

Date: September 16, 2022

Job No.: 21.10221.00

**Subject: Coventry Comprehensive Plan Update
Draft Vision and Goals**

Overarching Vision: Coventry residents commune while supporting local businesses, attending town events, walking and biking on Coventry's safe roads and trails, and visiting Coventry's parks and recreational facilities. Town pride stems from well-maintained services and facilities, preservation of natural and historic resources, and inclusive community spaces. Future development balances the needs for increased housing, preservation of natural areas, desire for community, and climate resiliency. Coventry is a town that embraces diversity and strives to meet the needs of all residents.

LAND USE

Our 2043 Land Use Vision for Coventry is: Our town is a collection of neighborhoods that are unique in character and united in belonging to the greater vibrant, prosperous, and thriving community. Local businesses and large companies live in harmony with abutting residential neighborhoods in our mixed-use activity centers.

Goal 1. Develop land use policies and design guidelines to ensure all new investment contributes to smart and creative residential and commercial development and protects environmental quality and open space.

Goal 2. Enhance the aesthetic quality and overall livability of Coventry's existing neighborhoods.

TRANSPORTATION, ACCESS, AND MOBILITY

Our 2043 Vision for Transportation, Access, And Mobility in Coventry is ... Our town has a well-maintained system of roads, sidewalks, bicycle paths and public transit that enables all people, regardless of age and ability, to travel safely throughout town. The town is proactive in planning for future technologies and demographic shifts that will impact land use and mobility, and takes an environmentally responsible and accessible approach to new development.

Goal 3. Ensure Coventry's roadways are safe and effective for all users, today and in the future.

Goal 4. Increase multi-modal accessibility and connectivity to schools, open space, natural resources, and commercial areas from any part of the town.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Our 2043 Vision for Economic Prosperity and Sustainability in Coventry is: Coventry is an attractive place to live, play and work for families and individuals of all economic backgrounds and income levels. The local economy draws both entrepreneurs and established businesses, (partnerships, opportunity, etc.). Local land use regulations balance open space with economic development to ensure Coventry is a town that attracts high-tech, low impact businesses with shared goals towards sustainability.

- Goal 5. Develop one or more locations in Coventry to be a year-round strolling area, an economic destination, and a recreational asset for Coventry residents and visitors.**
- Goal 6. Capitalize on historic and cultural assets to drive tourism and economic development.**
- Goal 7. Ensure agriculture remains an important use in historically farmed areas.**

HOUSING

Our 2043 Vision for Housing in Coventry is: Coventry offers a diverse housing stock to serve the needs of its citizens regardless of age, ability and income. Future development balances the needs for increased housing, preservation of natural resources, desire for community, and adaptive measures to build resilience to f climate change.

- Goal 8. All Coventry residents have access to safe, sanitary, and affordable housing in proximity to job centers and public transit within designated growth areas.**
- Goal 9. Individuals and families in Coventry have a variety of housing choices to fit their unique needs in terms of size, location, and amenities.**
- Goal 10. Coventry meets or exceeds the 10% Low or Moderate Income Housing threshold required by state law (at least 10% of all housing units will be affordable to residents earning less than or equal to 80% of area median income.)**

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Our 2043 Vision for Community Services and Facilities in Coventry is: Coventry welcomes diversity and supports the wellness and resiliency of all members of the community. The town is a model of good governance, known for objectivity, consistency, and transparency in decision-making. Town administration thoughtfully and transparently plan for current and future allocation of financial and staff resources to achieve town goals.

- Goal 11. Provide for active and two-way communication between all that serve the town of Coventry and Coventry's residents and local business owners.**
- Goal 12. Repurpose vacant municipally owned buildings and properties to support Town's operations and create new community spaces when appropriate.**
- Goal 13. Provide adequate funding for infrastructure repair, improvements, and ongoing maintenance needs.**

- Goal 14. Maintain the safe and reliable network of facilities providing care and resources for residents and visitors at all stages of life.**
- Goal 15. Provide an efficient and sanitary wastewater treatment system and ISDS monitoring and maintenance program that adequately serves Coventry's commercial corridors and environmentally sensitive neighborhoods, and that operates in full compliance with all state and federal standards.**
- Goal 16. Manage stormwater runoff and mitigate adverse impacts on receiving waters, including water quality, flooding, erosion, and sedimentation in a manner that is adequate, efficient, and environmentally sensitive.**
- Goal 17. Continue to meet or exceed a 35% recycling rate and 50% diversion rate through Coventry's municipal waste management program.**

OPEN SPACE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

Our 2043 Vision for Open Space and Outdoor Recreation in Coventry is: Coventry residents commune while walking and biking on Coventry's safe roads and trails and visiting Coventry's parks and recreational facilities. Town pride stems from well-maintained services and facilities, preservation of natural and historic resources, and inclusive community spaces. Coventry community members widely support and participate in community events and cultural recreation in a way that strengthens community bonds and sense of place.

- Goal 18. Improve access to Coventry's open spaces and outdoor recreation facilities for the entire community by enhancing information and communication systems.**
- Goal 19. Maintain and enhance a broad range of community-wide and neighborhood recreational facilities to meet the needs and desires of residents.**
- Goal 20. Enhance multimodal connectivity to the existing bike path, parks, and trails to create a cohesive outdoor recreation network.**
- Goal 21. Strengthen partnerships with individuals and community and civic organizations by identifying and advertising opportunities for public engagement in the creation, enhancement, and maintenance of public recreational areas and easements.**

NATURAL RESOURCES

Our 2043 Vision for Natural Resources in Coventry is: Coventry is a green community. Local policy and regulations protect the natural environment and foster economic growth without jeopardizing natural resources. Rather, economic growth serves to protect and repair our natural environment.

Goal 22. Restore and protect Coventry's water resources and improve water quality.

Goal 23. Steward and preserve Coventry's natural resource areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitat and corridors, and surface and ground water for future generations.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Our 2043 Vision for Cultural and Historic Resources in Coventry is: Coventry celebrates its cultural and historic heritage through preservation programs, cultural tourism, and public education.

Goal 24. Coventry's cultural and historical resources shall be drivers of education, recreation, and economic development opportunities for residents and visitors.

Goal 25. Coventry leaders collaborate with neighboring municipalities to support recognition of the shared regional history of colonists, Native American communities, local industry, and other historical inhabitants and activities of western Rhode Island.

Goal 26. Coventry leaders collaborate with neighboring municipalities and communities to celebrate and support the vibrant, present-day Indigenous communities, ideas, and cultures that thrive in western Rhode Island.

NATURAL HAZARDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Our 2043 Vision for Natural Hazards and Climate Change in Coventry is: New development and redevelopment in Coventry showcases best practices in natural hazard mitigation and climate resilience such as prohibiting development in hazard prone areas; protecting natural areas providing valuable ecosystem services in heat or flood risk mitigation and natural resource protection; designing parking lots with green infrastructure to reduce stormwater runoff, reduce urban heat island, and mitigate other environmental impacts; and innovative implementation of other best management practices.

Goal 27. Coventry's land use regulations guide development and maintenance in a manner that will prevent encroachment on floodways, freshwater wetlands, and other natural and man-made features that provide protection from storms, flooding, and the impacts of climate change.

Goal 28. The town is proactive in preparing for and reducing vulnerability to natural and man-made hazards and climate change.

ENERGY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Our 2043 Vision for Energy and Renewable Energy in Coventry is: Coventry is a leader in achieving the State of Rhode Island's renewable energy goals. As a forward-thinking town, it implements innovative energy initiatives to combat climate change, educates residents about the impact of these initiatives, and works to protect valuable natural and cultural land that give Coventry its identity.

Goal 29. Coventry's municipal buildings, vehicles, and equipment will be energy efficient and be operate in a way that conserves energy resources.

Goal 30. Create community expertise in personal green energy consumption and production to showcase renewable energy opportunities.