

Calendar Year 2015
January 1st – December 31st

Grayson County Comprehensive Plan Report

Presented to the Grayson County Board of Supervisors May 2016



Grayson County Planning Commission, Grayson
County Administration and the Department of
Planning & Community Development

Grayson County Comprehensive Plan Report

Overview: In 2013, **The Grayson County Comprehensive Plan** identified the overarching goals or themes for economic advancement, long term sustainability and the general well-being of the county and its' citizens. This included:

- Goals:
- a. Support life-long learning opportunities
 - b. Educate and prepare tomorrow's youth for the regional workforce
 - c. Protect the natural and cultural assets of the county
 - d. Improve infrastructure throughout the county
 - e. Strengthen the local economy and increase job growth
 - f. Improve citizen's quality of life and promote healthy lifestyle choices
 - g. Continue efforts to provide safe communities
 - h. Establish reasonable, predictable, and sustainable land-use policy/tools.
 - i. Prepare for issues relating to dynamic shifts in population demographics.
 - j. Promote a responsible and efficient use of government resources.
 - k. Utilize local and regional partnerships.

To meet the goals listed above, strategies/action items were developed and proposed after a series of meetings between the Grayson County Planning Commission and County Administration, County Department Heads, leaders of the county and input from the citizen survey and youth survey.

The strategies were ranked with Priority 1 items identified as most important or time sensitive and Priority 2 and 3 as less critical. The Goal and Action Plan was developed to provide guidance on county priorities for the time period of five (5) years, from December 2013 until the next amendment of the **Grayson County Comprehensive Plan**, scheduled for December 2018.

The original **Chapter 13 – Goals & Action Plan**, portion of the Comprehensive Plan, including the one hundred and ten (110) strategies can be found in the Comprehensive Plan Document available at http://www.graysoncountyva.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/GraysonCompPlan_12_18_13.pdf

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to highlight those activities which were initiated or completed **January 1st, 2015** through **December 31st, 2015** and related to a strategy in the Comprehensive Plan. The table provides a summary of these activities. **Attachment A** provides additional information from those Departments who volunteered to submit this information. This report is written for the Grayson County Board of Supervisors as part of an ongoing yearly assessment system that updates the Board of Supervisors on the county's progress in achieving the goals and strategies listed in the Comprehensive Plan.

Prepared by: Grayson County Planning Commission, Grayson County Administration and the Department of Planning & Community Development. Drafted with input from Grayson County Department Heads, Staff, Elected & Appointed Officials and organizations affiliated with Grayson County.

Grayson County, VA - Summary of Action Items- Calendar Year 2015

Strategy Identifier	Strategy Description	Status	2015 – County Activities that Addressed this Strategy
Priority 1			
1	Comprehensive Plan Accountability- conduct yearly assessment of the county's progress in achieving the goals and strategies. The findings shall be drafted and submitted as an Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors.	Ongoing	<p>2014 Report was presented to the Board of Supervisors June 2015.</p> <p>The BOS approved the “Appropriation of Public Funds Policy” which ensures that affiliated organizations are working towards Comprehensive Plan Strategies when using public funds.</p> <p>2015 Report presented to the Board of Supervisors May 2016.</p>
2	Support efforts, where feasible, to encourage the development of advanced communication infrastructure; broadband, wireless internet, and cell coverage/towers.	Ongoing	<p>The Wired Road continues to operate in the Twin County region and is supported by Grayson County.</p> <p>The Grant Computing Center continues to offer advanced communication infrastructure and internet with avg use of over 45 persons a week.</p>
3	Continue support of regional economic development authorities and small business incubators/development centers.	Ongoing	<p>The Blue Ridge Crossroads SBDC served the Twin County residents by providing free business counseling, low cost or free training. In 2015 a total of 142 clients sought services resulting in 831 hours of free counseling services. Additionally, 36 of those clients received 5+ hours of one on one services. The SBDC hosted 6 free training events with a total of 66 attendees. The SBDC assisted with 14 new business starts with 1/3 of those being in Grayson County. The Twin County area saw a capital investment of new or existing businesses in the amount of \$2,115,239. This capital investment helped create 122 new jobs and retain 96 jobs.</p> <p>The Mount Rogers Business Challenge was open to all businesses either operating or considering opening in Grayson County. The Virginia Tourism Corporation and the Virginia</p>

			<p>Department of Housing and Community Development invested \$10,000 through a grant to the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission. The Grayson County Board of Supervisors and the Economic Development Authority enhanced the project by putting forth an additional \$10,000 to match the VTC and DHCD program dollars. This investment expanded the challenge area from the designated Mount Rogers Recreational Area to all of Grayson County. All participants are receiving a \$100 participation prize from Grayson County Department of Planning and Community Development for completing the challenge.</p> <p>The program graduated 7 business owners and awarded the top 4 businesses \$19,000 in grant funds.</p> <p>Grayson County reached an 80 month low in unemployment rate in July 2015 at 6.1%. The lowest since 2008. In 2015, the county finished 2nd in job creation per capita in the commonwealth and 17th in capital investment per capita.</p>
4	Continue recruitment efforts of industries to the Wildwood Industrial Park, Blue Ridge Crossroads Commerce Park and the Grayson County Industrial Park.	Ongoing	<p>In 2015, recruitment efforts at Wildwood Commerce Park included the Park being considered for 9 projects, submitting responses to 6 requests-for-information (RFIs), and becoming the Virginia finalist for 1 project. In 8 of the 9 instances, Virginia (not Wildwood) was eliminated from consideration. In the one instance when Wildwood was eliminated from consideration, the company debriefed BRCEDA, which provided the staff and board with items to address.</p> <p>Grayson LandCare and SustainFloyd are working with outside investors interested in siting sustainable food production businesses along the Blue Ridge Plateau (Grayson-Carroll-</p>

			Floyd). A proposal for Wildwood is in development.
5	Encourage efforts to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place and operating at the Wildwood Industrial Park, Grayson County Industrial Park, Blue Ridge Crossroads Commerce Park, and other industrial developments where they align with Grayson County's best interest.	Ongoing	<p>Wildwood Commerce Park is a combined project of Carroll, Galax, and Grayson, through the Blue Ridge Crossroads EDA. Wildwood is a certified industrial site composing 273 acres, with 100- and 25-acre graded pads with all utilities in-place, including natural gas and in excess of 1 M GPD water.</p> <p>In 2015, the Blue Ridge Crossroads EDA sought and was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Mount Rogers PDC (utilizing federal funds) for completion of a water and wastewater preliminary engineering report (PER). However, to date, the federal funds are not available and the PER cannot proceed. The localities of Galax and Grayson, however, are also funding (50/50) road and related cost estimates, which is proceeding at this time.</p> <p>Grayson Administration began work with Lane Group to develop a Topographic and Site Development Study of the Grayson County Industrial Park. The study will produce cost estimates and recommendations to improve site grading, access road improvements, utility extensions, stormwater management and other development considerations.</p> <p>Grayson Administration in partnership with City of Galax & MRPDC sought grant funds for Blue Ridge Crossroads Commerce Park to fund site readiness and engineering services for that site.</p>
6	Reduce county debt and maintain a healthy county budget by using tools such as fundraising, grant writing, and progressive loan management; develop partnerships and new revenue streams to fund county projects.	Ongoing	The Day Report Program saved the county \$84,681.99 in 2015 by offsetting fees at the Regional Jail. Several Departments secured grant funds and donations including;

			<p>1) Department of Social Services procured \$26,566.00 in grant awards & received \$3,075.00 in donations through fundraising.</p> <p>2) Extension Service secured grants, donations, and in-kind contributions totaling \$32,400 for county projects</p> <p>3) Sheriff Dept. received \$202,175 in grant funds in FY 15-16 and \$5205.67 in Drug Asset Forfeiture Funds.</p> <p>4) Dept. of Planning & The Grayson County Planning Commission received a \$9500 grant for Green Infrastructure Mapping/GIS Layers for Grayson County</p> <p>5) Public Works facilitated a Litter Grant from DEQ for the recycling program in the amount of \$10,727. Each town received \$1071 and the county received \$7500.</p> <p>6) Virginia Commission for the Arts-Local Government Challenge Grant in partnership with the Arts Council of the Twin Counties \$4000</p> <p>7) The Blue Ridge Discovery Center raised over \$55,000 in grants and private donations, used to supplement the local public education system by bringing programs to local schools.</p>
7	Support a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that ensures efficient operation of county departments, facilities and projects.	Ongoing	In 2015, The Capital Improvement Plan was readopted and five (5) items were completed. Including; Courthouse Elevator Project, Recreation Park Lighting Replacement Project, Security Fencing Project at Public Works & Public Works Compactor Truck Purchase. Two (2) other projects (Recreation Park Trails, Transportation Enhancement Trail) on the CIP are headed toward completion.
8	Develop and implement a comprehensive financial policy that includes an effective and transparent budgeting process.	Ongoing	In 2014/2015 County Administration in partnership with the Treasurer's Office installed new computer

			<p>software and accounting procedures to streamline the interface between incoming and outgoing receipts and revenues.</p> <p>County Administration has converted the County Budget to Excel and openly presents and explains the budget to the Board and the public during a series of work sessions as well as publicly presents and adopts the Annual Budget, Mission, Goals and Objects and provides them to the public and the media.</p> <p>The Yearly Audit continues to show a positive and transparent finance program. In 2015, the School System Audit was conducted in tandem with the County bringing further clarity to the county budget processes.</p> <p>Grayson County approved the "Appropriation of Public Funds Policy" to ensure the proper stewardship of public funds by those organizations who are supported by county funds.</p>
9	Maintain a healthy general fund balance to protect against financial calamity.	Ongoing	In 2014, The County adopted a Fund Balance Policy and has seen that policy requirement exceed and has enjoyed continual growth of the General Fund Balance.
10	Require a code of ethics and a code of conduct for all county board authorities, commissions, and employees.	Ongoing	Currently, the Grayson County Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Economic Development Authority and Key Staff have signed a Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct. Additionally, the County developed and adopted a new Grayson County Employee Handbook that better conveys ethic and conduct requirements and all employees are required to sign off as agreeing to the conditions of the Handbook.

11	Support volunteer emergency services to ensure that all residents can receive timely emergency assistance.	Ongoing	<p>In 2015, county contributed \$2500 to all volunteer fire and rescue agencies.</p> <p>County financially supported the E911 Program with the City of Galax.</p> <p>Grayson Tourism invested over \$1000 in promotion/marketing of festivals which are fundraisers for Volunteer squads in Grayson County.</p> <p>County was recertified and received "Storm Ready" status for the next three years.</p> <p>The county worked with the Rescue Squads to develop a Designated Emergency Medical Response Agency Standard of 30 minutes and was adopted by the BOS.</p> <p>The County passed the Emergency Medical Services Ordinance, to protect existing squads from unfair competition.</p>
12	Prioritize school system capital projects with net cost savings as identified in the previous energy audit.	Pending	Pending
13	Provide advanced technology and technology infrastructure to schools and students. Consider donation infrastructure to get free items.	Pending	In December 2015 DSS facilitated a joint meeting between the Director of the Southwest Virginia Center for Excellence in Manufacturing, County Administration, and the principal of the Grayson County CATE Center, to utilize the assets of the SVCOE & provide multiple benefits for Grayson County, including technology and equipment for technical programs in Grayson County Schools.
14	Offer diverse after school programs to include non-athletic activities such as ag/forestry, career readiness, arts and craft internships, college courses, leadership training, trade skills and advance degree programs.	Ongoing	The Department of Planning & Community Development partnered with Grayson 4-H and the Historic 1908 Courthouse Foundation to offer "Hospitality Industry Internship Program" a summer internship for two 4-H teens. Grayson 4-H partners in the 21 st Century Program with after school hands-on interactive learning, the 4-H camp program, the 4-H teen Leadership and the youth

			<p>cattlegrowing program. Grayson had the state winning cattlegrowing team. Grayson LandCare hosted the Annual Land Stewardship Contest for area high school students and seventeen (17) high school students participated in 2015. GLC applied and was awarded a grant through the VA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program to develop a mentor program for high school aged Ag Students.</p> <p>Blue Ridge Discovery Center offers in school and after school programs on topics including science, art and cultural history.</p> <p>The Matthews Living History Farm Museum has offered an SOL based Farm Days experience to K-1st grade, free of charge to all Grayson County Schools for almost a decade and continues with the program this year.</p>
15	Consider performance based salaries and incentive salaries to attract/keep high performing teachers.	Pending	Pending
16	<p>Increase Career & Tech Education Program and consider other trade based youth/adult programs to educate “workforce ready” population for local employment or for small business development. May include; AC&Refrigeration, Masonry, Landscaping, Building Trades, EMT, Criminal Justice, Property Mgmt., Ag/Forestry, Home Health/Medical, Culinary Arts</p>	Ongoing	<p>Building Dept. established the ICC Building Trade Program at GCHS. See strategy #22 and Executive Summary.</p> <p>Grayson County appropriated additional funds to the School System to hire a CATE Center Principal who will improve the services/programs of the Career and Technical Education Program.</p> <p>Grayson Extension/4-H provided Youth Meat Quality Assurance and Beef Quality Assurance certification skills to 36 youth in 2015.</p> <p>4-H Teen Club develops soft skills, job skills, supervision, planning & management in teen participants. New River Hill Farm, a 140 acre working farm, has been established for experiential agricultural education for youth and adult audiences.</p> <p>4-H Career Immersion Day served 34 local students ages 14-18 with hands on learning experiences with local employers.</p>

			<p>Extension partnered with NC Extension on 7-month business development initiative for agribusiness entrepreneurs.</p> <p>The Independence Farmers Market has invited Agriculture and culinary students to participate in the On-line Market to help them build small business skills such as marketing, pricing and sales.</p> <p>Grayson LandCare donated lumber and potato plants to the CATE Center in 2015.</p>
17	Partner with established colleges to offer a “satellite campus” in Grayson County for advanced degrees and long distance learning.	Pending	Pending
18	Consider vacant spaces/buildings to utilize for advanced learning, trade education, small business development, community centers, mentorship/internship headquarters, and other programs.	Ongoing	<p>The Mount Rogers Business Challenge encouraged applicants to rent or purchase unused storefront space in the Towns of Independence, Troutdale, and Fries. The top prize winner will be locating in Independence and opening in 2016.</p> <p>The Independence Farmers Market negotiates annually with the Town Of Independence to secure the vacant lot across from the 1908 Courthouse to hold it outdoor sales and festivals.</p>
19	Assess the unmet needs of the elderly and develop a strategy to mitigate concerns and meet future needs.	Ongoing	<p>Grayson Extension surveyed clients interested in transitioning farm assets to younger generations. Programs will be developed to assist elderly landowners make estate planning decisions to meet this goal.</p> <p>Extension’s Family Nutrition Program supports 3 senior groups, Grayson S.A.L.T. and the mobile food pantry at Grant and Providence with education on healthy lifestyle choices such as proper nutrition and physical fitness.</p> <p>Rooftop of Virginia provides multiple services that assist the elderly, including the senior</p>

			socialization/meals program that assisted 14 individuals and 11 households in Grayson County.
20	Review existing zoning districts and consider new zoning districts to achieve community land use goals.	Complete	Zoning Ordinance was amended in 2014 and again in 2015 to meet land use goals of the community.
21	Conduct a Zoning Ordinance review and consider amendments for ease of use and to achieve land use goals.	Complete	The Department of Planning & Community Development in partnership with the Planning Commission conducted a yearlong review of the Shoreline Recreation Zone District and amended the Grayson County Zoning Ordinance.
22	Conduct Feasibility Study for school system "Early Diversion Program". Program will identify students who may benefit from career/ technical training programs.	Ongoing	The Building Department provided funding and assistance for the GCHS Building Trades Program by establishing the High School Technical Program (HSTTP) sponsored by the International Code Council. The new curriculum ensures building trade students gain valuable knowledge as it relates to building codes and applying it to real world situations. Through this program a student has the opportunity to obtain certifications though out their high school career, also allowing a student to be better prepared to sit for various Inspectors Certifications exams through the ICC.
23	Create inventory of the privately owned commercial and industrial sites and assist, where possible, with infrastructure needs or marketing to spur economic development.	Ongoing	<p>Building Department and County Administration assisted with the rehabilitation efforts of the new Oak Hall Cap & Gown and new McAllister Mills facilities in Independence.</p> <p>The county worked with the Town of Independence to facilitate a lease/building renovation project for the Oak Hall Cap & Gown Facility to locate in a vacant industrial building in Independence.</p> <p>Grayson County worked with the EDA to secure \$337,162 loan and financial incentive package, including an \$110,000 Tobacco Commission Grant to assist McAllister Mills with</p>

			expansion into a vacant industrial building in Independence.
24	Promote small business development by encouraging creative financing programs such as revolving loan funds.	Ongoing	<p>The Mount Rogers Business Challenge provided \$19,000 in grant funds for new or existing businesses to leverage funds. The grant was funded by Grayson County EDA, DHCD, VTC, and MRPDC.</p> <p>The SBDC assists clients in working with lenders to help leverage these funds against one another for lowest interest rates and opportunities for success.</p>
25	Continue to support web based GIS for citizen's use.	Ongoing	<p>Grayson County Planning Commission contributed left over funds to improve the WEBGIS including parcel line conflation improvements and Improvements to the road layer using VDOT centerline data.</p> <p>Department of Planning & Community Development in partnership with the IT Department initiated a WEBGIS correction application to improve incorrect parcel lines. Worked with Anderson & Associates to implement a quarterly update process using all input GIS data sources.</p> <p>Currently the Free WEBGIS is receiving over 120,000 requests a month and is widely used.</p>
26	Proceed with Phase II and Explore Phase III of the Independence Pedestrian and Bike Trail.	Ongoing	County Administration & Dept. of Planning worked with Hill Studio to bring the Phase II project to construction phase. Submitted application for MAP 21 Funding to proceed with Phase III.
27	Conduct education and outreach to floodplain property owners.	Complete	<p>Dept. of Planning & Community Devpt. Conducted Floodplain Outreach in 2014.</p> <p>Grayson County Planning Commission sponsored Charles Kline of VA DCR</p>

			Floodplain Management to speak with the Commission & the public about Floodplain Permitting.
28	Review and amend land use ordinances to ensure that they are aligned with each other and meet state and federal criteria. Align the ordinances with land use goals.	Ongoing	The Zoning Ordinance Shoreline Recreation Zone District was amended to account for Floodplain Ordinance requirements. The Floodplain Ordinance will be reviewed and edited in 2016 completing this strategy.
29	Support the development of a Community Fitness/Wellness Center to provide opportunity for exercise and physical fitness.	Pending	Listed on the Grayson County CIP.
30	Improve county tax parcel boundaries and records to accurately reflect the county.	Ongoing	See item #25
Priority 2			
31	Create a multidisciplinary committee to research techniques/programs that prevent the cycle of poverty. The study should include how poverty relates to lack of employment, education, lifestyle choices, substance abuse, personal responsibility/work ethic and social services.	Ongoing	Multidisciplinary, multi-jurisdictional team was developed in 2016 to research & develop a pilot program to focus on breaking the cycle of poverty through workforce development, personal accountability, and addressing the referenced issues. Team continues to pursue avenues to institute a pilot program regarding the findings. Funding was requested through the Governor's budget, was denied. Grant proposal to facilitate the program solely in Grayson County is being developed and will be submitted to United Way of Southwest Virginia during their 2016 Grant cycle- See DSS Report for more information.
32	Develop a better understanding of Comprehensive Services Act and assess funding risks to the county budget. Promote avenues to reduce this risk, including lobbying the General Assembly to limit local government social program responsibility.	Complete	Grayson County completed a comprehensive 84 page CSA Review and Self-Assessment during the 2015 calendar year. New, vetted policies and procedures have been enacted. Additionally 16 new locally approved foster families have been recruited resulting in significant CSA cost savings to Grayson County.
33	Continue efforts to support the Twin County Airport (TCA).	Ongoing	Financial support continues for the regional airport.

34	Encourage small businesses and other types of economic development through asset based development. (use of asset inventory)	Ongoing	<p>Grayson Extension, Dept. of Planning & Community Devpt and county leaders involved in the Stronger Economies Together (SET) regional economic development initiative with other stakeholders in the Mount Rogers Planning District. The plan is built on asset-based economic development.</p> <p>Extension facilitated the Grayson Agribusiness Showcase in the Elk Creek District with local partners.</p> <p>The Mount Rogers Business Challenge was open to tourism based businesses.</p> <p>Blue Ridge Discovery Center is participating in the Mount Rogers Initiative with MRPDC to brand outdoor recreation in our region.</p>
35	Partner with regional tourism initiatives such as The Crooked Road, Round the Mountain, and other organizations accountable for increasing tourism.	Ongoing	<p>Grayson County has maintained strong partnership with Friends of SWVA, Crooked Road, Round the Mountain, Blue Ridge Discovery Center, Independence Farmers Market, Grayson LandCare, Historic 1908 Courthouse Foundation, Arts Council of the Twin Counties, Chestnut Creek School of the Arts, Matthews Living History Farm Museum & Take a Break from the Interstate Tourism Initiatives.</p> <p>Blue Ridge Discovery Center is developing promotional projects and recreational guiding services to expand tourism efforts.</p> <p>Independence Farmers Market was invited to set up at the Blue Ridge Music Center's most popular concert in 2015, where they promoted local food and raised consumer awareness of local food products available in the region.</p> <p>The Matthews Living History Farm Museum has maintained membership in The Crooked Road and Round the Mountain since their inceptions.</p>

			Maintains active partnerships with The 1908 Courthouse, Grayson LandCare, Independence Farmer's Market, Blue Ridge Discovery Center, and many more organizations to cross promote & support each other
36	Actively promote cultural events such as festivals, markets, music and other communal activities that are regional attractions to Grayson County.	Ongoing	<p>Independence Farmers Market (IFM) participated in "Take a Break from the Interstate" and had a Christmas tree/wreath/gifts sale the day after Thanksgiving and on Parade Day featuring a chili cook-off and caroling by members of Highland Cameratta. The summer Market featured monthly special events including a free cider pressing, vegetable tastings, culinary contests and cooking demos and weekly kids activities.</p> <p>The IFM was awarded the USDA's Farmers Market Promotion Program grant in which one of the main goals is to conduct local food outreach through the promotion of Agritourism such as Farm Tours and Farm to Table events The GLC Newsletter goes out to 250+ e-mail addresses and our Facebook page reaches 375. We actively promote community events through these media and through our booth at the Market.</p> <p>In 2015, the Matthews Living History Museum held its annual Heritage Event - an Autumn Festival - that was well attended. Additionally, the museum hosted a two day Civil War re-enactment camps of instruction, Twin Counties Arts Council Stories of the Stitch Quilt Show, and an old time Community Social. The Museum actively promoted/ advertised all of these events.</p> <p>Grayson County Tourism advocates for all festival and events through the annual Festival Poster print/distribution and by maintaining the online calendar.</p>

			The Grayson County BOS passed a resolution for a Community Impact Grant to financially assist the Matthews Living History Farm Museum.
37	Create a committee of stakeholders and volunteers to analyze the causes of agricultural loss and to recommend policies/strategies to encourage farming, agriculture land retention & strategies to improve ag/economics.	Ongoing	<p>Grayson Extension Leadership Council serves this role locally, ensuring that Extension staff and the county addresses needs of the farm sector.</p> <p>An outcome of Grayson Extension's work with SET (see #34) is a set of strategies to enhance the agribusiness sector in Grayson County.</p> <p>Grayson LandCare is promoting the Beginning Farmer and Ranching Program to assist with farm transition to beginning farmers.</p> <p>GLC hosted a regional meeting with VA Tech's Appalachian Foodshed Project staff on March 31st to discuss the current state of agriculture and food insecurity; we identified resources, barriers and opportunities for agricultural growth and cooperation.</p>
38	Develop a suitability analysis to determine prime farmland and consider policies to protect and encourage the farming of this land in future land-use decisions.	Ongoing	<p>Green Infrastructure Grant was awarded to the Planning Commission and Ag Based theme map will be developed to determine prime farmland. Developed in partnership with Grayson Extension and NRSWCD partners.</p> <p>GLC partners with New River Land Trust to protect land with conservation easements</p>
39	Support local food initiatives and consider collaborating with local farmers and regional agricultural organizations to create a regional food hub that will transport and market local agricultural products.	Ongoing	IFM partners with SOFresh, Appalachian Sustainable Development, and the NRV working group to promote local food thru the development of a regional brand in addition to developing a transportation service to deliver local products to wholesale outlets

40	Reduce long term cost to the county by improving efficiency of facilities, services, and work flows.	Ongoing	<p>The Grayson County Public Works avoided \$30,322.50 in tipping fees in FY 2015, through use of the recycling program.</p> <p>The county entered into a term contract with three (3) engineering firms to expedite projects, meet public procurement standards and improve the efficiency of project management.</p> <p>Grayson County Administration sponsored the first Employee Health Fair to offer health screenings and encourage healthy habits of county employees to reduce long term health costs.</p>
41	Bolster the county Geographic Information System (GIS) to improve land-use planning and county efficiency. Use GIS to understand guardrail needs for reoccurring safety concerns.	Ongoing	Item #25 above.
42	Continue to have Grayson County representation on local and regional boards, commissions, and partnerships in which Grayson County has a responsibility, association, or investment in said endeavor.	Ongoing	<p>DSS Director serves on the boards of Rooftop of Virginia Community Acton Program, the Twin County Prisoner Reentry Council, Occupational Enterprises, Inc., the Virginia League of Social Services Executives state Employment Services Committee, HOPE, Inc., Smart Beginnings of Southwest Virginia, the Grayson County Community Policy Management Team, and the Highlands Community Collaboration Council. Additional DSS Staff serve on the Grayson County Family Assessment Planning Team and Rooftop of Virginia Head Start Policy Council.</p> <p>Director of Planning serves on the Ninth District Development Financing Board, Crooked Rd. BOD, New River Highlands RC&D Council, Take A Break From the Interstate Council & Advisory member to the Independence Famers Market Steering committee.</p> <p>The Building Official is serving as the Virginia Building & Code Officials</p>

			<p>Association, Region One Chair and Membership Committee.</p> <p>The Sheriff was elected President of the Virginia Sheriff Association Board of Directors.</p> <p>The Board of Supervisors, County Administrator and Deputy County Administrator Serve in multiple leadership positions on regional boards and commissions.</p> <p>County Administrator appointed to serve on the VACO Economic Development, Planning Steering Committee.</p>
43	Ensure that all county departments draft and utilize standard operating procedures to improve efficiency and information exchange.	Ongoing	<p>Comprehensive Employee Handbook was developed (enacted in 2015) and all correlating employee policies and protocols were reviewed and updated during the process. The county implemented the use of ADP software and personnel management program for efficiency of payroll functions.</p>
44	Continue partnerships with non-profit, private, state, federal, regional collaborations, and localities to leverage funds and resources necessary to improving our communities.	Ongoing	<p>DSS continues to collaborate with other agencies, community partners, state officials, elected officials, non-profit organizations, civic and religious organizations, and other localities in order to achieve the referenced goals.</p> <p>Building Dept. & Mt. Rogers PDC assisted the Town of Troutdale with securing a Community Development Block Grant and Grayson County is serving as fiscal agent for the \$688,430 grant.</p> <p>County Admin, Mt. Rogers PDC & Building Dept. began the Eagle Bottom Rehap Project Planning Grant through DHCD.</p> <p>Building Dept. & County Admin assisted Rooftop & Grayson County Schools to provide a head start program for 18 Pre-K students at Independence Elementary School.</p>

			<p>Rooftop of Virginia provides critical services such as head start, weatherization assistance (11 households in Grayson) emergency services (reached 100+ households) housing assistance and other critical needs for Grayson Residents.</p> <p>BRDC connected regional youth and served 3000 participants by partnering with community organizations on their outreach programs.</p> <p>Grayson LandCare partnered with county and regional org on information exchange. In 2015 we brought in grants from VA Tech, USDA and Central Appalachian Network (CAN). GLC is the fiduciary agent for the Local food initiative funded by Heifer International and Seeds of Change. The project centered in Alleghany County NC, focuses on a more regional approach to the local food movement and has established multiple sales outlets for local food growers. Partnered with Church of the Good Shepherd on a First Friday Film Series from May - August. Will expand in 2016.</p> <p>Public Works offers services to River North Correctional Center and provides solid waste/recycling services to businesses on 58 corridor, City of Galax and Carroll county</p>
45	Consider the extension of water and sewer lines to communities with gaps in service or when environmental health threats necessitate action	Ongoing	Building Dept., Mt. Rogers PDC and County Administration completed the Nuckolls Curve project by installing new water meters and water lines to 25+ residents.
46	Evaluate county water infrastructure throughout the county and develop a maintenance schedule to ensure that services remain viable.	Ongoing	The County developed Articles of Incorporation for the establishment of a Public Service Authority (PSA) and appointed members in 2015. The PSA has met monthly and is working on water infrastructure issues.

47	Support efforts to reduce crime and substance abuse in Grayson County.	Ongoing	<p>DSS has continued to utilize the Grayson County Family Initiative program to education families on the dangers of substance abuse among many other issues. DSS investigated or prevented over 30 instances of public assistance fraud. For additional information, see attachment.</p> <p>Sheriff Dept. engages in multiple "crime & substance abuse mitigation measures including; the School Resource Officer Program in every school in the county, a full time Crime Prevention Officer, A full time drug sniffing taskforce that completed 162 searches last year including in the school system, regular business security checks, traffic patrols and over 2,844 requested patrols were completed in 2015. Full report in the Attachment.</p>
48	Encourage countywide efforts to reduce waste and increase recycling.	Ongoing	<p>Grayson LandCare hosted Jonathan Luper- Director of Public Works. Info on how and where to recycle was shared at GLC booth at the Independence Farmers Market for the remainder of the season. The local "Buy Nothing" Facebook group (a GLC partner organization) held a Holiday Bazaar in December where residents could swap usable items for free and is a continuing presence on Facebook to promote sharing and building community. GLC's Save Green Expo featured information on recycling.</p> <p>Public Works continues to grow the recycling program with a 76% increase within the last three years. Public outreach included green recycling events at public venues, schools, libraries and tours of the public works recycling facility.</p>
49	Support strategies to prolong the life of the regional landfill by increasing recycling/reuse of materials for ALL partners in the Solid Waste Authority.	Ongoing	<p>Grayson County Public Works continues to lead the tri-county area in recycling efforts. See the attached Recycling figures for FY 2015.</p>

50	Evaluate local incineration of trash and/or transfer station as an option to reduce trips to the landfill.	Complete	Public works placed three compactor trucks in service which eliminates trips to the regional landfill.
51	Support initiatives that expand the recycling program and the ability to collect revenue. Consider investing in a truck to haul products and a glass recycling/crushing process to capture revenue from this waste stream.	Ongoing	The Public Works continues to expand the recycling program and is adding new equipment vehicles. Plans are to purchase a paper shredder to increase revenue of recycled paper.
52	Continue to support the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service and public libraries as valuable educational opportunities for the county.	Ongoing	Strong county support has continued for the both the Extension and Library Programs. Grayson LandCare was a sponsor of the Extension Agribusiness Tour. GLC had a display in the library through August and donated books on sustainable use of the environment.
53	Create a task force to analyze the environmental health of the county. In particular, as it relates to septic tank issues/straight-piping, the lack of a full time environmental health officer. Ensure that the programs offered by the Health Department align with the needs of the county.	Pending	Pending The Extension Service facilitated well and spring water testing for residents of Grayson County.
54	Develop School System Capital Improvement Plan to prioritize transportation and facility improvement projects.	Pending	School System is in the process of updating the School System Comprehensive Plan.
55	Develop internship/mentorship program for youth to gain experience/build resumes. Combine with leadership training.	Ongoing	Grayson 4-H, Department of Planning & Community Devpt and the Historic 1908 Courthouse provided an internship opportunity for two local teens. They submitted a resume and participated in a job interview. The youth received a stipend for their hours worked and obtained useful skills to build their resume. BRDC launched the Young Explorers Club that connects youth with local leaders in Environmental Science and offers service project opportunities. Sent two youth to the National Environmental Summit for High School Students. The grant awarded to GLC through the VA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Coalition is designed to build

			<p>mentor/mentee relationships between long serving farmers and high school aged and veteran farmers.</p> <p>Each year, the Matthews Living History Museum offers a seat on our Board for an Honors AG student or Honors History student. The student must have access to transportation and participate as a fully functional Board member. This program includes a \$250 stipend to the student.</p>
56	Reach out to second home, retirees, professionals and other potential volunteers to lead education programs in; trades, business, leadership /after school/intern etc..	Ongoing	<p>4-H has partnered with other educational groups such as the Blue Ridge Discovery Group, Matthews Living Farm and the Independence Farmers Market to provide a variety of learning experiences for youth.</p> <p>BRDC utilized 22 retired, semi-retired or active professionals to offer high quality programs in 2015.</p> <p>The IFM offers free workshop in crop production planning, farm business planning and new farming technologies and practices. Volunteers develop curricula/presentations and lead the classroom activities.</p>
57	Understand the challenges for repeat offenders and the needs for those in the Criminal Justice System to re-enter society as productive citizens.	Ongoing	<p>Day report continues to focus on job placement of clients. Life skills counseling every week prepares clients to maintain a stable environment for their family, job skills, and emotional support for day to day obstacles.</p>
58	Develop an information system/network for county residents to learn about lifelong learning opportunities already offered by area organizations. Support workshops and programs already offered for lifelong learning.	Pending	<p>Grayson LandCare offered public workshops on elderberries, blueberries, sheep & fiber production & bee-keeping classes.</p> <p>Presentations at open meetings included a Tech entomologist on insect management, horticultural services through Extension, the CATE</p>

			Center and sustainable forestry practices. Annual Save Green Expo had 23 educational exhibits, free to the public, on activities of GLC and its partners.
59	Work with agencies and educational institutions to develop job skill training programs to meet identified gaps in the local workforce.	Ongoing	Extension is involved in the SET program where workforce development is a major emphasis for all industry segments. Extension's role is both agriculture industry specific workforce training, and developing workforce ready youth for any career pathway by participating in 4-H activities such as Career Immersion Day. Independence Farmers Market (IFM) works with the County Extension office to promote and develop classes and instruction on small sustainable farming practices.
60	Require all county appointments to attend leadership training within the first two years of appointment.	Ongoing	Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Association of Counties co-lead the Virginia Certified County Supervisor Program. Grayson Extension has offered leadership training for current and past Supervisors and department heads, and is available to continue that effort.
61	Require all Board of Supervisors to attend the National Association of Counties BOS training within one year of service and require Advanced Training for Board or Supervisor Chair.	Pending	Pending
62	Achieve Certified Crime Prevention Community Status	Pending	Full Time Crime Prevention Officer obtained certification as a Crime Prevention Specialist in 2014. The move to the Public Safety Building in 2016 brings the Department a step closer to achieving community status.
63	Expand the Recreation Department programs and facilities to include adult/senior programs and outdoor recreation.	Ongoing	The Grayson County Recreation Department continued offering fitness courses for adults.

			The Recreational Trails Project-ADA Trail construction began and will be available for disabled adults/seniors by 2017.
64	Develop an Environmental Health Loan Program - a low interest revolving loan fund to assist citizens with high cost projects needed for environmental health issues including septic system replacement, demolition of hazardous buildings, and junk removal.	Pending	Pending
65	Host community meetings and utilize key pad polling to gauge citizen input on land use and zoning restrictions.	Pending	Pending
66	Survey other communities to gather input on strategies for attracting medical clinics and services. Support private investment in medical services and clinics where possible.	Pending	Pending
67	Sponsor a suitability analysis for land-use types and develop a future land use map based on the recommendations of the suitability analysis.	Ongoing	The Grayson County Planning Commission in partnership with the Department of Planning applied for a Green Infrastructure Grant, for \$9500 in technical assistance to identify natural resource and develop theme maps to be used on the future land use map.
68	Develop policy for the review of conservation easement applications when county approval is needed.	Complete	Planning Commission began the practice of reviewing Conservation Easement applications in 2014 and has continued the review process.
69	Amend administrative process for rezones to include site plans and review/interaction with VDOT for rezone applications.	Pending	Pending
70	Collaborate with land use agencies who provide technical assistance such as the New River Soil & Water Conservation District, VDOF, USDA NRCS, USDA FSA, and other similar organizations.	Ongoing	<p>County Extension collaborated with NRSWCD, USDA NRCS, FSA and VDOF on cost share programs, grants and BMP implementation.</p> <p>County Extension provided support for field days and educational events at NRSWCD- New River Hill Farm.</p> <p>Planning Dept. and Planning Commission initiated Green Infrastructure Grant in partnership with SWCD, Extension, DGIF, DCR-NH, MRPDC, BRDC to develop natural</p>

			<p>resource theme maps and GIS databases.</p> <p>BRDC is partnering with local agencies to conduct citizen science projects such as water quality testing, biological surveys and migration monitoring.</p> <p>GLC's Save Green Expo featured these and other agencies with information and resources to help local citizens use their services effectively. NRCS agents regularly attend IFM workshops to promote and provide clarity on federal programs that promote responsible land use</p>
71	Survey small business owners to understand the needs of these businesses and leverage resources to assist these needs.	Ongoing	<p>The SBDC participated in a BEE planning grant from DHCD exploring the training and professional development needs of small business owners. Business owner's throughout the entire Twin County region were either surveyed in person or provided a paper survey. The data has been compiled for the SBDC to analyze and determine training programs for existing businesses.</p> <p>Extension developed Agribusiness Showcase to connect small business owners with local government leaders. The location rotates yearly for each Electoral District of the county. In 2015, the Elk Creek District was highlighted.</p> <p>Extension provides resources to small businesses and agricultural providers to address their needs.</p>
72	Support AEP's 5 year Plan for utility improvements in Grayson County.	Pending	Pending
73	Support initiatives that create employment through value add/processing of local agriculture and forestry resources.	Ongoing	<p>Extension partnered on workshops/demonstrations related to elderberries, and safe food/produce handling.</p> <p>Grayson LandCare hosted the Annual Save Green Expo in Independence</p>

			<p>and sponsored multiple workshops and presentations on agriculture, natural resource production. The Blue Ridge Woodland Growers Network was formed to educate and network potential producers of non-traditional forest products.</p> <p>The Independence Farmers Market continues to promote agriculture opportunities with four (4) part time staff, a small business incubator, over forty (40) farmers and crafters at both the open air and online markets. The venue provides income to area producers and crafters. Over three workshops were held in 2015 on sustainable production practices.</p> <p>GLC's Forestry Committee seeking funding for a small wood-drying kiln to make selective hardwood harvesting profitable.</p> <p>Matthews Farm Museum Heritage Events provide free booth space for the Independence Farmer's Market, local artisans and soap makers who sell their wares and do very well at all our events. Additionally, we maintain a data base and contact and recruit appropriate vendors for the Arts Council Quilt Show and for the Civil War re-enactors and other area organizations that request our assistance.</p>
74	Sponsor independent third party study of the proposed benefits/negative impacts of use value taxation.	Pending	Pending
Priority 3			
75	Understand energy costs across the county and support initiatives that reduce energy use. Promote alternative energy technology and efficiency.	Ongoing	GLC's Save Green Expo featured solar and wind power and how to build a rocket stove
76	Support the Independence Community Initiative for development of McKnight Park as part of tourism development.	Ongoing	IFM works with the Town to develop a multiuse Park that meets the needs of Town and community events as well as the Farmers Market. The vibrant Market has shown the feasibility of Park development. The IFM festivals continue to draw visitors

			from other areas and prove that Grayson can offer destination opportunities for the tourism industries.
77	Create a tourism brand for outdoor recreational assets on the western end of Grayson County to promote tourism and small business development.	Ongoing	Tourism Department, BRDC and business assets are working with Mt. Rogers PDC on a Mount Rogers brand for the western Grayson area. Several meetings were held in 2015. BRDC is branding western Grayson as the wilderness destination in the east by marketing in North Carolina and I-81 corridor.
78	Promote foster parenting in the community.	Ongoing	Promotion of foster parenting and recruitment of new local foster families has been a top priority over the course of calendar year 2015 for DSS. During the course of this year the department has conducted many community outreach events and successfully recruited, trained, and approved fifteen new local foster families.
79	Complete an inventory and a review of natural and cultural assets of the community.	Ongoing	See Item #67 above. Grayson County submitted comments to the FERC regarding relicensing of the Fries Dam, with the goal of improving the New River Access and Economic Devpt Opportunities in Fries.
80	Consider a full time visitor/tourism center.	Ongoing	Grayson County Tourism continued agreement with Historic 1908 Courthouse to serve as Visitor Center. Assisted with new signage for the facility and improvements to the visitor information distribution racks.
81	Consider expanding efforts of agri-tourism initiatives.	Ongoing	Grayson LandCare toured Glade Road Growers in Blacksburg to better understand agri-tourism. Rick & Jen Cavey hosted a tour at Wagon Wheel Farm for the Farmer-to-Farmer Network – Abingdon, VA based organization. Independence Farmers Market hosted 6 special events promoting local agriculture and was a

			<p>lunch stop for "Take A Break From the Interstate" in July.</p> <p>Grayson Tourism continues to offer a free listing page/marketing for agritourism on the Grayson Tourism website.</p> <p>Independence Farmers Market successfully applied for and received \$82,414 for the Farmers Market Promotion Program. Expanding Agritourism in Grayson County by increasing marketing efforts in partnership with Grayson Tourism is planned as part of this grant.</p>
82	Consider collaboration between Grayson County and local historical societies/organizations to promote important historical/cultural resources of the county.	Pending	Initial conversations with Historical Organizations regarding driving trails based on Historical assets.
83	Consider creating a tourism business network to improve professionalism and networking of businesses associated with tourism.	Complete	<p>E-mail contact list has been developed for Grayson Tourism. Periodic newsletters are mailed for information exchange. Tourism Ambassador Program was implemented to improve tourism business, marketing skills and networking. Provided three marketing courses and assisted with the development of new logos for tourism businesses.</p> <p>The Tourism Department continues to partner with lodging partners. In 2015, the Transient Occupancy Tax collected from lodging partners increased by \$1975, from 2014 (\$23,980) to 2015 (\$25,955).</p>
84	Bridge the Tourism and Recreation Departments to ensure that visitors can access local recreational offerings.	Ongoing	Recreation Park listed as on Outdoor Recreation asset on the Tourism Website.
85	Continue improving the government website to facilitate the exchange of information in an accurate and efficient way.	Ongoing	Grayson County Administration in partnership with the IT Dept. updated the Grayson Government website and can now make required edits in house for timely information. The Facebook page was developed to share information via social media.

86	Consider a spay/neuter ordinance to address the taxpayer cost for animal control and support educational programs about responsible animal ownership. Partner with animal welfare organizations to find homes for unwanted pets.	Ongoing	Animal Shelter working with the Twin County Human Society on animal placement/adoption programs for unwanted animals.
87	Explore successful models/programs that break the cycle of poverty and replicate these programs.	Ongoing	DSS Executive Summary lists multiple programs tackling this issue. GLC's Earthbox Project, in partnership with VA Tech, provided containers, soil and seeds to 40 needy families in Grayson County so they could grow food for their families. Independence Farmers Market, as part of the Wholesome Wave Nutrition Network, doubles SNAP benefits and provides cooking demos on how to use fresh produce.
88	Support and expand activities of the Day Report Program to prevent repeat offenders and assist them with transitioning back into the community.	Ongoing	The Day Report Program is now focusing more on substance abuse help and support. Drug offenses have been the leading crime of clients referred into the program. Encouraging the clients to enroll in extra AA/NA meetings outside of Day Report is proved to be beneficial to the individual. Also arranging one on one time with struggling clients is being arranged when necessary.
89	Work with the school system to provide afterschool leadership development academy to encourage the next generation of leaders.	Ongoing	4-H Teen Club Members are given opportunities to develop and implement leadership skills. Annual trips to the state capitol also help to teach youth about the importance of leadership and how it can be used to shape our world both locally and globally.
90	Utilize crime statistic data and GIS to identify, prescribe and treat areas of acute criminal activity.	Pending	Pending
91	Expand DARE program into the higher grades in conjunction with School Resource Officer program. Consider "scared straight" as part of this program in partnership with River North Correctional Facility.	Pending	See Sheriff Dept. Report and Strategy # 47

92	Support private investment in Assisted Living Developments and other housing infrastructure needed for elderly and aging, where possible.	Pending	Pending
93	Create information clearinghouse for citizens in need of building repair and energy improvements by connecting them with established organizations such as Rooftop, People Inc., Rural Development, HUD, and others.	Pending	Pending
94	Build social capital by encouraging the formation and growth of civic clubs that address community needs. Topics may include scholarships, affordable housing, and other social issues.	Ongoing	Grayson County continues to support civic organizations with annual appropriations.
95	Collect data on ridgetop development and analyze data to determine if future threats exists.	Pending	Pending
96	Consider amendments to the subdivision ordinance to require surveys and/or land division data in digital AutoCAD dxf files.	Pending	Pending
97	Consider participation in regional Enterprise Zone to encourage local investment and business development.	Complete	In 2014, Grayson/Galax/Carroll was awarded by DHCD and announced by the Governor a new "Enterprise Zone Designation". This designation enables incentives/grants and tax credits for job creation and capital investment.
98	Study how lighting choices impact the night sky and consider policy to protect dark skies as a local asset.	Pending	Pending
99	Partner with Towns to expand bicycling and pedestrian transportation options.	Ongoing	The Enhancement Trail Phase II & Phase III will provide alternate transportation for Town Residents. Director of Planning & Community Development attended several town meetings regarding the project.
100	Analyze the need for Park & Ride locations and support public transit/ridesharing infrastructure when cost effective.	Pending	Pending
101	Provide County representation at Commonwealth Transportation Board meetings to lobby for transportation funding and ensure adequate representation.	Ongoing	The county in partnership with MRPDC successfully applied for HB2 funding to improve Hwy 58 and US 21 interchange in Independence. A robust six year secondary road plan was approved and the plan is to

			<p>complete the six year plan in four years by creative use of the Rural Rustic Program.</p> <p>Brenda Sutherland serves as Grayson County's representative on the Mount Rogers Region's Transportation Steering Committee, and accompanied by County Administration, represents and attends various local, regional and state briefings and hearings regarding transportation needs and priorities</p>
102	Consider policy that reduces strip development and multiple entrances to the state highways for safety concerns.	Pending	Pending
103	Consider incentive program to remove pre-76 manufactured homes that may be unable to meet current building codes.	Pending	Pending
104	Consider resolution for "Clean Grayson Month" to promote civic and public actions to clean up the county.	Pending	Pending
105	Gauge the support for a local office park to accommodate those without internet who may be in need of personal office and when space is needed for business development.	Pending	Pending
106	Evaluate the potential to transition the Industrial Development Authority to an Economic Development Authority.	Complete	Board of Supervisor resolution and IDA resolution officially transferred the Grayson County IDA to an EDA.
107	Encourage tourism by supporting the Blue Ridge Discovery Center, Matthews Farm Museum and/or other natural & cultural history museums as tourism development.	Ongoing	<p>Tourism Department continues to support these organizations through exposure on digital and printed distribution pieces.</p> <p>Multiple organizations, such as Blue Ridge Discovery Center, Grayson Land Care, Independence Famers Market, Grayson County Historical Society, Matthews Living History Farm Museum are working together to promote themselves, each other and the county as a tourism destination.</p>
108	Consider a new sheriffs building or a criminal justice center that attaches to the County Courthouse	Ongoing	In 2016, the Sheriff Dept. moved to the Grubb Public Safety Building on Davis Street. This state of the art

	and/or other strategies to improve courthouse security.		building is conveniently close to the Courthouse & Administrative Offices. This cost effective solution eliminates the need for future construction of a new facility on the courthouse campus.
109	Consider workforce development program to meet the local farm/forestry labor needs and plan accordingly.	Ongoing	See Extension comments on Priority I Strategy 16. Extension cooperates with the school system to get students industry certifications. Extension facilitated the comprehensive educational platform for agriculture and forestry workforce develop via use of New River Hill Farm. 4-H teaches soft skills needed in the workplace such as responsibility, supervision, and time management. 4-H Career Immersion Day exposes youth career opportunities in all multiple industry sectors including agriculture and food processing.
110	Evaluate the need for web based clearinghouse of ag/forestry assets and networks to promote this economy. (producers, value add products, active farms, local food infrastructure & transportation options for food products)	Pending	Pending

Calendar Year 2015: Planning Commission Report on the Comprehensive Plan Strategies

The Grayson County Comprehensive Plan- Goal and Action Plan was launched on January 1, 2014, with the approval of the Comprehensive Plan. As of January 1st, 2016 the county was twenty-four (24) months into the execution of the sixty month (60) plan before the next Comprehensive Plan revision, which is scheduled for 2018. The Yearly Report presents the county's progress on meeting the strategies in the plan. In the report, those strategies which are complete, are listed as complete. Those listed as ongoing or in progress, or because of their reoccurring nature will continue to be listed as ongoing. Strategies where little to no effort has occurred are listed as pending in the report.

Of the one hundred and ten (110) strategies listed in the Comprehensive Plan, the county has completed nine (9) strategies and has initiated or is actively working on seventy-one (71) strategies, which are listed as "Ongoing". There are thirty (30) strategies listed as pending.

The Planning Commission reviewed the top fifty-five (55) strategies of the Comprehensive Plan (Strategy 1-55). This review covered the highest priority items listed in the Comprehensive Plan. As a result of this review, The Planning Commission submitted comments and suggestions for strategy completion. This input is referenced below.

Strategy Identifier	Strategy Description	Planning Commission Suggestions
Priority 1		
2	Support efforts, where feasible, to encourage the development of advanced communication infrastructure; broadband, wireless internet, and cell coverage/towers.	Consider a comprehensive approach that fully understands the challenges, "internet dead zones" of Grayson County and develop a plan to address the challenges. The citizen survey conducted in 2013 showed us that the "availability of high speed internet" is on average 62% of the households (who responded to the survey) The ability to attract businesses, industry and create an atmosphere for success is directly tied to internet/broadband access. An "internet/broadband" study of Grayson County may be a good first step in addressing this challenge and improving access to the citizens.
4	Continue recruitment efforts of industries to the Wildwood Industrial Park, Blue Ridge Crossroads Commerce Park and the Grayson County Industrial Park.	Great strides were made in infrastructure improvements at Wildwood Commerce Park. The engineering work at the two Industrial Parks in Grayson Park is applauded.
5	Encourage efforts to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place and operating at the Wildwood Industrial Park, Grayson County Industrial Park, Blue Ridge Crossroads Commerce Park, and other industrial developments where they align with Grayson County's best interest.	Continue momentum and build on the recent efforts to improve and occupy the two Industrial Sites in Grayson county.

6	Reduce county debt and maintain a healthy county budget by using tools such as fundraising, grant writing, and progressive loan management; develop partnerships and new revenue streams to fund county projects.	With the tight budget challenges ahead, cost efficiency should remain a prime goal. The Planning Commission applauds the efforts to obtain grant funding and most notably the Sheriff Dept. for securing the largest grant amount in 2015 at \$202,175.
10	Require a code of ethics and a code of conduct for all county board authorities, commissions, and employees.	This strategy can be completed in 2016 and 2017 with minimal effort. A comprehensive list of the affiliated organizations and communication regarding the code of conduct and ethics could be pursued to encourage all affiliated groups to adopt the Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics into their Bylaws/Rules of Procedure.
11	Support volunteer emergency services to ensure that all residents can receive timely emergency assistance.	The Commission applauds the 2015 efforts to benefit the volunteer squads. Consider expanding the financial support already in place to ensure that the volunteer squads remain viable.
12	Prioritize school system capital projects with net cost savings as identified in the previous energy audit.	See School System Note*
13	Provide advanced technology and technology infrastructure to schools and students. Consider donation infrastructure to get free items.	See School System Note*
14	Offer diverse after school programs to include non-athletic activities such as ag/forestry, career readiness, arts and craft internships, college courses, leadership training, trade skills and advance degree programs.	See School System Note*
15	Consider performance based salaries and incentive salaries to attract/keep high performing teachers.	See School System Note*
16	Increase Career & Tech Education Program and consider other trade based youth/adult programs to educate "workforce ready" population for local employment or for small business development. May include; AC&Refrigeration, Masonry, Landscaping, Building Trades, EMT, Criminal Justice, Property Mgmt, Ag/Forestry, Home Health/Medical, Culinary Arts	See School System Note*

17	Partner with established colleges to offer a “satellite campus” in Grayson County for advanced degrees and long distance learning.	See School System Note*
18	Consider vacant spaces/buildings to utilize for advanced learning, trade education, small business development, community centers, mentorship/internship headquarters, and other programs.	The county has been successful in conveyance of “old properties” to community organizations. These community buildings become important anchors for the community. Consider a more systematic approach to ensure that community organizations are presented with the opportunity to use these “old properties” before they go on the open market. For example the Mt. Rogers School.
19	Assess the unmet needs of the elderly and develop a strategy to mitigate concerns and meet future needs.	More work is needed on this strategy. According to the 2010 US Census 45.2% of Grayson’s population is over 50 years of age. 23.6% is over 65 yrs of age. Consider a comprehensive approach to fully understand the many needs of the elderly and develop an action plan to improve their conditions in Grayson County.
22	Conduct Feasibility Study for school system "Early Diversion Program". Program will identify students who may benefit from career/ technical training programs.	See School System Note*
23	Create inventory of the privately owned commercial and industrial sites and assist, where possible, with infrastructure needs or marketing to spur economic development.	Consider a strategic inventory of vacant commercial and industrial properties. Reach out to landowners of these properties to better understand any challenges, needs and potential for economic development.
29	Support the development of a Community Fitness/Wellness Center to provide opportunity for exercise and physical fitness.	This was the #1 response for requested new public service on the 2013 Citizen Survey. This strategy should remain a high priority for the county.
30	Improve county tax parcel boundaries and records to accurately reflect the county.	WEBGIS Parcel line improvements are a primary concern for residents and professionals involved in land use transactions. Consider additional funding for systematic improvement to older GIS parcel lines.

Priority 2		
31	Create a multidisciplinary committee to research techniques/programs that prevent the cycle of poverty. The study should include how poverty relates to lack of employment, education, lifestyle choices, substance abuse, personal responsibility/work ethic and social services.	The link between substance abuse and poverty remains high. Understand what efforts the county can do to reduce public benefits for repeat drug offenders who may be abusing the social service system. Break the cycle of poverty for this group of citizens through innovative ways to bring employment/lifestyle changes to further reduce their substance abuse/reliance on public assistance.
40	Reduce long term cost to the county by improving efficiency of facilities, services, and work flows.	Are there ways that we can operate more efficiently to reduce costs? How do we collectively ensure that we are operating at our most efficient levels?
43	Ensure that all county departments draft and utilize standard operating procedures to improve efficiency and information exchange.	Consider requiring each Department Head to develop Standard Operating Procedures by 2018. This effort will professionalize county functions and improve efficiency/information exchange and transitions when needed.
54	Develop School System Capital Improvement Plan to prioritize transportation and facility improvement projects.	See School System Note*
55	Develop internship/mentorship program for youth to gain experience/build resumes. Combine with leadership training.	See School System Note *

*School System Note:

In development of the [2015 Comprehensive Plan Report](#), the Planning Commission, despite multiple requests to the Grayson County School System, was not given any data about how the school system is addressing the strategies listed in the Comprehensive Plan- Goal and Action Plan.

The Commission recognizes that 2015 was a transitional period for the School System and that new leadership is in place to bridge the gap between the School System and County Administration. Because the School System is central to many of the challenges and holds great potential for addressing the strategies, their involvement in the Comprehensive Plan Report is vital for assessing how we are meeting the strategies for Grayson County.

It would be advantageous for the county to require “School System Input for the [Annual Comprehensive Plan Report](#)” at the same time as the Grayson County School System Budget Request. In this way, the Commission can more accurately reflect the efforts of the school system in the annual report. We appreciate any efforts on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to assist us with this request.

2015 Comprehensive Plan Report Summary:

The Planning Commission applauds the efforts of Department Heads, County Administration, The Board of Supervisors, Community Organizations and Affiliated Agencies in addressing the Comprehensive Plan Strategies. The 2015 Comprehensive Plan Report illustrates the many ways that our community is developing projects, plans of work and programs that correlate with the Comprehensive Plan and meeting the strategies.

While more work is needed to fully complete the Goal & Action Plan; the two reports (2014 & 2015) show a positive trend for meeting strategies.

The Planning Commission would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for supporting the Comprehensive Plan and we look forward to continued progress for 2016 and beyond.

*** Attachments/Supporting Information – 2015 Comp Plan Report**

Rooftop of Virginia- FY 2015 Services to Grayson County

2015 Annual Update- Dept. of Social Services

Executive Summary- Grayson LandCare

Executive Summary- Blue Ridge Discovery Center

Executive Summary- Day Reporting Center

Building Department Highlights for 2015

Public Works- 2016 Goals & FY 2015 Recycling & Tipping Fees

Sheriff's Dept.- 2015 Annual Report

Grayson County Administration- Economic Development Summary