

Local Comprehensive Plan Conformance

On March 25, 2015, the Town Council and the Planning Board of the Town of Barrington adopted the 2015 update to the Town of Barrington, RI Comprehensive Community Plan. The 2015 update is the Town's official Comprehensive Community Plan, completed as required by the RI Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act. Intended to be a fully integrated plan, it puts forward new goals, objectives and actions for the next ten years and contains a description of existing conditions, a discussion of issues and opportunities identified using a 20-year planning horizon and general goals, objectives and policies to guide the Town's future actions. With adoption by the Town Council, the Barrington Comprehensive Community Plan is the official policy document of the Town, having both policy and regulatory implications.

The plan is divided into nine elements, three of which have implications for school planning. The three elements are Element 3-Circulation, Element 4-Community Services & Facilities and Element 7-Energy.

Some examples of the planning alignments with these elements are as follows:

Element 3-Circulation:

Policy C-2.1.2: Reduce barriers to walking and biking to school through infrastructure and non-infrastructure activities, consistent with the recommendations of the Safe Routes to School program.

Element 4-Community Services & Facilities:

Objective CSF-1.1: Make cost efficient and needed upgrades to enhance town and school facilities and municipal services.

Element 7-Energy:

Objective E-1.1: Reduce overall municipal and school building energy usage by at least 20 percent by 2020, for a total energy use of no more than 39,323 MMBTU.

Policy E-1.1.1: Take advantage of new technologies to further reduce energy use and costs in municipal and school operations.

The Town has set many goals within the 2015 Comprehensive plan that can potentially be applied to the Barrington Middle School Project, they are as follows:

Housing and Development

Goal 2

Action D: Strengthen or establish new standards for buffers, site lighting, location of parking and placement of buildings with land development projects, including mixed-use.

Circulation

Goal C-1

Action B: Pursue improvement concepts for additional high volume or high incident intersections as identified in local or regional traffic studies

Action D: Implement Safe Route to School recommendations including: improve Primrose parking/drop-off circulation; install flashing lights at Middle Highway/ Old County Road; and make intersection, sidewalk and crosswalk improvements.

Action E: Install and maintain new sidewalks at identified high priority locations as shown on Map C-4.

Goal C-2

Action A: Install wayfinding signage directing pedestrians and bicyclists from bike path to local destinations.

Action B: Create Barrington Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee to map preferred in-street lanes and off-road bike routes and assess sidewalk needs as a broader bikeway and sidewalk system.

Action C: Amend Zoning and Subdivision standards to require new sidewalks and bike racks in new non-residential projects.

Action H: Develop a “complete streets” policy for Council approval, encourage a local street network that safety accommodates automobile, bicycle and pedestrian activity.

Community Services & Facilities

Goal CSF-1

Action A: Maintain and complete design of a new Middle School, through a process that engages the public. Emphasize energy efficiency and sustainable design.

Action B: Identify and secure available state and federal funding to support Middle School upgrades and for Stage II facility improvements as identified by the School Department.

Action D: Incorporate best management practices, where feasible, by retrofitting outdated drainage facilities within municipal and school parking lots and local streets, to limit stormwater runoff and enhance water quality. Develop watershed plans as needed to prioritize projects.

Goal CSF-3

Action B: Expand efforts to encourage recycling at Town and School Facilities.

Natural & Cultural Resources

Goal NCR-1 – Objective 1.2

Action A: Create an administrative mechanism to certify that projects comply with approved zoning action regarding encroachments in the Town's 100-foot wetland buffer.

Goal NCR-5

Action D: Convert streetlights/parking lot lighting to cut-off ("dark sky") fixtures (see also Energy Goal E-1).

Outdoor Recreation

Goal OR-2

Action A: Generate a plan for developing trails and other connections between recreational areas in coordination with open space planning.

Action B: Create standards for trail markers, park signage and other improvements are needed to create a consistent, high-quality system of open space, trails and passive parks throughout town.

Energy

Goal E-1

Action A: Complete energy efficiency up-grades and renewable energy installations at municipal and school buildings.

Action C: Strongly consider an investment in geothermal technology as new facilities, such as a new Middle School.

Action H: Complete installation of computer power management tools at municipal and school buildings.

Action I: Install Town-wide energy management system that is compatible with schools system's energy management software, if feasible.

Goal E-3

Action B: Capitalize on State, Federal and Utility sponsored incentives and grants to help fund energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Action C: Adopt Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) program policies.

Goal E-4

Action D: Provide annual reports on Barrington's progress toward achieving energy-reductions targets, as well as energy projects completed by the Town, School Department and private property owners.

Natural Hazards

Goal NH-1

Action G: Provide measures to improve stormwater retention in the planning/design of park improvement, construction of schools and other public buildings.

Goal NH-2

Action B: Implement a tree management program to reduce risk to property due to winds, heavy snow/ice or other natural hazard impacts.