TOWN OF BRISTOL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
DRAFT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES, & TASKS

Terminology used in the 2024 rewrite of the Bristol Comprehensive Plan departs from the 2003 plan. In the 2003 plan, elements were described as follows: For the purpose of this plan, a goal is a statement that describes a desired future condition. Goals generally are intended to focus on a long-term end. In contrast, an objective is a statement that describes a short-term end and can be achieved. Objectives are intended to help achieve goals. A policy is a principle that guides future decisions or actions and that is intended to achieve one or more objectives.

 For the sake of clarity, the current version of the plan employs a variation of the "GOST" model: Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Tactics—called "tasks" here—from the business world. The 2003 plan included goals and objectives. Their function and definition were largely the same as the current plan. The 2003 plan also included "recommendations" which functioned in much the same way as "tactics" in the new system. Lastly, "policies" in the old plan were similar in tone to "strategies."

In this plan, the elements of the "GOST" model are formatted hierarchically. These elements are described as follows:

***Goals**—A long-term outcome of the Town of Bristol's Comprehensive Plan; something that represents the values of the community. Goals can be open-ended—without a true endpoint—and "achieving" them is more a matter of continuous improvement.*

> ***Objectives**—A measurable step to reach a goal. Objectives may help reach multiple goals. More than the other categories, objectives define what the Town will do.*

>> ***Strategies**—The way(s) in which the Town realizes one or more of the community's objectives. It tells how the community will approach things. They offer a path for the community to follow.*

>>> ***Tasks**—Specific actions that help achieve Strategies. Tasks are small and time limited.*

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GOAL: SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF FARMING.

> **Objective:** Preserve prime agricultural soils and connected agricultural tracts.

> **Strategies:**

> 1. Discourage subdividing agricultural land and other land use changes that negatively affect the connectedness of agricultural lands.
>   a. Draft a decision matrix that evaluates the impact of land development decisions on farming operations.
>   b. Establish Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) or Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs.
>   c. Apply to have appropriate farmlands designated as Agricultural Enterprise Areas (AEA) by the State.
> 2. Discourage the development of lands with high-quality soil.
>   a. Map soils and reference during rezone and variance requests.
>   b. Draft a decision matrix for use while making development decisions.
> 3. Mitigate stormwater runoff impacts on drainage districts and farms resulting from increased impervious surfaces.
>   a. Adopt a stormwater standard that prevents runoff to adjacent parcels.
>   b. Promote stormwater facilities on private property, e.g. rain gardens.
>   c. Encourage cover-cropping and other practices that can lower stormwater runoff and soil erosion.

> **Objective:** Remove barriers to additional commercial agricultural development.

> **Strategies:**

> 1. Accommodate non-traditional agricultural land uses and changes to agribusiness practices.
>   a. Closely monitor business trends. Periodically discuss new developments at Plan Commission and Town Board.
>   b. Audit Town zoning code and ordinances. Review which business practices are permitted as-of-right, conditionally by permit, or that are not discussed. Adjust this to be inclusive and encouraging of new agribusiness and agritourism ventures.

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2. Encourage agriculture-related and low-utility use commercial and light industrial development within designated areas.
   a. Identify and designate areas where commercial and industrial development would be most appropriate.
   b. Working with neighboring communities, solicit resident/operator interest.

Objective: Keep non-agricultural land development rates slow

Strategies:

1. Limit non-agricultural uses.
2. Enforce a *one percent* (1%) *or lower* compound annual growth rate—roughly 18 new housing units and 40 acres per year over 30 years. Eighteen (18) units houses approximately 50 people.
3. Direct residential development to designated areas in the Town.

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GOAL: VALUE LOCAL HISTORY AND CULTURAL RESOURCES AS A PART OF THE TOWN'S HERITAGE AND IDENTIY.

Objective: Document oral and informal histories of Bristol.

Strategies:

1. Support local senior programs.
    a. Organize history chats with Bristol seniors to document oral histories.
2. Support the efforts of Dane County Historical Society, DeForest Area Historical Society, Sun Prairie Historical Library & Museum, and Sun Prairie Historical Society and their efforts to document local histories that are a part of Bristol's past.
    a. Play an active role in Bristol residents' efforts to record historical information.

Objective: Catalog physical traces of local history.

Strategies:

1. Document town cemeteries.
    a. Photograph and record information from headstones.
    b. Map burial plots and digitize burial records.
    c. Publish an online map for residents conducting genealogical research.
2. Survey and document any historical structures and sites in the town.
    a. Add a local history section to the Town website.
3. Discourage development in areas where landforms and conditions suggest high potential for archaeological sites.

Objective: Increase public awareness and appreciation of local history and culture.
Strategies:
1. Work with WHS, county/local historical societies, tribes, and/or residents to provide interpretive materials, plaques, markers, etc.
2. Support local events, community festivals, tourism activities that celebrate Town history, heritage, culture.

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Objective: Protect historic and archaeological resources during the development review process.

Strategies

1. Consult with WHS (and/or Dane County Planning/Dane County Historical Society) when reviewing development proposals, rezones, land divisions, highway projects, etc. in areas with known or potential historic/archaeological sites.
2. When historic/archaeological resources are present in a proposed development area, encourage preservation/integration into the new development (for example, make a historic barn a part of a new subdivision).

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GOAL: PLAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES.

Objective: Commit to regular communication with the City of Sun Prairie and the Village of Windsor, including joint enforcement and decision-making for border areas.

Strategies:

1. Resolve annexation and boundary conflicts with neighboring communities.
   a. Work towards a minimum 20-year boundary agreement with the City of Sun Prairie.
   b. Work towards a minimum 20-year boundary agreement with the Village of Windsor.
   c. Revisit the terms of boundary agreements with partner communities every 10 years.
2. Maintain communication with the City of Sun Prairie and the Village of Windsor about their growth and development plans.
   a. Schedule check-ins with Sun Prairie and Windsor planning staff about upcoming developments along or near shared borders once per quarter.
   b. Send communication directly to Sun Prairie and Windsor planning staff when considering rezones, conditional use permits, etc. near community borders.
3. Work with the City of Sun Prairie to smoothly transition development intensity/density to rural levels where urban and rural development is planned to meet.
   a. Establish a joint planning area with Sun Prairie.
   b. Explore the viability of other options, such as:
      i. Writing a Cooperative Plan with the City of Sun Prairie.
      ii. Establishing an Extraterritorial Zoning district with the City of Sun Prairie.

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GOAL: PROTECT AND IMPROVE NATURAL RESOURCES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO RESIDENTS' HEALTH, THE RURAL ATMOSPHERE, AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

Objective: Develop standards to ensure that new development is compatible with the Town's rural character.

Strategies:

1. Limit light pollution from new and existing developments to protect the rural atmosphere and views of the night sky.
    a. Form an ad hoc committee to assist the Town with the following:
        i. Adopt a lighting ordinance.
        ii. Work with City of Sun Prairie and Village of Windsor staff to adopt lighting standards for development adjacent to the Town.
        iii. Seek recognition as a dark sky community.

Objective: Prioritize farmland and environmental resource preservation in the development process.

Strategies:

1. Draft policies for the development review process which favors projects that:
    a. Avoid disturbance of productive agricultural land.
    b. Avoid disturbance of floodplains, wetlands and steep slopes.
    c. Minimize the number and length of driveways.
    d. Avoid fragmentation of contiguous wood lots over 20 acres.

Objective: Protect and improve the Town's natural environment.

Strategies:

1. Improve surface and groundwater quality.
    a. Provide residents with educational resources about pollution prevention and detection.
        i. Schedule WDNR and UW Cooperative Extension information sessions for residents.

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    ii. Publicize/schedule DATCP assistance with nutrient management plans for farm operators.

    iii. Work with residents and Public Health Madison and Dane County (PHMDC) to conduct well water testing.

    iv. Distribute educational resources on proper septic system maintenance.

  b. Adopt a stormwater standard that prevents runoff to adjacent parcels.

  c. Regularly send Public Works staff to Wisconsin Salt Wise trainings and local equipment open house events.

  d. Educate residents about the efficient use of road salt.

2. Limit potentially disruptive land uses adjacent to bodies of water.
    a. Encourage greater buffer distances for development adjacent to bodies of water.
    b. Encourage use of native landscaping, vegetated buffer strips in riparian areas, ag conservation practices, etc."
    c. Encourage use of native landscaping, vegetated buffer strips in riparian areas, ag conservation practices, etc.

3. Work with CARPC and other agencies to identify areas that are sensitive to disruption or present an opportunity for restoration while making land use decisions.
    a. Limit non-agricultural development within designated "Protection Areas."
    b. Discourage non-agricultural development within designated "Stewardship Areas."

4. Work with the Dane County Tree Board and CARPC to survey and protect old growth forest remnants.
    a. Protect the Town's remaining acres of old growth forest through easements, public land dedication, and encouraging development in more suitable locations.
    b. Apply to Dane County OECC's Climate Champions program for recognition of completed woodland protection efforts
    c. Encourage pollinator-friendly native trees, shrubs, and flowering plants and minimize land management activities (prescribed fires, haying,

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herbicide use, etc.) within the High Potential Zone (species likely present) for the federally endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee in the southwest corner of the Town.

GOAL: KEEP PROPERTY TAXES AS LOW AS PRACTICABLE WHILE PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO RESIDENTS.

Objective: Provide residents with essential services.

Strategies: `

1. Communicate to residents what type and quality of service they can expect.
   a. Provide a list of services in a format that is readily available to residents, e.g. on the Town website and in important Town documents such as this plan.
   b. Maintain recreational facilities for the use and enjoyment of town residents:
      i. Lighted Ice Rink and baseball backstop at Star Crest Trail Park.
      ii. Volleyball Court and Picnic Area - north side of Town Hall
      iii. Picnic shelter, grills, volleyball court and baseball backstop - Sunset Meadow Park
      iv. Play equipment and baseball backstop - Bristol Ridge Park
      i. Return roads to safe and passable conditions within 24 hours after a storm event.
      ii. Maintain hours of operation at the recycling center that are consistent and convenient for Town residents.
   c. Draft a service plan or service plans where necessary.
   d. Select a consistent way to distribute information to residents (flyers, email, social media site, etc.) and advertise this to new and existing residents.
      i. Consider sending out a postcard to all residents (and any other available channels - flyers, email list, Facebook, NextDoor, etc.) clearly explaining where to find up-to-date info.
2. Maintain stable and equitable levels of service.
   a. Note service levels and monitor for changes and inconsistencies due to geography or income, for example.

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    b. Plan for future population growth by an average of one percent (1%) per year.

Objective: Seek out opportunities to lower expenditures.

    Strategies:

1. Coordinate and, where possible, share infrastructure, facilities, services, and equipment with neighboring municipalities.
   a. Schedule quarterly meetings with parties from adjacent municipalities responsible for facilities planning and maintenance, e.g. snowplow operators.
2. Monitor and apply for grant opportunities to fund upkeep and improvement of infrastructure, facilities, services, and equipment.
3. Support the Public Works department to adopt industry best practices in snow and ice control.
   a. Calibrate all spreading equipment pre-season and again if components get repaired or replaced.
   b. When appropriate, replace aging equipment with frontline equipment that is liquid capable and has pavement temperature sensors and ground speed control.
   c. Consider partnering with local cheese manufacturers to reclaim waste brine.

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GOAL: CREATE AND MAINTAIN A VARIETY OF SAFE AND WELL-PLANNED TRANSPORTATION AND RECREATIONAL TRAIL SYSTEMS.

Objective: Protect public investment in existing transportation infrastructure.

Strategies:

1. Maintain the quality and safety of Town roads.
   a. Establish a level-of-service and safety standard.
   b. Conduct regular preventative maintenance.
   c. Make repairs in a timely manner.

Objective: Plan for future transportation needs.

Strategies:

1. Upgrade key facilities to accommodate future demand.
2. Accommodate changing transportation preferences.
   a. Plan with multi-modality in mind.
   b. Provide facilities for a variety of modes such as bicycles, UTVs/ATVs, etc.
   c. Design roadways for flexibility, e.g. wider shoulders.
3. Partner with neighboring communities to plan and connect transportation/trail networks.
   a. Schedule planning sessions with the Town of Sun Prairie and the City of Sun Prairie to plan for lands adjacent to Brazee Lake and the Patrick Marsh Wildlife Area that will be transferred to the City of Sun Prairie in 2024.
   b. Schedule planning sessions with the City of Sun Prairie and the Village of Windsor to plan for trail networks in the southwest corner of the Town.