Part 2: Vision

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Chapter 2.1 Vision Statement

Our vision for the future of Charleston County is tempered by ~~her~~ its history. Charleston County is characterized by its natural scenic beauty, active waterways and port, extensive history, truly diverse culture, and vibrant business climate. However, our greatest asset is our people. All of these attributes contribute to its accelerating growth and development. As this growth continues, it is essential that the people embrace a true vision for the County which respects the natural environment and traditional lifestyles, allows for responsible growth and quality development with an emphasis on regional cooperation. While striving to enhance our quality of life, a balance must be maintained between fostering growth and development and preserving our natural and cultural resources always respecting the rights of the individual, including private property rights.

Historically an agrarian community, vast expanses of land remain in some form of agricultural use. We should make every effort to support these activities for cultural economic and scenic reasons. This is in keeping with the vision of Thomas Heyward, Jr., a Charleston signer of the Declaration of Independence who said ". . .Agriculture is the parent of commerce; and both together form the great sources from which the wants of individuals are supplied. . ."

Today many of our recreation activities, quality of life, and tourist attractions are derived from our beaches, waterways, scenic beauty, historic preservation, and abundant natural resources. These should be preserved and protected for future generations. Additionally, any visionary transition into the 21st Century mandates quality education.

The economic base of the County is shifting; as a community we should encourage this diversification and growth while providing for a variety of opportunities without compromising traditional values and settlement patterns. Regionally, major employers are the port, tourism, the medical industry, the government and military, agriculture, and increasingly manufacturing, specifically high-tech sophisticated manufacturing. As we support these economic activities and quality growth, coordination and cooperation among the various governmental entities must occur resulting in improved service delivery, high quality development, and unity. This health vibrant community must look to the past, consider the present, and plan for the future in order to remain a superior place to live, work, and play.

October 13, 2014 Draft
Comprehensive Plan Five-Year Review (proposed deletions shown as ~~strikethroughs~~; proposed additions shown as red text)

The Angel Oak on Johns Island.

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Chapter 2.2 Goals

The following statements have been carefully crafted to reflect the Vision and establish specific goals for the various elements of the Plan. These goals are reiterated later in the Plan as part of the policies and as capstones for each element.

2.2.1: Land Use Element Goal
~~Land resources will a~~Accommodate ~~high~~ quality growth in a way that respects the unique character of different parts of the County, promotes economic opportunity where appropriate, respects private property rights, is coordinated with the provision of community and public facilities, and protects cultural and natural resources.

2.2.2: Economic Development Element Goal
Charleston County will be an integral part of a strong, diverse, and growing regional economy, providing economic opportunities for its citizens and fostering fiscal health for county government services and facilities.

2.2.3: Natural Resources Element Goal
Unique Lowcountry natural resources, such as rivers, creeks, wetlands, aquatic and wildlife habitat, beaches and dunes, groundwater, forests, farmland soils, and air quality will be preserved, ~~mitigated from~~ and actions will be taken to mitigate any potential negative impacts of growth and development, and/or enhanced, where appropriate.

2.2.4: Cultural Resources Element Goal
Cultural, historic and archaeological resources, unique settlement patterns of traditional Lowcountry communities (such as historically African-American communities and family settlements), and traditional activities (such as Sweetgrass Basket Making) ~~will~~ should be preserved and protected from potential negative impacts of growth and development.

2.2.5: Population Element Goal
A socioeconomically diverse and growing population will be accommodated by Charleston County in an environmentally and fiscally sustainable manner with particular attention to low to moderate income residents.

2.2.6: Housing Element Goal
Quality ~~and~~ housing that is affordable ~~housing~~ will be encouraged for people of all ages, incomes, and physical abilities.

2.2.7: Transportation Element Goal
A transportation system that is coordinated with land use patterns, community character, and promotes alternative ways to move people and goods with an acceptable level of service that supports economic development and maintains a high quality of life.

2.2.8: Community Facilities Element Goal
Community facilities and services will be provided in a fiscally responsible manner with adequate levels of service and will be coordinated with surrounding jurisdictions and will be linked to land use planning and development decisions so that community facilities and services have capacity for expected growth and are in place when needed.

2.2.9: Priority Investment, Implementation, and Coordination Element Goal
Public infrastructure projects will be prioritized through coordination with adjacent and relevant jurisdictions and agencies.

2.2.10: Energy Element Goal
Promote use of alternative energy sources and energy conservation measures that benefit our communities.

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