

Forward

In 2003, Richfield embarked on a year-long process to prepare a Comprehensive Plan consistent with Wisconsin State Statutes. That process concluded on November 18, 2004 when the Town Board, at that time, adopted the Plan. Recognizing that some aspects of the 2004 plan had become outdated, the Plan Commission established an advisory committee in 2010 to undertake a limited review of the plan. Although the subcommittee discussed minor changes relative to updating some of the background information and verbiage, the subcommittee primarily focused on those aspects of the Plan which looked forward and how they may be implemented in the future. The subcommittee was dissolved on May 5, 2011 before making any formal recommendations to the Plan Commission.

As required by State Statutes, a comprehensive plan must be updated every ten years. Village staff initiated that process in 2013 and worked in concert with the Plan Commission and community to prepare an updated plan. Much of the work of the advisory subcommittee was carried forward as part of the 10-year update. The Village Board adopted the 10-year update in November of 2004. Since the Plan's initial inception, only a limited number of amendments have been formally approved.

The Village of Richfield's Comprehensive Plan, generally speaking, establishes a development strategy via our Future Land Use Maps and the various policies which will help guide the future growth of the community over the next 20 years. This plan assesses, amongst other required elements, existing conditions and trends, recommendations for the use and development of land, plans for the extension and improvement of our transportation infrastructure, our philosophy towards smaller government and intergovernmental cooperation, and most importantly, how we can best protect our vital natural resources.

Much like the Town's 2004 Comprehensive Plan, the primary focus of this document is to establish relatively broad, long-term goals, objectives, policies and implementation strategies which will be responsible for providing a framework for ongoing community planning. The Comprehensive Plan complies with the State of Wisconsin's 'Comprehensive Planning Law' (§66.1001), sometimes known as the 'Smart Growth Law', which establishes requirements regarding the content and process for preparing and subsequently adopting these types of plans.

This plan is organized into chapters that, for the most part, follow the elements directly identified in State Statutes. Vision statements, goals, policies, and implementation activities relating to each of the plan elements are included as a separate chapter. This is done to allow a reader to easily cross-reference this information and see how each works in concert together towards achieving Richfield's overall vision of a community moving **"Forward. Preserving...A Country Way of Life!"**

