



## 2.0 VISION STATEMENT

### 2.1 Overview

This chapter presents the Vision Statement that was developed to define the kind of place citizens want Portsmouth to be 20 years in the future. It was drafted by the Citizens 2025 Steering Committee to reflect input received from Portsmouth citizens at the community forums conducted in February 2003.

In considering the Vision Statement, it is important to understand its perspective, context, and role in the Comprehensive Plan. Portsmouth's Vision Statement expresses citizens' aspirations for the future of our community as it will exist in the Year 2025. As such, it should be clearly distinguished from the topical elements (Chapters 3.0 to 10.0) and implementation program (Chapter 11.0) contained in subsequent parts of the Comprehensive Plan. The Vision Statement expresses our values and motivations – *“what we intend to be”* – while the strategies and actions laid out in the remainder of the Comprehensive Plan set out in detail *“what we must do to achieve the vision.”*



Community forum

### 2.2 Vision Statement

#### The Mission

Setting a **Bold New Course** for the future through enlightened leadership, the City of Portsmouth shall become a **Community of Choice**. We shall attract citizens and businesses seeking to locate in a city that prides itself for quality lifelong learning, safe and attractive neighborhoods, progressive economic development, and cultural diversity in an historic and waterfront environment.

#### Vision of the City of Portsmouth in 2025

In the Year 2025, the City of Portsmouth is a **Community of Choice**. Our prosperity is the result of deliberate action by city leaders with the foresight to set a **bold new course** for the future. The City is renowned for its:

- **Learning Environment:** Our outstanding public schools and educational institutions prepare our children to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and provide lifelong learning opportunities for all citizens.

- **Quality Neighborhoods:** Our safe, attractive, and livable neighborhoods offer a range of housing choices and convenient access to services such as shopping, parks, schools and medical facilities.
- **Healthy Economy:** Businesses are attracted to Portsmouth by the City's reputation for its livability, its welcoming environment, and by its educated workforce.
- **Sense of Place:** Our diverse community with its waterfront environment, rich history, thriving downtown, and cultural life define our unique character and desirable differences that draws people from throughout the region.



The City and its citizens shall achieve this Vision by focusing its efforts in several key areas:

### Investing in People

- Portsmouth City Public Schools, city government, and Portsmouth citizens shall work together to build an outstanding **education system**.
- The City shall strategically target its resources to create and expand **economic development opportunities**. It shall partner with the private and public sectors, while creating an inviting environment for new businesses and entrepreneurs.
- The Portsmouth community shall make a fundamental commitment to promote and celebrate **diversity, equity, and inclusiveness** and to meet the basic needs of all citizens.

### Investing in Places

- The City and its residents shall collaborate in a comprehensive action strategy to improve the **quality, safety, and livability of our neighborhoods**.
- The City shall commit to improving the quality of Portsmouth's **civic infrastructure**, including public facilities; parks and green spaces; attractive public places; gateway entrances to Portsmouth; and roadway corridors that support a regional, multi-modal transportation system.
- The City shall set new standards for the **quality of private development**.

### Exercising Leadership

- The City shall achieve **fiscal strength** by increasing and diversifying its tax base and through prudent management of its resources.
- **As a proud partner at the center** of the Hampton Roads region, the City shall initiate work with neighboring communities to address regional issues.

Through these efforts, Portsmouth will become a city with a distinguished past, a vibrant present, and a promising future – **truly a Community of Choice for the 21<sup>st</sup> century**.