

# Prince William 2023 Situation Analysis Report

*Authored by Unit Extension Staff:*

*Paige Thacker, Unit Extension Director, Agriculture & Natural Resources; MaryBeth Lerch, 4-H Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development; Thomas Bolles, Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources; Janice Buie, Senior Education and Outreach Instructor, FCS-Parent Education; Marjorie Leon, Senior Education and Outreach Instructor, Financial Education and Housing Counseling;*

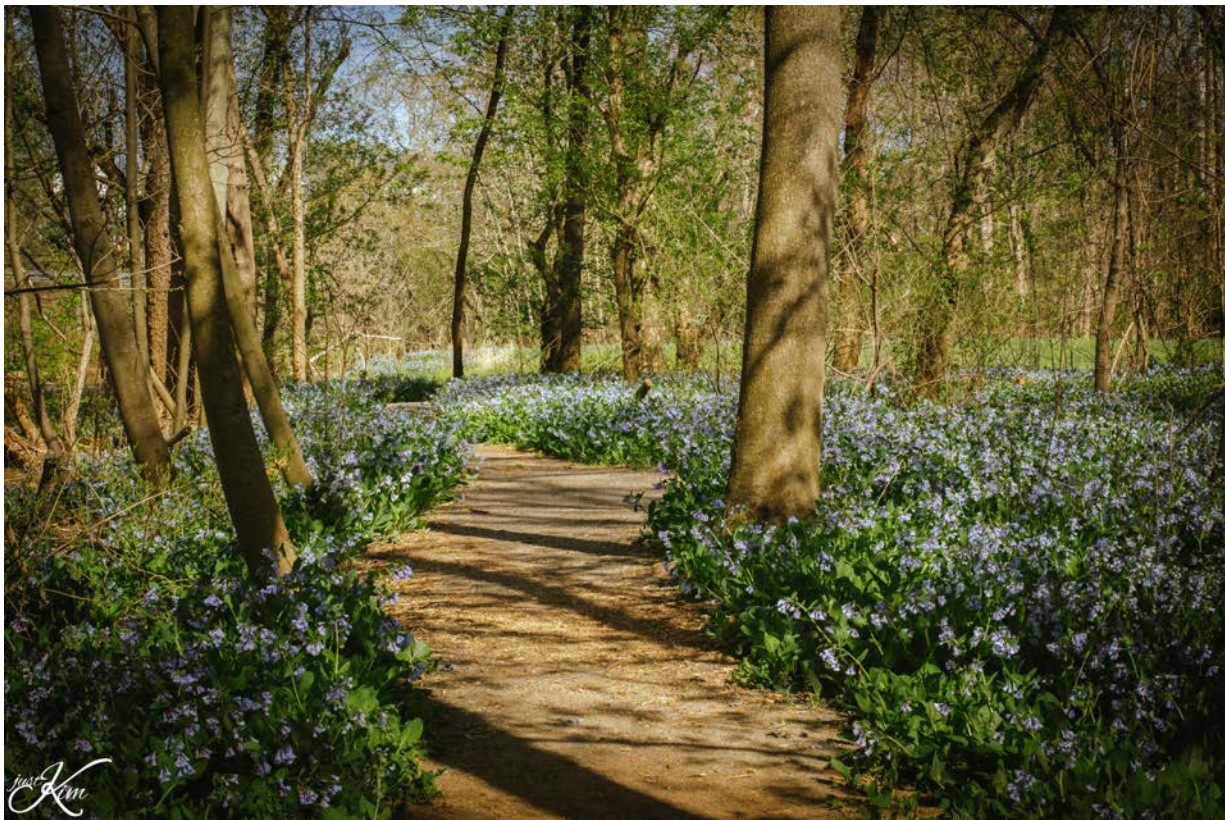


Figure 1 Virginia Bluebells, *Mertensia virginica* along a stream side.

<b>Priority Issue</b>	<b>Planned Unit Response</b>
Economic empowerment	Through one-on-one counseling and group education classes, participants will learn how to develop financial practices that improve economic stability.
Sustainable landscape management	Through environmental education classes, clinics, trainings and hands-on experiences participants will increase awareness on sustainable landscape techniques that improve water quality.
Improving water quality	Work with PWC Watershed Management Branch to address requests for assistance on water quality issues through site visits  Provide pesticide certification and recertification.  Provide well owners educational information and low-cost testing options through the household water quality program.
Supporting local agriculture	Work with the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District to provide education and technical assistance to agricultural producers.
Opportunities for Youth	Through 4-H camps, youth counselors will increase life skills development.  Youth will increase awareness about staying home alone safely.  Youth and families will increase knowledge of local and state civic engagement opportunities.
Strengthening family relationships	Participants will increase communication and listening skills that improve the stability their family.
Nutrition, Health and Wellness	SNAP eligible recipients will increase their knowledge by learning ways to increase physical activity, how to stretch their food dollars making healthy recipes, and food safety practices.

Figure 2. Summary of community issues and Extension office response

# Introduction

VCE-Prince William is committed to providing researched based programming that meets the needs of our community. In a locality of over half a million people, we are the largest unit in the state with 28 staff positions. Our programs have been tailored to meet the gaps in programs and services for Prince William County.

For the 2023 situation analysis, we did not use the state needs assessment survey tool to determine priorities for the unit. We have found that it is hard to get statistically significant responses to a survey in a community so large. Many people in the community still don't know about VCE and the services we offer to be able to respond to a survey asking how much effort VCE should spend on the following issues. In the past four situation analyses, a survey tool was used, and the top needs identified in the survey tool were ones that VCE could only impact indirectly.

The programs the unit offers, along with the goals and measures reported to Prince William County are based on needs we have identified through partnerships with the agencies in Prince William County, the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, community partners, and grantors over the past 30 years. Additional programming that VCE offers statewide varies locally due to availability of resources, such as funding or staffing, or because it may be a duplication of effort as another county agency, non-profit or community partner already provides the service. Currently the unit receives federal, state, and local funds. Additional grants and transfers have been obtained that are specific to certain programs and activities, leaving little room for additional capacity to take on new programs.

- Prince William County (PWC) and revenue transfers from the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park
- Community Development Block Grant, Prince William Office of Housing and Community Development
- Stormwater fee funds transfer, Watershed Management Branch, PWC Public Works
- Promoting Safe and Stable Families, from Virginia Department of Social Services, through the PWC Department of Social Services.
- Skill Source of Northern Virginia, United Way, National Capital Region, Truist bank.
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Virginia Housing

The current [Virginia Cooperative Extension Prince William County budget document](https://www.pwcva.gov/assets/2023-02/pFY24--08--HS06--Virginia_Cooperative_Extension.pdf) shows current local funding, local staffing, program measures and targets: [https://www.pwcva.gov/assets/2023-02/pFY24--08--HS06--Virginia\\_Cooperative\\_Extension.pdf](https://www.pwcva.gov/assets/2023-02/pFY24--08--HS06--Virginia_Cooperative_Extension.pdf)

As we continue to market our programs, we seek opportunities for outreach and education to raise awareness of the services we provide and seek feedback through one-on-one interviews, and by working closely with our grantors. We continue to also engage in conversations with partner agencies to ensure current programs are satisfying community needs as well. Due to the number of Spanish speaking individuals in the community, our FCS programs are offered in Spanish and English.

## Unit Profile

The service area of the Prince William Unit includes Prince William County, and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park. Prince William County is 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. The City of Manassas Park is 3.03 square miles. The City of Manassas is 10 square miles. Both cities are central to the county and border each other and the county.

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 un-incorporated population centers designated by the U.S. Census Bureau for data collection purposes. The Towns are Haymarket, Occoquan, Dumfries, and Quantico

## Population data

Census data estimates the current population of Prince William County as of September 2023, is 491,693 while population for the Greater Prince William Area (including the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park) is, based on the most currently available data 546,288. See Figure 3. The population of the Greater Prince William area continues to grow and since the 2010 census there was an increase of almost 19% and since 2000, a 75% increase. See Figure 4. The 2022 Census population estimates show that Prince William County is the second most populous jurisdiction in Virginia. Almost 26% of the Greater Prince William Area’s population is under 18 and 11% of the population is over 65. Regional population projections anticipate a 35-40% increase for the Greater Prince William region by 2040.

	1980	1990	2000	2023
<b>Prince William County</b>	144,703	215,686	280,813	491,693
<b>Manassas City</b>	15,438	27,957	35,135	42,772
<b>Manassas Park City</b>	6,524	6,734	10,290	17,478

Figure 3. Prince William County Population 1980-2023 Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census 1980, Census 1990, Census 2000, and Census 2020.

Year	Population	Growth Over Previous Decades
1950	22,612	27.5%
1960	50,164	121.8%
1970	111,102	121.5%
1980	144,703	30.2%
1990	215,686	49.1%
2000	280,813	30.2%
2022	491,693	75%

Figure 4. Growth in Population 1950 to present. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census 1980, Census 1990, Census 2000, and Census 2020.

In recent decades, the population of the Greater Prince William Area increasingly has become racially and ethnically diverse. The 2020 Census reaffirms 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, 35.6% of the population are persons of Hispanic origin, 17.3% identifying as Black and 9.9% identifying as Asian. Prince William County was rated as the 10<sup>th</sup> county with the highest diversity in the county in 2020. See figure 5.



# Diversity Index

## 10 Counties With the Highest Diversity Index in 2020

County	Diversity index		Percentage-point difference
	2010	2020	
Hawaii County, Hawaii . . . . .	77.5	77.7	0.2
Maui County, Hawaii . . . . .	76.3	77.1	0.8
Queens County, New York . . . . .	76.4	76.9	0.6
Kauai County, Hawaii . . . . .	75.6	76.6	0.9
Fort Bend County, Texas . . . . .	74.0	76.3	2.3
Solano County, California . . . . .	73.3	75.6	2.4
Alameda County, California . . . . .	75.0	75.1	0.1
Gwinnett County, Georgia . . . . .	70.2	75.1	4.8
Kings County, New York . . . . .	72.1	74.8	2.7
Prince William County, Virginia . . .	67.7	73.7	6.0

Note: Demographic changes, as well as improvements to the ways in which race and ethnicity data are collected and processed, reveal the U.S. population is more racially and ethnically diverse than measured in 2010.

Counties were selected using 2020 data and may not include the 10 counties with the highest diversity index in 2010.

Counties restricted to those with a total population of 5,000 or more in 2020. Our accompanying data visualization shows all counties in the United States.

Percentage-point difference based on unrounded values.

Information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/summary-file/>>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File; 2020 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File.

<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/08/2020-united-states-population-more-racially-ethnically-diverse-than-2010.html>

Figure 5. Diversity Index of the top 10 Counties in the US. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Summarizing key points in the Table 1 below, as compared to Virginia, the Greater Prince William region exceeds the number of households who speak another language other than English, percentages of those who were born outside of the US, and the population who are not US citizens. Median income is higher in the Greater Prince William region than that of the entire state of VA, and median rent exceeds the state average as well.

Census data (2020) indicates that 43.7% of County residents 25 and older have a bachelor’s degree or higher; 35.4% of Manassas City and 25% of Manassas Park residents have their bachelor’s degrees. Median income rose from the last report with an average of \$120,398 in the County to \$110,559 in Manassas, with \$91,673 in Manassas Park. Rates of poverty fell since last reported with 5.3% in the County, 4.7% in Manassas and 5.1% in Manassas Park.

Table 1 Census Data Comparison for Prince William County, City of Manassas, City of Manassas Park, and Virginia

Census data comparison	Prince William County	City of Manassas	City of Manassas Park	Virginia
Population	491,693	42,772	17,478	8,683,619
Households	152,616	13,840	5,221	3,289,776
Housing Units	162,116	14,365	5,525	3,685,322
Hispanic population	25.8%	43%	41%	10.5%
Language other than English spoken in the home	36%	41%	51.9%	17%
Foreign born Population	24.9%	27.4%	37.9%	12.6%
Population that are not US citizens	42.2%	60%	45%	5%
Bachelor's degree or higher, 25 years or older	43.7%	35.4%	25%	41%
Median income	\$120,398	\$110,559	\$91,673	\$85,873
Population living below the poverty level	5.3%	4.7%	5.1%	10.6%
Median rent	\$1848	\$1641	\$1918	\$1441
Homeownership rate	73.5%	70.8%	61.4%	67.4%
Homes are valued at \$300-499,999	40%	56.4%	46%	28.9%
Persons without health insurance coverage	9.6%	14.1%	20.9%	7.6%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Profiles: Census 2020.

## Education

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 107 schools including elementary, middle, high and combined schools with a total enrollment of 102,325 students. Chronic absenteeism and truancy are issues local schools continue to face. For the 2022-2023 school year, 20% of Prince William County students missed more than 10% of the school year; 26% of City of Manassas Students missed more than 10% of the year, and 33.2% of Manassas Park students missed more than 10% of the school year.

High school graduation rate averages around 92% between the three school systems with Prince William averaging the highest at 93.1% and Manassas City at 92.7% and 91.5% of Manassas Park Students graduate with advanced or standard diplomas or obtain their GED or equivalent.

## Income and Employment

According to the Census Bureau's 2020 American Community Survey, the 2023 median household income in Prince William was \$120,398. They reported that the poverty rate was 3.2% in 2003, well below the Virginia rate of 9% and the US rate of 12.7%. Prince William County continues to lead the area in median family income, however, for 1999, Manassas Park edged out the City of Manassas for the first time. The Prince William area significantly exceeds the state level for median family income.

Unemployment rates in the Greater Prince William region are currently low- 2.7% and the poverty rate is low (5.8% for PWC and 9.9% for VA). However, Greater Prince William does identify an average of 5.3% of the population living at or below the federal poverty level.

## Homelessness

The Prince William Times cited below, stated that homelessness was up 35% in 2023 as COVID support ended. The 2023 Point in Time (PIT) count found 326 residents experiencing homelessness, up from 2022. This year, there are no unsheltered homeless children in the county, but there were 40 families with children staying in shelters or transitional housing. The County also increased the number of shelter beds

in 2023 to 328. One of the County's buildings used a portion of the space to create more shelter space. The 2023 PIT survey identified that homelessness disproportionately affects the county's minority and disabled residents. 56% of residents experiencing homelessness are Black. 36% of unhoused county residents have some kind of disabling condition. 36% of unhoused county residents have some kind of disabling condition. 30% of the homeless residents are considered "medically fragile."

## **Agriculture**

As we await the newest data of the Census of Agriculture, we can only refer to the 2017 data which was used in our last situation analysis. The Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park no longer have properties zoned as agriculture. With that new data, we anticipate a significant drop in the number of acres zoned as A-1 agriculture and the number of farms in production as several producers in Prince William County have sold their land for development.

As of the Census of Agriculture in 2017, the county had lost a small number of farms and acres of farmland, with only 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 \$2500 in sales. While almost a quarter of the farms generate about \$2500-10,000 in sales.

The Greater Prince William Area is home to a growing number of breweries, wineries and distilleries. Crops grown in Prince William in no particular order are blueberries, broccoli, carrots, cattle, cauliflower, chickens, corn for eating, grain and silage, cucumbers, , Christmas trees, cut flowers, ducks, eggplant, equine (horses, ponies, mules, donkeys), goats, grapes, hay, herbs, hogs, honey, hops, lettuce, melons, onions, peaches, pears, persimmons, potatoes, peppers, eggs, pumpkins, raspberries, , sheep, sod, sorghum, soybeans, squash, strawberries, sunflowers, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, turkeys, wool, and wheat. There has been a recent uptick in local farmstands with a few of the producers with 10 acre farm-ettes producing cut flowers, eggs, baked goods, sweets, eggs, poultry, beef, pork and sausages for sale.

## **Greater Prince William Community Health Assessment Data**

The Community Healthcare Coalition of Greater Prince William (CHCGPW) published the 2019 Greater Prince William Community Health Assessment to help guide the Community Health Improvement Plan. The report includes an update in 2023. The original assessment identified the top health issues areas and updated the trends as of 2023.

**Chronic conditions:** In the Greater Prince William Area, 9.3% of individuals have diabetes (Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, 2020 estimates). The percentage of adults who have been told they have high blood pressure is 29.2% in Manassas City, 28.4% in Manassas Park City, and 29.3% in Prince William County (CDC PLACES, 2019). The percentage of adults ages 18 and older who have had their blood cholesterol checked within the past five years and have been told by a health care provider that it is high is 29.7% in Manassas City, 28.8% in Manassas Park City, and 28.7% in Prince William County (CDC PLACES, 2019).

**Injury and violence:** In the Greater Prince William Area, 90.2% of people reported using a seat belt when driving (Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, 2017 estimates). Recent crime reports show that the overall crime rate has been on the rise in Prince William County, crimes against persons (homicide, sex offenses, assault, kidnapping) increased from the prior year and assault on police officers rose 23.0% (Annual Report, Prince William County Police Department, 2022). Injury and violence are a leading cause of death and disability across the U.S. For example, firearms are the leading cause of death in children under 19 nationally (CDC Wonder, 2021).

**Economic stability:** In Prince William County, the percent of Hispanic children (14.4%) and Black children (6.5%) living below the poverty level is higher than that of white children (2.5%) (U.S. Census

Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021 5-year estimates). While the median household income in Prince William County is high overall (\$113,831), median household income for Hispanic residents (\$91,451) is more than \$33,000 less than that of white, non-Hispanic residents (\$124,860) (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021 5-year estimates).

Mental health: The percentage of adults who reported that their mental health was not good 14 or more days in the past month is 13.2% in Manassas City, 13.5% in Manassas Park City, and 12.8% in Prince William County (CDC PLACES, 2020).

Educational opportunities: Hispanic/Latino students had lower on-time graduation rates in 2022 in Manassas City, Manassas Park, and Prince William County compared to their white counterparts, as well as a lower percentage receiving an advanced studies diploma where both standard credits and verified credits were completed (Virginia Department of Education, 2021-2022 estimates).

Neighborhood and built environment: In Prince William County, 46.56% of renters spend 30% or more of household income on rent, 51.59% in Manassas City, and 58.94% in Manassas Park City (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021 5-year estimates). In Prince William County, the mean commute time to work is 39.2 minutes, 34.7 minutes in Manassas City, and 41.5 minutes in Manassas Park City (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021 5-year estimates). During summer of 2022, the Community Health Care Coalition Greater Prince William (CHCGPW) elected to utilize the Prince William Health District (PWHD) Community Health Workers (CHW) and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to survey community members during Prince William Health District outreach events. The intention was to collect primary data and elicit input from vulnerable populations who may not otherwise have opportunities to contribute to community planning initiatives. Much of the qualitative data themes revealed a direct connection to the coalition social determinants of health initiatives, including “Neighborhood and Built Environment” and “Education”. With this data, the coalition’s Neighborhood and Built Environment steering committee developed projects to address safe streets/pedestrian safety. (Community Healthcare Coalition of Greater Prince William, Community Survey on the Neighborhood, Preliminary Results 2022)

Healthcare access and delivery systems: Prince William County ranks 5th in health insurance coverage out of the 5 Northern Virginia jurisdictions, with 89.5% health insurance coverage in comparison to 92.1% in Virginia (U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017-2021 5-year estimates).

Obesity, nutrition and physical activity: The percentage of adults (ages 20 and up) who did not participate in any leisure-time activities during the past month is 19.7% in Manassas City, 19.2% in Manassas Park City, and 21.4% in Prince William County (CDC USDSS, 2019). In the Greater Prince William Area, it is reported 63.5% of individuals are overweight or obese (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, 2020 estimates).

Infectious diseases and delivery systems: In 2021, the Northern Region was again highest among all VA regions for cases of newly diagnosed tuberculosis, representing nearly 64% (103) of the state’s total cases (160) (Virginia Department of Health, Division of Tuberculosis and Newcomer Health, 2021 estimates). The 2021 case rate in PWHD (4.1 per 100,000) continued to remain above both the state (1.9 per 100,000) and national rates (2.4 per 100,000) (Virginia Department of Health, Division of Tuberculosis and Newcomer Health, 2021 estimates). Between April 2020 and April 2023, PWHD experienced 145,401 cumulative COVID-19 cases, 4,077 COVID-19 hospitalizations, and 949 COVID-19 deaths (Virginia Department of Health Open Data Portal, COVID-19 Public Use Dataset).

Tobacco and substance abuse: In the Greater Prince William Area, 8.6% of community members use tobacco products (cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus) every day or some days, and 15.4% report binge drinking (Virginia Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, 2021 estimates). The death rate due for all-drug related overdose deaths is higher in Manassas City (48.9) compared to Prince William County



(18.7) and Manassas Park City (22.2) (Virginia Department of Health, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, 2021 estimates, rate per 100,000 population).

### [Greater Prince William Community Health Assessment](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/24/2021/02/10.19.23-CHA.pdf)

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/24/2021/02/10.19.23-CHA.pdf>

## Prince William County Strategic Plan

Prince William County's Strategic Plan for 2021-2024 identified seven focus or goal areas with objectives, action strategies, and key performance indicators. This plan will be used to guide decisions about resource allocations in the FY2022 through FY2025 annual budgets.

1. Health, Wellbeing, & Human Services
2. Safe & Secure Community
3. Resilient Economy
4. Quality Education & Workforce Development
5. Environmental Conservation
6. Sustainable Growth
7. Transportation & Mobility

You can view the [Prince William County Strategic Plan for 2021-2024](https://www.pwcva.gov/assets/2021-10/2021-2024_Strategic_Plan-FINAL_0.pdf)

[https://www.pwcva.gov/assets/2021-10/2021-2024\\_Strategic\\_Plan-FINAL\\_0.pdf](https://www.pwcva.gov/assets/2021-10/2021-2024_Strategic_Plan-FINAL_0.pdf)

## SCommunity and Resident Perspectives

From July of 2022 through November 2023, VCE Prince William has participated in over 40 outreach and educational community events. Invitations were accepted from several individual schools to participate in community fairs, PWC Re-entry Council, the African American Heritage Festival, the Latino Festival, a Mental Awareness event, Leesylvania Park, a Prince William County Schools (PWCS) Family Camp, CASA, PWC GovFest, Mount Olive Baptist Church re-entry event, Life Church Health Fair, Chinn Park Library Fall Festival, Stop the Violence event, Manassas Park Community Day, City of Manassas Bee Festival, Omni Ride Senior Summit are just some of the events we participated in. The majority of people passing by our table were asked if they knew about Virginia Cooperative Extension, and many weren't familiar with VCE or the local unit.

Our programs appeal to many different populations in the community. As we continue to market our programs, we seek new opportunities for outreach and education to underserved audiences to raise awareness of the services we provide. We continue to also engage in conversations with partner agencies to ensure current programs are satisfying community needs as well.

In 2017, our FCS Agent retired. Our FCS Agent offered ServeSafe training for food handlers, nutrition, and chronic disease educational programs. VCE was asked by our County Executive at the time that this programming was duplicative. Regardless of feedback from the community, we stopped offering these programs. In 2010, as part of the budgeting process, we were also told to discontinue our Living Apart Parenting Together curriculum as it was duplicative because it was offered by the community colleges. We continue to receive requests for this program from our community partners and the public.

## Community Issues

The 2023 Situation Analysis was conducted in a different manner from past efforts. For past Situation Analyses, we have asked the community for feedback and reported several key areas that are important to the community. You will see below that in past surveys, we received feedback about services that VCE didn't directly address. Each time our unit has done a situation analysis survey, some of the topics that

rise to the top as important issues or needs in the community are for programs we currently offer or are issues we only indirectly impact.

## **2004 Situation Analysis results**

A survey and focus groups, key informant interviews were conducted. There were 238 responses to the survey, two focus groups held, and key informant interviews conducted by staff and ELC with 10 community leaders. The list below are the top-rated areas of concern (in order of priority). Issues that are bolded are ones the Prince William Unit programming addresses.

1. Affordable Housing (**obtaining** and maintaining)
2. Transportation – Roads/Traffic
3. Transportation – Mass/Public
4. Diversity/Cultural Awareness
5. **Services to Youth**
6. **Family Financial Management (debt, changing income, retirement prep)**
7. **Education**
8. **Human Services**
9. **Gang Activity**
10. Efficient and Effective Government
11. Services for the Elderly
12. **Parenting**
13. **Nutrition**
14. Quality Development/Land Use

## **2008 Report of Analysis Results**

A paper survey was conducted in 2008. There were 217 survey responses. After reviewing the numerical data, staff also looked at the anecdotal comments of the participants. All five of the issues identified on the survey focused on family stability, quality of life, and health of the community. They include:

- Health & Wellness Across the Lifespan including chronic disease prevention
- Life Skills, Leadership Skills, and Citizenship Skills
- Parenting/Child Development
- Money Management and Homeownership
- Environmental Education

These issues were captured in 2004 but there has been a shift in focus in several areas. In the Nutrition program area, the emphasis moved to chronic disease prevention. In the area of youth development, the focus has shifted from Youth Services to Life, Leadership, and Citizenship Skills. In 2004, the issue was affordable housing, in 2008, the concern is the foreclosure crisis. The issue of gang and youth violence was a priority in 2004, while in 2008 the focus is on the family stress created by the economic downturn. In 2004, Prince William was still focused on quality land development and use. In 2008, constituents had a larger need for environmental education that includes green practices that are cost effective.

As a result of this review, staff recommended to the ELC that the Prince William office of VCE continue with existing programming while focusing on ways to empower the community in this economic downturn. Because of the strong education base of VCE, there is still a valid need for our programs.

## **2013 Situation Analysis Results**

There were 298 responses to the situation analysis survey. The top issues identified were:

- Issue 1: Health and Wellness
- Issue 2: Chronic Disease
- Issue 3: At Risk Youth- bullying
- Issue 4: Money Management: Stretching your Food Dollars, Affordable Housing, Buying and Maintaining a Home, Credit Repair
- Issue 5: Environment Clean Drinking Water, Stream Pollution, Using Pesticides Safely, Lawn and Landscape Management
- Issue 6: Life Skills

## **2019 Situation Analysis Results**

In 2019, 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. Questions were asked differently this year, first about issues important to the individuals responding to the survey. Then respondents were asked about issues important to the community. Due to increased interest in online classes, respondents were asked how they like to receive information. The top 10 issues for each question are listed below in Figure 7 and 8. Figure 9 shows responses on how people want to receive information on these issues.

<b>Issues that are Important to me</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Percent</b>
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%

Figure 7. Situation Analysis Issues that were important to individuals in 2019

<b>Issues that are Important to the Community</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Percent</b>
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%

Figure 8. Situation Analysis Issues that were important to the community in 2019

**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%

Figure 9. responses to “How can Virginia Cooperative Extension Better Address your Needs”

In 2023, as part of the situation analyses discussion, staff brainstormed issues facing our community. Responses were listed as ones VCE could address, ones that we could address if we had more resources, and ones VCE could not address.

**Issues VCE Prince William Addresses**

- Building financial literacy
  - Building savings
  - Setting monetary goals
  - Building credit
  - Helping families build a safety net
  - Business planning
- Homeownership education
  - First time homebuyer education
  - Post purchase homeowner counseling
  - Avoiding foreclosure
  - Rental basics
  - Well owner education
- Sustainable landscape management
  - Plant problem diagnosis
  - Lawn care and nutrient management
  - Human / wildlife conflict
  - Creating habitat
  - Invasives management
  - Composting
- Improving water quality
  - Riparian buffer education
  - Fertilizer education
  - Proper tree planting, mulching
  - Safe pesticide use
  - Stormwater and erosion
- Home food production
  - Vegetable gardening
- Supporting local agriculture
  - Agricultural technical assistance
  - Traditional and alternative crop
  - Drought mitigation
- Opportunities for Youth
  - STEM education
  - Leadership development
  - Effective public speaking
  - Equine management
- Building entrepreneurship skills
  - Civic engagement

Life Skill Development  
Helping kids stay at home alone safely  
Embryology  
Shooting sports education

Strengthening family relationships  
Improved family communication  
Anger management strategies

Family reunification  
Stress management

Nutrition, Health and Wellness  
Food preparation, stretching your food  
dollars, food safety, meal planning,  
exercise

## **Issues that could be new opportunities for the unit with additional resources**

Sustainable home maintenance  
Energy conservation  
Co-parenting  
Food safety training for food handlers

Food preservation  
Nutrition  
Curbside composting  
Out of school time opportunities for youth

## **Issues facing locality that the Unit doesn't currently address**

Water quantity  
Sustainable energy  
Value of land  
Human trafficking  
Commercial development  
Residential development  
Affordable housing  
Roads  
Transportation  
Healthcare

Land use around data centers/solar farms  
Aging in place  
Opioids/Fentanyl  
Vaccinations  
Commuting  
Tutoring  
Mental health  
Substance abuse  
Workforce development/career training

## **Future Programming to Address Community Issues**

The Prince William Unit plans to address priority issues through the current programming. Parent Education will continue to serve the community, at risk youth and families by offering a series of classes targeted at improving family communication, listening and understanding emotions.

4-H Youth Development will continue to offer experiential learning opportunities for youth through project and community clubs, in-school and afterschool programs, and 4-H camps.

The Financial Education and Housing Counseling program will continue to offer educational classes and counseling that strengthen financial decision-making skills.

SNAP will continue to provide grant based educational modules for eligible individuals and families.

The Agriculture and Natural Resources program will continue to offer classes, clinics, the Healthy VA Lawn program, and training that help improve sustainability and water quality.



Staff will continue to seek opportunities to share information with others on VCE's programs and services offered in the community. VCE will continue to make connections and seek outreach and education opportunities for underserved audiences.

## References

Community Healthcare Coalition of Greater Prince William. "Greater Prince William Community Health Assessment" Last modified October 19, 2023.  
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/24/2021/02/10.19.23-CHA.pdf>

Sczerzenie, Anya. "Homelessness up 35% in Prince William County as COVID supports end." Prince William Times Jul 28, 2023 [https://www.princewilliamtimes.com/news/homelessness-up-35-in-prince-william-county-as-covid-supports-end/article\\_f3c41d8c-2d80-11ee-81dd-371e7a9a4aab.html](https://www.princewilliamtimes.com/news/homelessness-up-35-in-prince-william-county-as-covid-supports-end/article_f3c41d8c-2d80-11ee-81dd-371e7a9a4aab.html)

U.S. Census Bureau. QuickFacts Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park. U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved December 28, 2023 from <https://www.census.gov/>

U.S. Census Bureau. Profiles, City of Manassas. U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved December 28, 2023, from <https://www.census.gov/>

U.S. Census Bureau. Profiles, City of Manassas Park. U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved December 28, 2023, from <https://www.census.gov/>

U.S. Census Bureau. Profiles, Prince William County, Virginia. U.S. Department of Commerce. Retrieved December 28, 2023, from <https://www.census.gov/>

Virginia Cooperative Extension. "Situation Analysis Report: Prince William County, 2020" Retrieved, November 1, 2023. <https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/VCE/VCE-596/VCE-596-82/VCE-1002-82.html>

Visit Virginia Cooperative Extension: [ext.vt.edu](http://ext.vt.edu)

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, sex (including pregnancy), gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.

2024

VCE-596-82NP (VCE-1175-82NP)

-