

RICHMOND VISION

In the year 2035, the Town of Richmond is rural, thriving and a better place for the next generation.

In the year 2035, the Town of Richmond has maintained its rural character and supports the needs of its residents. As a caring, close and conservation-minded community, the town's residents are proud of its balanced, sustainable growth policies and well managed community. While we have managed all of the above, our town government has remained committed to using each tax dollar wisely. We care how we leave this world to our kids. With that, we welcome the young and the young at heart.

It is a thriving area, because we promote planned and eco-friendly growth and development and encourage new industries and businesses that hire locally while maintaining and enhancing our natural resources. The town conserves energy with its green-focused town hall and new energy efficient and alternative energy producing homes. We recycle everything or reclaim all of our end-use products and strive to eliminate our waste.

Because many residents continue to work in the Twin Cities metropolitan region, they are now able to access a variety of transportation options including commuter rail. Our transportation system utilizes road corridors and commuter and freight rail for safe, efficient travel and aims to provide biking and walking options as well.

We are known for are our family parks with beautiful walking trails, clear streams for fishing, and lots of community involvement at our community center. The goal of our citizens is to make our community a better place than when we started.

ELEMENT-BASED VISION STATEMENTS

Utilities and Community Facilities

In the year 2035, the Town of Richmond has moved towards using and producing renewable energy. We explored the possibility of alternative energy in our town and have worked with local utilities to make it possible. The town has built a new town hall which is highly energy efficient and uses renewable energy systems like geothermal for heat and solar for light. The old town hall was updated with similar technologies and became the community center. Our recycling center has been updated and moved to the town hall. The town has worked with cell phone and cable providers for better service and faster connectivity. It has enabled some residents to work from home a few days per month.

Transportation

The Town has worked to maintain a transportation network throughout the community including roads, bike and walking trails, and snowmobile routes. Future roads and trails are well-integrated with appropriate land uses and have addressed transportation bottlenecks with highways and rail. There is rail service in the northwest part of the town near STH 64 to serve local industry and keep them connected to the county and region thereby reducing truck and residential traffic. Working with St. Croix County, WisDOT, and other neighboring communities, a ride-share website and a park and ride lot have been established.

Economic Development

The Town of Richmond has focused on retaining existing businesses while creating commercial and industrial zones to attract new businesses. Those two zones are adjacent to the City of New Richmond and acts as a business center for both communities. The town has worked with neighboring communities to locate a farmers' market and encourage local farmers to participate.

Agriculture

Agriculture in 2035 is an important land use for the town, and farming is part of the town's identity. The town has worked to preserve agricultural land for farming. Also the town has helped create programs for farmers to distribute and sell produce, in part through the creation of a farmer's market. Agriculture is diverse consisting of traditional crops and livestock but also llamas, horses, community gardens, etc. Citizens recognize and respect that Richmond has always had farm operations and they respect the right of those operations to have associated smells, noises and 24-hour activities.

Natural Resources

Town residents highly value the local natural resources and the Town has worked to preserve wetlands, the Willow River, Ten Mile Creek, Lundy Pond and Paper Jack Creek, and have limited development within the watershed in part to make sure both surface and ground water quality are restored to a high quality. Town residents also value the open space from state, federal, and private agricultural lands within the town. Everyone knows about and uses the convenient public accesses to state and federal lands and all of our water resources. People enjoy fishing, hunting, nature and outdoor recreation at many sites in the town. The Town of Richmond has worked to create policy that can achieve a balance between maintaining open space and allowing development.

Cultural Resources

In the year 2035, the Town of Richmond has worked to educate its residents on the town's heritage and history through a website, preservation of buildings and barns, and recognizing and celebrating former and current industries such as agriculture and non-metallic mining. The Community Center at the old town hall also houses local history records. Residents are encouraged to donate pictures, letter and other historical items. As special places in the town are identified they are given recognition on the town website.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

The Town has worked with its neighbors to ensure good quality medical care, emergency services (fire, police, and ambulance), and library services. The Town has good relations with the City of New Richmond, St. Croix County and the school districts. They are all working cooperatively to provide joint services to residents more efficiently and effectively.

Land Use

In 2035, the Town of Richmond has maintained its rural character through its land use policies. The Town has maintained forest, mining, dairy and other agricultural production while allowing for new residential areas through a clustered approach and other uses such as a commercial area, alternative energy locations, multi-family units, and a park and trail network. Controlling the amount and extent of development is important to the town's residents as is the promotion of green building techniques.