

- Why do we plan?

Bedford County is faced with a wide range of important issues that are intimately related to land use, including economic development, community revitalization, infrastructure, housing, transportation, environmental protection and land preservation. Planning allows jurisdictions to work with residents and other stakeholders through a collaborative process to articulate how they want their community to look and function in the future.

To help achieve this vision, jurisdictions establish goals and priorities to guide development, revitalization, and preservation, and they institute policies and regulations to govern decision making. Planning helps to determine public needs that growth brings and ensures that those public needs are provided. Planning also helps to determine who should provide the needs. Good planning can also be a useful economic development tool for the community.

County Planning is both an art and a science. It is theoretical and practical. You have to think like a painter and an attorney, like a chess master and a bus driver. Vision, as it relates to future growth, can be difficult to articulate as it is expressed subjectively through the eyes of many stakeholders with different ideas on how a community should grow.

The biggest obstacles to overcome in articulating a vision are persons whom are against growth. They think that if they make it difficult to grow, then they will hinder or even stop it. But, as we have witnessed over the past couple of decades, growth will occur, either planned or unplanned. Our biggest goal is to see that growth occur in a planned and organized way, doing our best to eliminate expensive measures to counteract the negative effects of growth.