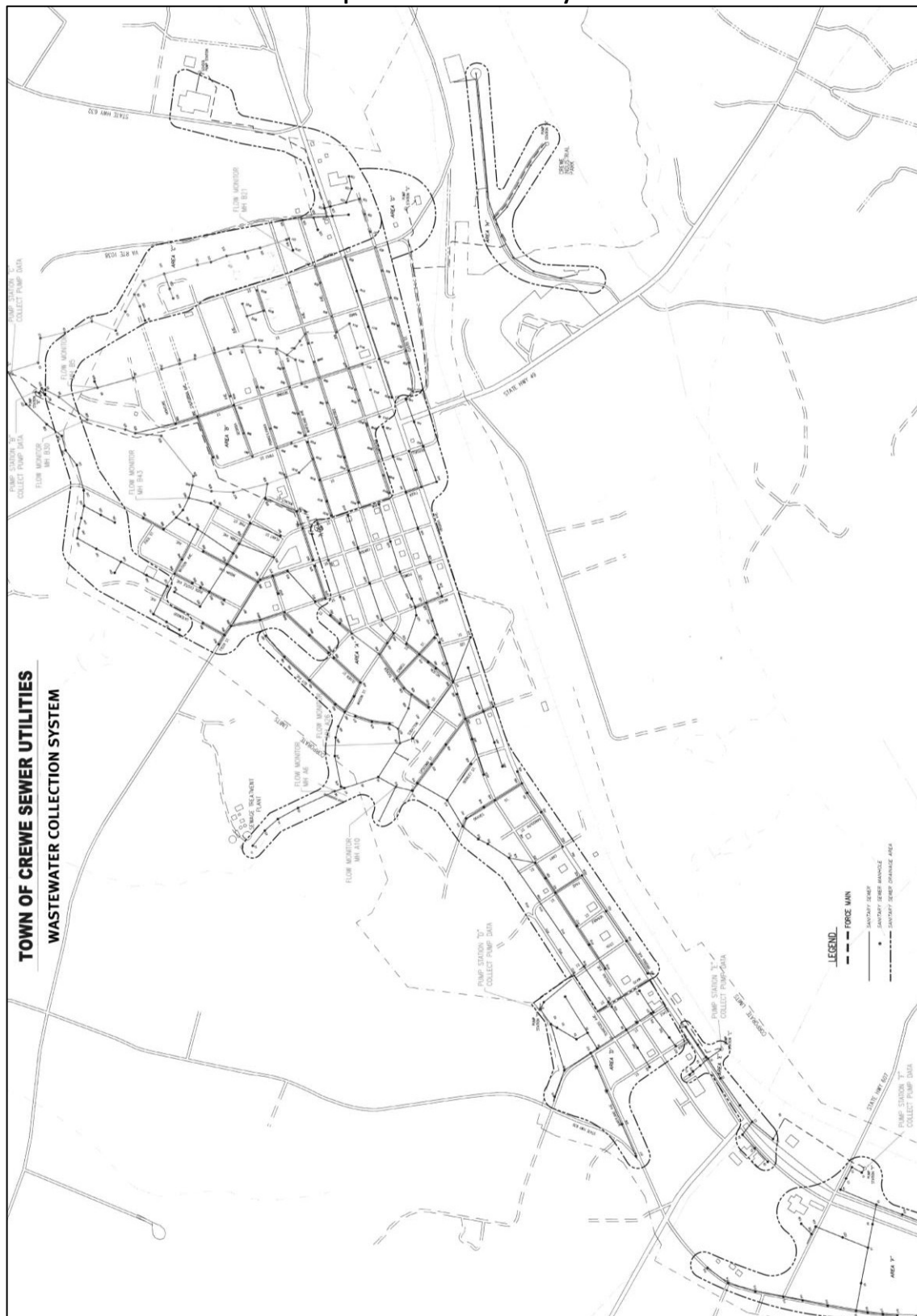
# Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Map 20b – Blackstone Sewer System



Map created by CRC – December 2022 (source: B&B Consultants, Inc.)

### Map 20c – Crewe Sewer System



**Source: Hurt & Proffitt**

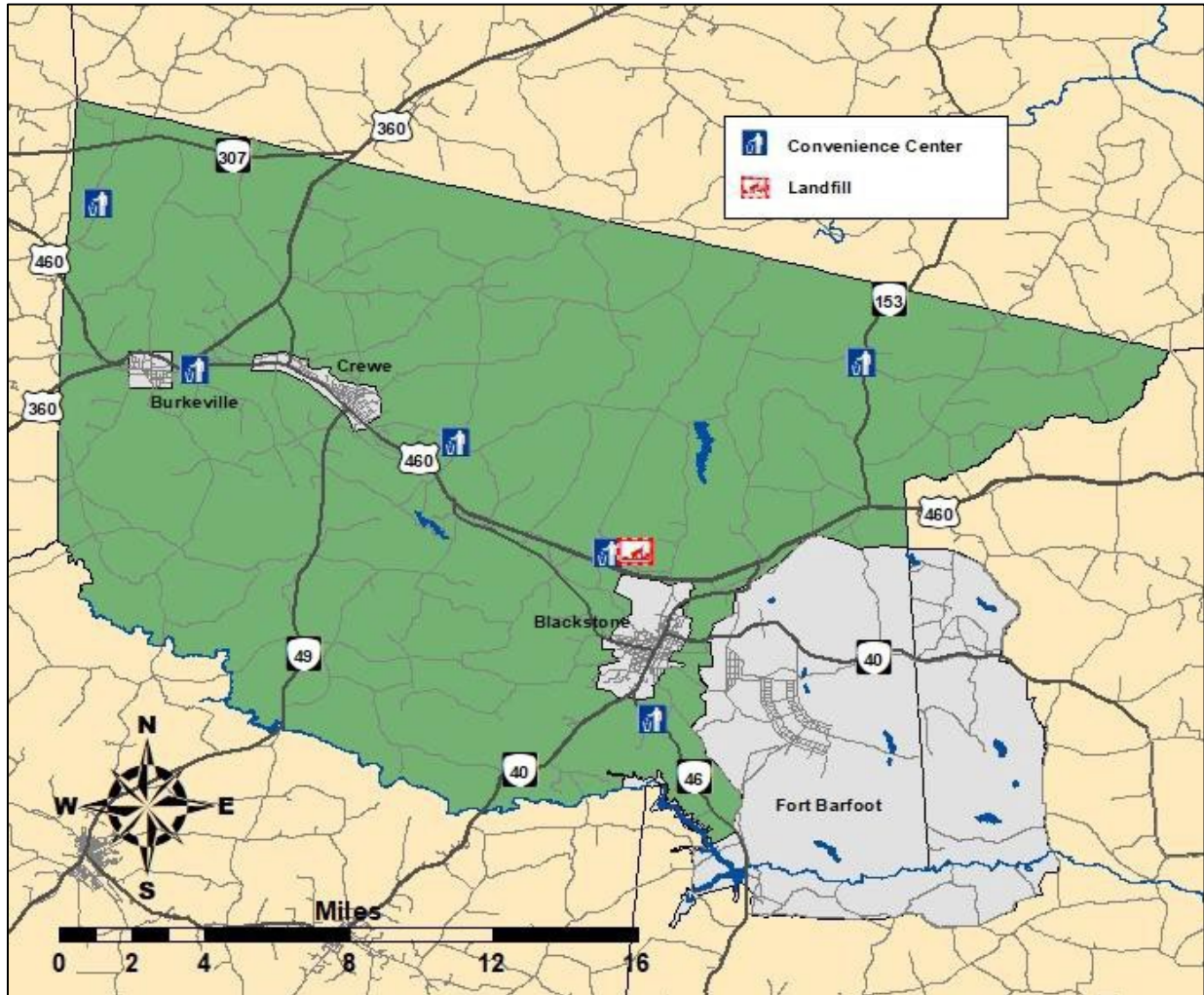


## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

### Solid Waste Collection/Recycling

Nottoway County operates five (5) convenience centers where County residents may bring their household waste and some recyclables for disposal. These centers are managed by the County's Waste Management Department. The County also operates its own landfill, located off of U.S. 460. See Map 21.

**Map 21 – Waste Disposal Sites**



Map created by CRC – November 2021 (revised May 2023)

Source: Nottoway County

The convenience centers are at the following locations:

- 753 Bible Road
- 257 Brunswick Road
- 399 Davis Mill Road
- 325 Livestock Road

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- 200 Lewiston Plank Road
- 1720 South Genito Road

These sites are closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and are open the other days of the week. Saturday hours are 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday hours are 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. Hours for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday are 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. during Standard Time and 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. during Daylight Savings Time.

The Landfill is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The facility is projected to be at capacity between 2025 and 2030. Residents have the ability to take their waste directly to the Landfill. Certain types of waste – tires, appliances, trees/brush, etc. – must be taken to the landfill. Each of the three towns provide trash pick-up for their respective homes and businesses.

### Law Enforcement and Public Safety

The Nottoway County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement protection to the citizens of Nottoway County. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for criminal investigations, calls for service, court room security, and service of the civil process. The Sheriff's Office is staffed by the Sheriff, 17 full-time deputies, and four (4) part-time deputies.

The Emergency Communications Center (ECC) processes 9-1-1 calls and is located at the Sheriff's Office. The ECC staff includes an emergency communications director, nine (9) full-time telecommunicators, and six (6) part-time telecommunicators. Nottoway County inmates are housed at Piedmont Regional Jail in nearby Farmville. The Virginia State Police (VSP) provides traffic enforcement and investigative support for Nottoway County. The incorporated towns of Blackstone, Burkeville, and Crewe have their own police departments and they receive mutual aid response from the VSP and the Nottoway County Sheriff's Office.

### Fire and Rescue

Nottoway County is protected by a coordinated fire and emergency medical services (EMS) system that includes an emergency services coordinator, two (2) all-volunteer fire departments, one (1) combination fire department (consisting of volunteer and paid personnel), one combination EMS agency, and a military fire and EMS department staffed with paid personnel that provides mutual aid response to the County and the Town of Blackstone.

Within this coordinated fire and EMS system of five (5) agencies, the fire protection across Nottoway County is provided by resources at a fire station located in each of the three (3) incorporated towns. The county provides some financial support to those three fire departments, which supplements other funding they receive from their respective towns, the state, donations, and fund-raising activities. Fort Barfoot Fire & Emergency Services, formerly known as Fort Pickett Fire and Rescue, provides fire and EMS response to the military base and is an additional fire and EMS department that provides mutual aid response to the County and the Town of Blackstone when requested.

The Blackstone Volunteer Fire Department has volunteer members and provides fire, hazardous materials response, search and rescue, vehicle extrication, and emergency medical responder services. The department is supported by a junior firefighter program and a ladies' auxiliary section. The Burkeville Fire Department is a combination department that has volunteer members and paid fire/EMS personnel who provide fire, hazardous materials response, search and rescue, emergency medical responder, vehicle

## **Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028**

extrication, and advanced life support (ALS) transport services. The Crewe Volunteer Fire Department has volunteer members and provides fire, hazardous materials response, search and rescue, vehicle extrication, and emergency medical responder services. Fort Barfoot Fire & Emergency Services has paid fire/EMS personnel and provides emergency response to structural, wildland and aircraft fires, hazardous materials, search and rescue, vehicle extrication, and ALS response/transport services.

EMS in Nottoway County is provided in various levels of patient care by all three of the fire departments, a separate EMS agency with two stations, and Fort Barfoot Fire & Emergency Services. Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) level non-transport services are provided by the Blackstone and Crewe Volunteer Fire Departments. ALS response and transport services are provided by the Nottoway County Emergency Squad from EMS station locations in Blackstone and Crewe. Fort Barfoot Fire & Emergency Services also provides ALS response/transport services through mutual aid when requested.

All fire and emergency medical service agencies within Nottoway County operate under mutual aid agreements to provide services when requested, and if the resources are available, to assist each other and neighboring jurisdictions outside of the county.

Nottoway County maintains a hazardous materials response vehicle that is equipped with supplies and specialized equipment to provide “operations level” response to a variety of haz-mat emergencies. Personnel from each of the fire departments in the county are trained to use the equipment in this specialized response unit.

A public safety training center with multiple training props is located just outside of the Blackstone Town Limits off of Route 40. The main prop on these premises is a specialized live fire training structure with multiple floors providing many opportunities for realistic firefighting with search and rescue scenarios. This large concrete and steel structure was constructed with state grant funding and was placed into service in 2006 to provide firefighters in Nottoway County and surrounding areas with a safe facility to train in a variety of situations and building conditions with or without live fire. The training center grounds also provide a drafting pond for fire apparatus pump training and a liquified petroleum gas fire prop for fire attack scenarios.

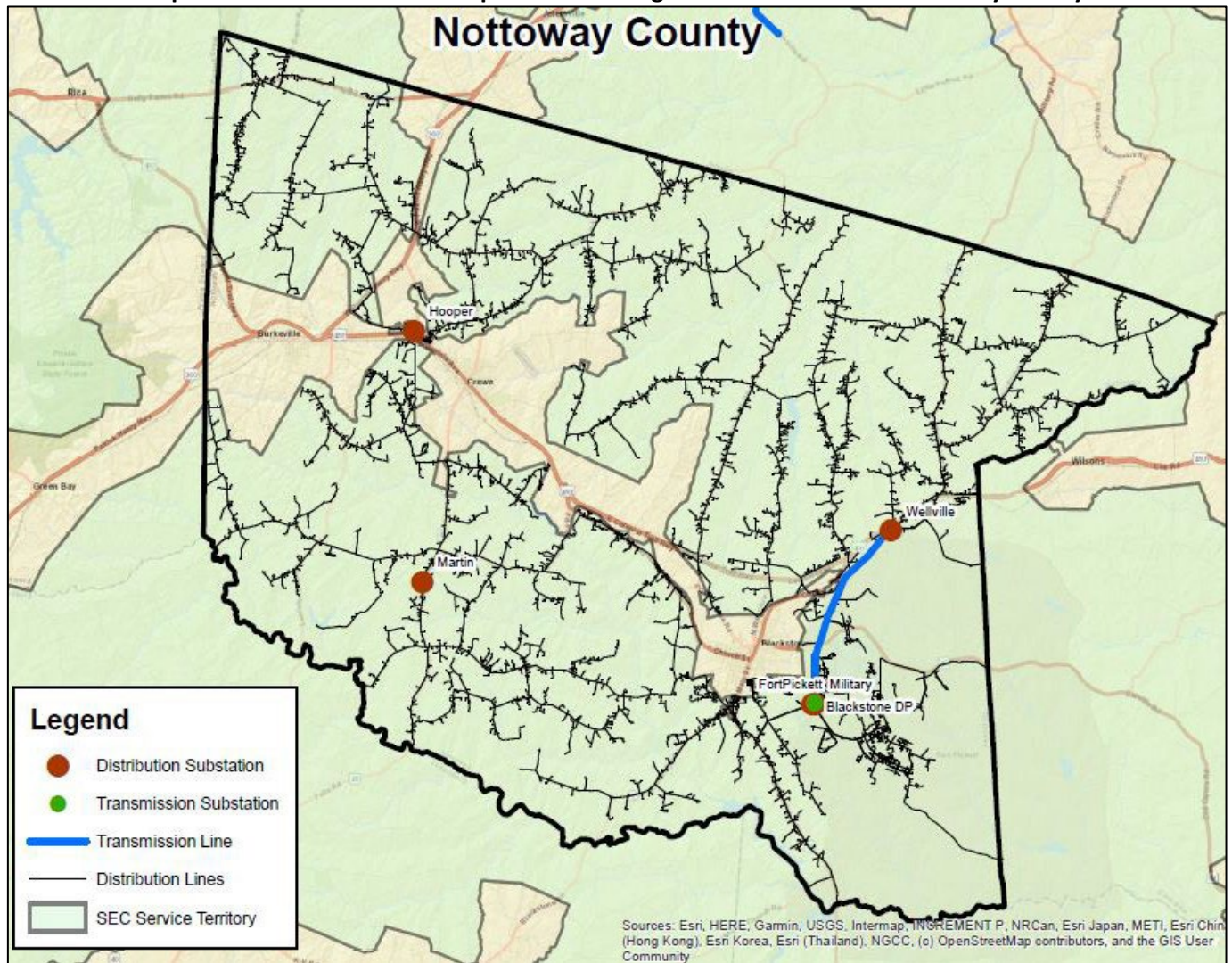
### Electric Services

Nottoway County is serviced by Dominion Virginia Power and Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC). SEC is based in Crewe. Map 22 shows the coverage areas for SEC. The Town of Blackstone has its own electric utility, which provides electricity to town residents.



## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Map 22 – Southside Electric Cooperative Coverage Area in and around Nottoway County



Source: SEC

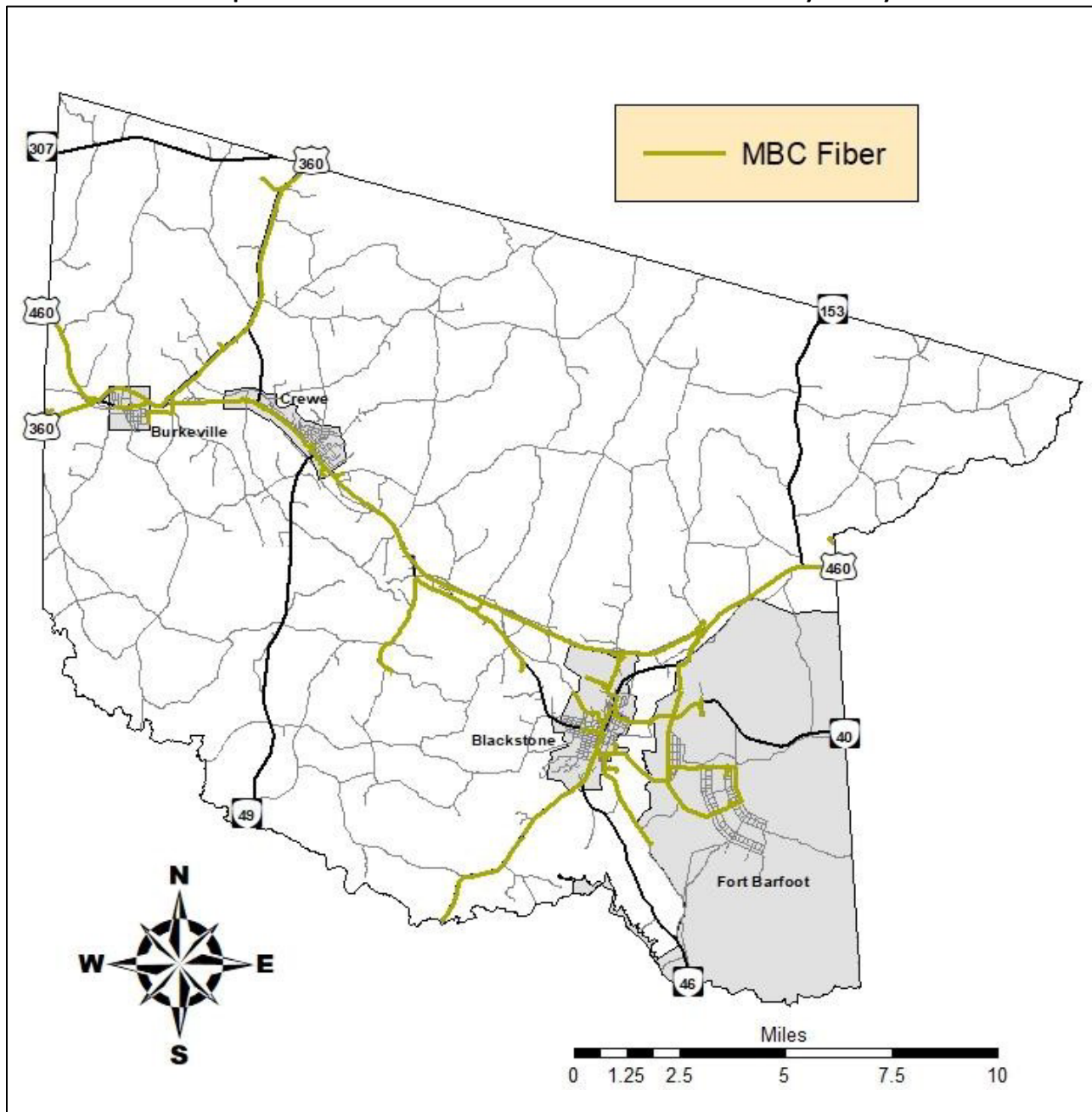
### Telecommunications

Within any community, access to fiber optics is extremely important. The unprecedented growth in telecommunications capacity and in telecommunication applications has changed the way all persons and businesses function. Due to the County's rural nature and limited resources, it is unable to implement the infrastructure necessary for fiber optics on its own. There are a number of Internet/telephone/cell service providers in the County. They include Century Link, Shentel, AT&T, Verizon/Straight Talk, DirectTV, Hughes Net, U.S. Cellular, StraightUpNet, and Mint Mobile.

Nottoway County and the entire region are served by Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC). Using a \$4,000,000 federal matching grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration and a \$4,000,000 grant from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, MBC built an open access 144 strand fiber optic backbone which extends over 300 miles and serves more than 350 businesses, commercial, community colleges and industrial parks in Southside Virginia. See Map 23 for MBC coverage in the County.

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

Map 23 – Mid-Atlantic Broadband Fiber Routes in Nottoway County



Map created by CRC – December 2022 (revised May 2023)

Source: MBC

Additionally, Nottoway County was part of a December 2021 grant award under the Department of Housing and Community Development's Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) program. Nottoway was part of a regional application submitted by West Piedmont Planning District Commission, in affiliation with RiverStreet Networks, to build fiber in unserved locations and achieve universal access for multiple counties across Southside Virginia. This project was awarded more than \$87 million under the VATI program. In August 2022, Nottoway was part of a second regional VATI application submitted by West Piedmont Planning District Commission, in affiliation with RiverStreet Networks, to fill coverage gaps.



## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

### Natural Gas/Fuel Sources

Plantation Pipeline, owned by a partnership between Kinder Morgan and ExxonMobil, has a line that runs through Nottoway County. It moves gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel through the southeastern U.S. from its refineries along the Gulf Coast. The pipeline moves southeast to northeast through Nottoway County, tapping in to other fuel distribution in the City of Richmond and points north. Plantation Pipeline has a pumping station in Crewe. See Map 24.

**Map 24 – Plantation Pipeline**



Source: [viriniaplaces.org](http://viriniaplaces.org)

### Recreation

Nottoway County residents and youth can participate in local sports through either local youth organizations or the public-school systems. The Nottoway Youth Recreation Association (NYRA) was created by a merger of the Blackstone Recreational Association and the Crewe-Burkeville Recreation Association. The NYRA organizes sports activities for young people ages 3 to 18. The Association uses lighted fields in Blackstone and fields in Burkeville and Crewe. It sponsors soccer, T-ball, basketball, and Dixie Youth baseball and softball. The Nottoway Gators sponsor youth football and cheerleading.

Nottoway County has two nine-hole golf courses, the Nottoway River Country Club just south of Blackstone and the Crewe Country Club (located along Crewe's eastern Corporate Limits). Both are open for membership. Both facilities have swimming pools and clubhouse facilities in addition to the golf courses. The Nottoway River Country Club also has tennis courts.

Nottoway County has several public lakes available for boating, fishing, swimming, and picnicking. They include: Nottoway Lake (Lee Lake), located on 175 acres and operated by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (formerly known as the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries); Crystal Lake,

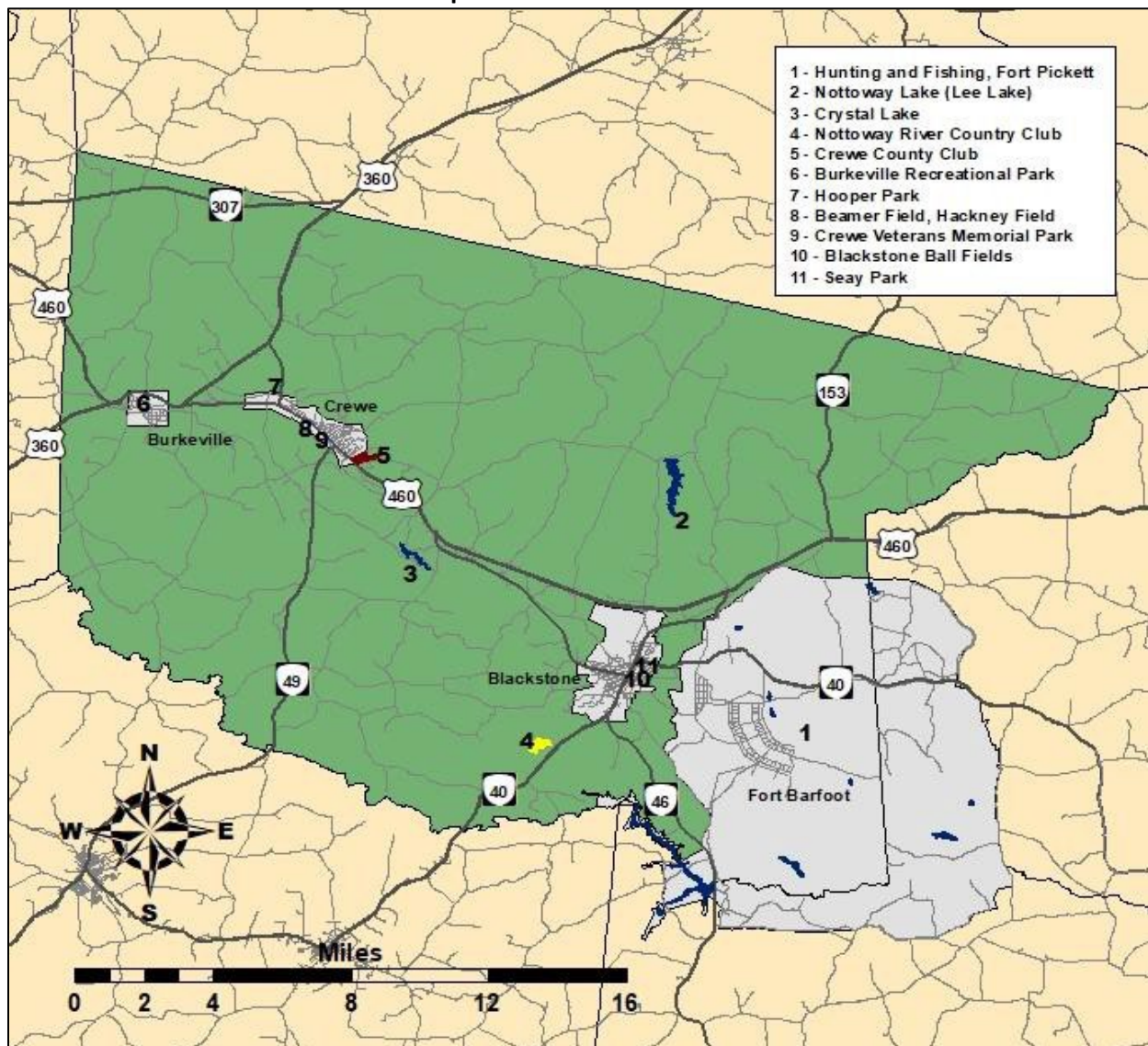
## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

on 52 acres and owned and operated by the Town of Crewe; and multiple lakes at Fort Barfoot including the Fort Pickett reservoir (located on 348 acres along the Nottoway River).

The Crewe Veterans Memorial Park is located adjacent to Beamer Field and Hackney Field in Crewe. It consists of three parts that provide citizens with various recreation and education opportunities. The facilities include two volleyball courts, a fitness trail, gazebo, picnic tables, barbecue pits, and the Crewe Railroad Museum. Hooper Park in Crewe is owned by Southside Electric Cooperative, and is available for rental from May through September. Seay Park in Blackstone has a gazebo, benches, and open space in proximity to businesses in downtown Blackstone.

Map 25 shows the locations of the different recreation facilities in the County.

**Map 25 – Recreation Facilities**



Map created by CRC – October 2021 (revised May 2023)

Source: Nottoway County, VDWR

## **Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028**

### Civic Organizations

Nottoway County has many civic clubs and organizations for children and adults. Some, but not all, are listed below:

- Piedmont Habitat for Humanity (serves Nottoway County).
- Nottoway County 4-H.
- Nottoway Lions Club.
- American Legion Posts 0040 and 0050.
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts 5313, 7897, and 7819.
- Kiwanis Club of Crewe.
- Burkeville Ruritan Club.
- Blackstone Chamber of Commerce.
- Crewe-Burkeville Chamber of Commerce.
- Masonic Lodges 79, 123, and 147.
- Scouts of America and Girl Scouts.
- Nottoway Civic League

### Festivals/Community Events

- Burkefest: Traditionally held the last Saturday in October before Halloween.
- Crewe Homecoming: Held the third weekend in May.
- Blackstone Juneteenth celebration: Held the last Saturday in June.
- Blackstone Independence Day Fireworks: Held July 3.
- Blackstone Arts & Crafts Festival: Held the weekend after Labor Day.
- Blackstone Oktoberfest: Traditionally held in October.
- Blackstone Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing: Held in October.
- Blackstone Trick-or-Treating: Held the Saturday before Halloween.
- Blackstone Bull Blast Rodeo: Traditionally held in October.



## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

- Blackstone Grant illumination, Seay Park: Held the day after Thanksgiving.
- Blackstone Christmas Parade: Held the second Friday of December.
- Burkeville Christmas Parade:
- Crewe Christmas Parade: Held the first Thursday in December.

### Commerce

Businesses within the County include a Food Lion (in Blackstone), a Walmart (in Blackstone), hardware stores, general merchandise stores, convenience stores, Virginia ABC Stores, a dance studio, florists, and various service-related businesses (insurance, attorneys, auto sales/repair, medical, food, gas/oil, and banking). Because of the location of Nottoway County, the Richmond and Petersburg metropolitan areas and Farmville are popular destinations for residents when shopping for goods and services.

### **D. Historical Sites**

#### Introduction

Many historic sites exist throughout Nottoway County. Of these, some have been placed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. Through the enhancement of the assets comes tourism via economic development.

#### Local Historical Sites (source: Virginia Department of Historic Resources)

- Blackstone Historic District: Encompasses multiple blocks in the downtown area of Blackstone, and includes a full range of small-town American building types. The Town grew up around Schwartz Tavern, a late-18th-century landmark (see below). Concentrated building in Blackstone started after 1881 with the formation of the Norfolk and Western Railway system. The Town, formerly Black's and White's, was incorporated with its new name (Blackstone) in 1888 and became a leading tobacco market. The commercial area preserves a display of early 1900s facades. The large residential neighborhood south and west of the Central Business District was developed after 1900 by the Blackstone Land and Improvement Co. It contains a broad range of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival dwellings, along with four churches and the former Blackstone College for Girls.
- Schwartz Tavern (Blackstone): Located in Blackstone's Historic District, it is the oldest building in the Town. The building was erected in three (3) sections. The construction dates of each section are uncertain, but the property on which the building stands was deeded to John Schwartz in 1790. Schwartz was granted a license to operate an ordinary on the site in 1789. Tradition has it that the town derives its name from his last name, which is German for "black." Although the building stood in neglected condition for years, it preserves a remarkable amount of early fabric including beaded weatherboards, original window sashes, and Federal mantels. The Anderson family donated the property to the Town in 1977, and the building has since undergone a complete restoration. Today, the building is used as the offices for the Blackstone Chamber of Commerce.
- Burke's Tavern (near Burkeville): Located near Burkeville, this historic inn and tavern was built in the 1820s. It is a one-story frame building set upon a ground-level brick basement. The building

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

has a central hall, single pile plan. It features brick exterior end chimneys. Near the end of the Civil War in 1865, the Union Brigadier General Thomas Alfred Smyth of Delaware – who was wounded at the Battle of High Bridge – was brought to the house, where he died on April 9, 1865. Smyth was the last Union general to be killed in the war.

- Hyde Park: A former tobacco plantation dating to the late 1700s, Hyde Park was purchased in 1938 by Richmond department store owner William B. Thalheimer to create a training farm for Jewish students of the German agricultural Gross Breesen Institute who sought escape from Nazi Germany. Between 1938 and early 1941, about 30 Jewish immigrants lived and worked there. The property today retains its large main residence, which dates to the late 1700s, with Greek Revival and Colonial Revival style wings added in the 19th- and early-20th-centuries.
- Inverness (near Burkeville): Inverness was constructed in four stages beginning in about 1800 and culminated in the porticoed “Old South” icon achieved circa 1907. Until the end of the Civil War, Inverness was owned by the Dickenson family and grew from a modest Nottoway County farm to one worked by more than 25 slaves. The home’s historic significance is centered around its owner, Samuel McLean, who purchased the property after the Civil war. McLean took part in the California Gold Rush, served in the territorial government of Colorado, and was in Montana’s first delegation to the U.S. Congress. He is said to have named Montana’s capital Helena for his daughter Helen.
- Little Mountain Pictograph Site: This site features a single human hand print, a possible “sun glyph,” and a solitary “turkey foot.” All are painted in red ocher and probably date to the Late Woodland period (ca. A.D. 900 – A.D. 1600). The pictographs reflect Native American artistic and symbolic expression rarely occurring in eastern America as painted images. The pictographs also provide insight into a poorly understood aspect of regional settlement patterns. These pictographs in Nottoway County belong to a class of archaeological resources whose rarity makes them significant at the national level.
- Millbrook: This well-preserved farmstead was once typical in Nottoway County and the Southside Virginia region during the 19th century. The 110-acre property also includes a grouping of restored and reconstructed 19th-century agricultural outbuildings—a dairy, smokehouse, kitchen, and hay barn—and known and potential archaeological resources that are important in telling the story of the area’s 19th-century settlement and development.
- Mountain Hall: Located near Crewe, this was the home of physician Dr. James Jones (1772-1848), a leading Southside Virginian of his generation. He served in the Virginia militia as surgeon general during the War of 1812, and for two terms in the U.S. Congress. He also served in the Virginia General Assembly at different times and supported the efforts of Thomas Jefferson to found the University of Virginia
- Nottoway County Courthouse: An excellent display of Thomas Jefferson architecture, the courthouse was completed in 1843 on the site of the 1798 courthouse that it replaced. The Courthouse was built by Branch H. Ellington. Union soldiers camped here on April 5, 1865 during which time many county records were destroyed. The Courthouse itself especially the exterior, remains remarkably well preserved.

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

- Oakridge: Built in Nottoway County circa 1800, Oakridge is a typical and well-preserved example of a residence of a prosperous planter of Virginia's southern Piedmont. Although the house appears to have been built in two sections, the one-story wing is part of the original construction. The main rooms are ornamented with paneled wainscoting and paneled chimneypieces framed by fluted pilasters. A special interior feature of Oakridge is the Chinese lattice stair railing, a stylish device sometimes found in finer Federal-style houses in southern Virginia.

In addition to those sites, the WSVS Historic Radio Museum in Crewe has been nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

### Regional Historic Initiatives

In March, 1993, Virginia's Retreat was organized to explore ways that the Counties of Amelia, Appomattox, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Nottoway and Prince Edward and the City of Petersburg, could work together to promote the region's rich abundance of natural and historical resources. Representatives of these localities, working closely with the Virginia Division of Tourism, the Virginia Division of State Parks and the National Park Service, held a planning retreat in April 1993, to design a strategy for accomplishing the Consortium's mission—increase tourism and economic development activity in this region of Virginia.

Virginia's Retreat, now known as Virginia's Crossroads, has continued its successful mission of increasing tourism, economic activity and quality of life in the participating Southside Virginia localities through the promotion, preservation, enhancement and education of the region's natural, recreational and historic resources.

One of those successful regional historic initiatives is the Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail (see Map 24). In March 2004, Virginia's Crossroads kicked off the grand opening of the trail – which is modeled after the successful Lee's Retreat Trail and the Wilson-Kautz Raid Driving Trail. Instead of focusing on the Civil War, the Heritage Trail highlights contributions made to bring equal education to all Americans.

The trail includes 53 sites throughout 13 counties (including Nottoway County) and the Cities of Petersburg and Emporia that describe the history of education in Southside Virginia. The self-guided driving tour allows you to enjoy the trail at your own pace, letting you linger longer at some stops and pass by others, if time is short. Because the trail is not linear or chronological, it can be started and ended at any point. Once you begin, follow the Civil Rights in Education trail blazing signs from one stop to the next.

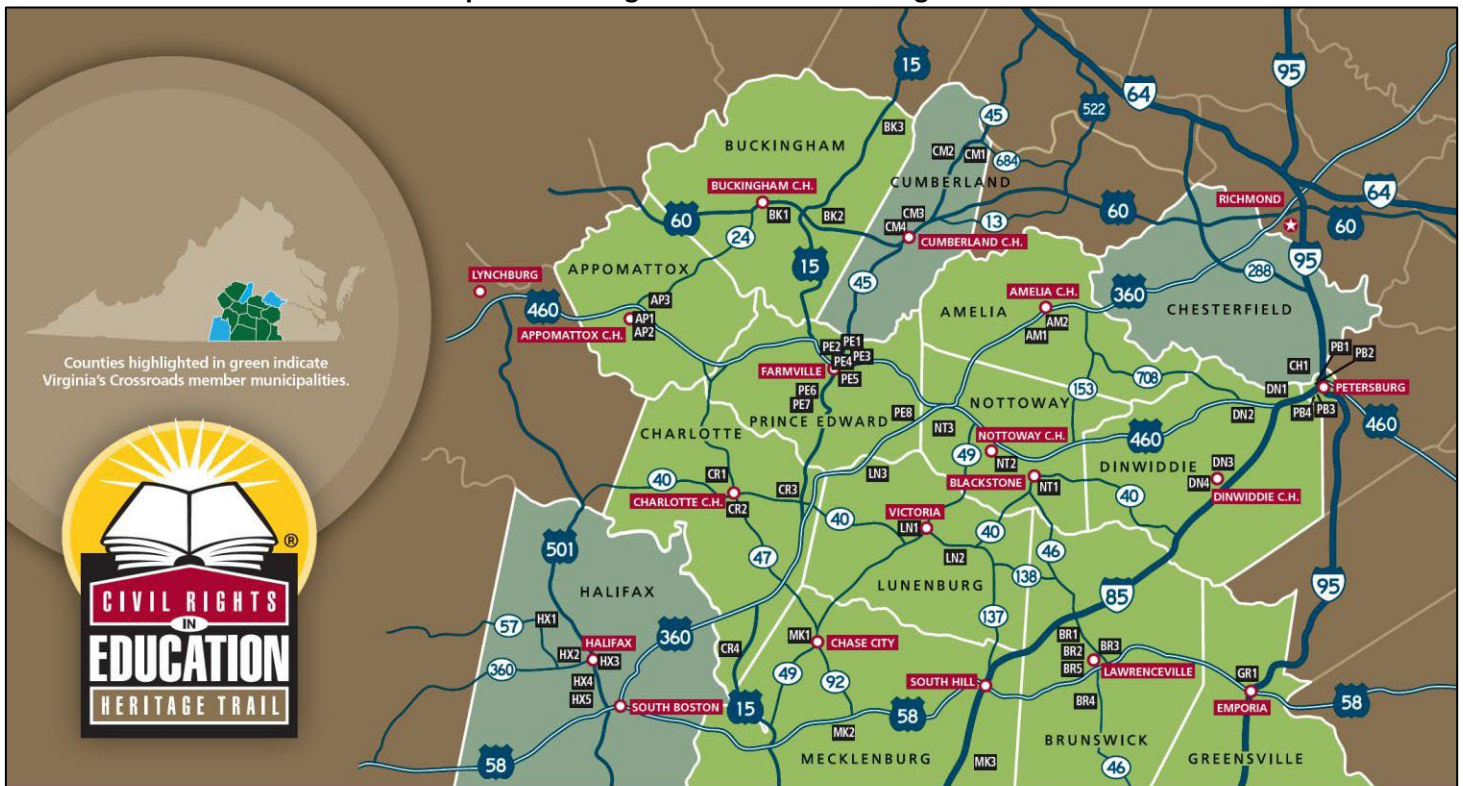
The Trail has more than 50 stops, with three (3) in Nottoway County (see Map 26 and Map 26a):

- Blackstone Female Institute (located in Blackstone).
- Mount Nebo Church (located just west of Blackstone).
- Ingleside Training Institute (located in Burkeville).



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Map 26 – Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail



## AMELIA COUNTY

- AM1 Russell Grove Presbyterian Church and School  
8701 Otterburn Road, Amelia, VA 23002
- AM2 Mrs. Samantha Jane Neil  
16501 Church Street, Amelia, VA 23002

## APPOMATTOX COUNTY

- AP1 Winonah Camp / Mozella Price Home  
102 Carver Lane, Appomattox, VA 24522
- AP2 Carver-Price School  
102 Carver Lane, Appomattox, VA 24522
- AP3 The First African American School in Appomattox  
Near 2623 Old Courthouse Road, Appomattox, VA 24522

## BRUNSWICK COUNTY

- BR1 Southside Virginia Community College  
Christanna Campus  
109 Campus Drive, Alberta, VA 23917
- BR2 Oak Grove School  
22331 Christanna Highway, Lawrenceville, VA 23868
- BR3 Saint Paul's College and James Solomon  
Russell-Saint Paul's College Museum  
100 Athletic Field Road, Lawrenceville, VA 23868
- BR4 Fort Christanna Historical Site  
3875 Fort Hill Road, Lawrenceville, VA 23868
- BR5 Hospital and School of the Good Shepherd  
236 Pleasant Grove Road, Brodnax, VA 23930

## BUCKINGHAM COUNTY

- BK1 One-Room Schoolhouse  
On Lee Wayside Road, Buckingham, VA 23921
- BK2 Buckingham Training School  
Stephen J. Ellis Elementary School  
for African Americans  
245 Camden Street, Dillwyn, VA 23936
- BK3 Carter G. Woodson Birthplace  
Near 2325 C.G. Woodson Road, New Canton, VA 23123

## CHARLOTTE COUNTY

- CR1 Central High School  
515 Thomas Jefferson Highway,  
Charlotte Court House, VA 23923
- CR2 Charlotte County Library  
112 LeGrande Avenue, Charlotte Court House, VA 23923
- CR3 Southside Virginia Community College  
John H. Daniel Campus  
200 Daniel Road, Keysville, VA 23947
- CR4 Salem School  
4050 Salem School Road, Red Oak, VA 23964

## DINWIDDIE COUNTY

- DN1 Southside Virginia Training Center  
26317 W. Washington Street, Petersburg, VA 23803
- DN2 Rocky Branch School  
Near 6009 Rocky Branch Road, Sutherland, VA 23885
- DN3 Early Education in Dinwiddie County  
14101 Boydton Plank Road, Dinwiddie, VA 23841
- DN4 Southside High School  
12318 Boydton Plank Road, Dinwiddie, VA 23841

Note: Although there are locations you can visit in the counties listed below, they are currently not active members of Virginia's Crossroads.

## CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

- CH1 Virginia State University  
On Matthews Jefferson Dr. at East River Rd., VSU, VA 23806

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY

- CM1 Rosenwald School at Cartersville  
2018 Cartersville Road, Cartersville, VA 23027
- CM2 Hamilton High School  
1921 Cartersville Road, Cartersville, VA 23027
- CM3 Jackson Davis  
1490 Anderson Highway, Cumberland, VA 23040
- CM4 Cumberland Educational Advancement  
Center & Community Center  
1874 Anderson Highway, Cumberland, VA 23040

## CITY OF EMPORIA / GREENSVILLE COUNTY

- GR1 Greenville County Training School  
115 Ruffin Street, Emporia, VA 23847

## LUNENBURG COUNTY

- LN1 The Peoples Community Center  
1021 Tidewater Avenue, Victoria, VA 23974
- LN2 Lunenburg County Training School  
50 K-V Road, Victoria, VA 23974
- LN3 St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
Christian Day School  
1364 Free State Road, Meherrin, VA 23954

## MECKLENBURG COUNTY

- MK1 Thyne Institute  
Near 5120 Highway 47, Chase City, VA 23924
- MK2 Boydton Academic and Bible Institute  
Near 18078 Highway 58, Boydton, VA 23917
- MK3 St. Mark's Episcopal Church & Carroll-Boyd School  
3906 Highway 903, Bracey, VA 23919

## HALIFAX COUNTY

- HX1 Meadville Community Center  
7114 Chatham Road, Nathalie, VA 24577
- HX2 L.E. Coleman African American Museum  
Mountain Road School No. 1  
3011 Mountain Road, Halifax, VA 24558
- HX3 Mary M. Bethune High School  
1030 Mary Bethune Street, Halifax, VA 24558
- HX4 Washington-Coleman Elementary School  
1927 Jeffers Boulevard, South Boston, VA 24592
- HX5 Mizpah Presbyterian Church  
308 Ragland Street, South Boston, VA 24592

## NOTTOWAY COUNTY

- NT1 Blackstone Female Institute  
Fourth Street at South Amelia Avenue, Blackstone, VA 23824
- NT2 Mt. Nebo Church  
Near 515 Mt. Nebo Road, Blackstone, VA 23824
- NT3 Ingleside Training Institute  
Near 507 Miller Street, Burkeville, VA 23922

## CITY OF PETERSBURG

- PB1 Earliest Known Public High School for  
African Americans in Virginia  
Near 421 Harrison Street, Petersburg, VA 23803
- PB2 McKenney Library  
137 South Sycamore Street, Petersburg, VA 23803
- PB3 The Peabody-Williams School  
629 South Jones Street, Petersburg, VA 23803
- PB4 Bishop Payne Divinity School  
401 S West Street, Petersburg, VA 23803

## PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

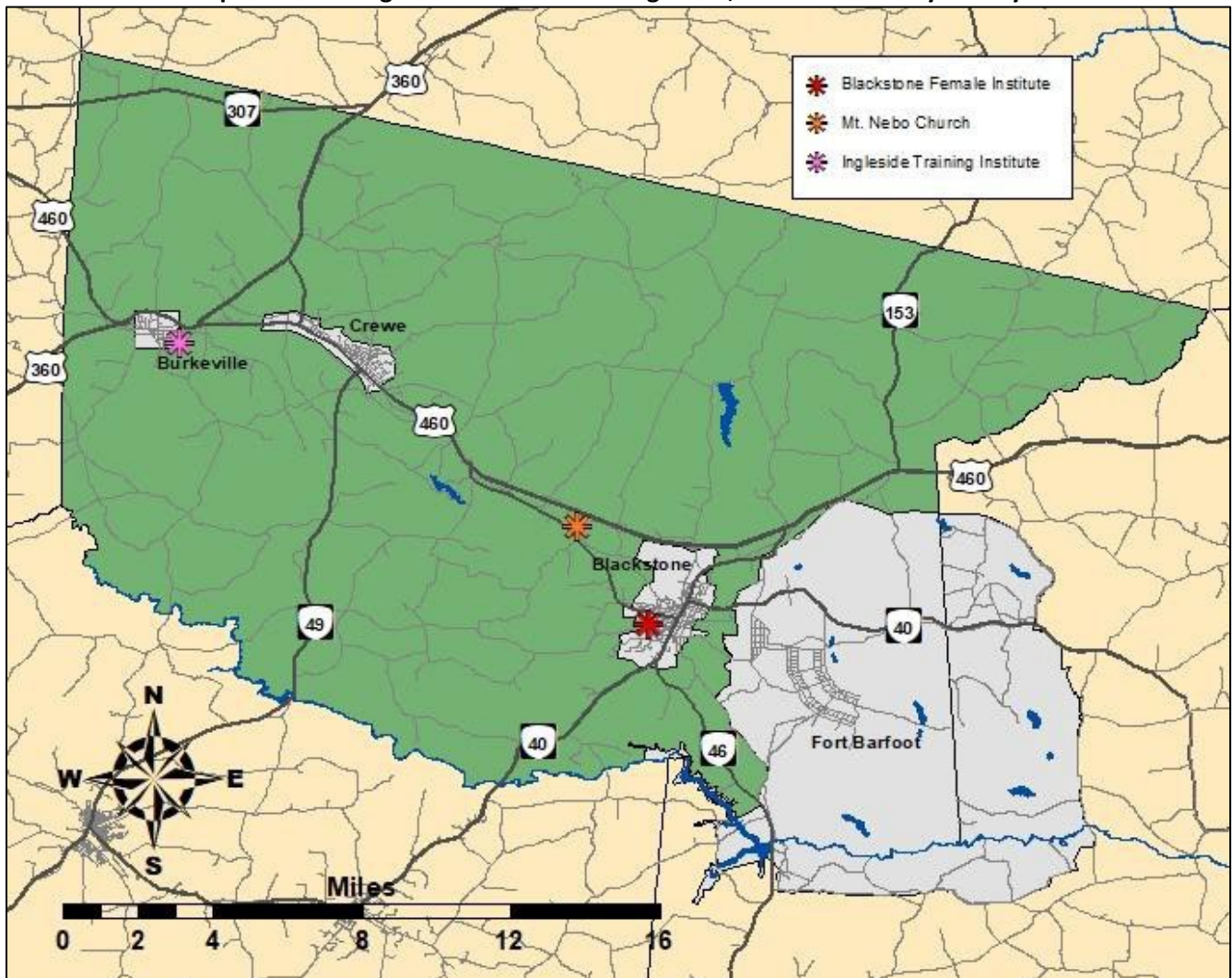
- PE1 First Baptist Church  
100 South Main Street, Farmville, VA 23901
- PE2 Beulah AME Church  
115 South Main Street, Farmville, VA 23901
- PE3 Farmville Female Seminary Association  
On High Street, in front of Ruffner Hall, Farmville, VA 23901
- PE4 R.R. Moton High School  
900 Griffin Boulevard, Farmville, VA 23901
- PE5 Prince Edward County Public Schools  
Near 1499 Zion Hill Road, Farmville, VA 23901
- PE6 Hampden-Sydney College  
Opposite Everett Stadium on College Road,  
Hampden Sydney, VA 23943
- PE7 The Beneficial Benevolent Society of the  
Loving Sisters and Brothers of Hampden Sydney  
99 Kingsville Road, Farmville, VA 23901
- PE8 Prince Edward State Park for Negroes  
788 Twin Lakes Road, Green Bay, VA 23942

Source: [CRIEHT Brochure | Virginia's Crossroads \(vacrossroads.com\)](https://www.vacrossroads.com/)



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Map 26a – Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail, Sites in Nottoway County



Map created by CRC: November 2021 (revised May 2023)

Source: [CRIEHT Brochure](#) | [Virginia's Crossroads \(vacrossroads.com\)](#)

### E. Natural Resources

#### Land Surface

Nottoway County is located in the Virginia Piedmont, which is largely characterized by rolling hills and numerous ridges near the boundary with the Blue Ridge Mountains. Lying between the mountain and coastal plain regions, the piedmont region is a naturally diverse landscape. The bedrock consists mostly of gneiss, schist and granite rocks at a typical depth of between 2 and 10 feet. Soils developed from these rocks and minerals form acid, infertile soils, with sandy loam surfaces. Many of the clayey subsoils are red or yellowish red due to the oxidized iron weathered from the primary minerals. Natural fertility is low; however, these soils respond well to liming and fertilization.

Historically, much of the Piedmont region was cleared and farmed intensively, causing extreme erosion over much of the region. Before modern soil fertility and managerial practices were adapted to these soils, agricultural production diminished and most farms reverted to forests. Over two thirds of this region is



## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

wooded today. The best soils are still agriculturally productive through well managed soil fertility and erosion control plans. The region contains several areas and stretches of land which are of relatively high agricultural value.

### Climate

Nottoway County has warm summers, relatively cool winters, and normally adequate rainfall. The growing season is approximately 190 days, long enough to allow maturity of a wide variety of crops. The pasture season is slightly longer, but winter months are cold enough to require feed and shelter for livestock. Monthly average precipitation amounts vary greatly from year to year for any given month.

As Nottoway County is less than 150 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, remnants of hurricanes or tropical storms may pass over the county from the east or south, occasionally causing flooding and wind damage.

The data from the National Weather Service in Figure 33 is for Fort Barfoot, formerly known as Fort Pickett, as it was not available for Nottoway County as a whole, and is based on monthly and yearly averages between 1991 and 2020.

**Figure 33 – Climate Data (Averages), Fort Barfoot, 1991-2020**

Criteria	Data
Annual Average Rainfall	46.84 inches
Annual Average Snowfall	3.3 inches
Annual Average Temperature	57.6 °F
January Average High Temperature	48.2 °F
January Average Low Temperature	26.5 °F
July Average High Temperature	87.7 °F
July Average Low Temperature	67.8 °F
Month with Highest Average Rainfall	July – 4.43 inches
Month with Lowest Average Rainfall	February – 2.86 inches
Month with Highest Average Snowfall	January – 1.5 inches

Source: National Weather Service

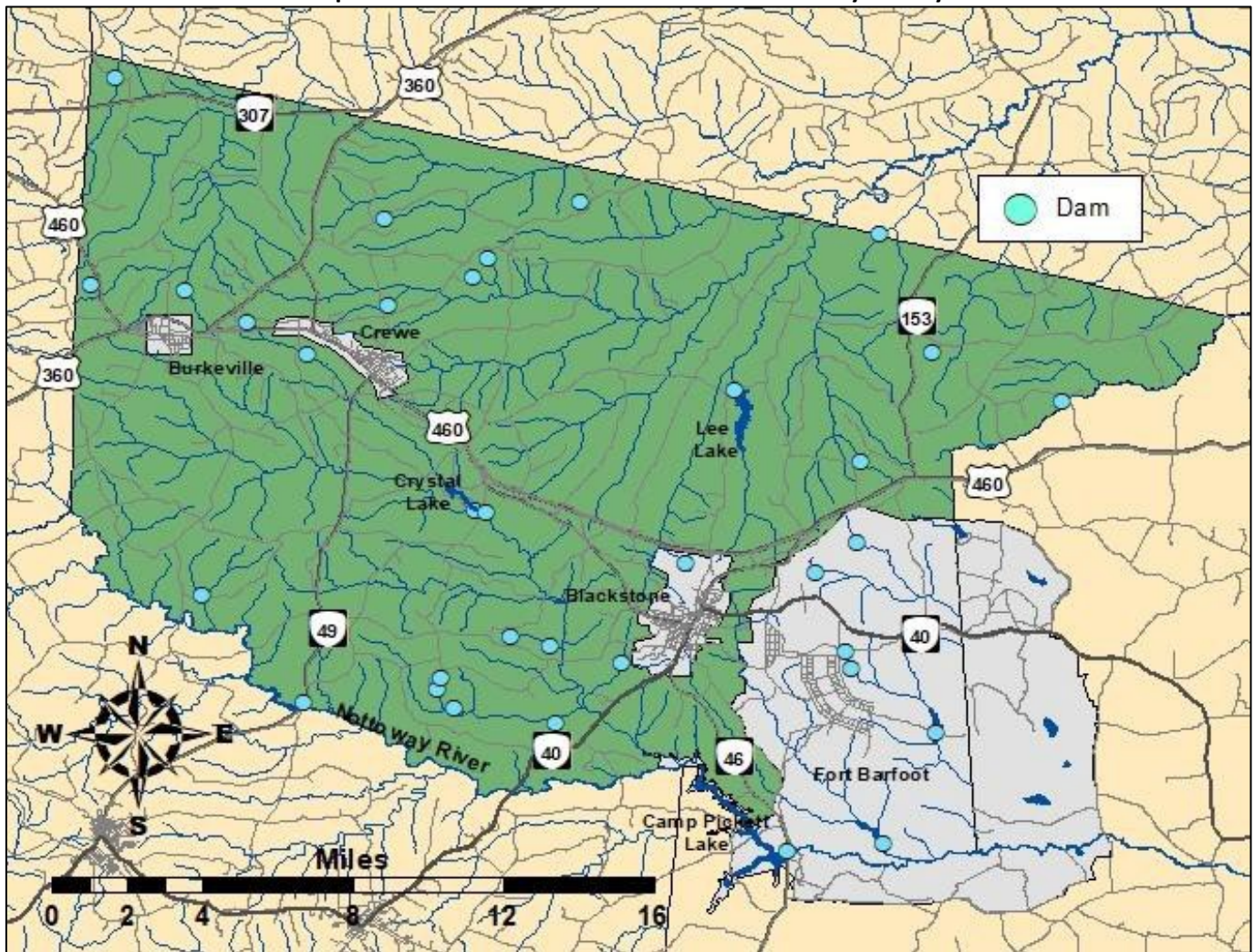
### Rivers and Watershed Dams

The Nottoway River forms the southern border of Nottoway County. It is designated by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation as a state scenic river. It winds through Southside Virginia down into North Carolina, emptying into the Albemarle Sound. A number of creeks and tributaries flow south into the Nottoway River. A number of creeks and tributaries also flow north into the Appomattox River, which empties in to the James River and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

Map 27 shows rivers and watershed dams in the County. The data was provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Dam Safety and Inventory Division.

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Map 27 – Rivers and Watershed Dams in Nottoway County



Map created by CRC – October 2021 (revised May 2023)

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Inventory of Dams, Virginia DWR

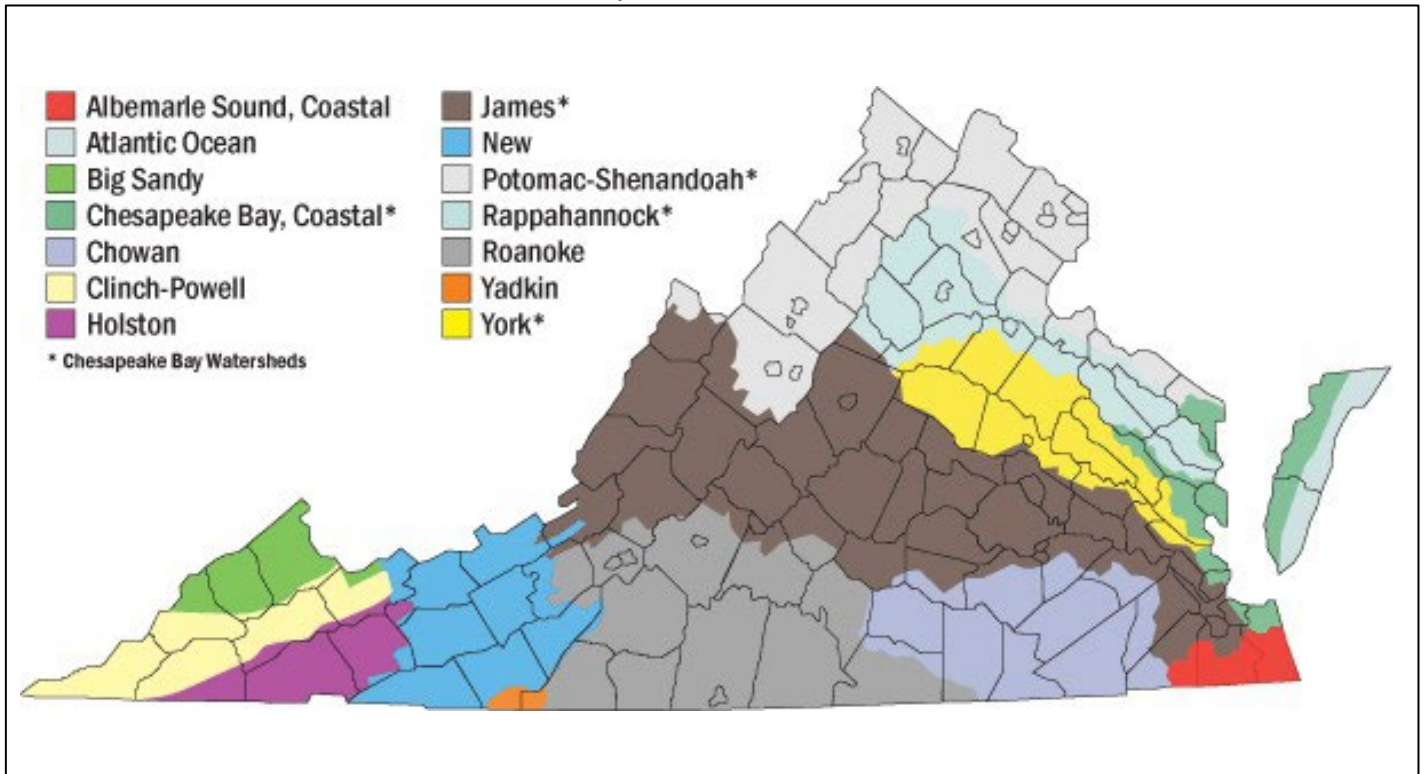
### Watersheds

Nottoway County is split between two watersheds. See Map 28. The northern part of the County is within the James River watershed. The James River headwaters begin in Bath County, and the river generally flows east-southeast into the Chesapeake Bay near Hampton and Norfolk. The James River watershed encompasses multiple counties in the Allegheny Highlands, Shenandoah Valley, Central Virginia, and the Tidewater area.

The southern half of the County, most of the areas south of U.S. 460, is located within the Chowan watershed. The Nottoway River headwaters begin in Lunenburg and Prince Edward Counties. It runs southeast to its confluence with the Blackwater River near the Virginia-North Carolina line, forming the Chowan River. From there, the Chowan River continues due south into the Albemarle Sound. The Chowan watershed covers all or part of 12 counties in Southside Virginia, including Nottoway, and a handful of counties in northeastern North Carolina.

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Map 28 - Watersheds



Source: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Website  
<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/wsheds>

## Soils/Farmland

Nottoway County contains a wide variety of soils, with agricultural productivity ratings ranging from very good to very poor. A county-wide soil survey and analysis is found in the publication Soil Survey – Nottoway County Virginia, United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, July 1960. Figure 34 gives a breakdown of farmland in Nottoway County. The different types of soils in Nottoway County are denoted in Map 29.

Figure 34 – Farmland, Nottoway County (2017)

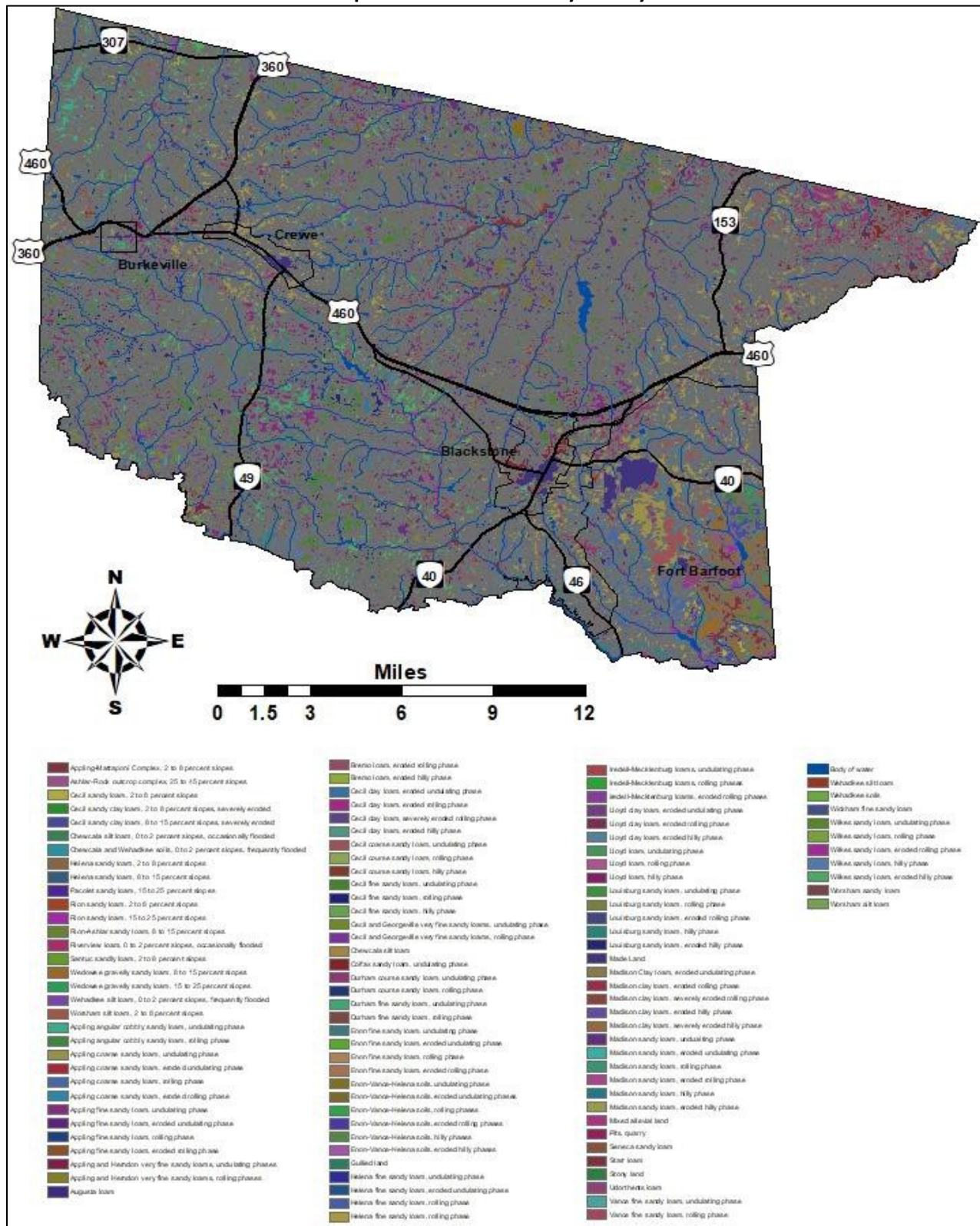
Classification	Amount
Total Land in farms	50,390 acres
Cropland	20,103 acres
Woodland	16,353 acres
Pastureland	13,617 acres

Source: USDA Natural Agriculture Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture



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Map 29 – Soils in Nottoway County



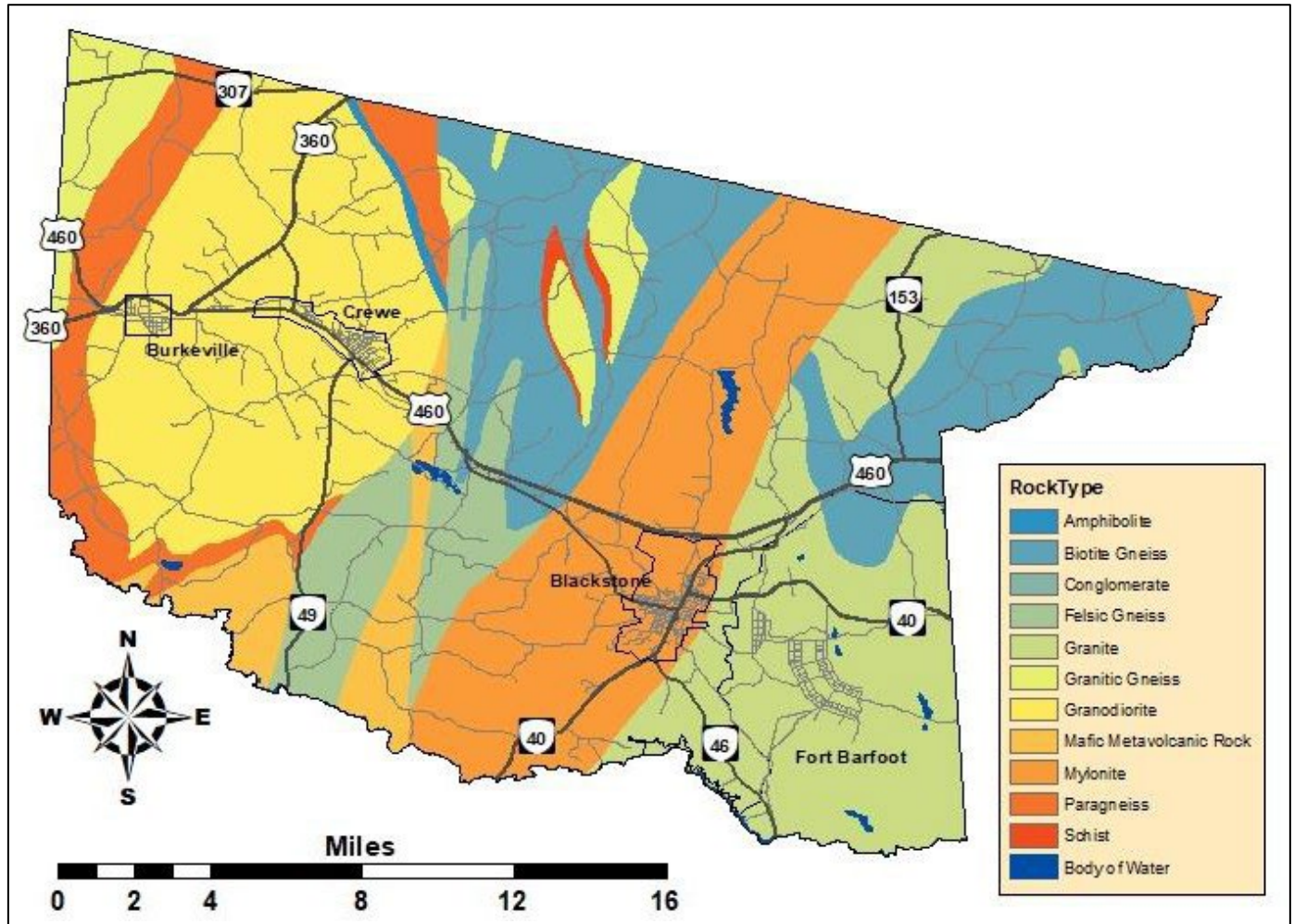
Map created by CRC – November 2021 (revised May 2023)  
Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

## Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

### Rocks/Minerals

Map 30 shows the different rock/mineral types in Nottoway County. The data is from Virginia Energy, the agency formerly known as the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy. The County is underlain by gneiss, schist and granite rocks. Granite is found in parts of the County, and is mined at the Luck Stone plant on U.S. 460 in Burkeville. According to data from Virginia Energy, the Luck Stone plant in Burkeville produced 640,000 tons in 2019 and 670,000 tons in 2020.

**Map 30 – Rock/Mineral Types in Nottoway County**



Map created by CRC – December 2021 (revised May 2023)

Source: Virginia Energy

### Forestland/Wildland Urban-interface

Forests make up a large part of Nottoway County, both in terms of acreage and economic yields. There are 146,050 total acres of forestland in Nottoway County, according to data from the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF). Of that total, 5,855 acres are publicly owned and 140,194 are privately owned. Dominant soft species in the area include Loblolly Pine, Shortleaf Pine, Virginia Pine and Red Cedar. Dominant hardwoods include White Oak, Red Oak, Yellow Poplar, Hickory, Black Gum, Red Maple and Birch.

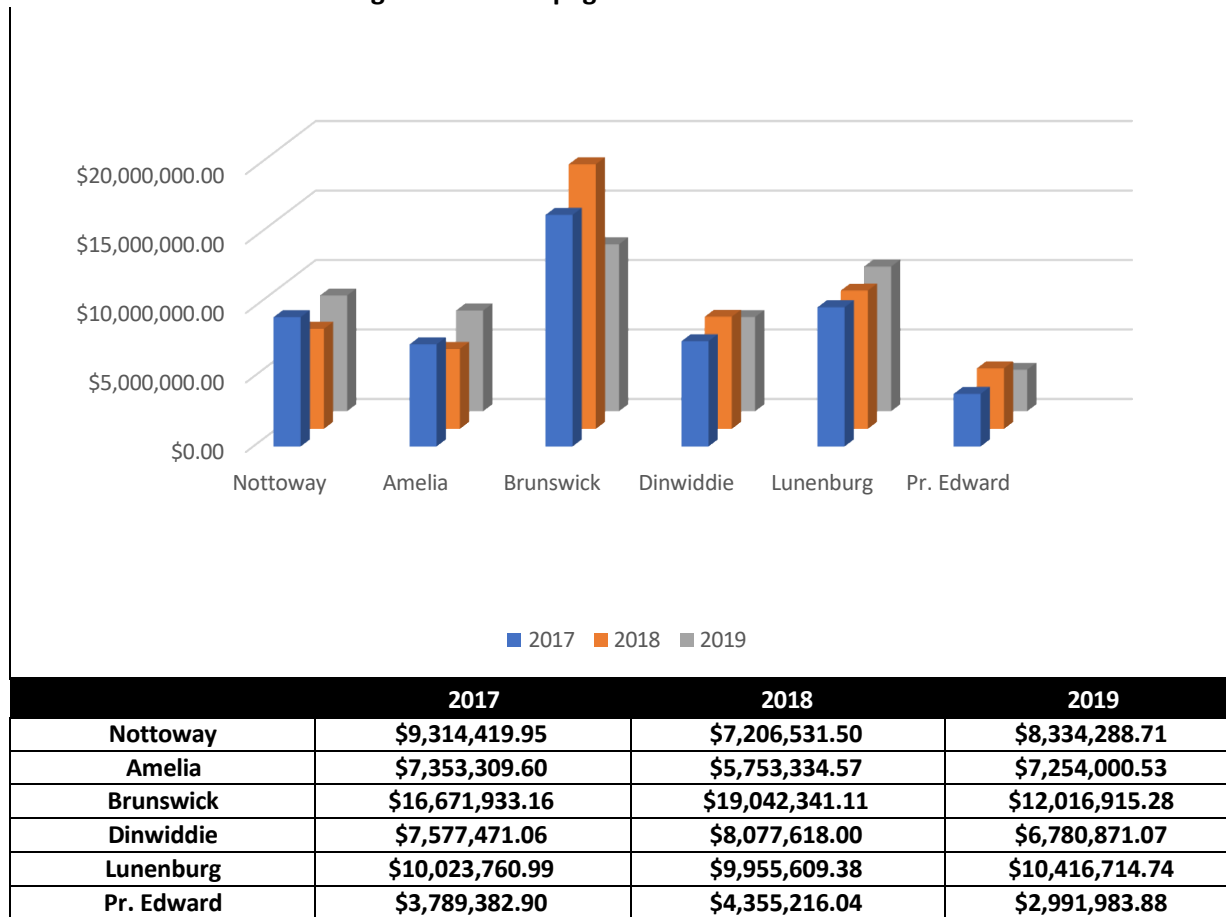


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The total stumpage value of the wood products coming from Nottoway in 2019 (the most recent year for which data is available) was \$9,314,419.95. Of this, \$2,790,635.38 was in pine value and \$5,534,178.33 was in hardwood value with the remainder coming from mixed chips. Figure 35 compares stumpage volumes in Nottoway with surrounding counties for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Nottoway County is served by several timber mills, and is home to many forestry consultants and timber managers. They work to monitor the timber markets and respond to product demands. Additionally, they work with the VDOF to control insect or disease outbreaks and keep the forest healthy. Forest landowners who harvest their timber may reforest these areas by planting one-year-old seedlings or rely on natural regeneration of commercially valuable species. The VDOF sells various species of seedlings for planting.

**Figure 35 – Stumpage Value of Wood Products**

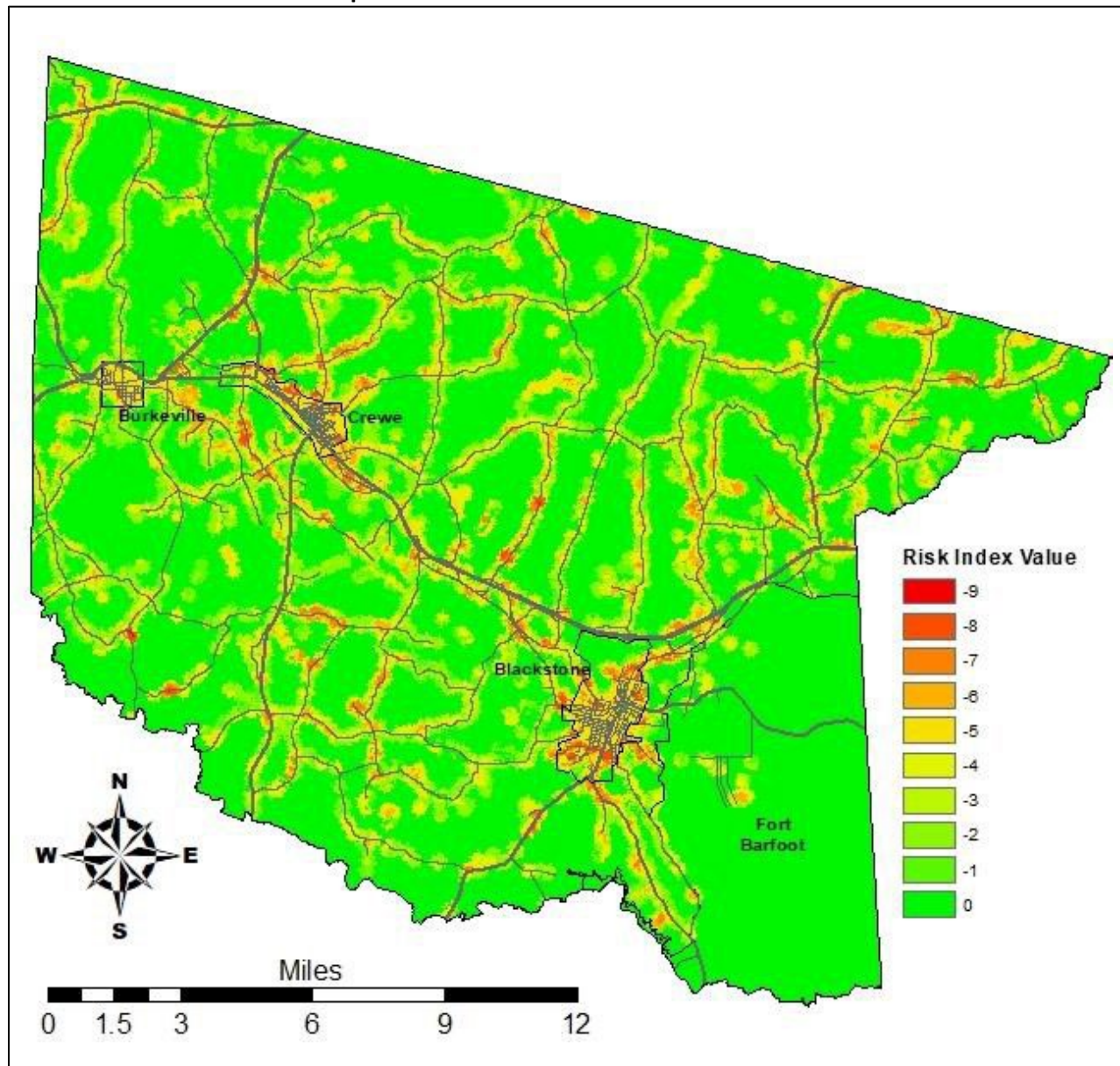


Source: Virginia Department of Forestry

The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Risk Index for Nottoway County is shown in Map 31. The WUI Risk Index rates the potential impact of wildfire on people and their homes on a scale of 0 (lowest risk) to 9 (highest risk). The Index uses housing density as a key factor to determine risk. The Index was developed by the Southern Group of State Foresters and uses housing density, plus others factors, to assess risk.

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Map 31 – Wildland-Urban Interface Risk Index



Map created by CRC – December 2021 (revised May 2023)  
Source: Southern Group of State Foresters, Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment

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## **IV. Land Use**

### **A. Introduction**

Land use planning and an assessment of Nottoway County's development patterns are an essential part of the County's Comprehensive Plan. The land use inventory accounts for the different types of land uses in the community, which would serve as the framework to accommodate all future growth and development within the County. An assessment of developmental patterns will assist the County in planning future residential and commercial development. This land use plan should be updated periodically to keep pace with future trends that occur within the County. It is important to note that each of the three towns has its own zoning, and this Plan will focus on the County's land use patterns.

### **B. Current Zoning/Land Use**

Nottoway County's current land zoning includes the following uses/districts:

- **Agricultural:** Intended to provide and protect agricultural and silvicultural areas from the encroachment of incompatible uses and conserve water, forest, and other natural resources. Residential development is not encouraged in lands zone agricultural. The minimum lot size for all permitted uses except for intensive livestock operations is five (5) acres. For intensive livestock operations, the minimum lot size is five acres – subject to the provisions in Article 4 (Supplemental Regulations) of the Zoning Ordinance.
- **Conservation:** Occupied by a mix of rural residential uses, open spaces, and a variety of small, non-intensive farms. Conservation districts are intended for the conservation of open spaces; protection of the rural character of the area, including small farms that are compatible with neighboring residential uses; the conservation of water, forest, and other natural resources; and maintaining a distinctly rural environment. The minimum lot size for all permitted uses except for intensive livestock operations is two (2) acres. For intensive livestock operations, the minimum lot size is five acres – subject to the provisions in Article 4 (Supplemental Regulations) of the Zoning Ordinance.
- **Residential:** Includes Rural Residential, which is intended to provide low-density residential development in a rural setting in proximity to the Towns; and Urban Residential, which is intended to provide for single-family dwellings with access to public water and sewer. Commercial and industrial uses, as well as uses that would substantially interfere with the development or continuation of single-family dwellings, are prohibited in Urban Residential districts. Minimum lot size requirements are:
  - **Rural Residential:** one (1) acre. All lots must meet Health Department requirements for wastewater disposal, and drain fields shall be located only on the lot that is served by the drain field.
  - **Urban Residential:** one-half (½) acre. All lots must be served by community or public water and wastewater.
- **General Business:** Intended for general business uses which serve the broader public, and require direct and frequent vehicle access. General Business district uses are not characterized by constant and heavy trucking, other than delivery and/or stocking of light retail goods, or by nuisance factors

## **Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028**

other than the incidental light and noise of congregating people and light vehicles. The minimum district size for a General Business District is five acres, and the minimum lot size is one acre.

- **Industrial:** Includes Light Industrial, which is intended for light industry, assembly plants, storage, warehousing, wholesaling, and distribution; and General Industrial, which is intended for larger and more intensive industries that are generally not compatible with most other land uses. District and lot size requirements are:
  - **Light Industrial:**
    - Minimum district size: 10 acres
    - Minimum lot size: three (3) acres
  - **General Industrial:**
    - Minimum district size: 10 acres
    - Minimum lot size: three (3) acres
- **Planned Development:** Designed to allow a wide range of uses at various densities and the flexible application of development controls while protecting property, natural and cultural resources, and the scenic beauty of the land. The minimum acreage requirement for a Planned Development is 25 acres of contiguous land.

In addition, Nottoway County's current zoning includes three overlay districts which may be applied by the Board of Supervisors as overlay regulations to portions of any or all of the base districts, through the zoning map amendment process outlined in the County's Zoning Ordinances. Those overlay districts are:

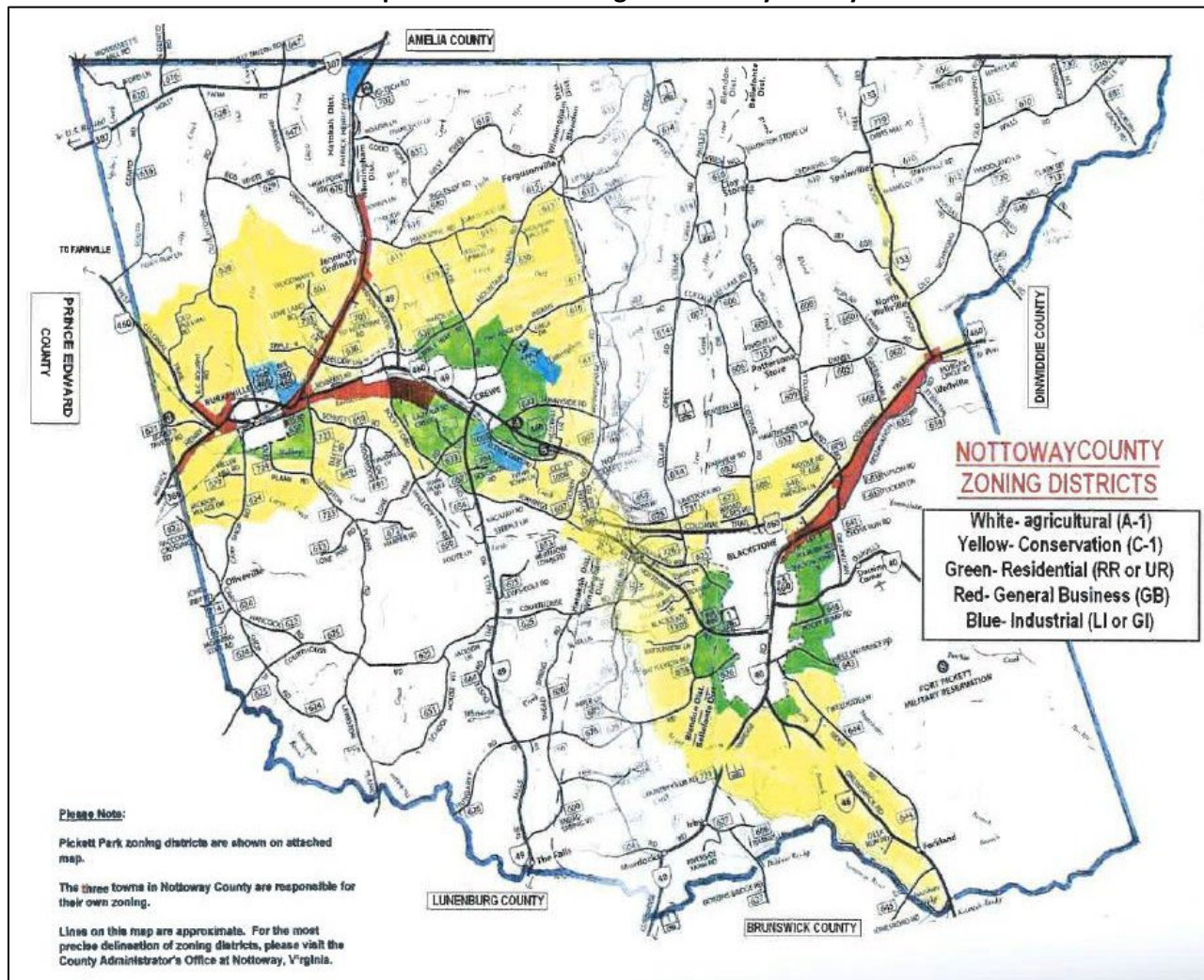
- **Flood Overlay District:** Intended to protect lands identified as being in the 100-year floodplain, based on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for the area in question. In this district, provisions of the Flood Plain District will supplement the underlying district in which the affected land is located. In the event of a conflict, the more restrictive provisions and/or those pertaining to the Flood Overlay District will apply.
- **Historic Overlay District:** Designed to protect historic landmarks, areas and buildings or structure that have an important historical, architectural, or cultural interest. The Zoning Ordinance provides for an Architectural Review Board, which will have the power to administer the article in the ordinance covering the Historic Overlay District.
- **Airport Safety Overlay District:** Designed to regulate and restrict the height of structures and objects and natural growth, and otherwise regulate the use or property, in the vicinity of airports.

Nottoway County's Current Land Use Map (see Map 32) shows the various land uses and their location. The majority of areas zoned for development – residential, business, industrial – are located along the main highway corridors (U.S. 360 and U.S. 460) and/or immediately surrounding the Towns.



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Map 32 – Current Zoning in Nottoway County



Source: Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2006-2010

Nottoway County encompasses 314.7 square miles (201,210 acres). Based on a population of 15,520 per the 2020 U.S. Census Annual Estimate of Residential Population estimate for Nottoway County, the population density is 49.31 persons per square mile. Nottoway is a rural county with agriculture as a predominant land use. According to the 2017 U.S. Census of Agriculture, the most recent Agricultural Census, there are 311 farms in Nottoway County with a total acreage of 50,390 – about 25% of all acreage in the County. This is a decrease from the 2012 U.S. Census of Agriculture, which showed Nottoway County to have 356 farms encompassing 61,568 acres.

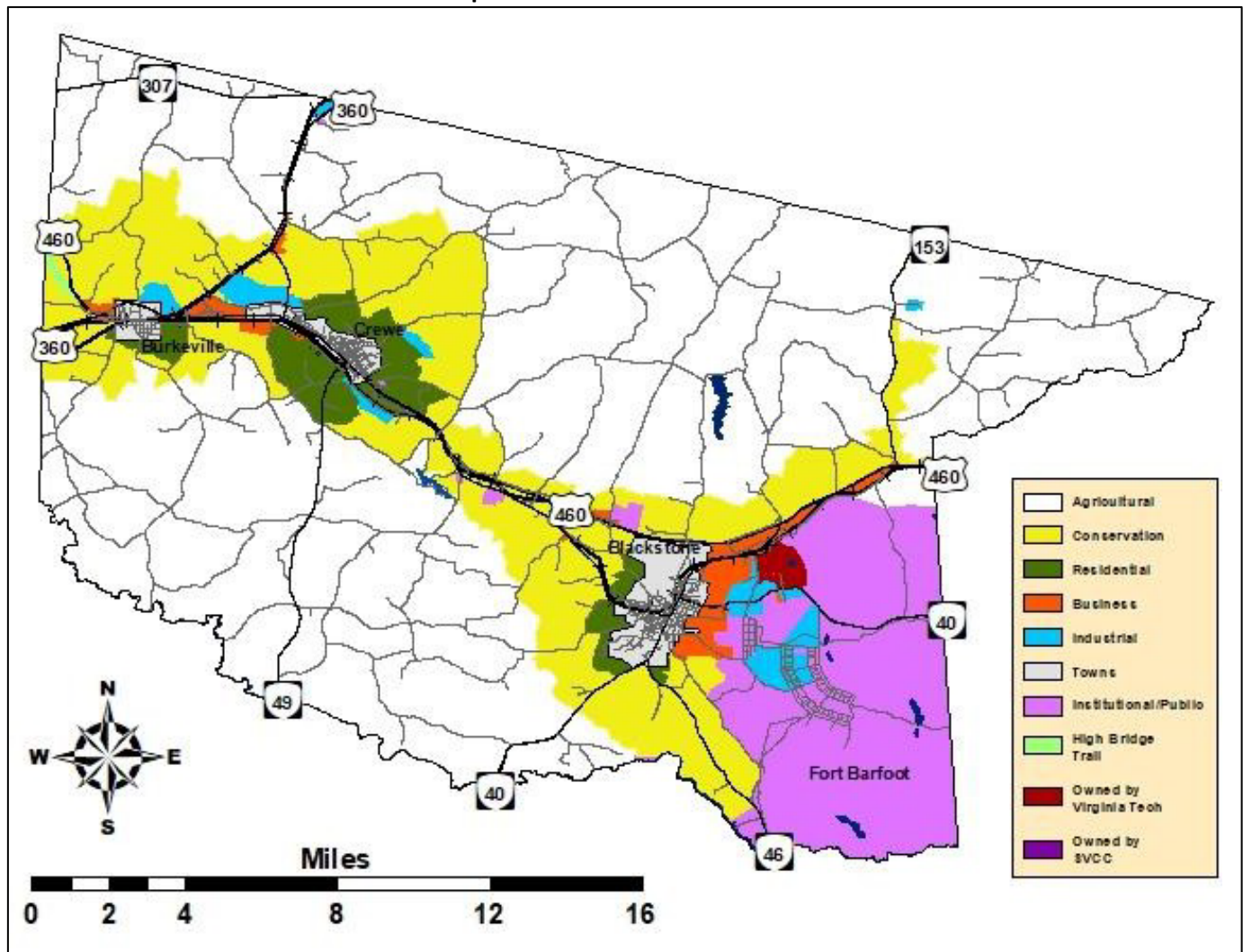
## C. Future Land Use

While many aspects of this Comprehensive Plan will be of interest to potential new residents, investors, or developers, the future land use – viewed in comparison with current zoning – best summarizes the County's vision for the future. The future land use plan is not meant to be specific in terms of exactly where certain individual features will occur. Rather, it is general in nature to guide the various land uses and where future

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growth is desired. It is also and intended to be used as a guide for establishing or amending zoning district designations. Map 33 shows the generalized Future Land Use Map for Nottoway County.

Map 33 – General Future Land Use



Map created by CRC – June 2022 (revised May 2023)

Sources: Nottoway County, Timmons Group, VDOT, DCR, ESRI

The specific location of future land uses should be determined by the zoning ordinance, and when required by the zoning ordinance, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors reviews of specific land use requests. Such a review should consider the compatibility and benefits of the use, and the land impacts of a specific use on the surrounding neighborhood and larger community. It is important that the County's ordinances be in sync with this Comprehensive Plan and – specifically – the future land use plan.

As with the Current Land Use map, the Future Land Use map will focus on the County since each town has its own zoning. The future land use plan seeks a way to balance new growth and development, while maintaining the County's rural character and viability. The guiding principle to achieve this balance is to concentrate growth in specific areas.

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During the mapping exercise portion of the Community Meeting, held in July 2021, participants denoted the area between Burkeville and Crewe as a desired area for future growth. Participants also identified a need for transportation growth from Blackstone to the western part of the County. Participants also denoted areas mainly along the U.S. 360 and 460 corridors for the addition of things like a grocery store, urgent care facility, and other facilities. During the Citizen Survey process, one consensus that emerged was the desire to keep Nottoway County rural and agricultural/open spaces preserved.

### **D. Special Considerations**

#### *Fort Barfoot and Surrounding Areas*

Care should be taken to avoid conflicts with incompatible uses. The areas around Fort Barfoot (formerly known as Fort Pickett) are of particular concern in this regard. A Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for the Army National Guard Maneuver Training Center located at the installation, completed in June 2021, noted the potential for incompatible uses for some properties near the installation given their proximity to active military ranges on the installation. The JLUS also noted that a cursory review of land for sale around Fort Barfoot (including land in Nottoway County) found a number of parcels for sale near the installation. This was not an exhaustive, all-inclusive search; however, this review underscores that real estate is for sale around Fort Barfoot – some of it relatively close to the installation boundary.

As with locating residential developments based on their proximity to commercial or industrial uses, close attention should be paid to the effects of locating various uses near a military installation. For instance, the JLUS advises that a new school, church or residential development near Fort Barfoot could be susceptible to noise and vibrations from military operations and trainings at the installation such as large caliber weapons, range detonations, aircraft takeoffs and landings, and others. Conversely, runoff from farms north and west of Fort Barfoot could negatively affect water sources in and near the installation. The JLUS notes that Butterwood Creek Watershed runs southeast through Fort Barfoot and includes Twin Lake, one of several small lakes owned by the military and Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and used for recreational fishing. Additionally, sediment and waste from farms west of Fort Barfoot could end up in Pickett Reservoir – which serves as a public water source for the Town of Blackstone and Fort Barfoot, and is also used for recreational fishing. Additionally, a large industrial or business development near Fort Barfoot could create light pollution that might negatively affect operations at the installation.

While localities surrounding Fort Barfoot do have some influence over how land around the installation is used – primarily through land use planning and zoning – Nottoway County will want to work with local landowners, developers, and real estate agents to make sure prospective buyers of land in that area are aware of the potential effects of being located in close proximity to Fort Barfoot.

#### *Zoning Conflicts – Town/County*

It should be kept in mind that Nottoway County's three towns – Blackstone, Burkeville, and Crewe – have their own separate comprehensive plans and their own separate zoning ordinances. Consequently, there is the potential for land use conflicts along the town/county boundary areas. For instance, when siting residential development near an area, a rural residential use might be more compatible than an urban residential use. Likewise, a general industrial area might need some sort of controls (i.e., buffer, setbacks, etc.) if it is situated in or adjacent to a residential area.

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For the purposes of this general land use plan, the zoning maps for all three towns were examined to assure that conflicts between incompatible land uses were minimal. The Nottoway County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors should take care when considering future zoning decisions to address any such conflicts. Tools at the County's disposal include buffer zones and assuring setback requirements are adequate to prevent conflicts. Additionally, Nottoway County should look into increased coordination and cooperation with its three towns in the areas of growth management and development issues.

### *Institutional/Public (IP) District*

As Nottoway County amends its zoning ordinance, it should consider the addition of an Institutional/Public (IP) District. The IP District is defined as that which is primarily intended to accommodate uses of a governmental, civic, public service, or public institutional nature, including major public facilities, public utilities, and local government-owned property. For Nottoway County, such facilities would include county government offices, schools (that are located outside of the Towns), the School Board office, the landfill, and other county owned spaces.

### *Water Source Protection*

This topic will be covered more in-depth in the next section (Section V – Special Policy Areas), but needs to be mentioned here because water sources can be affected by land use of surrounding areas. Surface water sources in Nottoway County – including Crystal Lake, Lake Lee, Camp Pickett Lake and Pickett Reservoir – not only provide recreational opportunities, but also supply drinking water for public water systems in Blackstone and Crewe. As such, protection and enhancement of these water resources should be a consideration in the County's future land use. As Nottoway County amends its zoning ordinance, it should consider the addition of buffer zones around these water sources to protect against development that could adversely affect water quality in these bodies of water.

### *Renewable Energy (including solar)*

An emerging issue in Virginia, and especially in Southside Virginia, is the push for more renewable energy in general and solar-powered energy generation in particular. Localities throughout Southside Virginia have been working on ordinances to regulate how solar facilities can be developed, including how much land can be used for solar facilities and where. Nottoway County, like many rural localities in Southside Virginia, have large tracts of land that could be attractive to solar developers. Nottoway County has started work on adding a section governing renewable energy, wind and solar, to its zoning ordinances. The new regulations would govern where large-scale facilities could be located. The Nottoway County Planning Commission should consider safe development of solar energy that minimizes impacts to land uses, properties, and the environment, especially for economic development purposes. The County should develop reasonable conditions for the development of renewable energy facilities that would protect the character of surrounding properties but not limit future development.



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### **V. Special Policy Areas**

#### **A. Introduction**

This section of the Comprehensive Plan presents information on a variety of community special policy areas that emerged during the plan development process. These special policy areas were identified from Working Committee discussions, the community meeting, the citizen surveys, and research of the County's demographic data. In developing these special policy areas, it is the goal that this plan assists Nottoway County in planning for future growth and development. It is also a goal that the Plan contain specific information to assist and better guide month-to-month decision making on issues/requests such as rezoning and special permit requests to the Board of Supervisors.

For each policy area, a brief discussion is presented followed by one or more recommendations to assist the County in decision making as it pertains to the timing, location and character of future development in the County. The information contained in this section has provided the basis for some of the goals, objectives and strategies in the following section.

#### **B. Loss of Agricultural Land and Open Space**

As Nottoway County starts to experience residential, commercial and industrial growth, there will be increased pressure on the County's open spaces, and agricultural and forested areas, as developers look for land to develop for these uses. Once population growth starts to take hold in the County, increases in agricultural and forestal land values, the aging of agricultural landowners, provision (or lack thereof) of planned growth areas, and the level of development regulations and the suitability of agricultural and forestal lands for development could all affect open space and resources in the County. In fact, according to the 2017 U.S. Census of Agriculture, Nottoway County saw a decrease of more than 11,000 acres of farmland between 2012 and 2017.

The current zoning map in Section IV shows areas designated for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and conservation uses in the County. A challenge for the County will be to accommodate future growth demands in a planned manner that provides for the conservation of important resources. The future land use map in Section IV denotes areas for future residential, commercial and industrial development that are either in areas where adequate public services (including water and sewer) exist or in close proximity to such services. Any development that does occur in the rural areas should be designed to incorporate significant open spaces and designed to minimize environmental impacts on the land and water resources.

Any future growth and development patterns must provide both requirements and incentives for the conservation of land. Nottoway County's zoning ordinances outline minimum lot sizes for different uses – and in some cases, minimum district sizes. For residential uses, the ordinances stipulate requirements for either the provision of private water and sewer or access to public or community water and sewer service. Environmental impacts of any newly planned development area should be considered. It is essential to maintain a balance between development and preservation objectives throughout the County. An educational and programmatic approach in conjunction with land conservation should be initiated to encourage property owners to limit development. Incentives can be offered for appropriate conservation and environmental design.

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**Recommendations** – The Nottoway County Planning Commission and Nottoway County Board of Supervisors, through the adoption of this Comprehensive Plan, should state their commitment to agricultural and forestal land preservation objectives. Tools most commonly used to influence the timing and location of growth are zoning, subdivision standards, use value assessments and taxation, and public facility decisions. Other tools and programs available to agricultural and rural property owners who wish to take steps to preserve their land holdings generally involve a partnership between the landowner and a governmental agency. Land conservation tools such as conservation easements, Purchase of Development Rights programs, and other tax incentive programs may be used to encourage minimal development in these areas. There are agencies that provide these and other voluntary programs. These agencies change from year to year and may or may not have funding. They include:

- Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District (serving Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward Counties): <https://piedmontswcd.org/>
- Virginia Department of Forestry: <https://dof.virginia.gov/>
- Virginia Cooperative Extension, Nottoway County Office: <https://nottoway.ext.vt.edu>

Commercial and/or industrial developments that are approved in the rural portions of the County should be consistent with the best interests of the community. The County and Towns should investigate the use of the aforementioned easements and other preservation tools and be willing to provide information to property owners who wish to pursue a particular preservation strategy. As the County revises its zoning and subdivision ordinances, consideration should be given to including provisions to require and/or allow for the use of cluster housing and other conservation design techniques. Another consideration for the County as it amends its ordinances is the addition of Agricultural/Forestal Districts. Under the Code of Virginia, Section 15.2-4301, Agricultural and Forestal Districts are meant to “conserve and protect and to encourage the development and improvement of the Commonwealth's agricultural and forestal lands for the production of food and other agricultural and forestal products” and to “conserve and protect agricultural and forestal lands as valued natural and ecological resources which provide essential open spaces for clean air sheds, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, as well as for aesthetic purposes.”

The County should support the activities of local land trusts and other environmental organizations in their efforts to voluntarily preserve critical agricultural and open spaces in the area. The County should also work closely with the appropriate government agencies to ensure that private timbering operations in the County are undertaken using approved techniques in an environmentally sensitive manner.

### C. Protection of Water Resources

Surface water sources in Nottoway County include the Nottoway River and its tributaries, Lazaretto Creek and Crystal Lake, Lee Lake, Camp Pickett Lake and Pickett Reservoir, and other water bodies. These water sources provide recreational opportunities and supply drinking water for public water systems in Blackstone and Crewe. As such, protection and enhancement of these water resources should be a primary objective of the County. Groundwater resources are extremely important for the residents of Nottoway County, given its rural nature, as most homes outside of the Towns use private wells for their water supply. The surface and groundwater resources outside of the Towns do not have the same regulatory or programmatic protections available to the Towns. Thus, voluntary riparian easement and buffer programs implemented along the streams and rivers can mitigate the impacts of agricultural and non-agricultural non-point source runoff. Similar benefits could be achieved from a regulatory approach that requires more

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stringent erosion control measures, and site and land use standards designed to protect and enhance these water resources.

**Recommendations** – As the Nottoway County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors work on amending the County’s zoning and subdivision ordinances, care should be taken to address the impact of new development on water quality. One possible avenue could be the enactment of zoning and subdivision standards that allow and/or encourage low impact development techniques as a tool to manage non-point source environmental pollutants associated with new development. Additionally, the County should encourage landowners to follow best management practices (BMP) in the stewardship and management of their land. The County should also consider working with agencies such as the Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District, Virginia Department of Forestry, Department of Environmental Quality, and others to implement BMP programs in the County. Additionally, the County should explore the feasibility of creating a watershed overlay district and adopting Chesapeake Bay Watershed Regulations for the portion of the County that is within the Bay’s Watershed.

Other tools the County should consider include the establishment of buffer zones around Crystal Lake, Lee Lake, Camp Pickett Lake, Pickett Reservoir, and other water bodies deemed critical to public water supply; and wellhead protection zones, to protect public and private well that supply water to residents and businesses. According to the EPA, a wellhead protection zone is meant to “define portions of the wellhead protection area where activities have a higher risk of contaminating the source water and where aquifer conditions and land surface activities should be more closely evaluated.” The Virginia Department of Health-Office of Drinking Water (VDH-ODW) implements a Source Water Protection Program to assist localities in protecting water sources from contamination.

### D. General Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance Revisions

Nottoway County’s current zoning and subdivision ordinances provide the basic land planning tools to help determine the location and character of future land uses within the County. Some areas of community concern that emerged during this comprehensive planning process include:

- Preservation of open/agricultural spaces (loss of community character is a concern).
- Protection of surface and ground water resources.
- Diversify the economy, more business development and shopping choices (in particular the Crewe-Burkeville area).

**Recommendations** – As the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors work on reviewing and amending the County’s ordinances, one area of focus should be to review the different districts for possible changes to lot size and setback requirements. Any revisions should be enacted with future growth in mind. The County should encourage landowners, regardless of the designated zoning or intended use of the property, to follow best management practices.

To further encourage the preservation of open/agricultural spaces within the County, the Planning Commission should explore developing open/agricultural space standards for any property in the areas designated for agricultural or conservation use. The standards should be designed to minimize the impact of traffic generated by any proposed development on surrounding uses. The standards should also stress

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protection of the natural environment, and require compliance with all applicable environmental protection laws and regulations for proposed uses in these areas.

To protect Nottoway County's surface and ground water resources, the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors should explore reviewing and amending the County's ordinances to establish ground water protection districts. Within these protection districts, the County will prohibit the use of any potential threat to the surface or groundwater water source. The alternative to prohibiting the use of these potential threats would be to establish performance standards the County encourages the groundwater protection districts to use to prevent ground or surface water contamination.

To encourage Nottoway County's diversification of the economy by encouraging new business development and shopping choices, the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors should explore reviewing and amending the County's ordinances to establish a Land Development Ordinance. This ordinance will be used to promote best planning practices that provides a transition between existing and new development by use; creating a collaborative partnership between the government, citizens, property owners and developers/builders to sustain existing development and encourage new development; and promote and encourage more efficient use of land with alternative land development practices.

### **E. Corridor Development**

The U.S. 460 Corridor between Burkeville and Crewe was identified during the community meeting as an area to concentrate future development. The future land use map in Section IV identifies this area for future business development. Additionally, portions of the U.S. 360 Corridor around Burkeville have been targeted for future business and industrial uses.

Where road frontage development exists, it is primarily scattered residential and limited business use. These road corridors are critically important in two respects. First, as major points of access for the County and its Towns, it is essential that these roads maintain a high level of service. Future development along these roads should be planned and designed to ensure that the safety and capacity of these roads are maintained and managed. Second, as gateways to the County and its Towns, these roads create first impressions to visitors coming into the area. The views and character of development are visible from the roadways. Maintenance and enhancement of these gateways can be critical to the success of the economic development and marketing activities in not just Nottoway County, but the Towns as well.

**Recommendations** – A few steps can ensure proper development along these corridors. The County should work closely with the Virginia Department of Transportation to evaluate and amend the its zoning and subdivision ordinances to ensure that uses allowed along these corridors are consistent with planned land uses. Additionally, the County should work with developers and the Towns to evaluate and/or amend the access provisions in its ordinances to ensure that new developments along these corridors are provided adequate access to infrastructure (roads, utilities) and unnecessary or dangerous access points are not permitted. A third step would be to evaluate future rezoning and special permit exception requests along these corridors with access plans and any traffic impacts resulting from the proposed use(s) in mind.

### **F. Affordable Housing**

There is a developing issue with affordable housing in Nottoway County and Southside Virginia in general, both owner-occupied and especially rental housing. The economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic



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in general, and the location of the FASTC facility at Fort Barfoot in particular, has resulted in a need for more housing. Additionally, affordability is becoming a bigger issue as housing prices have been trending upward for several years – in part because supply of available housing has struggled to keep up with demand, and in part because material prices have been increasing sharply since the pandemic began. Although government at all levels (local, state, federal) is limited in what it can do to affect housing supply and costs, there are some things they can do to mitigate rising housing costs.

**Recommendations** – The County should evaluate its zoning and subdivision ordinances to determine if they place unnecessary restrictions on new housing. Similarly, as the Nottoway County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors review and amend the County’s zoning and subdivision ordinances, they should take into consideration how well ordinances allow and designate sufficient areas in the County for a full range of housing types. Allowing for planned developments that incorporate a mixture of residential types integrated with commercial and civic components can also encourage affordable housing. Allowing higher densities in development areas where water and/or sewer are available could also encourage the development of more affordable housing. In cases where public funds are used to develop the necessary residential infrastructure, the County could offer incentives to developers to build more affordable housing units and limit the sales price of new units to a level that is affordable to lower income residents. Development standards and processes should also be evaluated to ensure that they do not unnecessarily contribute to housing costs.

Other approaches could include the use of state and federal funding programs that allow localities to partner with private development companies or local non-governmental organizations to develop land and construct housing. For example, in 2021, the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC) was awarded \$2 million from Virginia Housing for the development of 20 affordable workforce housing units within the CRC’s seven-county region (which includes Nottoway County). As this Plan Update is being developed, the CRC has chosen three partners for funding the development of projects to create affordable workforce housing units – including one project in the Town of Blackstone and another that covers multiple localities including the Town of Crewe. There is a possibility, though not guaranteed, that additional funds could be made available through this program in the future for the construction of more affordable housing units in the region. There are also additional housing development grants that the County could seek moving forward.

### **G. Renewable Energy (including Solar Facilities)**

The Code of Virginia, Section 56.614, defines a renewable energy facility as “(i) an electrical generation facility that produces not more than 2 megawatts peak net power output to the distribution grid, which electricity is generated only from a renewable energy source; (ii) a steam reduction facility with a rated capacity of not more than 5,000 MMBtus per hour that produces steam only from a renewable energy source; or (iii) a solid waste management facility permitted by the Department of Environmental Quality from which landfill gas is transmitted or distributed off premises.”

Section 15.2-2316.6 of the Code defines a small renewable energy project as “(i) an electrical generation facility with a rated capacity not exceeding 150 megawatts that generates electricity only from sunlight or wind; (ii) an electrical generation facility with a rated capacity not exceeding 100 megawatts that generates electricity only from falling water, wave motion, tides, or geothermal power; (iii) an electrical generation facility with a rated capacity not exceeding 20 megawatts that generates electricity only from biomass, energy from waste, or municipal solid waste; (iv) an energy storage facility that uses electrochemical cells

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to convert chemical energy with a rated capacity not exceeding 150 megawatts; or (v) a hybrid project composed of an electrical generation facility that meets the parameters established in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) and an energy storage facility that meets the parameters established in clause (iv).” This section further defines an energy storage facility as “energy storage equipment or technology that is capable of absorbing energy, storing such energy for a period of time, and redelivering energy after it has been stored” and an energy storage project as “the energy storage facilities within the project site.”

Section 15.2-2316.6 further defines solar facilities as “commercial solar photovoltaic (electric energy) generation facilities. ‘Solar facilities’ does not include any solar project that is (i) described in § [56-594](#), [56-594.01](#), [56-594.02](#), or [56-594.2](#), or (ii) five megawatts or less.”

The rural nature of Nottoway County and the existence of significant open space makes the County an attractive area for the location of solar facilities – and to a lesser degree, wind facilities. As Nottoway County finalizes its ordinances regulating renewable energy, the County should take care to balance the development of alternative energy production while protecting agriculture, forestry lands and watersheds that the County enjoys. This is especially the case given the recent push toward more solar and other alternative energy production across the State, and Southside Virginia in particular.

Section 15.2-2232 of the Code of Virginia requires that any proposed public utility facility, unless already shown in the adopted Comprehensive Plan, be reviewed by the Planning Commission to determine if it is “substantially in accord” with the Plan. Per 15.2-2232 Paragraph B, the Planning Commission has 60 days from the date of proposal submission – unless extended by the local governing body (in this case, the Board of Supervisors) – to consider the proposed facility at a public meeting and recommend either approval or disapproval to the Board. The recommendation must include a written explanation of their action. Per Paragraph B, Failure by the Planning Commission to act on the proposal within 60 days (unless that time is extended by the Board) “shall be deemed approval” of the proposed facility.

**Recommendations** – Nottoway County should consider safe development of solar and wind energy that minimizes impacts to land uses, adjacent properties, and the environment, particularly for economic development purposes. As the County amends its ordinances and policies to regulate renewable energy production within its borders, the County should set guidelines including (but not necessarily limited to) the following:

- Set a limit for total kilowatt production in Nottoway County via solar facilities that is no higher than a level equal to the total kilowatts used in Nottoway County by all sources.
- Set guidelines/restrictions on where (what zoning districts) renewable energy facilities and battery storage facilities will be allowed.
- Set minimum and maximum lots sizes for utility-scale solar facilities, and set the maximum size as contiguous, and limit the percentage of the property which can be covered with solar panels.
- Set requirements for setbacks.
- Require that facilities, including fencing, be significantly screened from the ground-level view of adjacent properties by a set buffer zone consisting of natural vegetation and landforms and/or be landscaped.
- Set limits on what percentage of prime agricultural soil, as identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, a parcel with a solar facility may include.
- Require pollinator habitats and a minimum amount of open space including wildlife corridors, and other natural features.

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- Set a minimum distance that facilities can be located from designated conservation areas, natural corridors, environmentally sensitive areas (including forest resources), scenic viewsheds, recreational areas, historical or cultural areas, and sensitive water bodies like scenic rivers or public water source reservoirs.
- Set a minimum distance that facilities to be located from town boundaries, designated growth areas, community hubs, or commercial or military airports.
- Require that a facility be located within close proximity of an electric transmission line, and any tie lines be located and buffered to block visibility from highways.
- Set a minimum distance that a facility may be located from other existing or permitted solar facilities.
- Require that facilities avoid areas of Forest Conservation Values or Ecological Cores rated high to outstanding as defined by ConserveVirginia.
- Require the developer to coordinate with VDOT to help ensure that heavy truck traffic using area roads during construction does not damage road surfaces or create unsafe traffic conditions.
- Set standards regarding herbicide use.
- Set height restrictions for buildings and equipment, lighting restrictions, noise restrictions.
- Set standards for battery energy storage systems that would be located in the facility.
- Set a timeline for construction based on a set amount of time from the date of the issuance of all required approvals/permits.
- Establish application procedures for solar developers to include the following:
  - Pre-application meeting with appropriate county staff.
  - Community meeting for the developer (prior to application) to inform the public and take questions from citizens.
  - Requirements for application forms and fees to include, but not necessarily be limited to:
    - Project narrative
    - Site plan that will include, but not necessarily be limited to:
      - Construction plans
      - Assessment of environmental, wildlife, and cultural impacts
      - Impacts on traffic and how those impacts will be addressed
    - Landscaping and screening plan
    - Erosion and sediment control plan
    - Stormwater management plan
    - Decommissioning and reclamation plan
    - Proof of liability insurance
    - Any other information deemed relevant for the approval process.

Additionally, the County should work with a consultant as needed to identify, catalogue, and map relevant features, including:

- Major electrical facilities (i.e., transmission lines, transfer stations, generation facilities, etc.).
- Brownfield sites and locally-owned capped landfills.
- Prime Farmland including areas of prime farmland or farmlands of statewide importance as defined by the USDA and Commonwealth of Virginia.

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### **H. Cell Towers**

The ability to communicate through wireless means has taken on added importance over the last 20 to 25 years, as cell phones have been steadily replacing land lines as a preferred method of phone communication. The need for cell towers, both for phone coverage and wireless internet, is essential to future growth and development in the County – both in the areas of business development and training today's students for the jobs of the future. Both state and federal law regulate what local governments can and cannot do in regards to cell towers. The Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 lays out regulations for wireless facilities. Section 704 of the Act in particular preserves the ability of state and localities to regulate such facilities, but placed restrictions on what they can and cannot do. Possibly the most significant restriction is that localities are prohibited from banning cell towers outright, though they can still regulate siting of such facilities. Section 704 also bans localities from discriminating against different providers of cellular service.

State law in Virginia places additional restrictions on what localities can do. In 2018, Governor Ralph Northam signed House Bill (HB) 1258 into law. HB 1258, among other things, removed the requirement that an applicant secure a Special Use Permit from the locality as part of the zoning approval for locating a tower 50 feet or less in height. Such towers support “small-cell” facilities, defined by the Federal Communications Commission as “low-powered wireless base stations that typically are for targeted indoor or localized outdoor areas ranging in size from homes and offices to stadiums, shopping malls, hospitals and metropolitan outdoor spaces.” Under HB 1258, a locality may still require an administrative review of such a facility before granting approval. A locality is also allowed to deny zoning approval for such a facility if it is determined that there is an existing wireless support structure within a reasonable distance which could be used for co-locating a facility at reasonable terms and conditions.

**Recommendations** – Nottoway County staff will need to stay abreast of changes in state and federal regulations affecting cell towers and other telecommunications infrastructure, and make sure that local elected officials are also aware of those changes. As the Nottoway County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors review and/or amend the County's ordinances, they will want to take care to assure that ordinances affecting cell towers and other telecommunications facilities remain in compliance with state and federal laws.

The increased amount of cell phone towers within the County is dotting the landscape and making these towers more visible. While the increased speed and coverage for the area aids the area in growth and development efforts, the additional towers can have a negative effect on the County's rural scenery. For residents and visitors to continue to enjoy the rural landscape of the county there are alternatives to disguise these towers and blend them into the surrounding terrain. One option is to disguise cell phone towers as artificial pine trees, or blending them in when they are placed on a silo or other existing building. This allows the rural landscape to look nearly untouched by development, while still allowing for residents to access the latest 21<sup>st</sup> century technology speeds. The Nottoway County Planning Commission should review and/or recommend changes to the County's ordinances to ensure the compatibility with the visual and environmental features of the County and Towns.

### **I. Broadband**

Another issue that has taken on added importance in the last few years is the availability of broadband for high-speed internet service, with more people looking to telework or start up home-based businesses. Of



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the counties in the State with the highest percentage of remote workers, according to 2019 data from the Weldon-Cooper Center, eight of the top 10 are rural localities. Nelson County, at the top of the list with 11.74%, is in close proximity to Charlottesville and has access to reliable broadband. Likewise, Westmoreland County – which ranks second at 9.06% of its workforce working remotely – is in close proximity to the D.C. Metro area and also has access to broadband. Given Nottoway County’s close proximity to Richmond and Petersburg, and with the military installation at Fort Barfoot, access to reliable internet will be critical – not just for job growth, but also for efficient operations for organizations based at Fort Barfoot.

Broadband internet has become an essential utility, with a need almost on par with water and electricity. Access to broadband internet is key for economic development as businesses increasingly rely on the internet for e-commerce, data-sharing, and communication. Law enforcement, fire and rescue, emergency management, and other government services increasingly depend on the internet to communicate during hazardous weather conditions or other emergencies and to deliver rapid aid to those in need. Telehealth care provided over video web conferencing and remote medical monitoring devices has evolved as a viable alternative for growing senior population or people with limited transportation.

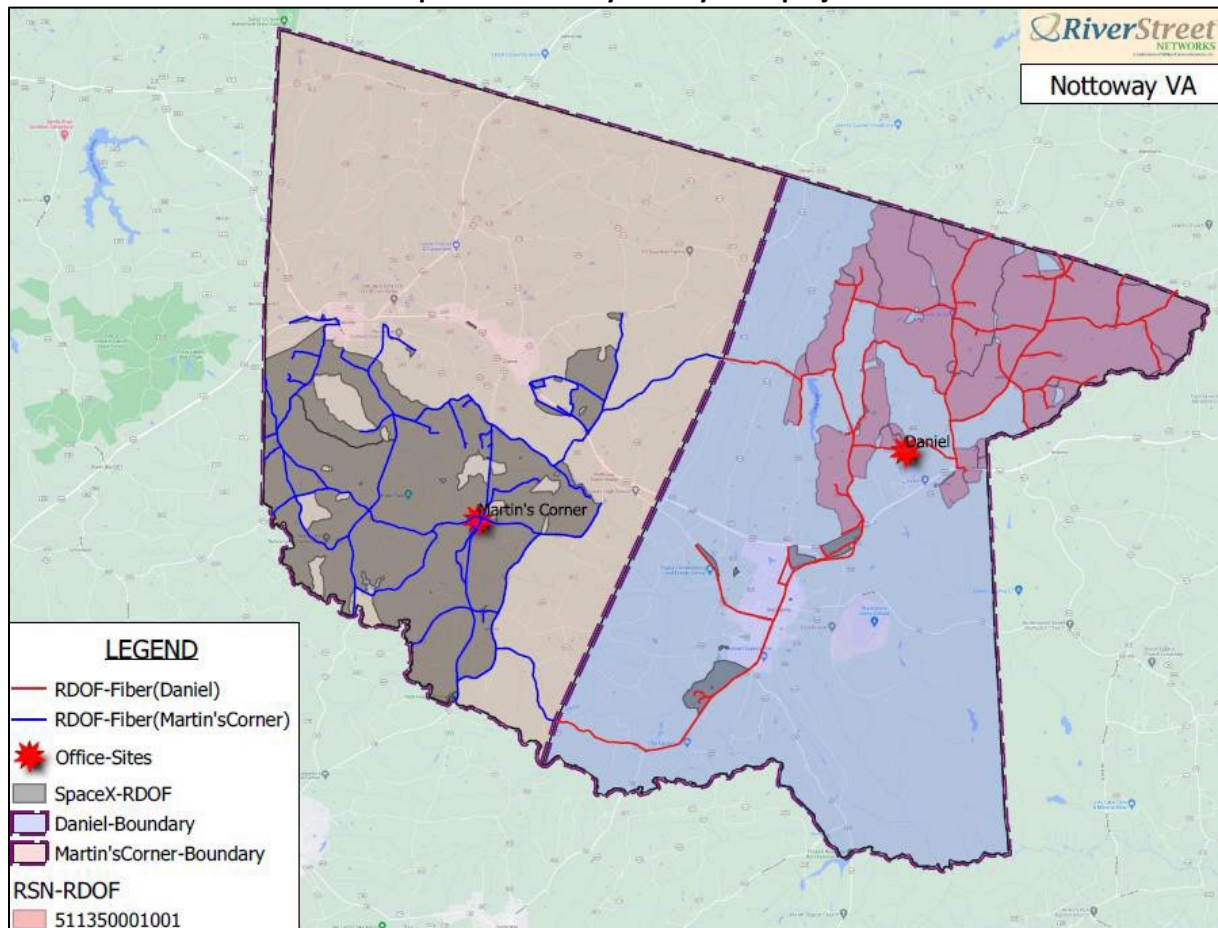
Students increasingly rely on internet access to complete their daily assignments as well as to prepare them for higher education and the workforce. The COVID pandemic added more urgency to the issue, as schools shut down temporarily and students around the state went to virtual learning for a period of time and businesses allowed employees to telework at least part time.

These services are dependent on fast, reliable internet in the home. In 2018, Section 15.2-2223 of the Code of Virginia was amended to require all localities to “consider strategies to provide broadband infrastructure that is sufficient to meet the current and future needs of residents and businesses” in their comprehensive plans.

**Recommendations** – Nottoway County is making progress in this area. The Nottoway County School Board, with assistance from the Commonwealth Regional Council, secured an allocation of Fast-Track funding through the CARES Act in late 2020/early 2021 to purchase wi-fi hotspots to allow students access to reliable internet while they engaged in remote learning during the pandemic. More recently, Nottoway County was part of a regional project that received funding through the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) program to build fiber in unserved locations and achieve universal access for multiple counties across Southside Virginia. See Map 34.

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Map 34 – Nottoway County VATI project



Source: Nottoway County

Nottoway County will need to continue to support the expansion of broadband in the community. Any new residential or commercial developments will need access to reliable internet to help promote economic growth and assure ready access to needed services. One such tool the County should consider is the adoption of a “dig once” policy, where the County encourages developers of new subdivisions or commercial developments to install fiber infrastructure when they are installing other utilities; or if fiber cannot be installed at the time, the County should look into incentives (for instance, tax incentives) for developers to go ahead and install conduit so the fiber could be added into the conduit without digging at a later date. Like sewer infrastructure, conduit for broadband fiber could be laid by the developer and subsequently maintained by the County and leased to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) as they are ready to lay down fiber.

For any areas that are not covered by the recently awarded VATI grant, the County should encourage ISPs to lay down fiber in those areas and/or encourage Wireless Internet Service Providers (WISPs) to build wireless internet capacity – possibly with tax or other incentives. The County will also want to look into future grant funding opportunities to provide fiber service to those areas, working with ISPs, WISPs, and other stakeholders as needed.

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For homeowners who have trouble affording broadband, the County can work with participating service providers to promote the availability of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Offered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the ACP offers monthly discounts to qualifying households for internet service and a one-time discount for qualifying households to purchase a desktop, laptop or tablet computer from a participating provider. To qualify, a household must have an annual income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level or meet some other eligibility criteria – including, but not limited to, meeting the provider’s guidelines for low-income assistance, having received a Pell grant during the current year, or receiving some other sort of federal assistance (SNAP, TANF, WIC, SSI, veteran’s pension or survivor benefits, or other benefit). According to the program’s web site, <https://www.fcc.gov/acp>, participating service providers in Nottoway County include Shentel, CenturyLink, AT&T, Hughes Net, U.S. Cellular, and Verizon/Straight Talk. According to the FCC web site (<https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>), the ACP replaced the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program on December 31, 2021.

At the state level, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development offers the Line Extension Customer Assistance Program (LECAP) to support the extension of existing broadband networks to low-to-moderate income residents. The program will provide up to 100 percent of the costs to extend service to a qualified location. These funds support the extension of networks beyond the standard connection drop length or standard service connection costs of a participating service provider. To be eligible, residents have to meet a maximum household income requirement. That requirement varies by zip code. For most of Nottoway County – Zip Codes 23824, 23922 and 23930 – households with incomes of \$89,066.00 or less can qualify for the program. For Zip Code 23083, which covers a small portion of northwest Nottoway County around U.S. 360 and Route 307 near the Amelia County line, the household income limit to qualify for the program is \$109,341.60. For Zip Code 23894, which covers a small portion of northeast Nottoway County between Route 612 and the Dinwiddie County line, the household income limit to qualify is \$116,077.20. According to the program web site, <https://dhcd.virginia.gov/lecap>, service providers have to apply for qualification to participate in the program. Service providers who have been qualified to participate as of July 11, 2022 are Brightspeed, Citizens, and Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority. According to the program guidelines, also available on the LECAP web site, there are three ways for eligible residents to apply for assistance through LECAP: apply directly to the program (there is a link on the LECAP web site to apply); obtain a referral from an ISP operating in Virginia; or obtain a referral from their local health care provider.

### **J. FASTC Facility at Fort Barfoot**

The recently opened Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC) at Fort Barfoot provides lifesaving security training to Department of State personnel and members of the foreign affairs community. The location of the facility at Fort Barfoot has created a demand for supporting services including, and especially, housing for staff at the facility and lodging for students who train at the facility. The Town of Blackstone has been working with developers to provide lodging to meet demand. One example is the conversion of the former Blackstone College for Girls/Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center site into a new boutique hotel, The Inn at Blackstone. Those facilities, and the people they bring in, will create demand for other support services.

**Recommendations** – Nottoway County needs to be ready to support the Town of Blackstone and the FASTC facility to that extent possible. While the Town of Blackstone has taken steps to meet the demand created by this facility, the ripple effects – demand for housing and services, tax revenue, etc. – could easily extend beyond the Town’s boundaries. As mentioned above, there are steps the County can take through ordinances and the building code to alleviate unnecessary restrictions on new housing and encourage the

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development of more affordable housing. Additionally, the County should work with developers and affordable housing providers to address housing needs in the County and work with providers such as Piedmont Habitat for Humanity to identify projects and take advantage of funding opportunities to develop affordable housing in the County.

### **K. Military Installations**

Fort Pickett, recently renamed Fort Barfoot, was originally established in 1942 to help the U.S. military prepare its war efforts. In addition to the FASTC facility, Fort Barfoot is used by the Virginia National Guard and Air Guard. As such, military equipment is used at the facility and military vehicles – including motorized vehicles and aircraft – use Fort Barfoot. The facility is also home to the Camp Pickett Officers Club, an event venue, and educational/job training programs are operated out of Pickett Park – located within Fort Barfoot – by Southside Virginia Community College and Virginia Commonwealth University. As noted in Section IV, a recently completed Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for the Army National Guard Maneuver Training Center at the installation noted the potential for incompatible uses for some properties near the installation given their proximity to active military ranges on the installation. Additionally, Fort Barfoot was recently used to house refugees from Afghanistan who fled the Country in 2021 to escape Taliban rule. This created increased demand for services on the facility and the surrounding community.

**Recommendations** – Care should be taken to avoid conflicts with incompatible land uses. Among the tools at the County’s disposal are the zoning and subdivision ordinances, which can exert some influence over how land around Fort Barfoot is used. The County will also want to work with local landowners, developers, and real estate agents to make sure prospective buyers of land in that area are aware of the potential effects of being located in close proximity to Fort Barfoot. Additionally, the County will need to work with the Fort Pickett Redevelopment Authority and implement any measures needed to maintain infrastructure at Pickett Park and ensure marketability of the park to prospective future tenants. As the opening of the FASTC facility and recent placement of refugees at Fort Barfoot has shown, collaboration between all parties – Nottoway County, the Town of Blackstone, the State, and the federal government – will be critical to a smooth and proper co-existence between all parties.

In addition to those measures, the County should continue working with the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation – a non-profit founded and run by the former NASCAR driver – on conserving additional land around Fort Barfoot. The Foundation, through its Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program, works with stakeholders such as the Army National Guard, Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy to offer options for landowners to limit development and discourage incompatible development around the Fort. Options for landowners include conservation easements, deed restrictions, and land acquisition. The ACUB program focuses on Fort Barfoot, and Fort Indiantown Gap in Pennsylvania, with the goal of establishing buffers around these installations for limiting encroachments and other constraints on military training, testing, and operations and preserving wildlife habitat around those installations.

The County should explore working with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to monitor traffic patterns around Fort Barfoot facility to ensure the safety of facility users and the surrounding county is maintained. VDOT can assist in achieving this metric by providing traffic data on the daily users of the roads surrounding the facility to provide data on any necessary road improvements the area may need.



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### **L. State Facilities**

Three state facilities are located in Nottoway County and serve as major employers for the region – Piedmont Geriatric Hospital, the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation, and the Nottoway Correctional Center. In addition to providing jobs and helping to bolster the County’s economy, these sites also coordinate with surrounding jurisdictions on the provision of services. These three facilities get their water from the Town of Crewe. The Correctional Center’s sewer treatment facility serves the other two facilities plus the Town of Burkeville. Another concern cited by local officials is employees at these facilities living outside the County and commuting to work. A significant number of employees at these facilities live outside Nottoway County, some a considerable distance away. Reasons could include availability (or lack thereof) of affordable quality housing and lack of services and amenities, among others. Long commute times could affect worker productivity and morale, which could adversely affect workplace efficiency.

**Recommendations** – As noted above, as the Nottoway County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors work on amending the County’s zoning and subdivision ordinances, care should be taken to address the impact of new development on water quality. Even though the Towns operate their own water systems, development in the County could adversely affect water sources for one or more of these public systems. One possible avenue could be the enactment of zoning and subdivision standards that allow and/or encourage low impact development techniques as a tool to manage non-point source environmental pollutants associated with new development.

Nottoway County and its Towns will need to work together to assure adequate capacity for these facilities, and in helping these facilities address future needs in general. Options for encouraging employees at state facilities to relocate to Nottoway County include working with the State to offer incentives for employees at these facilities to relocate closer to their workplace, such as reimbursement allowances to offset some of the relocation costs (moving expenses, legal fees, etc.) and working with state and federal agencies (for instance, Virginia Housing and DHCD) and tapping into their programs to encourage local developers to develop more affordable housing in the County. Additionally, as the County’s economy expands, the establishment of more businesses and services will serve as an added incentive for employees at these facilities to relocate to Nottoway County.

### **M. Economic Development**

As with many communities, economic development is a priority in Nottoway County. A strong and diverse economy provides employment and a tax base that supports public services and a livable community. Although most economic activity is in the private sector, local government’s role is to establish parameters for private markets, provide necessary services, and participate in economic development in some circumstances. There has been a push through Southside Virginia to diversify local economies due to changing economic conditions and the increasingly globalized economy. Nottoway County is not immune to this need to diversify and, while government is limited in what it can do, there are some steps local government can take to help diversify and strengthen the local economy.

**Recommendations** – A critical step that this Plan takes, through the Land Use section, is to identify areas where new commercial and industrial development should occur. The County should work with its Towns, VDOT, VDH-ODW, and other stakeholders to make sure new development in these areas will be served by adequate transportation facilities and public utilities. An additional step is through job training programs

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to prepare local workers for in-demand jobs. These include jobs in emerging sectors (tech/IT, etc.) plus jobs to serve existing facilities (for example, the new boutique hotel at the site of the old Blackstone College for Girls).

The County can work with the school system and stakeholders such as Southside Virginia Community College, the Longwood Small Business Development Center and the South-Central Virginia Workforce Investment Board on job training programs. The County can also partner with the Amelia-Nottoway Vocational Tech school to revamp and renew support in technical educational programs. Additionally, the County can work with the CRC, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and other stakeholders to develop identified sites for targeted uses. The County can also work with the CRC and stakeholders including the Tobacco Commission, GO Virginia, the U.S. EDA, and others on funding for programs and projects to develop sites to make them marketable to prospective users.

# Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan, 2023 - 2028

## VI. Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

### A. Introduction

The Nottoway County Planning Commission has developed the following goals, objectives, and strategies to serve as a guide for future community actions. *Goals* are broad statements that represent the purpose or end that provides direction for community decisions. *Objectives* are measurable statements of actions the community will take to carry out a desired end-result. *Strategies* are definite courses of action chosen from alternatives to guide present and future decisions in the accomplishment of objectives. It is intended that through implementing these strategies, the County will achieve the identified community goals and realize the community vision.

The goals identified are long-range in their scope, generally 10 to 20 years, and set directions for County actions in the coming years. The objectives are generally set in a shorter time frame of 5 to 10 years, and set the foundation for effective and continuous planning. Although certain objectives may appear overly ambitious at present, continuing growth in the County will benefit by their achievement. Strategies are more immediate and should be considered as guidelines for the future, which may be changed and updated as circumstances warrant. New strategies could, and should, be added whenever the need becomes apparent that the direction of the County is changing.

### B. Nottoway County Vision Statement

Nottoway County is dedicated to the principles of economic growth, enhancing the quality of life for its residents, attracting desired and socially responsible new businesses, and ensuring a fiscally sound county government while preserving the County's rural and historic character. The following planning principles have been established to help achieve this vision:

- Preserve the County's rural character by establishing designated areas for new residential, business, and industrial growth.
- Encourage economic growth that will attract socially responsible businesses, create good-paying jobs, generate residential development, and provide retail and service establishments that meet the needs of county residents.
- Provide a proper balance between residential and industrial development, and the availability of public facilities and services to accommodate them.
- Encourage the development of affordable housing for all income levels.
- Ensure that development is planned and carried out in a manner that preserves environmentally sensitive areas.
- Work with VDOT, Nottoway County's three towns, and local/regional organizations to assure that the County's transportation system meets all of the County's needs.

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- Preserve Nottoway County's historic resources that provide valuable information about the County's proud history.

These principles will allow the local government and Nottoway County residents to respond effectively when development, whether within or outside the County, affects these principles.

### C. Economy and Employment/Education and Workforce Training

**GOAL:** Promote the expansion of a diversified economy.

**Objective 1:** Encourage quality businesses and industries to locate in the County.

**Strategy 1:** Work with the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC), the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), local Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders to promote the County's industrial areas to promote new environmentally friendly industries.

**Strategy 2:** Promote new investment and commercial development in designated commercial areas of the County. Work with Longwood Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and other entities to promote/encourage new business development.

**Strategy 3:** Work with the local Chambers of Commerce, VEDP, Longwood SBDC and other stakeholders to promote new commercial development including a grocery store, restaurants, and retail establishments to meet the needs of residents.

**Strategy 4:** Research, determine suitability, and encourage the use of all available state and federal grant and incentive programs to assist with economic development efforts; pursue programs like the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Community Business Launch, and others, to encouraging the development of small businesses in the County.

**Strategy 5:** Monitor tax rates for Nottoway County to ensure the County is competitive with surrounding areas.

**Strategy 6:** Promote new investment and development of broadband Internet infrastructure to promote commercial and educational growth within the County.

**Strategy 7:** Work with state and federal government facilities in the County to promote and encourage Workforce Training to train employees for service industries that serve those facilities.

**Objective 2:** Provide adequate land and resources for commercial and industrial uses.

**Strategy 1:** Work with the CRC, VEDP, and others to promote the County's industrial areas to new industries.

**Strategy 2:** Encourage the rehabilitation and use of existing vacant structures for commercial use as an alternative to building new structures.

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**Strategy 3:** Guide community and industrial uses into areas suited for such uses per the Land Use component of this Plan.

**Strategy 4:** Work with the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC), the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), and other stakeholders to develop identified sites/areas for targeted uses including – but not limited to – a distribution center, manufacturing facility, or data center; research and pursue funding through the Tobacco Commission, GO Virginia, the U.S. EDA, and other sources to develop sites to make them marketable to prospective users.

**Objective 3:** Improve employment opportunities for all residents; capitalize on technology as a means to create high-paying, sustainable jobs.

**Strategy 1:** Work with Amelia-Nottoway Vocational Technical Center, Southside Virginia Community College, Longwood Small Business Development Center, the South-Central Virginia Workforce Investment Board, and Nottoway County Public Schools to encourage job training and educational opportunities.

**Strategy 2:** Work with the CRC, the Tobacco Commission, GO Virginia, and other stakeholders to identify funding for job training programs to teach workers in-demand skills.

**Strategy 3:** Encourage the retention and expansion of existing businesses and industries.

**GOAL:** Ensure residents have access to an educational system that will provide quality employment opportunities, training for advanced education, career technical education, and continuing intellectual growth and development for all segments and age groups of the population.

**Objective 1:** Improve employment opportunities for residents through workforce training.

**Strategy 1:** Work with Amelia-Nottoway Vocational Technical Center, Southside Virginia Community College, Longwood Small Business Development Center, and South-Central Virginia Workforce Investment Board to encourage job training and educational opportunities.

**Strategy 2:** Work with Nottoway County Public Schools to enhance vocational/trade programs and provide more hands-on learning for high school students.

**Strategy 3:** Work with Southside Virginia Community College SVCC to enhance job training opportunities, and work with local businesses to ensure proper job training for needed jobs.

**Strategy 4:** Work with SVCC to encourage new business development and growth in the county by promoting re-education opportunities for those that may want to switch careers.

**Strategy 5:** Provide incentives for local tradesmen and businesses to develop apprenticeship programs.



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**Objective 2:** Improve citizens access to early childhood education facilities, childcare facilities, and adequate parental leave practices to help improve the education and development skills needed throughout life.

**Strategy 1:** Encourage the development of childcare facilities throughout the county.

**Strategy 2:** Encourage the development of early childhood education programs

**Strategy 3:** Encourage local businesses to develop parental leave practices that will allow adequate parental care in the beginning of life.

**Strategy 4:** Work with state and federal officials to see that every child receives the nutritional, mental, and physical support that they need for their education and development of life skills.

**GOAL:** Encourage and promote tourism.

**Objective 1:** Develop, enhance and promote activities and attractions that will better utilize the tourism potential of the County.

**Strategy 1:** Work with the Towns of Blackstone, Burkeville and Crewe to continue developing new events and promoting existing events in the County and Towns, or bringing back previous events that have been discontinued – for example, the Chicken Festival in Crewe.

**Strategy 2:** Work with the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, Virginia's Crossroads, the Virginia Tourism Corporation, and other groups to market and promote historical-based recreational opportunities in the County.

**Strategy 3:** Identify and develop areas for recreational use.

**Strategy 4:** Promote agritourism, outdoor recreation, and local farmers markets in the County.

**Strategy 5:** Work with the Town of Burkeville and the Department of Conservation and Recreation to expand High Bridge Trail to Burkeville.

**Strategy 6:** Work with local venues to promote events, festivals, and celebrations

**GOAL:** Ensure sufficient resources to effectively serve the County's residents.

**Objective 1:** Assure adequate revenues to fund essential services.

**Strategy 1:** Set reasonable rates for real estate and personal property taxes, to assure adequate revenue for local services.

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**Strategy 2:** Work with VEDP, Longwood Small Business Development Center, the Tobacco Commission, GO Virginia, and other stakeholders to attract new businesses and industries to provide additional services and improve quality of life for residents.

**Strategy 3:** Monitor real estate and personal property tax rates in neighboring counties to assure that Nottoway County's rates are competitive.

**Strategy 4:** Periodically review the Capital Improvements Plan to ensure future efficient and proper use of county funds

### **D. Land Use**

**GOAL:** Promote a balance of land uses that meet economic and demographic needs of Nottoway County.

**Objective 1:** Provide land areas for orderly and efficient growth.

**Strategy 1:** Complete update of the County's zoning regulations to align with the Land Use section of this Plan and designate areas best suited for residential, commercial, industrial, and other types of uses.

**Strategy 2:** Update zoning regulations to prevent disorderly development and guide desired growth.

**Strategy 3:** Evaluate the effect of a proposed development on county services, including emergency services, and discourage development in areas that would be difficult to support.

**Strategy 4:** Ensure utility services can be provided to proposed areas of development, so that users can have accessible and affordable utility services.

**Strategy 5:** Explore and map the county's untapped natural resources such as water and minerals.

**Strategy 6:** Monitor laws and actions at the federal, state, and regional levels that may have an impact on our community planning or fiscal responsibilities.

**Strategy 7:** Adopt a formal policy regarding renewable energy.

**Objective 2:** Retain the rural setting and single-family character of Nottoway County.

**Strategy 1:** Promote single-family development in areas designated for residential use.

**Strategy 2:** Buffer residential uses from commercial and industrial uses.

**Strategy 3:** Confine commercial/industrial uses to areas designated for such uses.

**Strategy 4:** Ensure all future zoning actions comply with the Comprehensive Plan.

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**Strategy 5:** Ensure protection of natural resources from commercial and industrial development.

**Objective 3:** Encourage quality industries to locate in Nottoway County.

**Strategy 1:** Encourage industries to locate in the industrial parks or in areas where they are compatible with adjacent uses that avoids public disturbance, areas of historical importance, and environmental impact.

**Strategy 2:** Guide community and industrial uses into areas with adequate public utilities and transportation access.

**Strategy 3:** Promote new investment and commercial development in areas designated for commercial growth in Nottoway County.

**Strategy 4:** Expand utilities to areas noted for development in the Future Land use Plan.

**Objective 4:** Preserve historical sites in Nottoway County.

**Strategy 1:** Work with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Nottoway County Historical Association, and other groups to identify all sites and resources in the County worthy of historical preservation.

**Strategy 2:** Encourage historical sites worthy of preservation be designated on the National Register for Historical Places to allow tax breaks for developers and property owners.

**Strategy 3:** Work with local businesses to promote historic landmarks and encourage historical-based tourism in the County.

**Strategy 4:** Develop policies that emphasize the importance of the County's history to developers and contractors so that new discoveries found on construction sites are protected and preserved.

**Strategy 5:** Evaluate whether the use of historic overlay districts per the zoning ordinance are sufficient for ensuring that new land uses are compatible with the County's historic character, or if there is a need to create local historic districts to accomplish this.

**Strategy 6:** Update and upgrade the County's website to make historic documents and maps more accessible to citizens and promote more transparency in county government.

**Strategy 7:** Work with the Towns to encourage the maintenance and/or enhancement of each town's history and character.

**Strategy 8:** Research, determine suitability and encourage the use of all available state and federal grants and incentive programs in historical preservation.

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**Strategy 9:** Encourage a resolution that will preserve both the positive and negative aspects of our history and ensure that it is taught so that we may celebrate our past successes and learn from our past errors.

**Strategy 10:** Partner with the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission to develop a marketing strategy that promotes recreational opportunities in Nottoway County and encouraged tourism in our area.

### **Objective 5:** Promote a clean-living environment.

**Strategy 1:** Promote and encourage community planning and public input that is designed to minimize the effect of roads, utilities, land disturbance, and conflicts from competing uses.

**Strategy 2:** Communicate and coordinate with the Towns and surrounding counties to mitigate the impacts of development on neighboring communities.

**Strategy 3:** Recognize the importance of water and natural resources to the economy, health, and character of the community and work with relevant stakeholders to preserve and protect them.

**Strategy 4:** Explore the use of land management and preservation tools such as agriculture/forestry districts, transfer of development rights programs, conservation easements, and other tools; work with the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, and other groups to establish conservation easements around Fort Barfoot and the FAST-C facility and educate landowners in other parts of the County about conservation easements.

**Strategy 5:** Explore adding additional trash collection stations and introducing a recycling program throughout the County.

**Strategy 6:** Evolve waste management services to keep the county clean while keeping operating cost low, satellite sites maintained, and landfill lifespan protected.

**GOAL:** Work to maximize the benefit of having state and federal facilities located in the County.

### **Objective 1:** Establish relations with new facilities and enhance relations with existing facilities

**Strategy 1:** Continue or re-establish communication with representatives from Nottoway Correctional Center, Piedmont Geriatric Hospital, the Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation, and state facilities at Fort Barfoot to ensure that all parties are aware of issues of mutual concern; address issues as needed and feasible; assure that all lines of communication remain open with those agencies as well as the Towns of Blackstone, Burkeville, and Crewe.

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**Strategy 2:** Work with the Town of Blackstone and representatives from the FAST-C facility at Fort Barfoot to identify and address issues that affect the facility and issues of mutual concern.

### **E. Housing**

**GOAL:** Preserve the integrity of residential neighborhoods and encourage an adequate supply of good quality, affordable housing for all residents.

**Objective 1:** Encourage the rehabilitation of dilapidated housing; discourage housing neglect.

**Strategy 1:** Draft/adopt and enforce more stringent codes to address dilapidated housing and unsightly conditions.

**Strategy 2:** Encourage the use of all available state and federal grants and incentive programs.

**Strategy 3:** Explore the development of a residential maintenance code to protect against landlord abuse of rental properties and their tenants.

**Strategy 4:** Strengthen communication between residents and the Building Inspector's Office to ensure existing housing and rental properties are up to a comfortable living standard and well maintained.

**Objective 2:** Maintain suitable housing and improve substandard housing.

**Strategy 1:** Prepare and maintain a detailed inventory of housing types and conditions.

**Strategy 2:** Encourage the rehabilitation of deteriorated housing.

**Strategy 3:** Encourage that abandoned or dilapidated housing be removed.

**Strategy 4:** Work with the Nottoway County Building Office to ensure the building code is enforced for all new construction.

**Strategy 5:** Explore the development of a Residence Maintenance Code.

**Strategy 6:** Work with the Towns to extend public water and sewer service to areas designated for residential development.

**Strategy 7:** Work with VDOT, local first responders to develop minimum ingress and egress standards for rural properties and neighborhoods.

**Strategy 8:** Research, determine suitability and encourage the use of all available state and federal grants and incentive programs.



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**Strategy 9:** Develop manufactured home regulations to ensure that such units are consistent with federal and state law, and ensure that manufactured homes provide a safe, aesthetic, and affordable housing options for county citizens.

**Strategy 10:** Ensure County zoning ordinances are up to date and address current development trends and emerging construction technologies.

**Objective 3:** Promote the provision of adequate and affordable housing for low-income and elderly persons, as well as the area's workforce.

**Strategy 1:** Work with local, state and federal agencies to identify and obtain technical assistance and funding for housing activities.

**Strategy 2:** Encourage developers to construct new housing units to replace those unfit for human habitation.

**Strategy 3:** Work with Piedmont Habitat for Humanity to provide affordable housing for low-income persons.

**Strategy 4:** Work with state and federal facilities and groups like Virginia Housing to identify workforce housing needs and ways to address those needs.

**Strategy 5:** Restrict the encroachment of incompatible activities and uses or other blighting influences in residential neighborhoods, through the use of buffers and other tools.

**Strategy 6:** Research, determine suitability and encourage the use of all available state and federal grants and incentive programs.

**Strategy 7:** Encourage local churches or other religious organization to help provide assistance with funding and materials to help build affordable housing units.

**Strategy 8:** Work with FASTC personal to explore temporary housing ideas and strategic housing development around the Fort Barfoot area.

### **F. Transportation**

**GOAL:** Strengthen and expand public transportation.

**Objective 1:** Promote and enhance public transportation for groups that need such services.

**Strategy 1:** Assist local charitable and social service agencies (for instance, Centra PACE and Piedmont Senior Resources) to provide and/or improve transportation services for the elderly and handicapped.

**Strategy 2:** Encourage expansion of existing public transportation into unserved areas of the County.

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**Strategy 3:** Research, determine suitability and encourage the use of all available state and federal grants and incentive programs.

**GOAL:** Maintain efficient traffic flow, movement of vehicles through Nottoway County.

**Objective 1:** Assess the need for alternate routes, or other traffic control measures.

**Strategy 1:** Promote ongoing studies of traffic and problem intersections/areas; make recommendations for improving traffic flow and safety for the protection of residential areas.

**Strategy 2:** Research, determine suitability and encourage the use of all available state and federal grants and incentive programs.

**GOAL:** Provide a safe and adequate transportation system for the movement of people, goods and services within Nottoway County.

**Objective 1:** Provide and maintain adequate vehicular and pedestrian facilities.

**Strategy 1:** Work with VDOT to identify needed secondary road improvements for the County as part of the Six Year Highway Improvement Plan, including widening secondary roads and streets within the Towns.

**Strategy 2:** Work with VDOT to address road maintenance issues and assure existing roads are adequately maintained (fix potholes, clean ditches, remove trees in road Rights of way, etc.)

**Strategy 3:** Work with VDOT to provide sidewalks, curbs and gutters throughout the County in areas that see heavy foot traffic.

**Strategy 4:** Maximize citizen participation in planning and identifying existing problems in transportation activities.

**Strategy 5:** Research, determine suitability and encourage the use of all available state and federal grants and incentive programs.

**Objective 2:** Promote alternative forms of transportation other than private automobile.

**Strategy 1:** Assist local charitable and social service agencies to provide transportation services for the elderly and handicapped.

**Strategy 2:** Encourage the development and use of pedestrian/bike paths in targeted areas of the County; seek grant funds for such projects.

**Strategy 3:** Work with DCR and local property owners in the Burkeville area, to the extent feasible, on the completion of High Bridge Trail to Burkeville.

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**Strategy 4:** Adopt by reference, as part of this Comprehensive Plan, the 2010 CRC Regional Bicycle Plan – specifically those portions that relate to bicycle routes within Nottoway County.

**Strategy 5:** Research, determine suitability and encourage the use of all available state and federal grants and incentive programs.

**Strategy 6:** Encourage the use of ride share programs and delivery apps throughout the County.

**Strategy 7:** Work with local towns to support existing mass transit systems and alternative means of commuting.

### **G. Natural Resources**

**GOAL:** Protect and preserve the natural resources of the community.

**Objective 1:** Prevent development in areas of critical environmental importance.

**Strategy 1:** Restrict development in drainage ways and on soils that will not adequately support structures.

**Strategy 2:** Determine where improvements are needed to the storm water drainage structures.

**Strategy 3:** Work with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Virginia Tech, Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District, private conservation groups, and others to provide farms with tools and guidance to educate them about alternative sources and means of irrigation, new farm practices and technologies, and marketable crops.

**Strategy 4:** Promote the preservation and planting of trees, shrubs and other natural foliage.

**Strategy 5:** Encourage the use of buffers around Fort Barfoot, the FAST-C facility, the state facilities in the western end of the County, and industrial areas throughout the County.

**Strategy 6:** Develop guidelines for the implementation and zoning of wind, solar, and other emerging energy technologies.

**Strategy 7:** Research, determine suitability and encourage the use of all available state and federal grants and incentive programs.

**Strategy 8:** Monitor state and county quarantines to prevent the spread of invasive species.

**Strategy 9:** Form a committee to develop guidelines for using conservation practices such as Agricultural/Forestall Districts, Ground Water Protection Districts, Historic Districts, Cluster Housing Ordinances, and Development Right Purchasing/Transferring Practices.

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**Strategy 10:** Develop, use, and update land management plans for county owned acreage to serve as an example to the citizens.

**GOAL:** Ensure residents have adequate recreational opportunities.

**Objective 1:** Encourage recreational opportunities for County residents.

**Strategy 1:** Develop recreational facilities appropriate for and accessible to all citizens including a public pavilion, additional park/playground facilities, and a ball field complex.

**Strategy 2:** Encourage participation in and continuance of County functions and activities.

**Strategy 3:** Work with local schools, churches, and groups such as 4-H to establish programs for youths and teens.

**Strategy 4:** Work with Piedmont Senior Resources, the Southside Virginia YMCA, and other groups to establish programs for senior citizens.

**Strategy 5:** Work with DCR and local property owners in the Burkeville area, to the extent feasible, on the completion of High Bridge Trail to Burkeville.

**Strategy 6:** Work with the Towns, as needed and as feasible, on locating trails in and around the Towns.

**Strategy 7:** Research, determine suitability and encourage the use of all available state and federal grants and incentive programs.

**Strategy 8:** Work with state and federal agencies to promote agritourism, outdoor recreational opportunities, and local farmers markets on their properties.

**Strategy 9:** Develop recreational opportunities and encourage the development of new clubs and civic organizations while bolstering support of existing ones.

**Strategy 10:** Work with officials at Fort Barfoot to promote recreational opportunities on the base.

**GOAL:** Explore working with the Town of Crewe to further develop Crystal Lake for recreational use, while protecting the watershed; work with DCR and Fort Barfoot to explore possible further development of Nottoway (Lee) Lake and lakes on the grounds of Fort Barfoot (including Fort Pickett Reservoir).

**Objective 1:** Look into additional recreational opportunities related to the lake for residents and visitors, encourage efforts to preserve the reservoir's habitat.

**Strategy 1:** Work with interested groups to develop and implement programs and activities such as tree plantings, river cleanups, and educational forums.

**Strategy 2:** Develop trails and other recreational facilities around one or more of these lakes for use by residents and visitors.

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**Strategy 3:** Research, determine suitability and encourage the use of all available state and federal grants and incentive programs.

**Strategy 4:** Work with local school systems on cleanup and conservation programs.

**Strategy 5:** Protect our water resources by partnering with Natural Resource Conservation Service and Piedmont Soil and Water Conservation District to provide farms with tools and guidance of alternative water sources and means of irrigation.

### **H. Community Facilities and Services**

**GOAL:** Provide community facilities and services consistent with citizen needs and orderly development.

**Objective 1:** Protect and care for the adequate, safe supply and distribution of public water for new housing developments.

**Strategy 1:** Require all new development in areas served by public water system to be connected to that system.

**Strategy 2:** Explore the creation of regional partnerships with local, state and federal agencies for water supply planning activities.

**Strategy 3:** Protect our water resource by partnering with federal, state, and local agencies to identify possible sources of pollutants, cleaning impeded waterways, and buffering streams during any land disturbing activities and facilitate the sharing of water between localities.

**Objective 2:** Provide for the adequate sewage collection and treatment in areas targeted for new residential/commercial; development.

**Strategy 1:** Require all new development in areas served by public wastewater system to be connected to that system.

**Strategy 2:** Research, determine suitability and encourage the use of all available state and federal grants and incentive programs.

**Strategy 3:** Build and expand needed sewage infrastructure support in already established business parks and areas zoned for heavy business or commercial uses.

**Objective 3:** Provide an adequate system of storm water drainage.

**Strategy 1:** Ensure that current development within areas targeted for residential, commercial and industrial development is compliant with State Storm Water Regulations.

**Strategy 2:** Stipulate that future development must comply with State Storm Water Regulations.



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**Objective 4:** Provide adequate community facilities that consistent with citizens needs and orderly development

**Strategy 1:** Develop a funding plan to begin replacing or upgrading aging government buildings, schools, libraries, and recreational facilities.

**Strategy 2:** Support the Missions of Fort Barfoot and FASTC by developing Memorandums of Understanding for the use of sharable resources and facilities.

### **I. Emergency Services/Health Care**

**GOAL:** Ensure the continued availability of emergency and health care services to Nottoway County residents.

**Objective 1:** Maintain and improve public safety services for County residents.

**Strategy 1:** Work with the Nottoway County Sheriff's Office to expand police protection in areas that have higher crime.

**Strategy 2:** Work with Nottoway County Fire and EMS Working Group to assure that the Nottoway Emergency Squad and the County's fire departments have the resources they need to adequately serve area residents.

**Strategy 3:** Research, determine suitability and encourage the use of all available state and federal grants and incentive programs.

**Strategy 4:** Update and maintain the County's Emergency Operations Plan.

**GOAL:** Support and promote the availability of quality health care for Nottoway County residents.

**Objective 1:** Develop and promote services for all residents, including the medically underserved.

**Strategy 1:** Work with Centra Health to maintain and expand services provided by Centra Medical Group – Burkeville, to assure that there is a local doctor or nurse practitioner available to see patients during regular weekday working hours.

**Strategy 2:** Work with Crewe Medical Center and Blackstone Family Practice and other providers/stakeholders to maintain and expand services provided by those facilities.

**Strategy 3:** Work with Centra Health, Sentara Health, VCU Health, UVA Health, and others to expand health coverage and services for the middle-and low-income children and adolescents in the County.

**Strategy 4:** Research and determine suitability of an addition of a local emergency room and/or urgent care facility within the County.

**GOAL:** Promote the general safety of the Nottoway County and its residents, and protect against unforeseen hazards through preventive measures.

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**Objective 1:** Reduce the effects of natural disasters on the community through the use of cost-effective structural projects, increased public awareness and education, improved data available to local officials, and other measures, where appropriate.

**Strategy 1:** Adopt by reference, as part of this Comprehensive Plan, the CRC Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan; specifically, those portions that affect Nottoway County.

**Strategy 2:** Keep residents informed through public and media sources such as: Code Red, Facebook, the County website, etc.

**Objective 2:** Undertake measures to minimize the effect of nuisance or harmful elements in the County.

**Strategy 1:** Eliminate litter in the County through enforcement and clean-up efforts.

**Strategy 2:** Work with Nottoway County Animal Control, the Southside SPCA, and other groups on efforts to reduce the population of stray pets (through adoption and spay/neuter programs) and control animals roaming through the County.

### J. Utilities

**GOAL:** Provide for and regulate the siting, development, construction, installation, operation, and decommissioning of renewable energy and battery storage facilities in the County in a manner that promotes economic development and the safe, effective, and efficient use of such facilities while protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the community and avoiding adverse impacts on the County's resources.

**Objective 1:** Encourage renewable energy production and equipment storage facilities in areas of the County that promote the development of renewable energy sources while limiting impacts on natural resources and existing agricultural, forestal, residential, commercial, industrial, historical, cultural, and recreational uses of property or the future development of such uses.

**Strategy 1:** Set a limit for total kilowatt production in Nottoway County via solar facilities that is no higher than a level equal to the total kilowatts used in Nottoway County by all source.

**Strategy 2:** Set guidelines on where (in what zoning districts) renewable energy facilities will be allowed.

**Strategy 3:** Set lot size and setback requirements, and restrictions on building and equipment height, lighting, fencing, and noise.

**Strategy 4:** Establish buffer areas to keep facilities from encroaching on town boundaries, designated growth areas, community hubs, commercial or military airports, and environmentally sensitive areas.

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**Strategy 5:** Establish buffer areas and set distance requirements to protect designated conservation areas, natural corridors, scenic viewsheds, recreational areas, historical or cultural areas, scenic rivers or public water source reservoirs, ecological cores, and other sensitive areas from renewable energy facilities.

**Strategy 6:** Set standards regarding herbicide use, pollinator habitat, open space/wildlife corridors and guidelines for battery storage facilities.

**Strategy 7:** Set limits on percentage of prime agricultural soil that may be included in a parcel with a solar facility.

**Strategy 8:** Set guidelines on how far a facility may be located from an electric transmission line or other renewable energy facilities

**Strategy 9:** Set standards/guidelines in the County ordinance for the Planning Commission to review proposed facilities and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, in accordance with Section 15.2-2232 of the Code of Virginia.

**Strategy 10:** Establish application procedures for the submittal and review of proposed facilities, and procedures for approved facilities including a timeline for construction.

**Strategy 11:** Require the developer to coordinate with VDOT to ensure that heavy truck traffic using area roads during construction does not damage road surfaces or create unsafe traffic conditions.

**Strategy 12:** Require the developer of a proposed facility to include a decommissioning plan with their proposal that outlines procedures for the removal of all equipment from the site, and restoration of the site to its pre-development state (to the extent possible), once the facility has reached the end of its useful life or if the facility is determined to be abandoned.

**GOAL:** Work with the Towns to ensure safe and adequate provision of water and sewer services

**Objective 1:** Provide for the adequate, safe supply and distribution of public water.

**Strategy 1:** Require all new development in areas served by public water system to be connected to that system.

**Strategy 2:** Work with the Towns, the Virginia Department of Health, and other interested parties to develop and access new sources of water to supplement the water system and provide emergency water during times of drought.

**Strategy 3:** Research, determine suitability and encourage the use of all available state and federal grants and incentive programs to help the Towns replace and/or add water lines as needed.

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**Strategy 4:** Work with neighboring counties to develop new water sources and/or utility projects.

**Objective 2:** Provide for the adequate sewage collection and treatment for new residential/commercial; development.

**Strategy 1:** Require all new development in areas served by public wastewater system to be connected to that system.

**Strategy 2:** Encourage the Towns to require the costs of sewer system expansion within a development be borne by the developer.

**Strategy 3:** Research, determine suitability and encourage the use of all available state and federal grants and incentive programs.

**GOAL:** Use all tools at the County's disposal to assure electric service is affordable for all residents.

**Objective 1:** Engage relevant stakeholders to encourage affordable electric service in the County.

**Strategy 1:** Work with utilities that serve the area to assure electric providers provide affordable electric connections to customers.

### **K. Communications (including broadband)**

**GOAL:** To the extent possible, provide for adequate communications (cell phone, broadband, etc.) for local businesses and residents to help them meet the demands of the changing economy.

**Objective 1:** Work with communications providers to assure the availability of high-speed communications for all areas of the County.

**Strategy 1:** Promote new investment and development of broadband Internet infrastructure to promote commercial and educational growth within the County.

**Strategy 2:** Work to promote the availability of programs from the Federal Communications Commission, Virginia Department of Community Development, and others that help lower-income households afford internet service.

**Strategy 3:** Work with partner providers on the County's ongoing VATI project to complete fiber buildout in unserved or underserved areas of the County; explore and/or pursue additional grants, as necessary and feasible, to secure additional funding that might be needed to complete fiber buildout in the County.

**Strategy 4:** Explore a "dig once" policy and possible tax incentives for developers to install fiber conduit in new subdivisions and commercial developments to allow for the later addition of fiber as needed.

**Objective 2:** Regulate the siting of cell towers and other telecommunications infrastructure to assure the availability of adequate communications throughout the County.

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**Strategy 1:** Explore tax incentives for cell phone providers to install towers and other infrastructure to provide communications service to unserved or underserved areas of the County.

**Strategy 2:** As the County reviews and/or amends its ordinances, stay abreast of changes to state and federal laws to assure that any changes to the ordinances are in line with state and federal regulations.



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## **VII. Implementation Plan**

### **A. Introduction**

The adoption of the Nottoway County Comprehensive Plan is not the end of the planning process. Planning is an ongoing process that is intended to periodically review changes which are occurring and the effects of those changes on the County. In addition to the County's Comprehensive Plan, other agencies have plans which must be considered and coordinated with this Plan. Planning is not done in a vacuum, and would be ineffective if done so. While the County must be cognizant of other plans, there are a number of implementation measures available to the local government. This section summarizes these measures and actions which should be undertaken to help implement the Comprehensive Plan.

### **B. Ordinance Revisions**

***Complete revisions to the Nottoway County Zoning Ordinance to bring it into compliance with this new Comprehensive Plan.***

The Zoning Ordinance is one of the principal means of implementing the County's Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the Zoning Ordinance is to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the public by addressing issues such as traffic, public facilities, types of land uses, density, water supplies, wastewater treatment, and environmental protection. The Ordinance establishes the regulations to reflect and implement the land use plan.

#### ***Renewable Energy (including solar)***

As Nottoway County amends its ordinance, the issue of renewable energy in general (and solar in particular) will need to be addressed. As the County develops language in the ordinance to address renewable energy, it will need to take care to ensure that any regulations governing renewable energy protect the County's natural resources – including agriculture, forestry lands and watersheds – and the overall health, safety and welfare of the County. The rural nature of Nottoway County and its abundance of open space makes the County an attractive area for the location of solar facilities, so a balance between the development of alternative energy production and the welfare of the community is crucial.

Another consideration for renewable energy facilities is the effect construction activities will have on secondary roads in the County. According to a recent report in the (South Boston) *News & Record*, secondary roads in nearby Halifax County are taking a beating from the trucks bringing in materials for a planned solar farm in the community of Alton. The report specifically cites Route 786, which has already seen significant damage from trucks bringing in rock to build a pad for an electrical substation that will connect to the solar farm, and notes that local citizens and officials have expressed concerns about further damage to that and other nearby roads with the main part of construction still ahead and more heavy truck trips planned through the area. VDOT officials acknowledged that many secondary roads in rural areas were originally built to a lower standard than what VDOT requires today. Consequently, this could also be an issue in Nottoway County if/when construction begins on solar farms in the County. Construction on renewable energy facilities in Nottoway County will need to involve coordination between local officials and VDOT. Short of Virginia following North Carolina's lead and implementing weight limits for road traffic, County officials will need to coordinate with any developer and VDOT to make sure damage to roads from heavy truck traffic is fixed in a timely manner. Additionally, the County will need to work with the CRC and

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VDOT to prioritize secondary road projects for repaving – taking planned future developments and construction activities into consideration when scheduling maintenance and paving projects.

### **C. Capital Improvement Program**

#### ***Adopt a Capital Improvement Program (CIP).***

Nottoway County has started the process of developing a CIP. The CIP will be an important planning document for the County, as it will help the County focus on and plan for improvements to/maintenance of public facilities. Planning for needed improvements and maintenance will help assure that the County's public facilities are well maintained, efficient and functionally appropriate to meet the County's needs. Once finalized and adopted, the CIP should be reviewed and updated annually as part of the County's budget process, with continuous efforts to improve the document and the process to update it.

#### ***Secure/identify funding for capital improvements.***

There are a number of state and federal grant/loan programs available to fund many different types of capital projects. They include programs from the Virginia Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program, the Virginia Department of Health, and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. There may also be some foundation grants available to help fund certain types of projects. Additionally, the County should set aside funding for planned capital projects and look into establishing new revenue streams to help pay for planned capital projects

### **D. Planning Commission/Board of Supervisors**

#### ***Establish periodic Comprehensive Plan review session between the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.***

As discussed earlier, planning is an ongoing process. The Comprehensive Plan is not designed to be taken off the shelf every five years, revised and placed back on the shelf. The plan is the guide for everyday land use decisions. As a means of more consistently reviewing the plan, the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission should periodically meet for the purpose of reviewing the plan. This will ensure a continuous dialogue between the two bodies and provide a better means of evaluating the implementation of the plan.

### **E. Strategic Planning**

#### ***Establish a strategic planning process for the County.***

Strategic planning is a concept developed by the private sector which is applicable and beneficial to the public sector. It is a systematic way of managing change and creating the best possible future. It is also a process for identifying and accomplishing important actions based on identified strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities.

Strategic planning is not the same as comprehensive planning. Comprehensive planning is goal and objective oriented, while strategic planning focuses on allocation of resources to critical issues. Strategic planning is the process of defining a direction and making decisions on allocating resources toward that

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direction, including financial resources and people. Thus, strategic planning compliments comprehensive planning.

Therefore, the County needs to implement a strategic planning process as a means of fostering public-private partnership for the betterment of the community. The public-private partnership brings together at a local level the different parts of the public sector as well as the private, business, community and voluntary sectors so that different initiatives and services support each other and work together. This could include the Blackstone and Crewe-Burkeville Chambers of Commerce, the Nottoway County Department of Health, local faith groups, local government (including the Towns), law enforcement and fire/rescue services, charity groups, businesses, and others. Pooling experience and expertise, the County can understand local people, places and problems and make sure the right actions are taken and right services delivered.

### **F. Comprehensive Plan Amendments**

#### ***Establish a policy on Comprehensive Plan amendments.***

The Nottoway County Board of Supervisors should establish a policy on amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. Such a policy would benefit the development community, citizens, staff and the Board by clearly identifying the process through which development proposals that are inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan will be evaluated.

### **G. Summary**

1. Complete revisions to the County's Zoning Ordinance to bring it into compliance with this Comprehensive Plan and to address other needed changes.
  - a. As the County adds language to its ordinance to address renewable energy, focus on balancing the development of renewable energy sources with the protection of the County's natural resources and the overall welfare of the community.
  - b. As new facilities for renewable energy are built, coordinate with VDOT (and the CRC as needed) on road maintenance and repairs.
  - c. Work with VDOT (and the CRC as needed) to plan for future secondary road projects, taking into consideration such factors as planned future developments and construction projects.
2. Prepare and update a Capital Improvements Program (CIP) annually.
3. Identify additional funding sources for capital improvement projects.
4. Establish a joint review session between the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors for the purpose of an annual review of the Comprehensive Plan.
5. Establish a Strategic Planning Process that includes a public-private partnership to visualize how the County should look and be developed in the future.
6. Establish and implement a policy on Comprehensive Plan Amendments.