CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Focus Groups Round 2





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Review and exercise



Process

- Citywide perspective
  - Focus group meetings round 1– input for unifying themes
  - Focus group meetings round 2 – affirm themes, review draft vision map
  - Public workshops (late October / early November) – review and affirm themes and vision map
- Place type perspectives (2024)

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Focus Group Feedback
Draft Themes

What we heard



Environmental sustainability

- Lead nation in sea level rise mitigation
- Proactively plan for resiliency
- Incorporate environment across all planning efforts
- Embrace sustainable and resilient development
- Preserve old-growth trees, forests, and wetlands
- Invest in green infrastructure, native plants, stormwater management
- Create green spaces for well-being and recreation

What we heard



Balance growth

- Preserve, conserve, and enhance environmental systems
- Maintain Green Line to support intergenerational agriculture and rural heritage, preserve sensitive lands and waterways
- Comply with aircraft noise levels (AICUZ) requirements
- Concentrate development in Strategic Growth Areas
- Protect established neighborhoods
- Preserve historic resources

What we heard



Economic vitality and diversity

- Be a “world-class“ city, beach, and resort area
- Foster innovation
- Diversify the economy
- Attract major employers
- Increase educational and job opportunities

What we heard



Community well-being

- Foster communities of belonging and engagement
- Develop and enhance community gathering places
- Support community safety, health, and security
- Provide a variety of safe and affordable housing

What we heard



Cultural and civic diversity

- Engage young people to stay a lifetime
- Support the many unique cultures in Virginia Beach
- Foster and welcome spaces to celebrate multitude of cultural and ethnic identities
- Create a diverse cityscape
- Design new developments to be consistent with architectural character in distinct communities

What we heard



Multimodal connectivity

- Promote regional access for economic development
- Create a well-connected (accessible) city for all
- Promote biking, walking, and public transit

Did we miss anything?



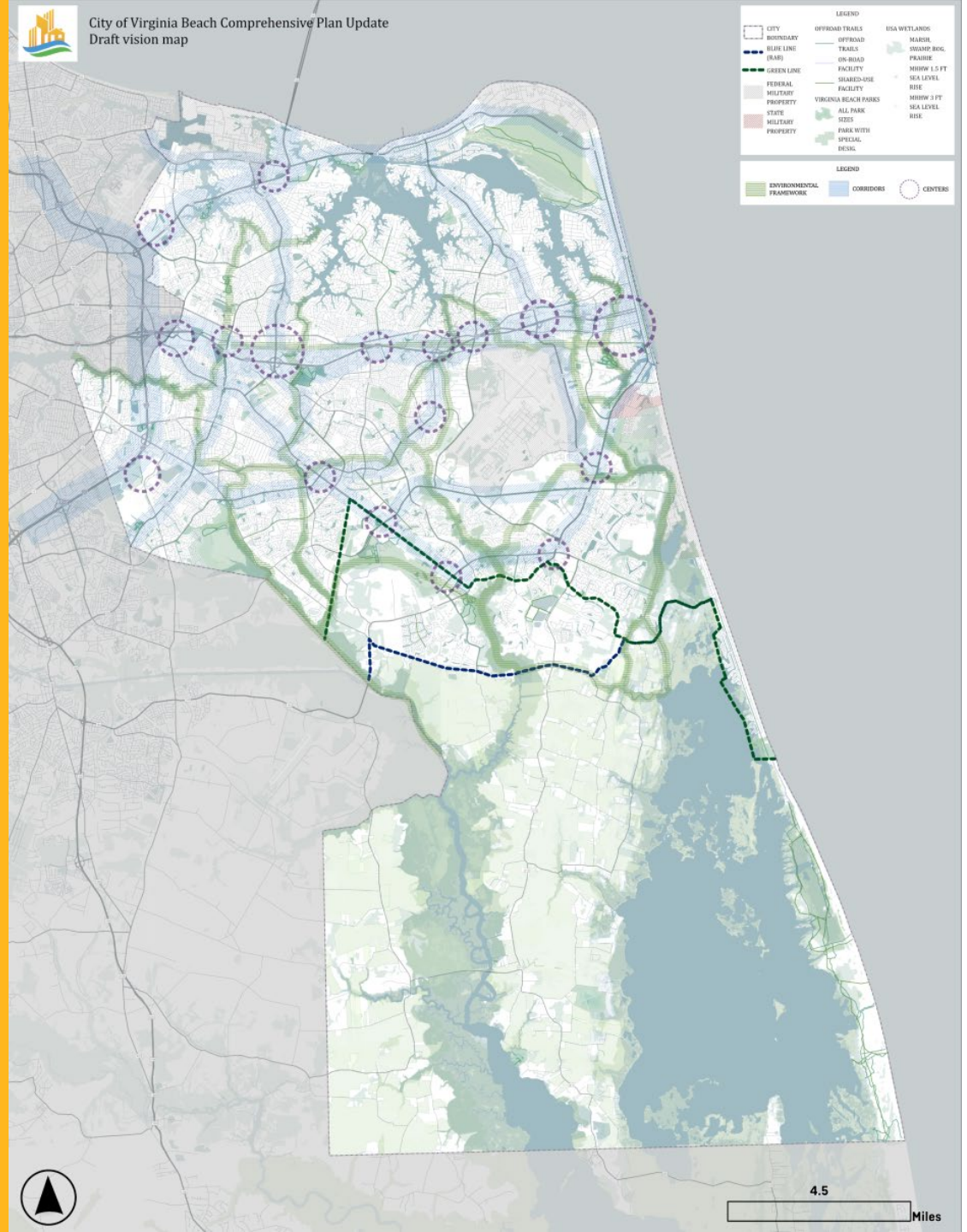
Unifying Themes (draft)

- Integrate environmental sustainability and resiliency into the fabric of the city
- Focus growth into appropriate/designated centers and corridors to preserve environmental and agricultural lands and existing neighborhoods
- Foster economic, cultural, and architectural vitality and diversity
- Foster community engagement, safety, health, and affordability
- Improve connectivity across all travel modes at the regional, city, and community levels



2 Vision Map

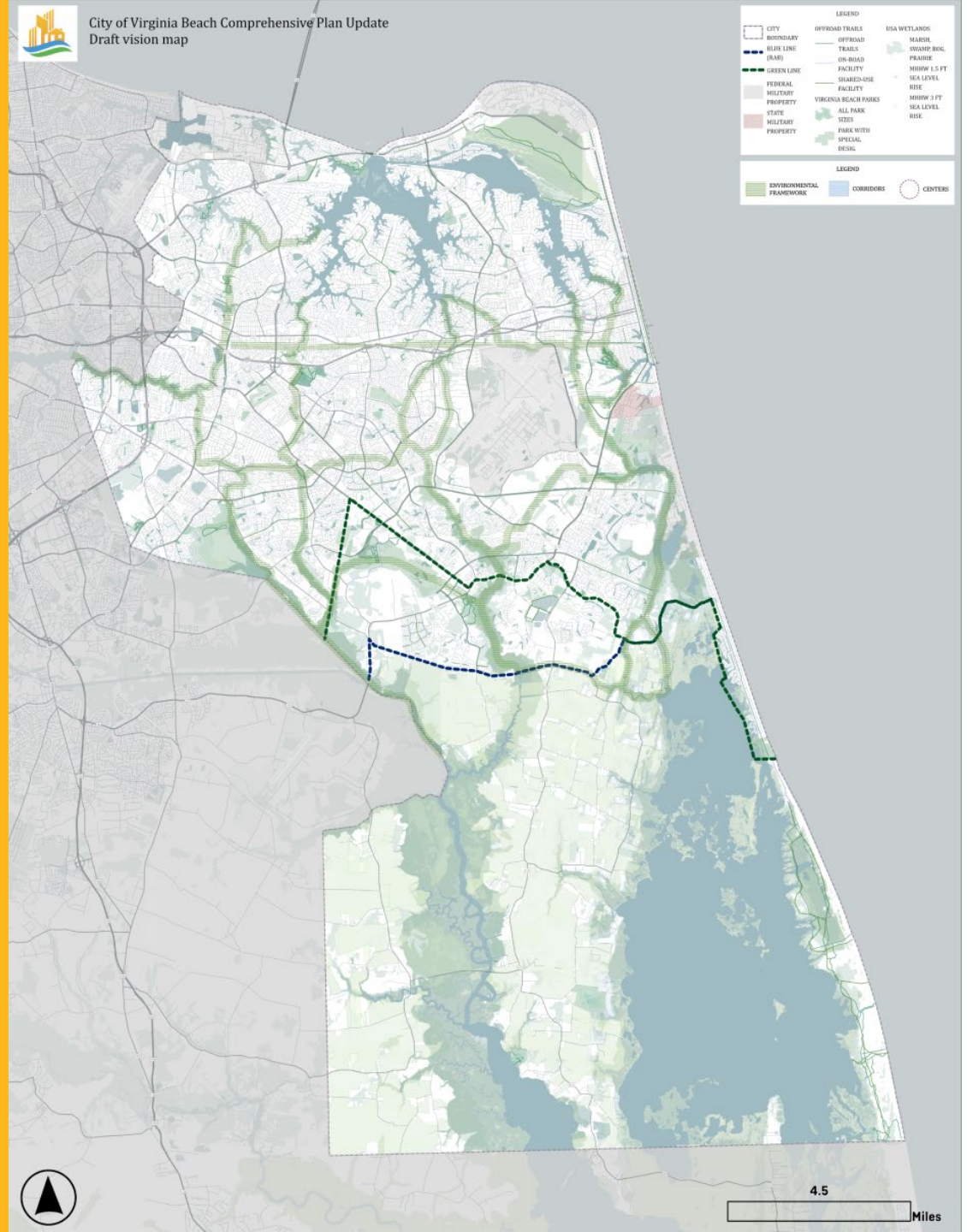
Place Types



Place types

- Conservation
- Countryside
- Corridors
- Centers
- Communities
- Neighborhoods

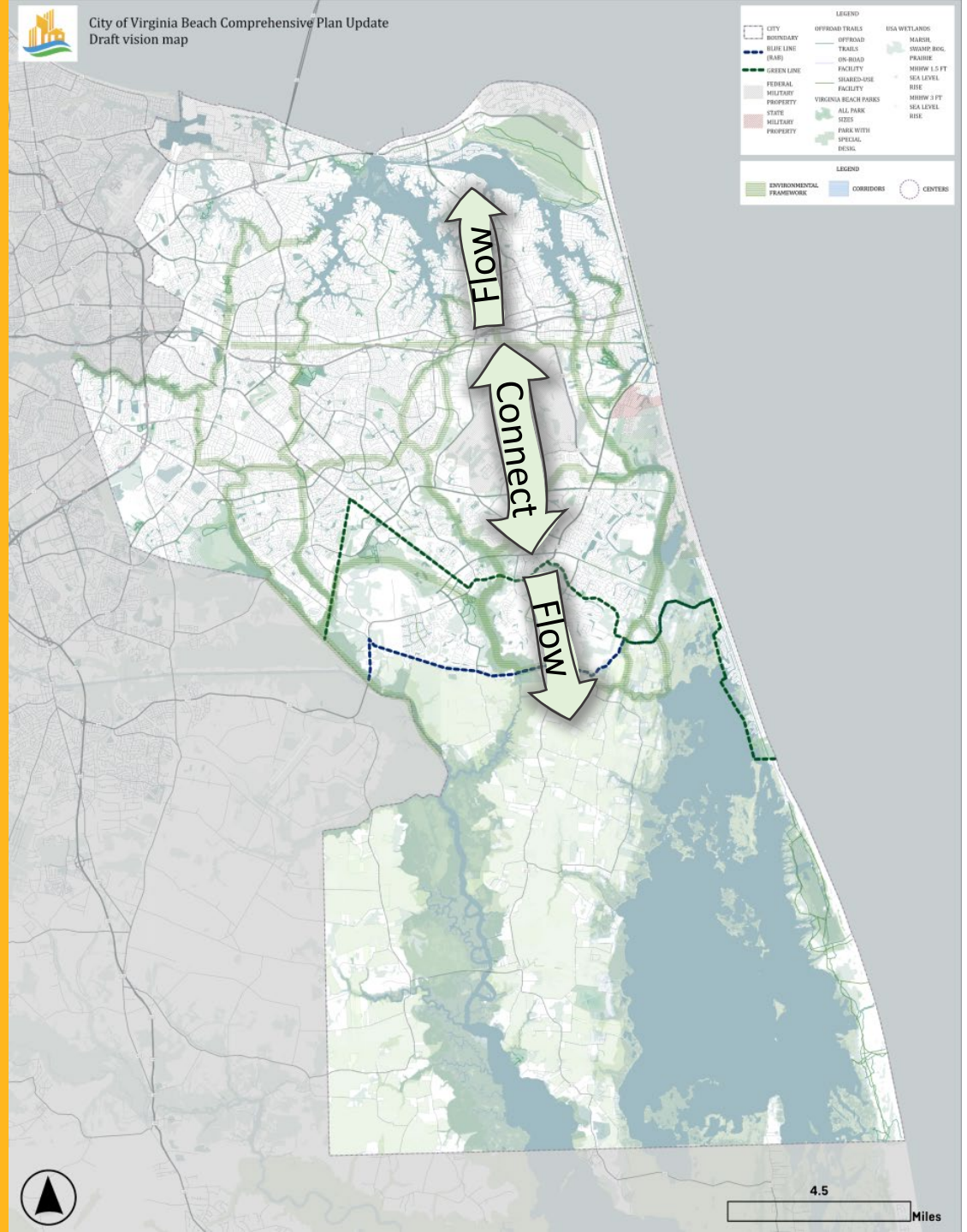
Features



Conservation

- Natural areas (estuaries, unique habitats)
- Streams and creeks
- Flood plains, potential sea level inundation

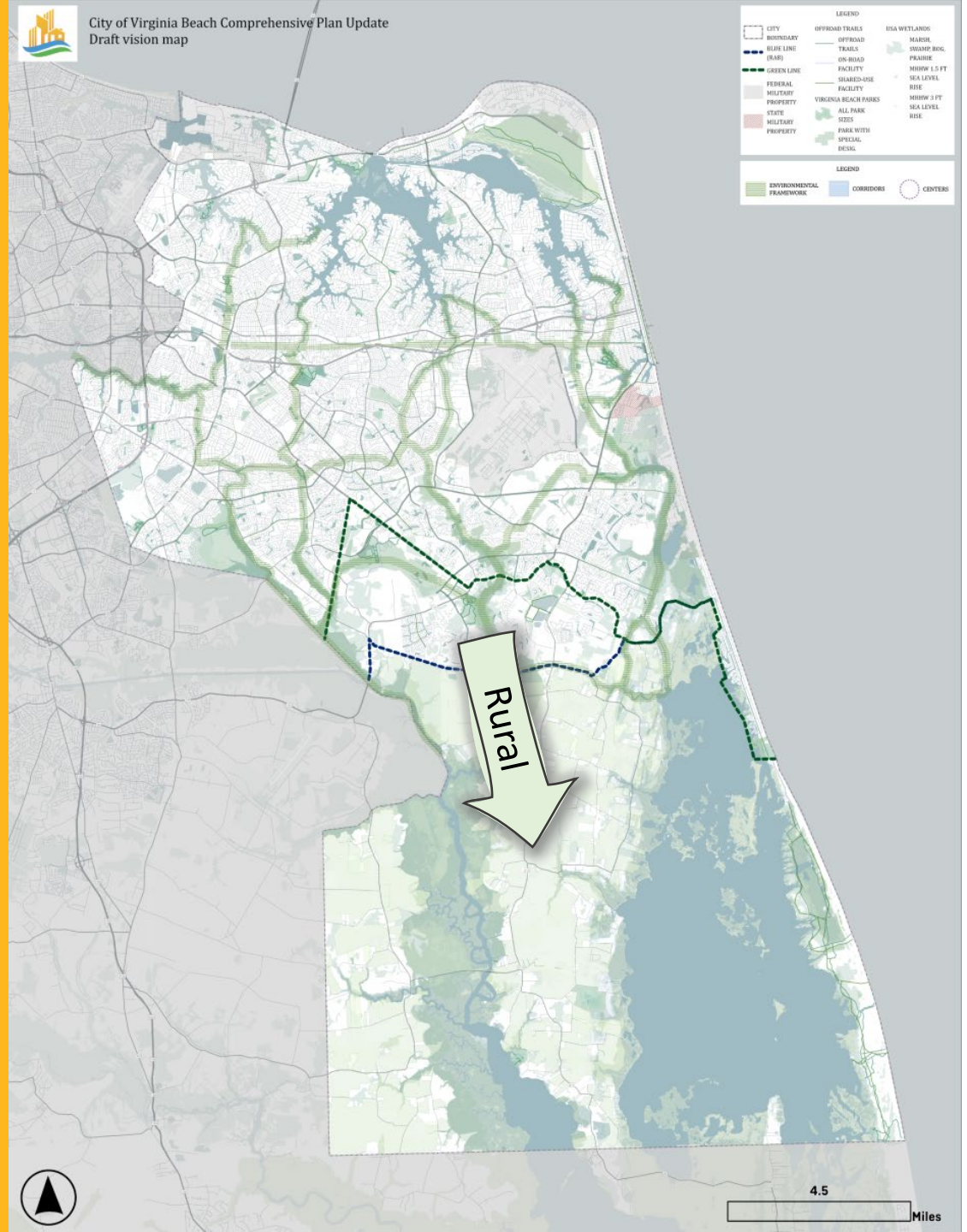
Themed based aspirations



Conservation

- Sustainability and resiliency through preservation
- Enhanced protection of uplands adjacent to waterways
- Discourage development in environmentally sensitive areas
- Flooding and stormwater mitigation and recreation through linear open spaces connecting tributaries

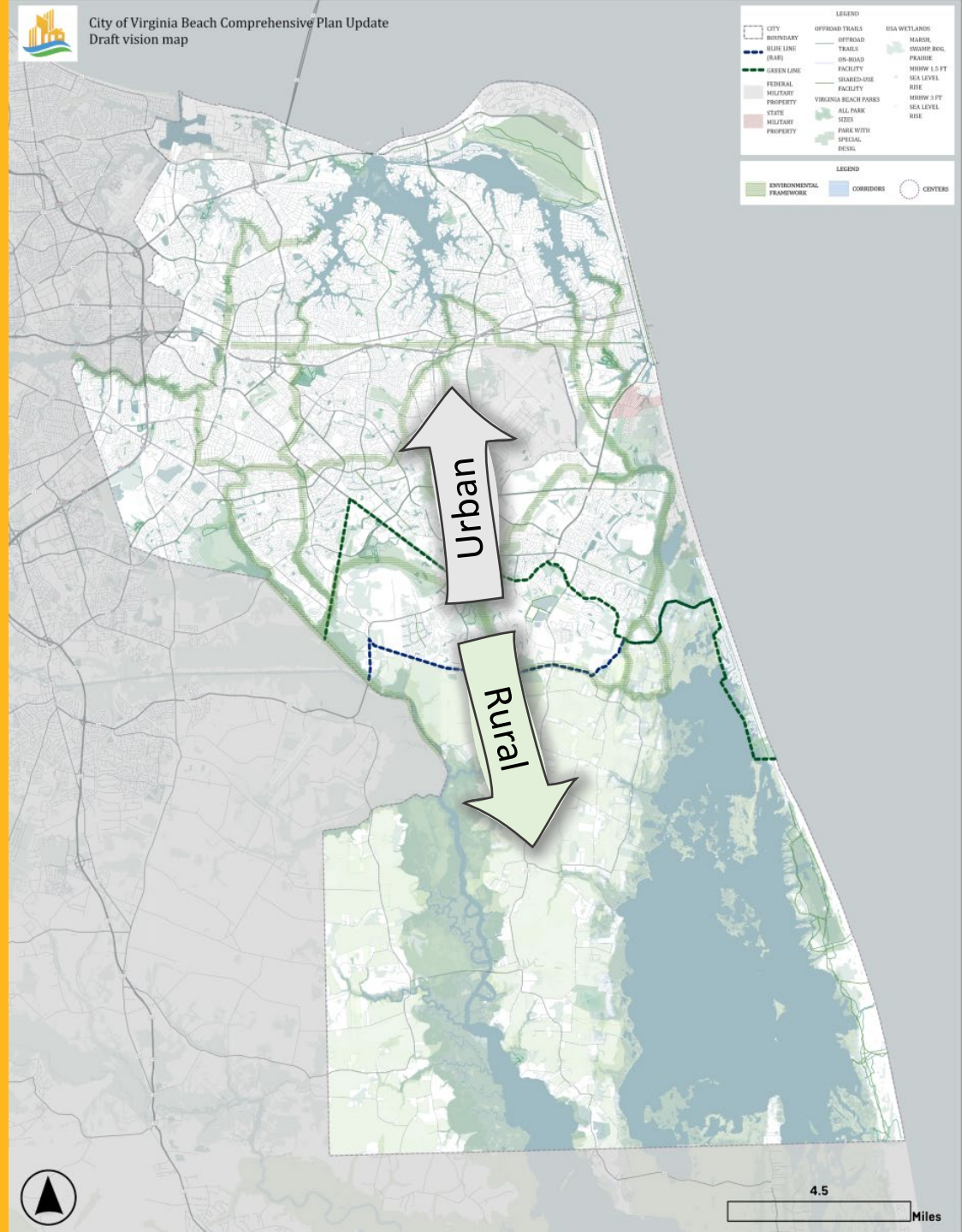
Features



Countryside

- Large contiguous agriculturally productive land area
- Limited urban type services
- Low accessibility to urban jobs and retail

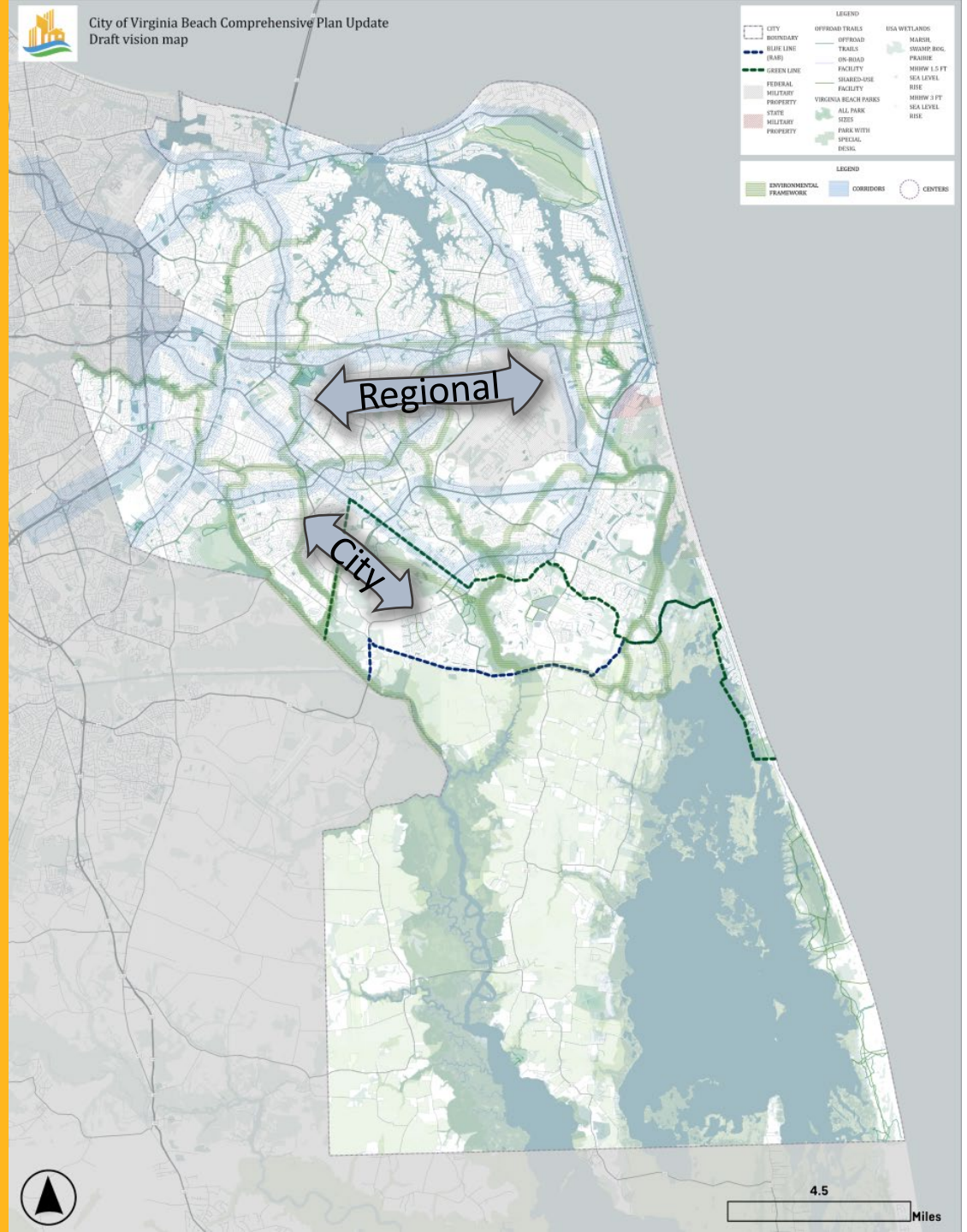
Theme based aspirations



Countryside

- Maintain Green Line growth boundary
- Maintain long-term agriculture
- Promote low density residential and villages
- Promote agri-tourism and eco-tourism
- Comply with AICUZ requirements where applicable (ITA/TA)

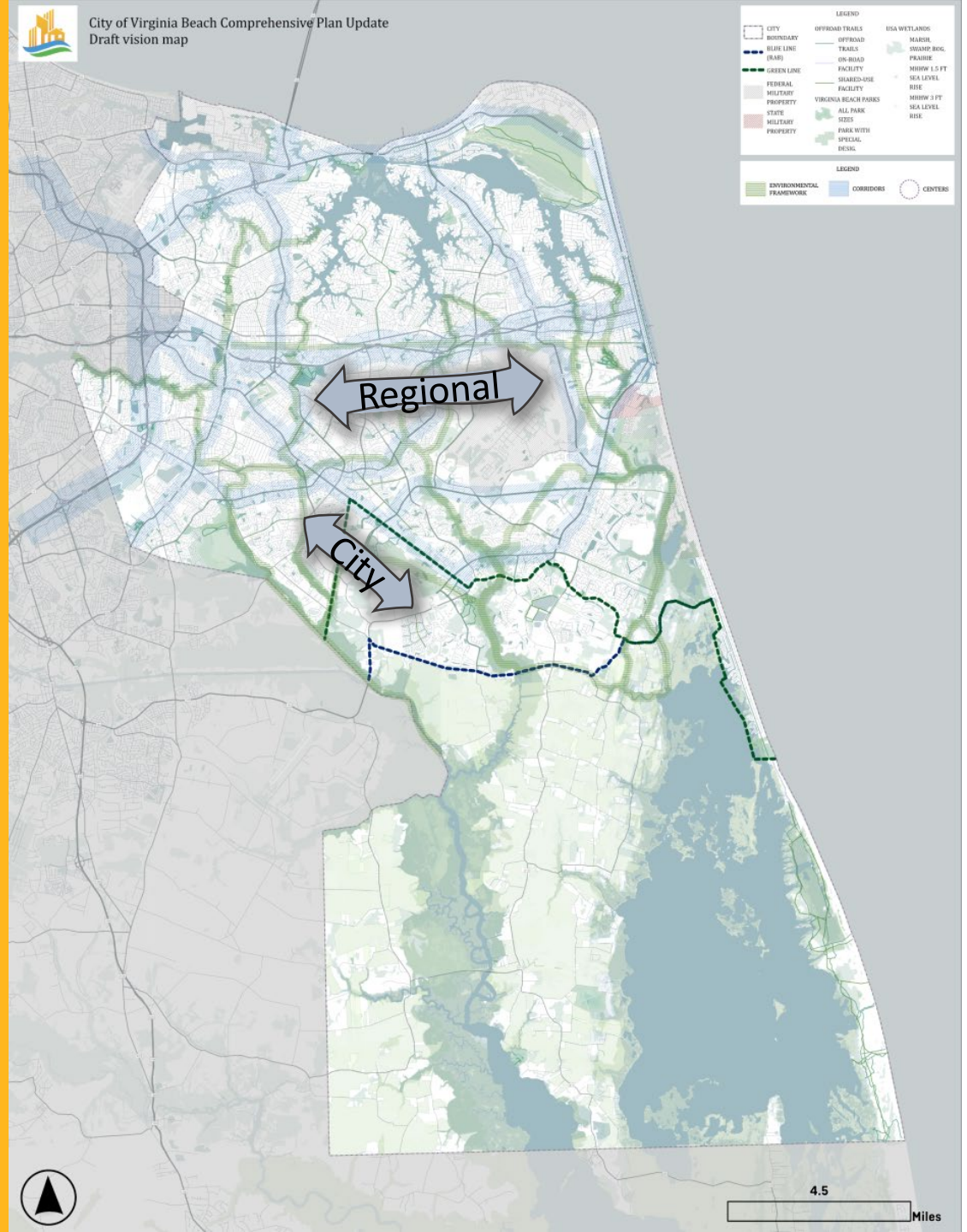
Features



Corridors

- Includes right of way and fronting properties
- Regional – access to region (e.g., I-64, I-264, US 13)
- City – access between centers and communities (e.g., Independence, General Booth)
- Rural – access to markets

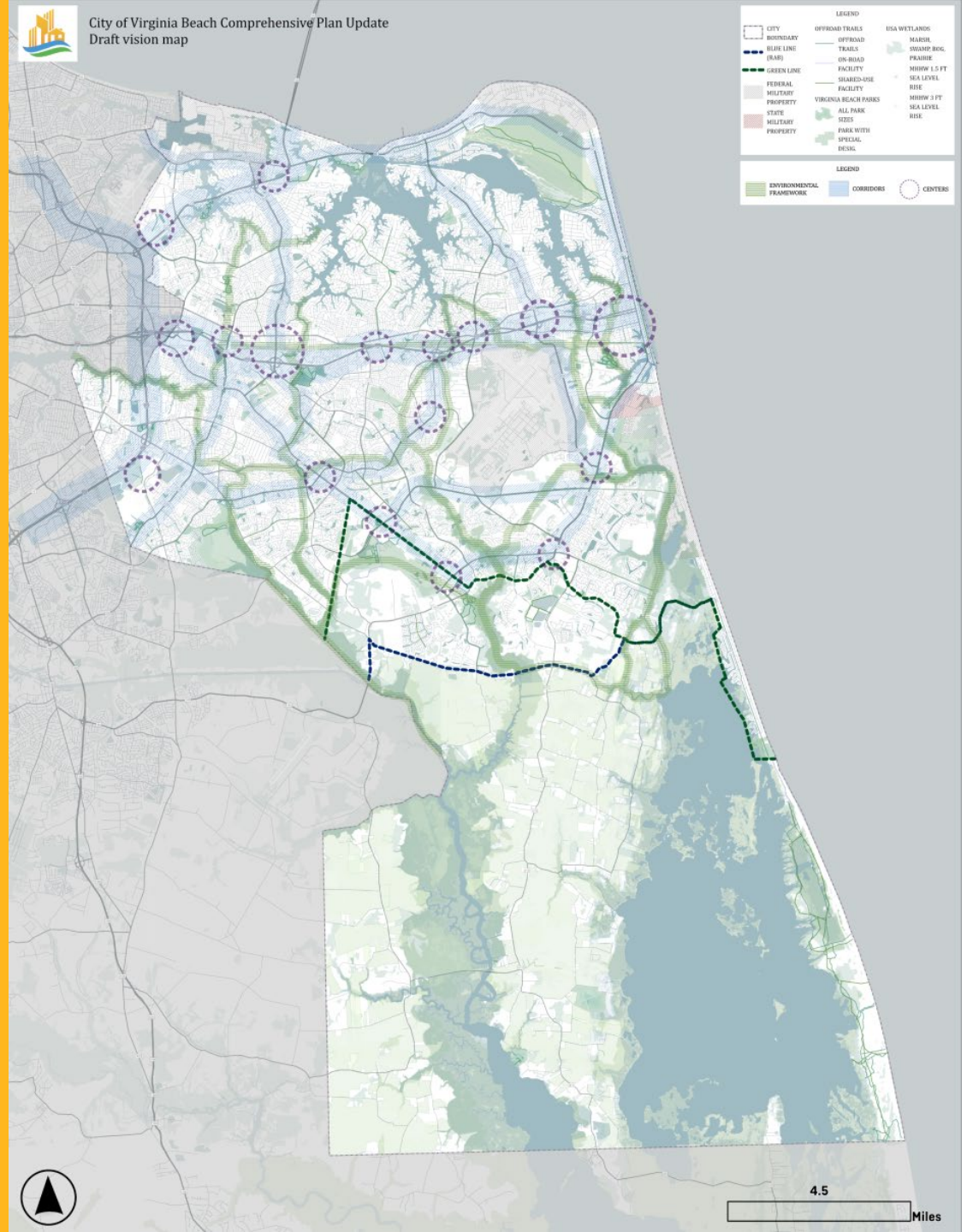
Theme based aspirations



Corridors

- Multimodal travel (transit, biking, walking)
- Multimodal rights of way
- Multimodal supportive land uses and development patterns (notably multifamily residential)
- Protecting established adjacent neighborhoods

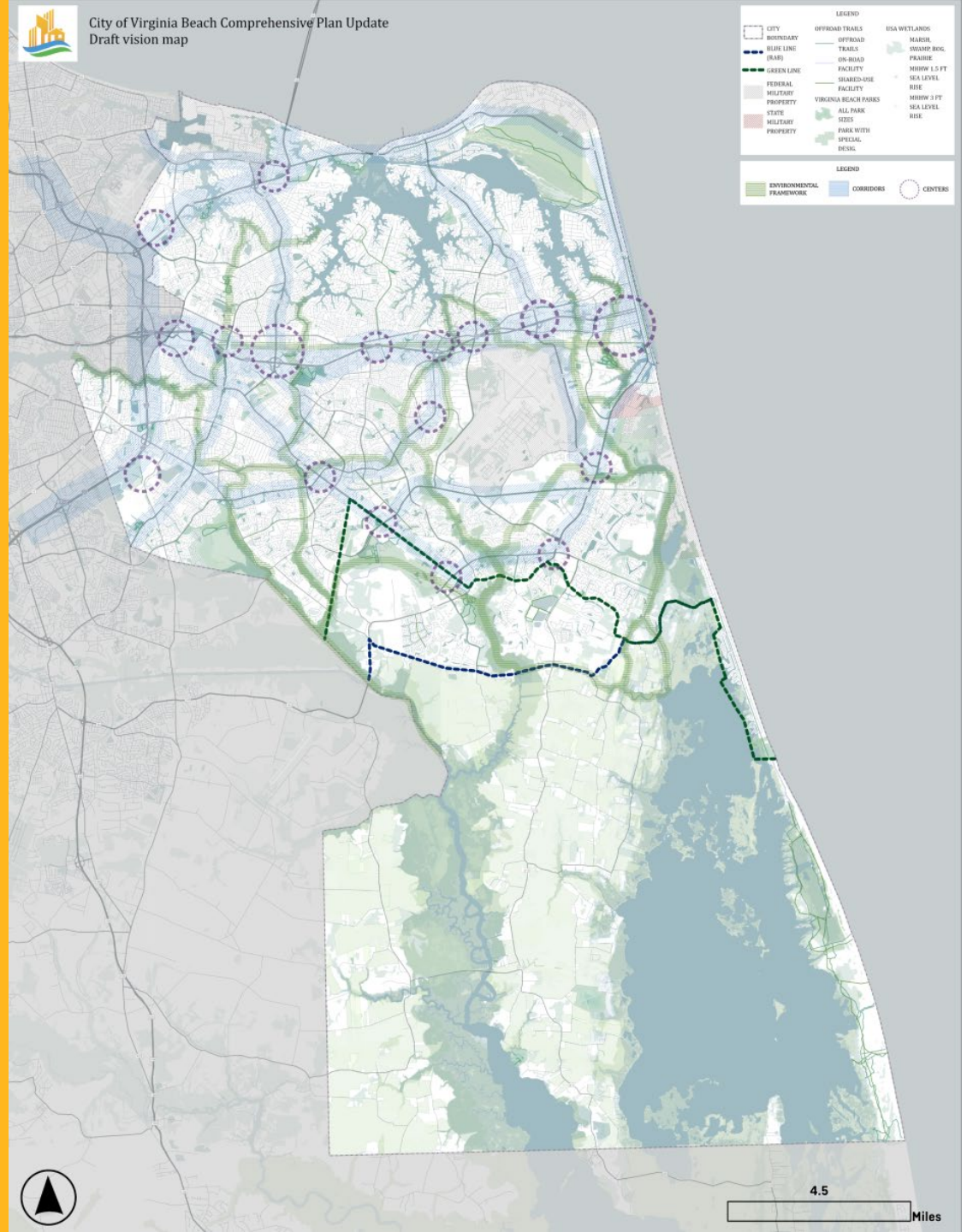
Features



Centers

- Nodes of higher intensity, mixed use development
- Regional – Traded cluster jobs and regional civic nodes along regional corridors (e.g., Town Center, resort area)
- City – Retail and service nodes along regional and city corridors (e.g., Hilltop)
- Community – small scale retail and civic central to a community (e.g., Kempsville)

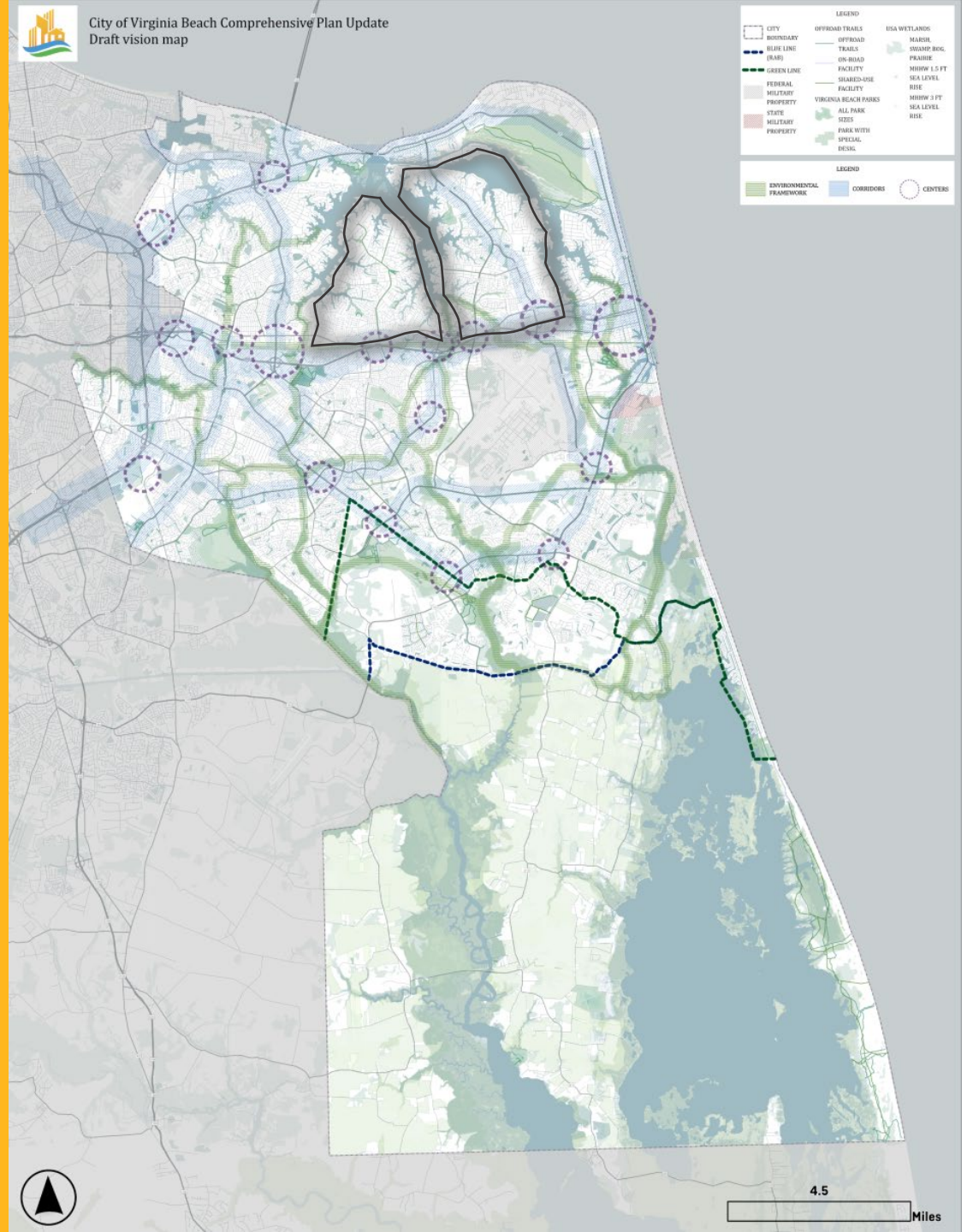
Themed based aspirations



Centers

- Compact, multimodal (walkable), mixed use development pattern
- Regional – regionally accessible centers supporting economic vitality and diversification, regional civic uses
- City – community accessible retail and service nodes
- Community – gathering places, small scale civic (e.g., rec centers, schools), retail, farmers markets

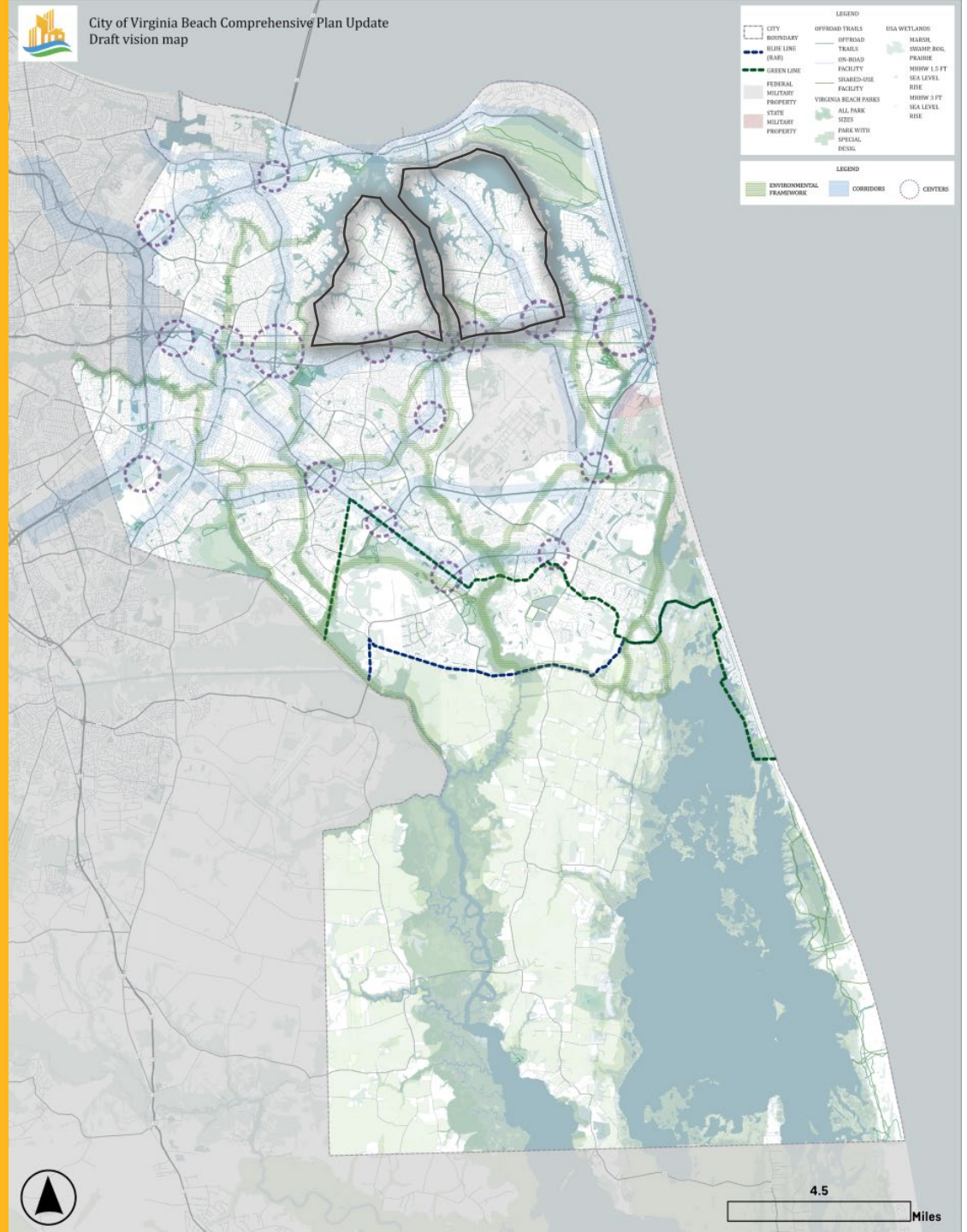
Features



Communities

- Collection of adjacent neighborhoods (e.g., Great Neck, Little Neck, Kempsville)
- Framed by conservation system and regional / city corridors

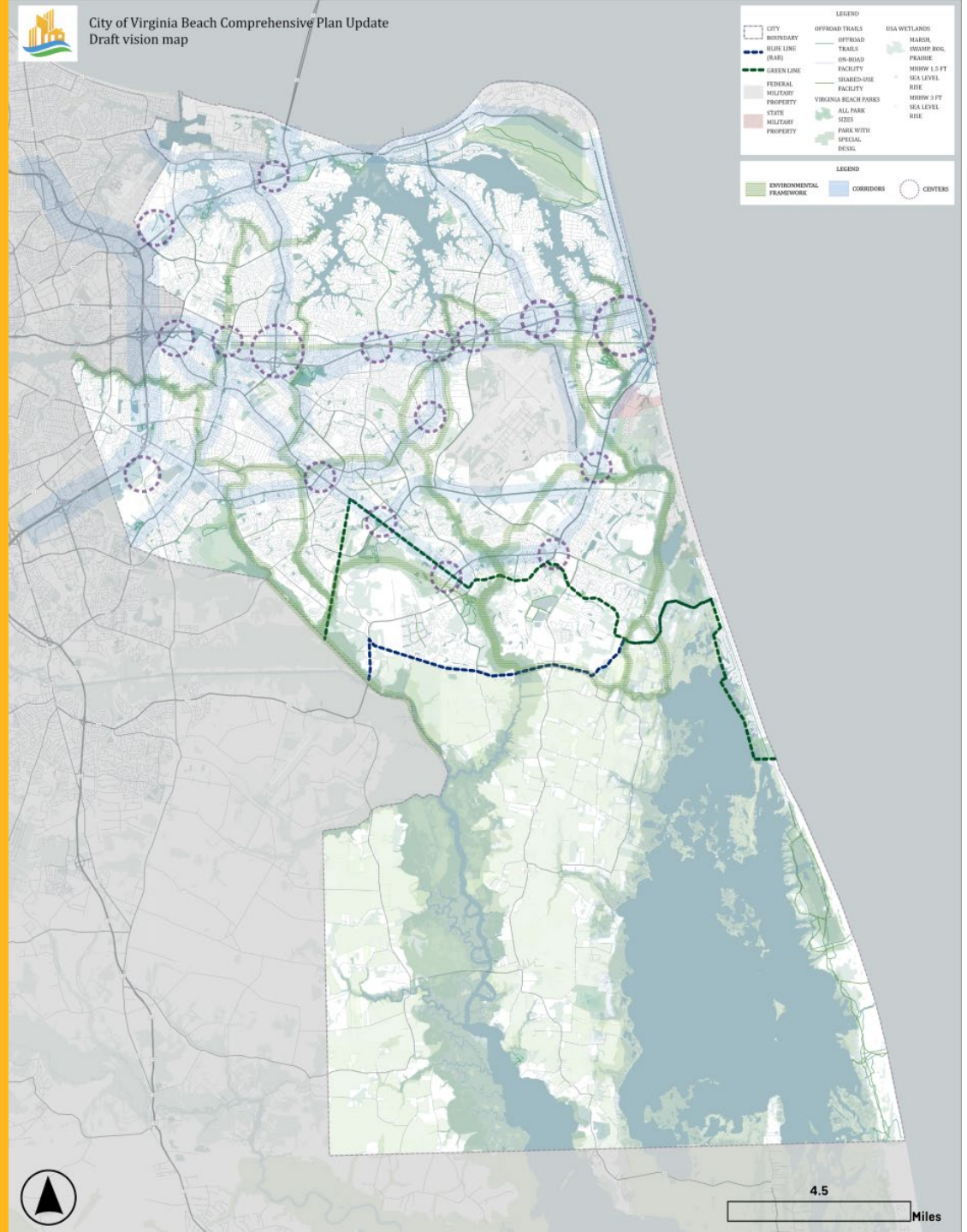
Themed based aspirations



Communities

- Create / enhance community centers (gathering places)
- Multimodal access from neighborhoods to community centers
- Multimodal access to linear parks and recreational areas
- Consistent architectural / design patterns

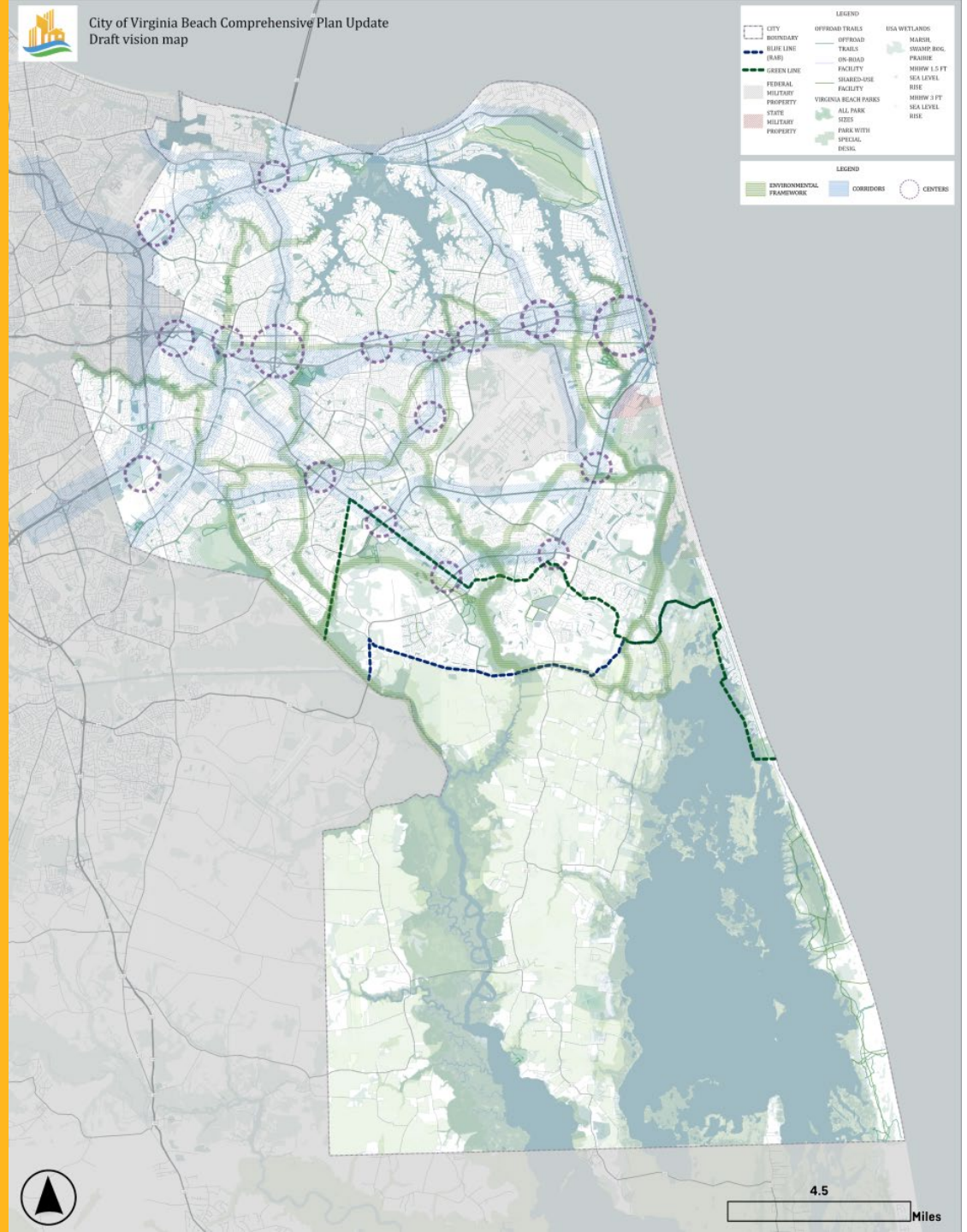
Features



Neighborhoods

- Residential areas with connected local street networks
- Predominantly single family homes
- Small scale civic uses (parks, elementary schools)

Theme based aspirations



Neighborhoods

- Maintain character of existing neighborhoods
- Protect from encroachment of non-compatible uses
- Transition building heights and densities of adjacent corridors and centers

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Themes and Places

Themes and places policy framework

	Balanced Growth	Sustainability	Connectivity	Diversity	Well being
Conservation	Not allowed				
Countryside	Rural residential, villages				
Corridors	Compact, multimodal higher intensity, mixed use				
Centers					
Communities	Preserve residential character, provide for transitions with corridors and centers				
Neighborhoods					

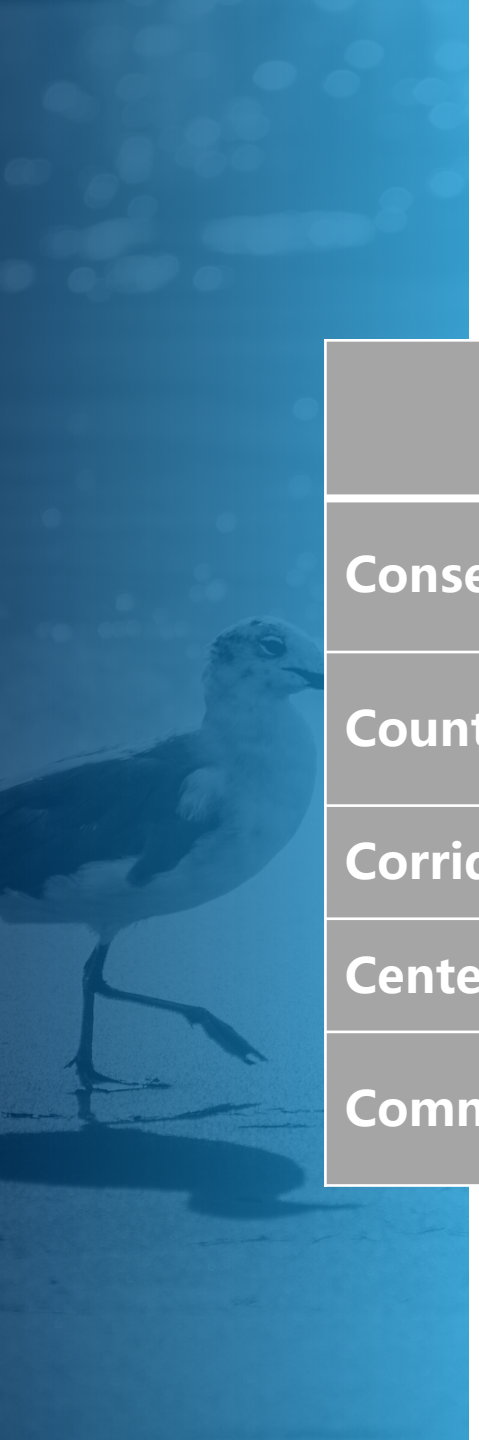
Themes and places policy framework

	Balanced Growth	Sustainability	Connectivity	Diversity	Well being
Conservation		Healthy habitat, clean water, biodiverse			
Countryside		Stewardship of natural, landscape, and cultural resources; clean water; healthy habitat; historic preservation, design with nature			
Corridors		Clean runoff, resilient design, denser housing types, design with nature			
Centers					
Communities		Increased tree canopy, native plants, reduced greenhouse gas emissions; historic preservation, design with nature			

Themes and places policy framework

	Balanced Growth	Sustainability	Connectivity	Diversity	Well being
Conservation			Access points to be in nature		
Countryside			Promote walking, biking, access to open space and local services		
Corridors			Multimodal transportation network; top-tier, efficient transit; access to region		
Centers			Multimodal, walkable; access to activities, goods, services, and transportation network		
Communities					

Themes and places policy framework



	Balanced Growth	Sustainability	Connectivity	Diversity	Well being
Conservation				Engage community to foster connections with nature	
Countryside				Support new generation of farmers/ ag economy; retain rural character	
Corridors				Unique architecture; variety of housing types; job opportunities; celebrate different cultures	
Centers					
Communities				Appropriate infill, affordable housing, supportive land uses	

Themes and places policy framework

	Balanced Growth	Sustainability	Connectivity	Diversity	Well being
Conservation					Biophilia, resiliency
Countryside					Community gathering places; cultural events; affordable housing; job opportunities in agriculture/ rural economy
Corridors					Preservation of neighborhoods, safe and healthy communities; access to jobs; community gathering places and events; access to parks/ open space/ nature, continued adherence to AICUZ regulations
Centers					
Communities					

Themes and places policy framework

	Balanced Growth	Sustainability	Connectivity	Diversity	Well being
Conservation					
Countryside					
Corridors					
Centers					
Communities					

What are your thoughts?

