



# Goshen Community Strong

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## Project Summary & Action Plan

Prepared by the Goshen Community Strong Committee and  
the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission

**October 2016**

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**I. Introduction**

The Goshen Community Strong initiative began in July 2015 with a partnership between the Town of Goshen and the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) to provide professional assistance to the Town for its community and economic development needs. Over the course of a year, a group of stakeholders met to identify priorities and strategically plan near-term strategies for community improvement. The committee of stakeholders was made up of a representative cross-section of Town staff, public library staff, fire department personnel, local business owners, and other interested citizens. Names of the committee members can be found in *Attachment A*. This planning initiative was supported by a Rural Community Development Initiative grant made to the CSPDC by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, and received approval from the Goshen Town Council to proceed before it was initiated.

The Town of Goshen is located in the northwestern portion of Rockbridge County. It is approximately 20 miles west of the City of Lexington, the county seat, with a population of approximately 360 people. A community profile and reference map can be found in *Attachment B*.

**II. Planning Process**

The CSPDC facilitated a series of meetings that culminated in the development of the Action Plan, found below. The purpose of the meetings was to lead the committee through a process that would enhance the Town's capacity to undertake community and economic development activities, ensuring the vitality of the Town, now and in the future.

Initial meetings focused on the process logistics, and identifying and assessing current priorities that are most important to the Town's future. The priorities identified by the Goshen Community Strong Committee included developing a community center, economic development, and school/education. After the priority issues were identified, the committee assessed the vision, background/history, and possible strategies and solutions for each. Additionally, as a visual aid for the assessment of priorities, a points of interest map was prepared by CSPDC staff (refer to *Attachment B*). A summary of these assessments can be found in *Attachment C*. Next, the CSPDC facilitated meetings in which committee members were presented with resources, such as funding and partnership options and community development research that was relevant to the priority issues identified. A listing of the topics covered in these meetings can be found in *Attachment D*, the schedule for Goshen's Community Strong planning process. Finally, the committee participated in the development of the Action Plan and discussed the implementation process.

As the committee developed strategies to further the priority issues, it became clear that improving wastewater management was the main economic development strategy to be pursued. It was also apparent that reopening a school in the community was very much a long-term strategy but that rebuilding social connections that have suffered since the school was closed, was a more realistic task to pursue in the short-term. Recognizing these developments in the planning process, the Action Plan focus areas found below in Section III include **Community and Economic Infrastructure, Community Reconnection, and Partnership Development.**

Interest from the broader community in working on these issues was confirmed with a survey that the committee members were instrumental in conducting. Community survey results can be found in *Attachment E*. Committee members also were asked to share information about this initiative early in the process and as it progressed with not only Town Council but also with their civic networks, as appropriate.

### **III. Action Plan**

Below is a three-year work plan that was developed by the Community Strong Committee with the assistance of the CSPDC. The committee was asked to identify strategies and steps that would put the Town on the path to achieving its community and economic development goals. Rather than an exhaustive list of strategies, the committee was asked to develop a short-term action plan that would generate momentum for community development projects that could be built upon in future years.

Priority Focus Area: Community & Economic Infrastructure				
Goal: Improve the delivery of Town services by operating and managing well-maintained community facilities and infrastructure.				
WHAT: Activity/Task	WHO: Lead role	WHEN:		
		2017	2018	2019
<b>Strategy A:</b> Establish physical space for Town administration and other community services and economic activities.				
a. Conduct public meetings and focus groups to identify potential uses of a multi-purpose Town complex.	Community Strong Committee & Town Council; CSPDC can assist as requested	x		
b. Identify top priorities of project and/or construction phases, as appropriate.	Town Council with recommendation from Community Strong Committee	x		
c. Identify funding resources that match proposed uses; possible funding agencies could include USDA Rural Development, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Appalachia Regional Commission.	Community Strong Committee; CSPDC can assist as requested	x	x	
d. Prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report for project.	Town Council		x	
e. Determine cost estimates for proposed building; required infrastructure; and furnishings/equipment.	Town Council	x	x	
f. Prepare and submit funding applications for design and construction of a new Town complex.* The Town may ask the CSPDC to prepare this application and coordinate the project, if needed.	Town Council, Rockbridge Regional Library, CSPDC can assist as requested		x	
g. Procure consultant to design the building/site. Involve the public in the design of the facilities.	Town Council		x	
h. Bid building construction in compliance with procurements guidelines provided by the funder.	Town Council		x	x
i. Complete all items required by funding agency.	Town Council		x	x

\* During the planning process for this Action Plan, the Community Strong Committee suggested the following as potential uses within a Town Complex: Town Administration services, library, playground, fitness track, and waterside picnic area.

\*\* The committee discussed pursuing a planning grant to study the feasibility of developing a public sewer system for the Town. They recognized that the lack of sewer is the biggest barrier the Town faces to economic growth. However, the community center project was prioritized for a number of reasons. The Town has a willing and ready financial partner (the library) for the project, and it also is popular with the public. The committee agreed that it would be good to start with this project, as it would promote town unity and provide momentum for other projects, such as a sewer project. Because both projects cannot be completed in the 3-year time horizon of this plan, only the community center project appears here. The possibility of pursuing public sewer should be revisited when this Action Plan is updated.

Priority Focus Area: Community Reconnection					
Goal: Reestablish community connections/sense of community in Goshen, and encourage civic engagement.					
WHAT: Activity/Task	WHO: Lead role	WHEN:			
		2017	2018	2019	
<b>Strategy A:</b> Continue to plan and host existing community events and expand upon them.					
a. Continue to plan and host the Town’s Community Day.	Various Community Organizations	x	x	x	
b. Continue to plan and host the Town’s Christmas Parade. Plan and host a Christmas Bizarre in conjunction with the parade. Include local artisans or connect with artisans through the Artisan Trail Network. ( <a href="http://www.artisanscenterofvirginia.org/artisan_trail_network">www.artisanscenterofvirginia.org/artisan_trail_network</a> )	Various Community Organizations	x	x	x	
c. Use food sales and/or vendor fees at these events to raise funds for local fire and rescue services, or other projects.	Various Community Organizations	x	x	x	
<b>Strategy B:</b> Work to recruit new volunteers that will assist with programs, projects, and events through a community “Friends of” group, i.e. Friends of Goshen.					
a. Determine and document volunteer needs.	Community Strong Committee	x			
b. Post the documented needs and a volunteer sign-up sheet at the library, and post it on the Town’s Facebook page. With this information, also indicate that the Friends of Goshen group also receives and evaluates requests for volunteer service. Provide contact information to request volunteers.	Ruth Tolson, Librarian		x		
c. Coordinate the deployment of volunteers.	Community Strong Committee		x		
d. Start a “rewards” drawing for volunteers. Rewards can be donated to the Friends group by area businesses, example: gift certificates	Community Strong Committee				x
e. Communicate to the public about the Friends of Goshen group through Facebook and Town newsletter (see Strategy C).	Town employee		x		x
<b>Strategy C:</b> Increase communications for citizens of the Town.					
a. Start a quarterly, biannual, or year-in-review Town Newsletter that reflects current events, status of town projects, citizen achievements, promotion of town events, reviews and reminders of town services, and includes topics that are also posted on the Town’s Facebook page.	Town employee	x	x		x

Priority Focus Area: Partnership Development					
Goal: Work to identify and establish additional partnership opportunities to benefit the Town.					
WHAT: Activity/Task	WHO: Lead role	WHEN:			
		2017	2018	2019	
<b>Strategy A:</b> Stay connected with Lexington & the Rockbridge Area Tourism's efforts to broaden opportunities, particularly those related to Scenic 39 and outdoor recreation initiatives.					
a. Follow Rockbridge Tourism's social media to keep updated on current campaigns, special events, and other efforts that the Town may be able to tap into.	Community Strong Committee	x	x	x	
b. Feed Rockbridge Tourism information about Goshen businesses, events, and offerings.	Community Strong Committee	x	x	x	
c. Advocate for inclusion in tourism initiatives such as Bike the Valley and Rockbridgeoutdoors.com.	Community Strong Committee, Town Council	x	x	x	
<b>Strategy B:</b> Cultivate a professional relationship with the Town's County Supervisor (Walkers Creek District). Discuss items of mutual interest.					
a. Conduct periodic meetings or work sessions with County Supervisor. Prepare for each meeting by determining what the Town can bring to the table to support items or initiatives of interest. Goal: Conduct at least one meeting during the timeframe of this plan.	Mayor or Town Council	x	x	x	

#### **IV. Action Plan Implementation & Evaluation**

Moving forward, the Community Strong Committee should be chaired by the Town Mayor, a Town Council person, or an individual that is dedicated to serving the Town and has good communication with the Town Council. The committee should have regularly scheduled meetings, such as quarterly meetings, depending on the activities underway at the time. The committee should maintain a composition of five to six community members that can commit to participate for the three-year period of the plan timeframe. Additionally, it should represent a cross-section of area residents, businesses, Town councilors, and Town staff. Upon completion of the three-year time horizon of this plan, new members should be solicited to relieve any members who wish to step down.

The committee may choose to create task-oriented sub-committees that may dissolve after the completion of a task or project. The committee should report to Town Council and the public, at appropriate times, to keep the Town leadership and citizens informed of major actions and progress, seek approval from Town leadership when necessary, and solicit public input, as a top priority.

Some of the strategies included in this plan will require some level of funding to implement. The CSPDC is the Town's resource for federal and state grant programs. The CSPDC can assist with applying for and managing these funds and projects, at the Town's request. Local funds can be leveraged to obtain other public funding, and in some cases, local matching funds are not required.

The Community Strong Committee should revisit this Action Plan in the third year to assess progress, setbacks, barriers, and next steps. The committee, in consultation with the Town Council and citizens, should determine whether the priority issues and strategies are still relevant, and undergo a process to repopulate the work plan with the most logical next steps. At that time, the CSPDC is available to provide facilitation services to renew the plan.

#### **V. Conclusion**

The Community Strong Committee worked diligently to develop this plan because its members recognize that intentional cultivation is required to make Goshen a vibrant community. Cooperation among the Community Strong Committee and Town Council will be vital to the initiative as it progresses into implementation. The community should be proud of progress achieved on any of the priority issues identified in this plan, and compounding effects are likely to occur when progress is achieved on multiple issues. Progress on these issues has the power to positively affect the way area residents feel about their town and increase community attachment, an asset that is vital to the future of any community.

This plan was completed by the CSPDC, and delivered to the Town of Goshen and the Community Strong Committee in October 2016. However, no action identified in this plan shall be construed as mandatory, nor does it obligate the Town Council to commit any funds to its implementation. The plan is a guide for future actions, and the Council may consider allocation of funds for individual projects and activities at its discretion.

**Attachment A**

**Goshen Community Strong Committee**

**Committee Member Listing**

**Linda Arnold**

*Rescue Squad*

**Will Harris**

*Business Owner*

**Mike Jolly**

*Fire Department*

**Glenna Lawhorn**

*Business Owner*

**Gerald Sampson**

*Business Owner*

**Joey Sampson**

*Citizen/Former Mayor*

**Sheila Sampson**

*Citizen*

**Glenn Thompson**

*Business Owner*

**Bobbie Thornsbery**

*Town Staff*

**Ruth Tolson**

*Librarian*

**Attachment B**

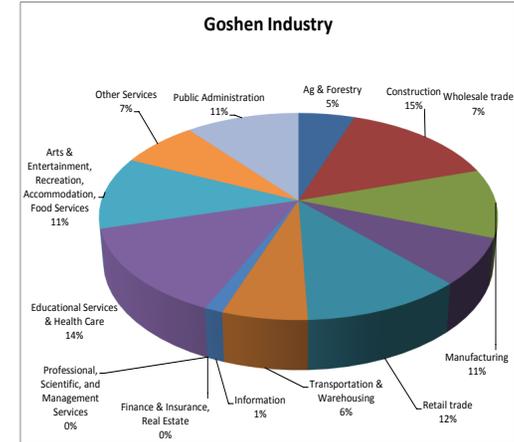
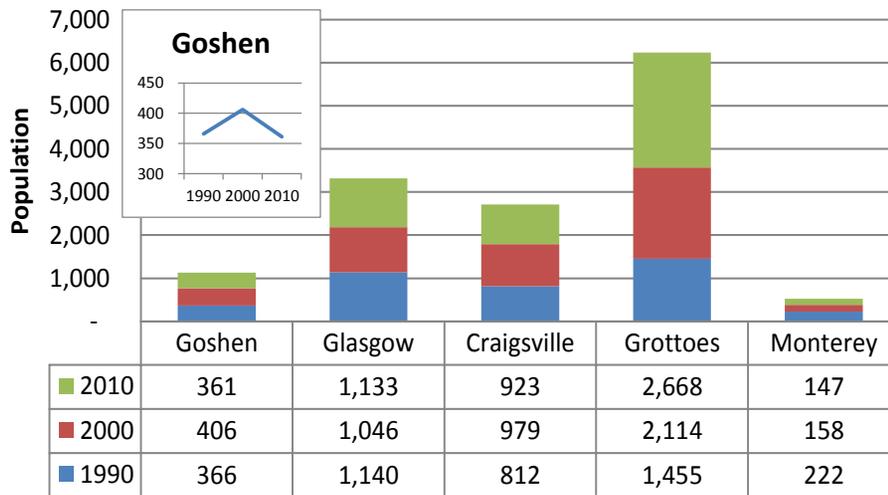
**Planning Process Reference Materials**

**Community Profile  
Reference Map  
Points of Interest Map**



# Goshen Community Profile

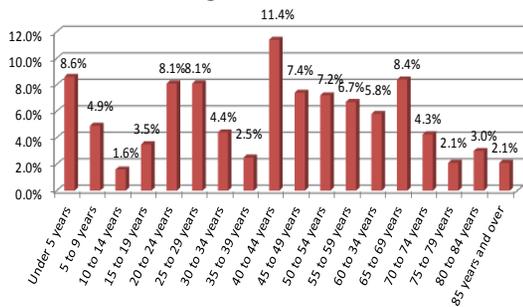
## Total Population, 1990-2010 Census



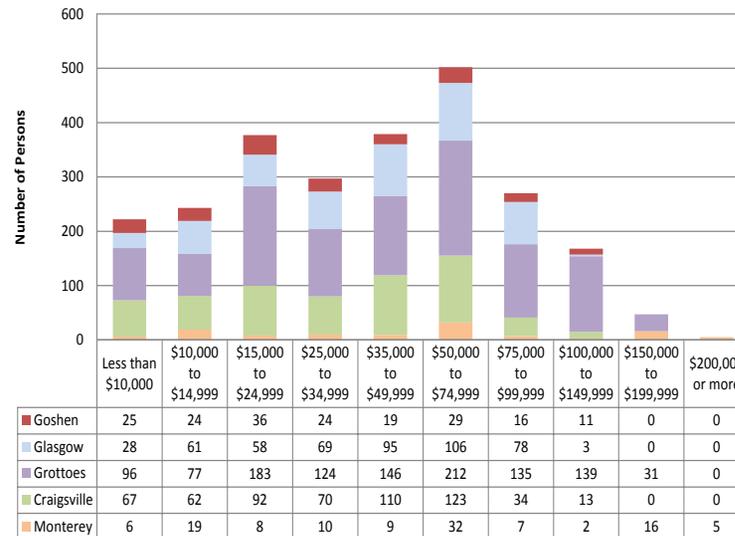
### Civilian Labor Force **2013**

Civilian Labor Force	173
Number Employed	150
Number Unemployed	23
Percent Unemployed	13.3%

## Age Distribution



## Income



### Income, Age & Education **2013**

Median Household Income	29,091
Median Age	42.5
% high school graduate or higher	66.1%
% bachelor's degree or higher	10.1%

### Housing **2013**

Total Housing Units	223
Occupied Housing Units	184
Owner-Occupied	132
Renter-Occupied	52
Vacant Housing Units	39
Average Household Size	
Owner-Occupied	2.26
Renter-Occupied	2.56
Median House Value (dollars)	88,000
Median Gross Rent (dollars)	621

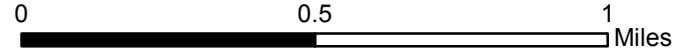
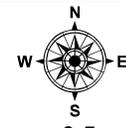
\*All data comes from the U.S. Census & American Community Survey



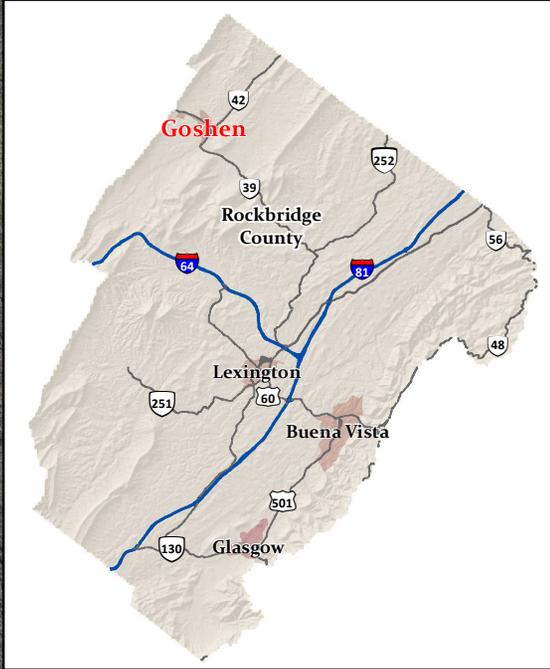
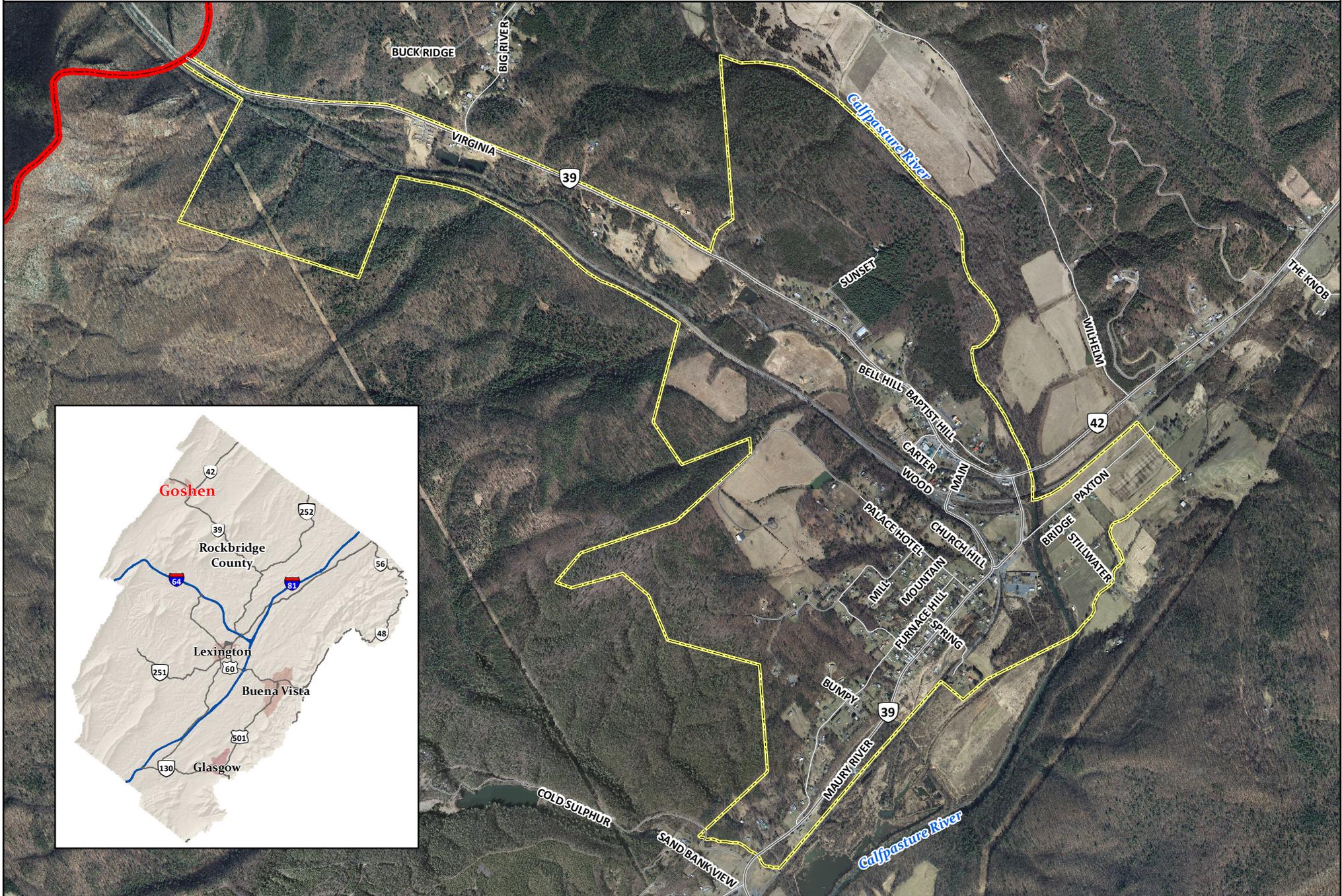
# Town of Goshen

## Reference

- US/State Road
- Secondary Road
- Other Road
- ▭ Goshen Boundary
- ▭ Rockbridge County Boundary



Sources:  
FEMA, VGIN, DCR, Rockbridge County  
Map produced by CSPDC, July, 2015  
For Planning Purposes Only





# Town of Goshen

## Points of Interest

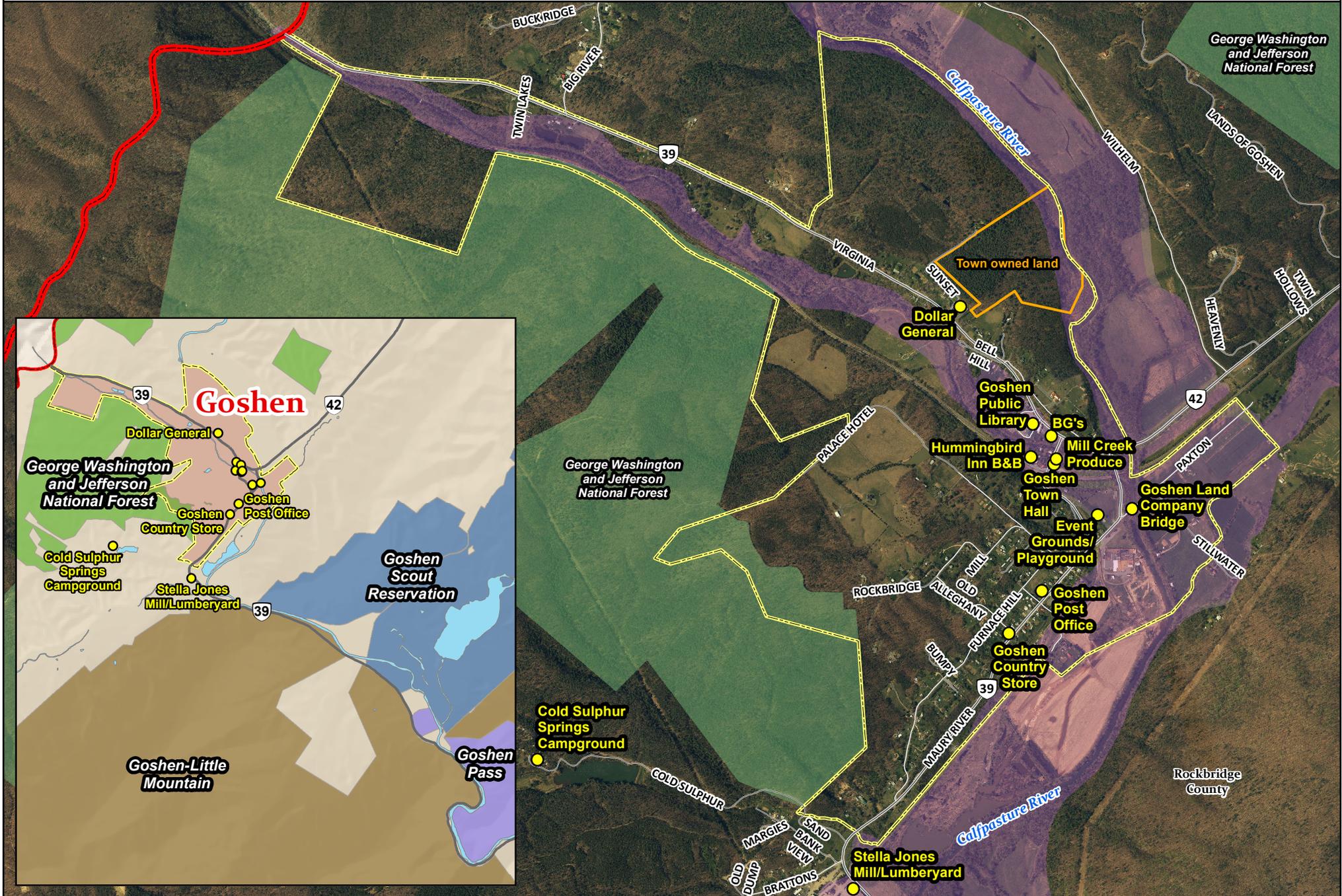
- Goshen Boundary
- Rockbridge County Boundary
- Points of Interest
- FEMA Floodplain
- 100-Year Flood Zone
- 500-Year Flood Zone



0 0.25 0.5 Miles



Sources:  
FEMA, VGIN, DCR, Rockbridge County  
Map produced by CSPDC, August 2016  
For Planning Purposes Only



## Attachment C

### Assessment of Priority Issues Summary

#### Priority: School/Education

Priority: School/Education*	
<b>Vision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ K-5 School (long-term goal)</li> </ul>
<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 6-8 years ago started petitioning for return of school</li> <li>▪ Enrollment number challenges, not enough kids</li> <li>▪ Elementary age children                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 10 children per grade (100-120 students) being bused long distances</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ County still closing other schools</li> </ul>
<b>Solutions/Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alternative way to complete degree (online)</li> <li>▪ Build up population                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Build school first or build up population first?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

#### Priority: Community Building

Priority: Community Building	
<b>Vision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community Building (brick and mortar building to foster community)</li> <li>▪ Hub of Town Administration                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing Town Hall, the library, commercial space, bank services, post office, preschool/daycare services</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conversations have been ongoing for years to build new facility for Town Hall and the library at a new location</li> <li>▪ Town owns 46 acres of land                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Right of way challenges</li> <li>○ Researching deeds, etc.</li> <li>○ Location outside of floodplain</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Solutions/Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA-RD) funding eligibility</li> </ul>

**Priority: Economic Development**

<b>Priority: Economic Development*</b>	
<b>Vision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tourism               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Restaurants, attractions along main highway, river/water activities (like Buchanan)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Sewer system</li> </ul>
<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Difficult to support businesses               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Challenge: Lack of numbers</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Drug test challenges               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lacking law enforcement (covered by Rockbridge County)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Job creation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lacking property for businesses, sewer, and most property located in the floodplain</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Expansion challenges (sewer)</li> <li>▪ Vocal opposition</li> <li>▪ Limited opportunities bringing people here</li> </ul>
<b>Solutions/Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sewer system</li> <li>▪ Map floodplain and zoning (need zoning?)</li> <li>▪ Connect with Rockbridge Tourism</li> <li>▪ Grants</li> </ul>

\* As the committee developed strategies to further the priority issues, it became clear that wastewater management was the main economic development strategy to be pursued. It was also apparent that reopening a school in the community was very much a long-term strategy, but that rebuilding social connections that have suffered since the school was closed, was a more realistic task to pursue in the short-term. Recognizing these developments in the planning process, the Action Plan focus areas found below include **Community and Economic Infrastructure, Community Reconnection, and Partnership Development.**

Attachment D

Goshen Community Strong Initiative  
2015-2016 Schedule

Goal: Engage citizens and leaders in community development to advance Town goals.



**Attachment E  
Goshen Community Strong Survey Tabulation**

<b>Question 1</b>	<b>Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in Goshen? For the purpose of this survey, quality of life refers to the well-being of the community and your personal satisfaction with it.</b>	
	1 (Very Poor)	3
	2	4
	3	10
	4	11
	5	7
	6 (Excellent)	3
	No Answer	1

<b>Question 2</b>	<b>What contributes positively to the quality of life in Goshen?</b>
	The library.
	Sewer system; jobs; school; medical center.
	Not enough to do for many different age groups, also over use of alcohol and drugs.
	Community appearance; increase visitors through small business.
	Dollar General; Goshen First Aid and Fire; Goshen Baptist; Local businesses (flower shop, veggie stand, BG's, gas station, and wood yard).
	It would improve things a lot if there was more employment opportunities.
	The library, it has something for every person in Goshen. Supplies, info of all kinds. Offers GED classes and more than I have room to write. It's a family place, etc.
	The people.
	Friendly people; Post Office; Fire and Rescue; retail businesses; Library.
	Small, rural, clean environments promote health and general welfare, less illegal drug use and stronger social connections.
	Law enforcement needs to step up on the drug issue!
	Safety (personal), small town ambiance.
	Library.
	Library; grocery store - Dollar General; EMS services - Fire and Rescue.
	The friendly people mostly, the Library, and the convenience of the Dollar General and Post Office.
The people are nice, a great community!	
People mostly get along, all friendly, no real crimes.	
Safety.	

<b>Question 2, continued</b>	Goshen Pass.
	A close knit community with access to various natural recreational areas.
	The fact the Town is small; everybody knows one another; library; BG's; Fire & Rescue; Dollar Store; BP; Post Office; wood yard; churches.
	The Library.
	Add more community events.
	Good environment for kids; great community.
	Small town; station; Library; Dollar Store.
	Small town; friendly people.
	We need to come together as a community and help each other.
	A clean, well-maintained environment.
	The "scenic beauty" and rural peace of Goshen; the warmth and kindness of its citizens.
	Quiet and laid back.
	Country living, good water.
	Natural beauty and peacefulness.
	I enjoy living in a small town.
	Small town, quiet and neighbors respect one another.
Create jobs by encouraging business to move into the area.	
Nothing.	
Fire House, BG Restaurant, Dollar Store.	
Now we have at least a gas station, Dollar Store, library, florist, produce stand, restaurant.	

<b>Question 3</b>	<b>If there was something you could change or improve, what would it be?</b>
	More places for kids; a place for adults; needs a grocery store. The library is the only thing we have.
	Outreach programs to bring the community together. Gathers within community. More law enforcement.
	Occupancy of vacant property, or requirement of vacant property to be maintained - grants to income eligible properties for maintenance.
	Make property owner clean up their properties!! Bust drug users and dealers.
	Try to bring more jobs to this area.
	Push for sewer system and a bank.
	Sewer system; transportation services.
	Stress value of education among residents; provide sex education to reduce teenage pregnancies; promote vocational ed and skills.
	Get messy front yards cleaned up. Old cars, trucks and crap make the Town look like nobody has any pride or self-respect. But maybe they don't!

<b>Question 3, continued</b>	Clean up yards and abandoned properties.
	More jobs; more community pride; less gossip - which comes from boredom; war on drug abuse and abusers - too prevalent for such a small town - law enforcement won't nap the bad ones if they "rat" out someone else for them.
	There are plenty of trees, but I there it could us much more color, like flowering plants and maybe even bigger playgrounds for kids to enjoy.
	More local businesses!
	More to do, family wise, community outings, picnics, etc.
	More job opportunities.
	Property/land clean up. Abandoned houses should be removed.
	Bring in more local businesses and visitors by use of our local recreational areas. To promote visitors and businesses to Goshen will increase money flow and way of life for the Town.
	Tear down abandoned structures or mandate repair. Junk ordinance? Improve community pride.
	More places for kids to play.
	More things for the community; more jobs.
	More places to live.
	More stores/shopping; small businesses.
	We need more law to check our community and try to do something about the drug problem; we need to clean up our Town with the weeds and trash on the road.
	The lady that operates the water - she is very rude and short on a regular basis.
	Provide for the return of a "great" community school, as Goshen once had; increased intensification of law enforcement particularly aimed at illegal drug activity.
	Clean up run down property and lots.
	The mosquitoes; have a regular park/fun area for kids without lots of high grass, add a pool.
	The Town needs to be cleaned up and there needs to be more for the youth to do. Back in the day there were horse races, truck pulls, ball games all in this Town. We need more of that!
	I would like to see a full-time law enforcement presence.
	We need more community involvement and more for the children to do.
	Maintain and occupy empty properties for business or living.
	Install sewer; Trash pick-up at residences; Community Center; K-5 school.
	Appearance of community; Sidewalks; Reputation; Animal Welfare; Clean up drug presence.
(1) At Larry Nycum's store and Cozy Corner a big tree that hangs over needs to come down (hanging tree). (2) Empty lots in Town should be mowed. (3) House beside Tony Sensabaugh with roof as the porch needs to be torn down, as well as structures across from Town Hall needs to come down. (4) Trash being dump off of Furnace Hil onto 39 beside of the Dump.	

<b>Question 4</b>	<b>What would you like to see as the focus for neighborhood efforts?</b>	
	Improve community appearance	24
	Improve/repair existing housing stock	15
	Maintain affordable housing choices for all income levels	11
	Provide a variety of housing opportunities (apartments, duplexes, single-family detached, etc.)	11
Improve infrastructure (sidewalks, water/wastewater, drainage structures, street lights, etc.)	18	

<b>Question 5</b>	<b>What is most important to Goshen's future?</b>	
	Provide/Enhance recreational opportunities	9
	Citizen engagement	14
	Grow in population	6
	Preserve its history	10
	Increase visitors to the town	9
	Protect or restore the natural environment	11
	Increase local job opportunities	25
	Foster business development	11
	Infrastructure maintenance	9
	More youth activities	15
	Increase law enforcement presence	11
<p>Other:            Activities for adults 30-80//Educating its youth//Build a community center and book events for young and old//You have to have job opportunities for our youth, nothing here for them//Public transit – 30 miles from everything, hard for elderly and maintain work//We used to have a grand hotel because of the attraction to the area and all it offered. Why can we not bring back that aspect of Goshen and try to find people who would be willing to bring back a hotel to the area. A grand hotel will bring jobs, business, visitors and MONEY to Goshen//Make better playground for kids and youth//More communities for all ages</p>		

<b>Question 6</b>	<b>How long have you lived in Goshen?</b>	
	Less than a year	1
	1-5 years	7
	6-10 years	5
	11-20 years	3
	Over 20 years	18
	Not a resident, but I own a business, land or property in Glasgow	3
	No answer given	2

<b>Question 7</b>	<b>What is your age?</b>	
	Less than 18	0
	18-24	3
	25-44	14
	45-64	12
	65 and older	9
	No answer given	1

<b>Additional Comments</b>	<b>Please use the space below to share any additional comments about your vision for Goshen.</b>	
	More small shops.	
	It feels great to have a mayor that cares about the opinions of the people who live in Goshen.	
	I feel that most of the things on the list above are important. With some of these things in place I feel some of the others will come without much effort.	
	Goshen is much changed from the Goshen that it once was. When the school was taken from us the Town began its demise. The drug culture entered and is rampant - with scant law enforcement it continues to prosper.	
	The playground area would be a lot better if it were bigger. My two children are 11 and 12 and there is nothing for them to do - a skate park or something like that would be nice.	
	Pretty great place to live - needs more homes and better job opportunities. Other than that, really great place.	
	This is a small town and always has been, BUT the community needs more thing to do. We need more jobs and more events to bring us all together as one. Also, fix some old houses and bring more housing in. The community NEEDS it.	
	Goshen has the right quality to become a destination, if it were to provide more "touristy" attractions, i.e. arts, craft shops, railroad related adventures, trails, hunting/fishing trips, etc. Do you get support from the County Seat? Turning down the Boy Scout expansion was such a missed opportunity.	

Additional Comments, continued	No one should have to pay for water they don't use. Water leaks should be excused!
	I think Goshen could use a large water fountain, like a wishing well. Goshen could use a paint job to make it more colorful and lively. Sidewalks could use some color like Staunton has. I think Goshen could be more city-like, without stoplights though. Goshen has plenty of churches but not enough places for anyone to hang out and enjoy the outdoor life.
	Goshen could be an even better place if it could expand economically and bring job growth to area while preserving the quaintness of the town.
	We have so many good qualities that could be capitalized on. There is no cohesiveness in the Town - too little to do for all ages and too much gossip and drugs - sad - no work, no recreation, no education, derelict buildings and low rent breed an unfavorable environment. Beautiful little Town with so much potential not being tapped.
	If things do not change, especially for the youth, Goshen shall cease because of no future.
	A combined Town office, library, and community center should be top priority. Promoting organic farming in support of area wide "local foods" markets would help promote a healthy diet for our neighbors and reduce diet related sickness in our population.
	It is going to be left behind if educating its children isn't the top priority. This has to be instilled by parents and the community.
	It would just be nice if there was more jobs that would bring more people to this area and that would bring more money to the community.
	Will Harris has dreams for Goshen - let him! His improvement to Stillwater is great - at least grass stays mowed. We need more community activities and THE PEOPLE need to support their Town. It seems to a lot of town folks that our fire department is one gang - they don't support any other functions in Town. They DO A GOOD JOB, but it's like they're in their own little community. If you are not in "their loop" you don't belong! I love Goshen! My hometown!
	Offer grants for small businesses of retail or services (such as restaurant, coffee/tea shops) for the purchase or lease of vacant property. Start-up businesses preferred.
	I'm 53 and single, there is nothing to do.
	We need a positive attitude toward Goshen by Rockbridge County.
	Remove abandoned houses.
	Town kept cleaned - trash pick up, yards and lots mowed, new paint for different buildings, add flowering plants throughout the town, hang up flags on poles for holidays (Flag Day, 4th of July, Veterans Day), flowers around the monument at Town Hall for Veterans with flag also flying. Thanks to Will Harris for the clean up which he has done and continues to do.