



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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Situation Analysis Report



Prince William

2020

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Introduction

The VCE Prince William Unit serves Prince William County and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. The situation analysis process was launched by an all-staff process review which began in September 2019, culminating in development of survey topics by November 2019. Once the topics were finalized a survey was created both online and on paper for dissemination to the public. A QR code link was used to share via email and through social media. The paper survey was handed out in face-to-face classes and sent out to PWC Board of County Supervisors' offices, Department Directors and City of Manassas and Manassas Park Human Service agencies. The survey was open from February 1 through April 1, 2020.

Unit Profile

Prince William County is located in Northern Virginia approximately 35 miles southwest of Washington, DC. It is bounded on the north by Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, on the east by the Potomac River (Maryland), on the south by Stafford County and on the west by Fauquier County.

Prince William County encompasses a total area of approximately 348 square miles (222,615 acres) and a total land area of 338 square miles. Prince William County includes within its boundaries the independent cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. The combined area of Prince William County and the independent cities is approximately 360 square miles (230,594 acres). Federal land accounts for approximately 41,500 acres or 18.6% of the total area, and includes Quantico Marine Corps Base, Manassas National Battlefield Park and Prince William Forest Park. Prince William County includes four incorporated towns and fourteen census designated places (CDPs), that are unincorporated population centers designated by the U.S. Census Bureau for data collection purposes.

Demographics

Population data

The data estimates current population of Prince William County as of March 31, 2020 as 466,809, while population for the Greater Prince William Area (including the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park) is, based on the most currently available data, 527,130. Between 2000 and 2010 the population of the Greater Prince William Area grew by over 43.2%. The 2010 Census reported that Prince William County is the third most populous jurisdiction in Virginia. Almost 29% of the Greater Prince William Area's population is under 18 and 9.6% of the population is over 65, a jump of nearly 3% since 2013.

In recent decades, the population of the Greater Prince William Area increasingly has become racially and ethnically diverse. Data from 2010 Census indicates that the Greater Prince William Area is a “minority-majority” community, meaning that less than half of the population is reported as non-Hispanic and of one race -- White. In the Greater Prince William Area, 24.6% of the population are persons of Hispanic origin, 19.4% identifying as Black and 9.6% identifying as Asian.

Educational Attainment

The latest Census data (2014-18) indicates that 40% of County residents age 25 and older have a bachelor’s degree or higher while only 29% of the residents of the two cities do. The percentages of high school graduates is also higher in the County but the disparity isn’t as great – 88.5% in the County vs 83% in Manassas and 80% in Manassas Park. Median income varies widely from \$103,445 in the County to \$78,462 in Manassas, with \$80,667 in Manassas Park. Rates of poverty also vary between the jurisdictions with 6.4% in the County, 8.6% in Manassas and 9.7% in Manassas Park, with an aggregate rate of 8.13% of the population living at or below the federal poverty level, a rate lower than most other regions of Virginia.

Employment

Unemployment rates in the Greater Prince William region have remained below 6% for the past 8 years.

Housing

According to the Prince William Continuum of Care, in 2017 there were 400 homeless individuals in the area, 33% which were children. Affordable housing is a top community need but there is a gap between the number of households living in the region and the number of housing units available.

(2018 Community Needs Assessment, Greater Prince William by People, Inc.)

Schools

There are three school systems serving the Greater Prince William area, Prince William County Schools, Manassas City Public Schools and Manassas Park City Schools. There are 101 schools including elementary, middle, high and combined schools with total enrollment of 103,731 students. School readiness varies in the area with Prince William County’s readiness rate hovering at around 81% while Manassas City lags at 64%.

The high school graduation rate averages around 93% between the three school systems with Prince William averaging the highest at 95% and Manassas City at 85%.

(The Virginia Department of Education, School Quality Profiles:

<https://schoolquality.virginia.gov/>) (2018 Community Needs Assessment, Greater Prince William, People, Inc.)

Community Health

The Community Healthcare Coalition of Greater Prince William (CHCGPW) developed the 2016 Greater Prince William Community Health Assessment to help guide the Community Health Improvement Plan. The assessment identified the most pressing health issues as substance use/abuse and mental health; obesity/access to healthy foods; and physical activity and access to healthcare (including dental care)

The increasingly diverse population has made it even more difficult to address community mental health needs due to the lack of culturally appropriate mental health providers. There are twelve pediatric dental providers in the GPWA that accept Medicaid or FAMIS insurance. Accidental deaths are the most common cause of death in the GPWA.

Child food insecurity percentage is lower than the state, although the number of children getting free lunch in the district has increased. This school lunch program and the expansion of the Summer Feeding program has help to ensure our children are provided with appropriate nutrition. In PWC, the percentage of low income children who are obese has decreased from 24.8 to 21.1 percent. The percentage of obese adults has increased from 2011 to the present.

The community now has three locations for the Greater Prince William Community Health Center, which is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). These health centers provide healthcare to both insured and uninsured residents. The Prince William Area Free Clinic is open five days a week. Eligible clients are seen for acute and ongoing chronic issues.

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/24/2016/11/Community-Health-Assessment.pdf>

Agriculture

According to the Census of Agriculture of 2017, the county has lost **a small number of farms and acres of farmland**, with 304 farms covering 22,874 acres. Almost 62% of the agricultural acreage in the county is devoted to cropland spread over 192 farms. Much of the animal agriculture in the county is centered around beef cattle. Over half of the farms are generating less than \$2,500 in sales, while almost a quarter of the farms generate about \$2,500-\$10,000 in sales. The Greater Prince William Area is also home to a growing number of breweries, wineries and distilleries.

Community and Resident Perspectives

A total of 337 people responded to the situation analysis survey. 278 individuals responded to the online survey and 59 responded using the paper survey.

Demographics of Survey Respondents:

Online Survey

Age

18+: 252

Prefer not to answer: 14

No answer: 12

Gender:

Females: 202

Males: 53

Prefer not to answer: 9

No gender identified: 2

No answer: 12

Ethnicity:

77 -White Females

53- White- Males

55 - Black/African American -Females

25 -Hispanic or Latino- Females

2- American Indian/Native American – no gender identified

4 – Asian- Females

32 -Prefer not to answer- Females

1 -Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander- Female

8 -Non-Hispanic or Latino- Females

9 -Prefer not to answer - no gender identified

No answer: 12

Paper Survey

21 Males 1<18

20 18-64

6 White, 1 Asian, 7 Latino, 5 African American

32 Females 18+

27 White 2 Asian, 14 Latino, 10 African American, 5 unreported

7 F <18 - 5 Latino 1 White, 1 African American

1 F >65 African American

Priority Issues

The survey was divided into four sections. First, we asked respondents to identify educational needs. We then asked them to select from a list as to how Virginia Cooperative Extension could better address individual needs. and Next, we asked the respondent t to add any topic of interest to them that was not included in the selection list; The survey concluded with a section to provide voluntary demographic information.

The survey listed several priority issues for individuals to rate as “Important to me” and “Important to the Community.” The data was tabulated and is summarized below, ranked in the order of highest importance to lowest.

Issues that are Important to me	#	Percent
Financial Retirement Goals	273	81%
Physical Activity	261	77%
Gardening	242	72%
Leadership Skill Development	228	68%
Family Stress & Support	224	66%
Saving Strategies	221	66%
Recognizing and Avoiding Fraud	214	64%
Social Media/Internet Safety	205	61%
Career and Life Preparation	200	59%
Water Quality of Wells and Streams	199	59%
Creating Spending Plans/Budgeting	197	58%
Lawn Care	197	58%
Improving Credit and Score	197	58%
Civic/Community Engagement	185	55%
Food Preservation (canning/freezing/drying)	185	55%
Extracurricular Programs Other Than Sports	182	54%
Planning & Paying for College	178	53%
Using Pesticides Safely	176	52%
Stretching Your Food Dollars	171	51%
Invasive Plant Removal	169	50%
Soil Health Improvement and Conservation	166	49%
Positive Financial Strategies for Teens	163	48%
Sustainable Development	163	48%
Managing Trees in the Landscape	162	48%
Buying your First Home	140	42%
School Readiness	131	39%
Alternative Agriculture	124	37%
Mortgage Options for Seniors	115	34%
Avoiding Foreclosure	103	31%
Rental Success	80	24%
Using SNAP Benefits	52	15%

Issues that are Important to the Community	#	Percent
Avoiding Foreclosure	293	87%
Planning & Paying for College	281	83%
Positive Financial Strategies for Teens	277	82%
Creating Spending Plans/Budgeting	275	82%
Career and Life Preparation	273	81%

Water Quality of Wells and Streams	268	80%
Extracurricular Programs Other Than Sports	266	79%
Recognizing and Avoiding Fraud	264	78%
Civic/Community Engagement	264	78%
Social Media/Internet Safety	260	77%
Family Stress & Support	259	77%
Soil Health Improvement and Conservation	254	75%
Mortgage Options for Seniors	254	75%
School Readiness	253	75%
Using SNAP Benefits	251	74%
Using Pesticides Safely	250	74%
Invasive Plant Removal	250	74%
Sustainable Development	248	74%
Managing Trees in the Landscape	248	74%
Buying your First Home	246	73%
Lawn Care	243	72%
Gardening	241	72%
Saving Strategies	239	71%
Stretching Your Food Dollars	237	70%
Financial Retirement Goals	230	68%
Physical Activity	224	66%
Improving Credit and Score	221	66%
Alternative Agriculture	217	64%
Rental Success	205	61%
Food Preservation (canning/freezing/drying)	191	57%
Leadership Skill Development	178	53%

Participants were then asked:

How could Virginia Cooperative Extension better address your needs?

Provide Printed Material	42%
Provide Internet Informational Resources	63%
Provide Online Instructor Led Training	56%
Provide On-Demand Online Webinars	53%
Conduct Evening Classes on Related Topics	51%
Conduct Daytime Classes on Related Topics	23%
Provide Volunteers for Community Education	50%

Participants were also asked:

(Can we) Provide Materials and Classes in Other Languages? If Yes, what language do you prefer?

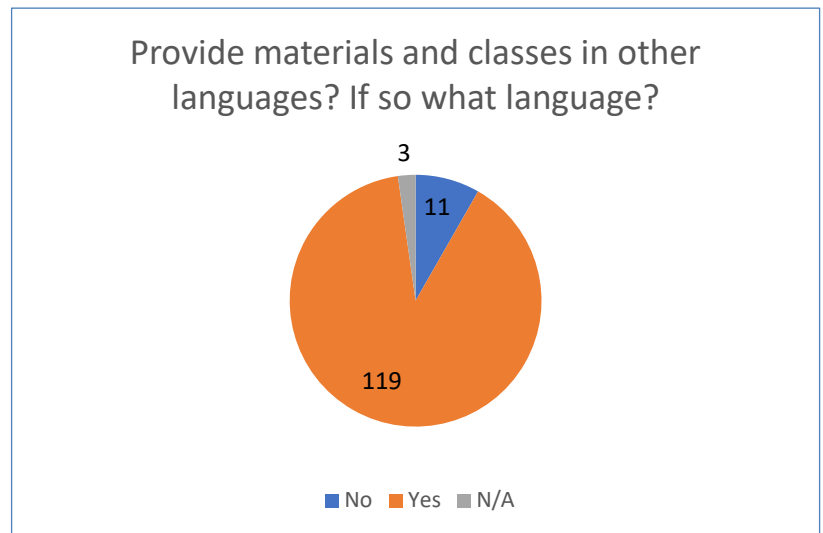
Responses are summarized below:

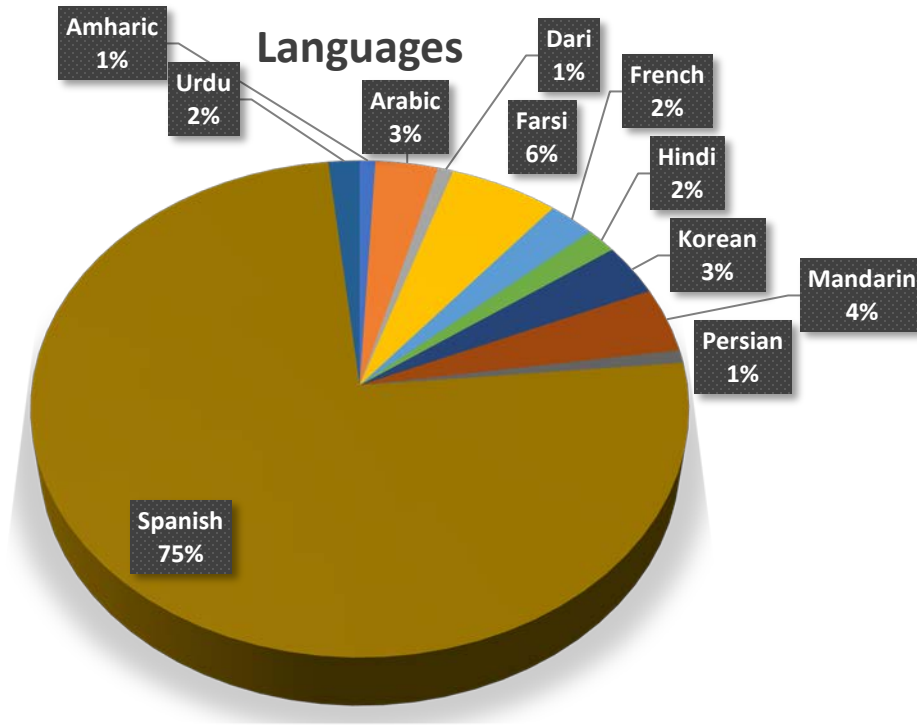
When residents were asked if materials and classes should be provided in other languages, 90% of respondents overwhelmingly support and recognize Prince William County's inhabitants represent diverse cultures and languages and should provide materials in other languages. "Yes, Cooperative Extension should provide information in languages that are found in Prince William schools," according to one respondent.

A small group disagreed and were not in favor of translating materials or providing classes in other languages. One survey respondent stated, "No. Just English. Post information on the Internet - using an online translator, the information can be translated into any language. Use funds for other needs." Another stated, "Our primary language is English so most material should be in English to better facilitate the acquisition of the English language."

The eleven languages suggested by residents are: Amharic, Arabic, Dari, Farsi, French, Hindi, Korean, Mandarin, Persian, Spanish, and Urdu. 75% of respondents to this question requested Spanish. The next highest requested language, 6%, was Farsi. It is noted that is 8% said that no materials should be translated from English to another language. They also look to Prince William County Public Schools to measure the language needs of the community. The top 5-7 languages spoken in the community, according to several survey comments, should be reflective of the resources available through Cooperative Extension in both written and electronic formats. One respondent commented,

"With all the available resources to translate materials, I would suggest providing printed material in other languages "as requested" or offer a device to convert/translate written word. It would be impossible to translate in all 300+ languages that PWC speaks and it would be a drain on public resources to print in ALL those languages."





One survey respondent shared a cultural observation on the possible challenges resulting from the English language not being spoken by an adult member of the home. “Generally, the males can speak English, but females do not. This can be problematic depending on family dynamics and once the male is working.”

There is strong community support and interest in providing VCE materials in other languages, especially Spanish. This sentiment appears to also recognize the importance of providing opportunities for classes in Spanish as well.

Participants were asked:

What issues/needs for educational programs are important but were not included in the topics above?

"Adulting 101" type classes for young adults, ways for active seniors to contribute to their community, job opportunities for active seniors, school-community connections, savings and discounts in our community
4H
4H needs a concise website with updated information. I found it very difficult to learn about opportunities for my children. I had to email Mrs. Lerch and then wait for her to respond and pass the baton. It shouldn't have to be that way because it took weeks to get the info only to

find out you could only join the club once a month. Lots of time lost when it could have been detailed on a website.
access to health care in the community
addressing more affordable housing. Growing more single occupancy housing for the homeless singles, including women! Also critical is a remedy to family recidivism to shelters. And permanent supportive housing (PSH) for Families. Children with mentally ill parents need stable housing and home based supports
Adult education help is limited
After school activities for youth.
Bachelor
Basic educational development - how to read an analog clock; how to write in cursive format; how to think and problem-solve, etc.
Becoming a Community Advocate - how to promote your message to the right people at the right time.
Budgeting for people with disabilities
Civic engagement in land development (better awareness and tracking of plans in your county or state, how to have a say in the decision). Civic engagement in land management issues (parks and rec, conservation, recycling).
Classes and more education on pet care and responsible pet ownership especially for what some consider the very popular "bully breeds." Our shelter is over run by these dogs because people don't know how to care for them and probably should not have gotten them in the first place
Community centers for school aged children from kindergarten to high school. Children needs safe place to learn, growth, and community resources that could provide counseling, life skills, or help with obtaining higher education for college or vocational courses.
Convenient locations to make it easier for community members to get there, or online opportunities.
Courses in personal responsibility.
Create educational classes on how to spot bigotry/sexist/Lying/Fraudulent president for Trump supporters. Perhaps there will be a need to also do a class on acknowledging one's implicit bias for those Trump supporters who claim not to be racist/sexist.
Economic Development
Elders!
Eliminating racism. More CTE educational opportunities.
employment and training for youth
Explore travel opportunities and the benefits of such experiences to families of all walks of life
financial aid for college students
GED Preparation, Vocational and/or Trade Options
Hazardous material disposal

I have witnessed many behavior issues and these issues disrupt the learning of others. I believe we are in major need of more counselors. These counselors are needed in schools and in the juvenile detentions. Students cannot wait when a crisis is urgent. There needs to be more counselors to support, first the students, the teachers, and then community. The information they will provide will be so important.
immigration related counseling self-care trauma informed care first aid/CPR self-defense classes community resources--local availability
Importance of pollinators for food production, expand and fund Ag in the classroom efforts as many kids do not realize where food comes from
Improving HOA community oversight and engagement and keeping property management companies in check.
Information and education on recovery programs for friends and families of alcoholics and addicts
Investing safely, preventing damage to your home by both criminals and pests
Is not "managing" trees, this community needs to learn to live with the eco system. Too much "development" while nature is being destroyed. It's sad.
It takes a village to raise a child and it is the whole community that determines our wellness
It would be nice to offer some type of basic car maintenance (oil changes, changing a flat tire, replacing the battery, checking the fluids, changing the bulb in the headlight, replacing windshield wipers etc.) I live in an apartment community and have encountered neighbors who can't jump start a car, don't know how to change a flat, etc. This is basic knowledge that all car owners should have, but many don't. I would also love to see classes for healthy meal planning, cooking on a budget. :-)
It's listed but we need much more education on not using pesticides and protecting our pollinators. I see people at Home Depot buying gallons of Round Up and they have no idea how dangerous it is to themselves and the environment. I see our own county employees using it as well, which is a sad example we're setting.
Jobs and counseling for the Developmentally disabled. State program and Didlake has not helped the adult in question.
Landscaping for drainage and flooding issues to protect your home and prevent erosion.
Lawn conversion/native habitat restoration
Local resources or local business support for alternative / continuing education to High Functioning/Special Needs youth to develop work-study skills to explore and consider as a career
Maintaining Healthy Wood Lots
Major health issues that affect the individual as well as the community as a whole
Meals on a budget
Mental health awareness

Mental Health first aid training, ACEs training, human trafficking, opioid epidemic
Mental health for everyone. Ending stigma of mental health and substance use disorders. Supporting RECOVERY and wellness for everyone.
Mental health services, awareness, education, etc.
Mentoring and mentor training. Sexual health and sexuality. Business Ownership.
Mentoring and tutoring
More programs for seniors.
More weekend activities for teens and families that work weekday hours.
N/A (3)
Native plants
No idea what SNAP stands for so cannot use benefits.
None (4)
None that I can think of right now
Nothing I can think of at this time. This is a pretty extensive list. I would assume that Family Stress and Support includes issues of aging and the struggle when caring for aging family members and young children at the same time.
Obey the Constitution - Be truthful
Offer programs for scouts and youth on Sat and Sun. Sewing, canning, budgeting, and other life skills that are not being taught in the classrooms anymore.
Outreach and Resource awareness.
Parenting
Parenting classes
Parenting courses, self-empowerment, safe sex, signs of Mental Health Issues, balance lifestyle and coping with life's journey.
Parenting education
Pasture management - Farm composting (aeration)
Pollinator friendly gardening- to include avoiding using pollinator damaging pesticide and herbicides
Prepare to care for elderly parents.
Programs and practices for birth to 5
Promoting health equity Self Advocacy Social Determinants of health Trauma informed care.
Proper nutrition
Reduce, reuse, and recycling. More environmental conservation education.
Respecting and living with wildlife, respecting and living with domestic animals, the important role of native plants in our parks and properties
-Starting home business. -Patent process
Substance abuse prevention

Support for small business owners to plug and connect / network to market or expand or maintain their business within the community
Teen employment: how to apply for a job and interviewing skills
Teen to adulthood supports for Independent Living and the need to establish community connections
This covers the gamut of topics.
This relates to the following question below as well... There are opportunities where a short YouTube clip can provide instructions or showcase an event that promotes the Cooperative Programs many community activities and classes/work day events at the teaching garden that people can watch. Perhaps this is something that can be considered.
Those listed above
Universal Design and Livable/Visitable Community.
unsure
Updated parenting educational material.
Urban living - neighborhood living courtesies
Welfare-to-work initiatives for young adults with low-income and not able to pay for college.
Wellness Active Violence
Wellness courses for seniors
Wildlife Support
Vocational programs Housing programs (2) More affordable housing (4) Disaster training for small business Life skills class for teens Hands on classes