



MIDDLETOWN
Rhode Island

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN

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To: Paul A. Croce, Chairman
Planning Board members

From: Ron Wolanski, Town Planner

Date: January 3, 2023

Re: Middletown Comprehensive Community Plan 10-Year Update

The State approval of the Town's Comprehensive Community Plan expires on November 21, 2025. Before that date the Town will undertake a process to draft a new comprehensive plan that will meet all current state requirements, and address the needs of the community for the next ten years. The State comprehensive planning act (§ 45-22.2-8(a)(1)) and the Town Code (§ 32.49) gives the Planning Board the responsibility for drafting the comprehensive plan, which must also be approved by the Town Council.

Given the anticipated amount of time needed to complete this work, I recommend that the Planning Board begin discussion of the process that it will undertake to ensure completion of the new plan. To assist with the discussion, please see the attached comp plan standards document provided by the Statewide Planning Program. This identifies the required plan components. Statewide Planning also provides a guidance handbook for plan preparation which is available here:

<https://planning.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkqbur826/files/documents/comp/2021/Comp-plan-Guidance-Handbook-Revised-Abridged-Approved-8-12-21.pdf>

In summary, to receive state approval the plan must include the following at a minimum:

- Maps, including:
 - existing conditions, such as land use, zoning, key infrastructure, service areas for public water and sewer, historical and cultural areas and sites, and natural resources;
 - a Future Land Use Map (FLUM);
 - a map identifying any discrepancies that exist between the FLUM and the existing zoning categories;
- Inventories and assessments related to specific content areas;
- Goals, policies, and implementation actions related to specific topic areas;
- An element specifically dealing with land use; and
- An implementation program.

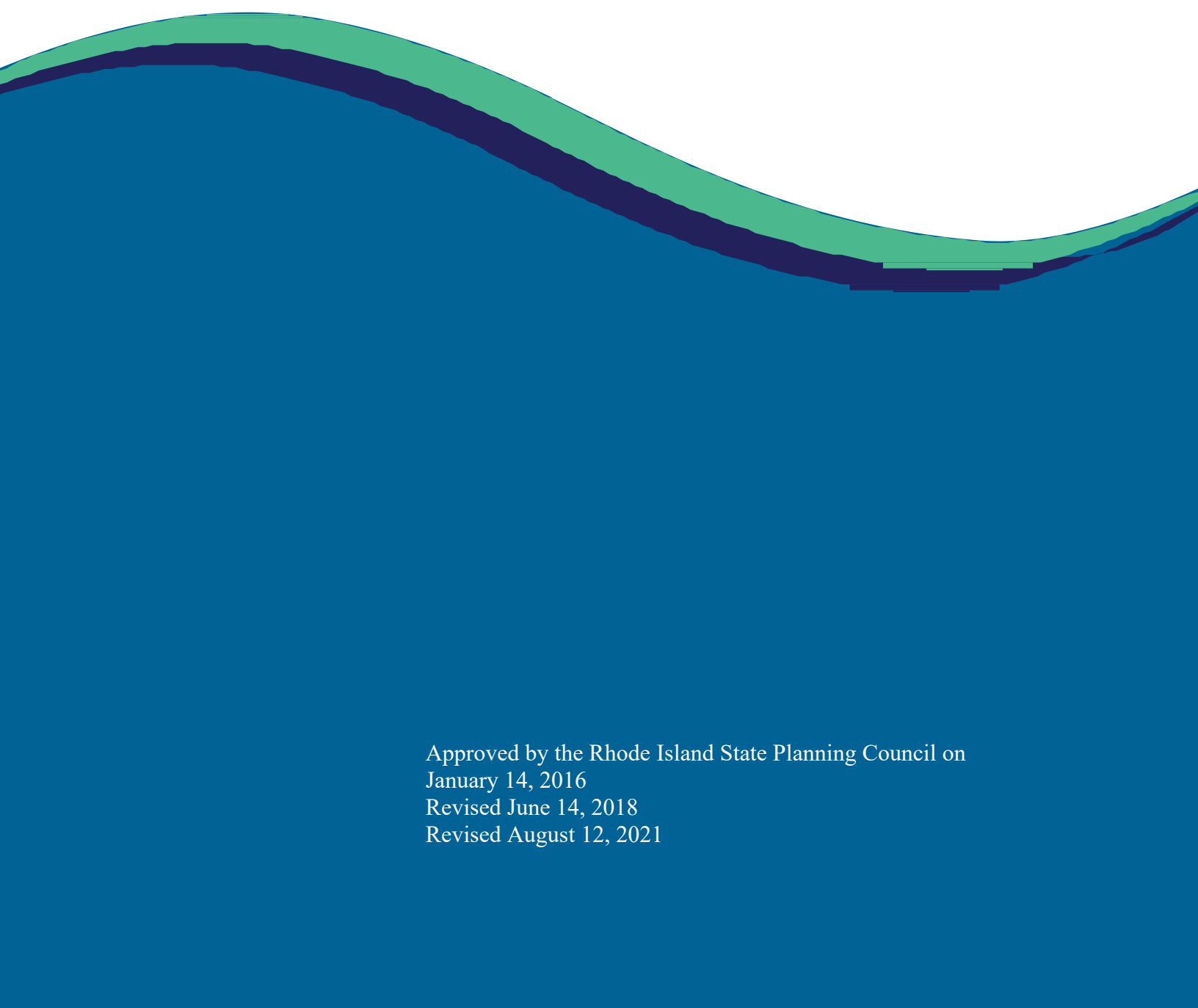
The topics required to be addressed within a comprehensive plan are:

- Natural resource identification and conservation;
- Open space and outdoor recreation identification and protection;
- Historical and cultural resources identification and protection;

- Housing;
- Economic development, including agriculture;
- Services and facilities, including energy and potable water;
- Circulation/transportation;
- Natural hazards & Climate Change; and
- Land use.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this matter.

RHODE ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING STANDARDS MANUAL



Approved by the Rhode Island State Planning Council on
January 14, 2016
Revised June 14, 2018
Revised August 12, 2021

The chief shall develop standards to assist municipalities in the incorporation of the state goals and policies into comprehensive plans, and to guide the chief's review of comprehensive plans and state agency activities.

The Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act, RIGL subsection 45-22.2-10(b)

This manual is accompanied by several guidance handbooks that are intended to assist communities in fulfilling the requirements of the Act. Each handbook provides helpful guidance and general information on the required topics within a comprehensive plan. The handbooks are available on the Division of Statewide Planning's website at:

<http://www.planning.ri.gov/publications/comprehensive-planning-materials.php>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual is the result of over twenty-four months of cooperation and coordination among state agencies, local planners, and other professionals interested in helping cities and towns craft better comprehensive plans. The development process was overseen by the Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee, a dedicated group of planning, land use, legal, and community professionals, without whom the manual would not have become reality. A draft of the manual was reviewed and commented upon by the Technical Committee and the final document was reviewed and approved by the State Planning Council.

The standards were developed with numerous topical experts including staff from the Department of Administration, Division of Statewide Planning. The manual was prepared by Chelsea Siefert, Principal Planner. Ms. Siefert was guided by Karen Scott, Assistant Chief of the Division of Statewide Planning, and Kevin Nelson, Supervising Planner of the Local Planning Assistance & Consistency Review Unit, and assisted by Caitlin Greeley, Principal Planner.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
1. General Standards	2
2. Planning for Natural Resources	3
3. Planning for Outdoor Recreation and Open Space.....	4
4. Planning for Historical and Cultural Resources.....	5
5. Planning for Housing	6
6. Planning for Economic Development.....	10
7. Planning for Services and Facilities.....	11
8. Planning for Transportation	18
9. Planning for Natural Hazards and Climate Change.....	20
10. Planning for Land Use.....	21
10A. Designating a Local Growth Center.....	24
10B. Maintaining Local Growth Center Designation	25
11. The Implementation Program.....	26
12. Mapping Standards.....	27
13. The Formal Adoption Process.....	28
Appendix – Comprehensive Plan Content Completion Checklist.....	29

INTRODUCTION

Land use planning in the state of Rhode Island has been set up as a reciprocal system, whereby state goals and policies are reflected in local plans, and local plans have the ability to guide state actions. Therefore, the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act (the “Act”) requires that adopted comprehensive plans be submitted to the Division of Statewide Planning for review, and that the Division conduct a review of adopted comprehensive plans for consistency with the goals and intent of the Act and the State Guide Plan.

Per RIGL subsection 45-22.2-9(d), State review of a comprehensive plan is intended to ensure that the following requirements are complied with:

- (1) The intent and goals of the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act have been met.
- (2) All required content as stated within the Act is complete and the plan is internally consistent in its policies, forecasts, and standards.
- (3) The plan or amendment is consistent with, and embodies the goals and policies of the state and its departments and agencies as contained in the State Guide Plan and the laws of the state.
- (4) Municipal planning activities have been conducted and coordinated according to the provisions of the Act.
- (5) The plan or amendment has been officially adopted and submitted for review in accordance with the Act and other applicable procedures.
- (6) The plan or amendment complies with the rules and regulations adopted by the State Planning Council.
- (7) Adequate, uniform, and valid data have been used in preparing the plan.

A note on types of standards: This manual lays out standards for complying with the requirements listed above. A standard may: 1) reiterate a requirement found in the Act; 2) provide specifics to clarify a requirement of the Act; 3) describe processes that if followed will help ensure State approval; or 4) identify information that while not specifically required by the Act, has been identified as vital to supporting the intents of the Act.

The following sections of this manual include all four types of standards. Those standards that describe processes or information not required by the Act are identified as recommendations.

Please note: These standards provide guidance as of the time of their most recent revision. Comprehensive plans must still comply all State laws, goals, policies, and other requirements in force at the time the comprehensive plan is adopted. Additionally, the Chief of the Division of Statewide Planning (i.e. the Associate Director) may waive any standard that is deemed not to be applicable to an individual municipality’s comprehensive plan.

1. GENERAL STANDARDS

- 1.1 There may only be a single version of the comprehensive plan, including all amendments, appendices, and supplements, which is updated and re-adopted at least once every 10 years.
- 1.2 A minimum 20-year planning timeframe must be used in considering forecasts, goals, and policies.
- 1.3 The comprehensive plan must be internally consistent in its policies, forecasts, and standards.
- 1.4 (*Recommendation*) Include a demographic profile of the municipality, including breakdowns of population race, education, income, and age.
- 1.5 A 20-year population projection must be included.
- 1.6 Data must be:
 - a. From a reliable data source;
 - b. Sufficiently recent to still be valid;
 - c. Consistent throughout the document; and
 - d. Calculated correctly based on a methodology that is sound.
- 1.7 For any and all plans or documents that are to be “incorporated by reference” into the comprehensive plan, the following requirements must be met:
 - a. The entire plan or document must be submitted to the Division of Statewide Planning for review; and
 - b. The entire plan or document must either be included in the comprehensive plan, either as an appendix or as a separate chapter, or the text must include all the following:
 - i. The phrase “incorporation by reference”;
 - ii. Identification of the material to be incorporated, by title, date, edition, author, publisher, and identification number of the publication;
 - iii. A statement of availability that includes the name(s) and address(es) of the municipal agency(ies) where the document can be viewed by the public, contact information (phone number and/or email address) for questions from the public regarding the material, and how copies can be obtained or purchased; and
 - iv. The document publisher’s address, phone number, email, and internet address, if applicable.

2. PLANNING FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

- 2.1 Identify the following natural resources and natural resource areas on one or more maps:
 - a. Surface water, including ponds, rivers, streams, and watersheds;
 - b. Aquifers;
 - c. Wetlands and saltwater marshes;
 - d. Floodplains;
 - e. Forested areas;
 - f. Any existing large, intact, or connected blocks of habitat area;
 - g. Any known critical, uncommon, or fragile wildlife habitat areas; and
 - h. Valuable agricultural soils.
- 2.2 Identify existing permanently protected conservation areas (both public and private) on a map.
- 2.3 Identify and discuss any prominent issues facing the municipality's significant natural resources.
- 2.4 Identify and discuss the municipality's priorities for land conservation.
- 2.5 *(Recommendation)* Discuss the techniques that are in place for minimizing the negative impacts of development on significant natural resources.
- 2.6 Include goals that embody the state's goals for natural resources and policies to support each goal.
- 2.7 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that address the protection and management of natural resources.

3. PLANNING FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

- 3.1 Identify existing recreational areas and sites.
(Recommend including a. through c. to fulfill this standard)
 - a. Include one or more maps showing:
 - i. Publicly-owned outdoor recreational areas;
 - ii. Privately-owned outdoor recreational areas that have been deemed significant in meeting the community's recreational needs;
 - b. Identify which of the mapped properties are municipally-owned or managed; and
 - c. Include on the map, or in an associated table, clear identification of the name and type of each area or site.
- 3.2 Analyze existing and future recreational needs.
(Recommend including a. through c. to fulfill this standard)
 - a. Assess whether there are any neighborhoods or districts within the municipality that do not have enough recreational resources in general or enough of a specific type of recreational resource;
 - b. Discuss whether the existing recreational options within a municipality seem suit the needs of current and anticipated future residents; and
 - c. Determine and discuss whether any existing recreational facilities and areas are in need of upgrades, renovations, repurposing, improved public access, etc.
- 3.3 Identify areas for the potential expansion of recreational facilities if appropriate.
- 3.4 Include goals that embody the state's goals for recreation and policies to support each goal.
- 3.5 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that address:
 - a. The protection and management of existing recreational resources;
 - b. The acquisition of additional recreational resources if appropriate; and
 - c. Meeting identified recreational needs.

4. PLANNING FOR HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

- 4.1 Identify historical and cultural resource areas and sites such as, but not limited to, historical buildings, landmarks, and scenic views.
 - a. Include one or more maps showing:
 - i. Properties or districts listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places; and
 - ii. Locally designated historic districts established through the zoning ordinance.
 - b. Include clear identification of the name of each mapped resource area or site.
 - c. *(Recommendation)* Include other resources that the community has identified as significant such as known properties that meet the eligibility criteria for listing on the State Register of Historic Places but have not yet been listed and cultural assets, such as theaters, museums, and galleries.
- 4.2 *(Recommendation)* Include a description of the significant historical and cultural resource areas and sites that exist within the community.
- 4.3 *(Recommendation)* Assess issues related to historical and cultural resources such as discussing any current or potential future threats to the community's significant historical and cultural resources.
- 4.4 *(Recommendation)* Identify any existing local programs related to the preservation of historical and cultural resources such as a local historic district ordinance.
- 4.5 Include goals that embody the state's goals for historical and cultural resources and policies to support each goal.
- 4.6 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that address the protection of historical and cultural resources.

5. PLANNING FOR HOUSING

- 5.1 *(Recommendation)* Provide an overview of the existing housing context by including the following data points:
- a. Existing housing units, both the number and the relative trend in housing development over the past 10 or more years;
 - b. Occupied and vacant housing units, both the number and as a percentage of total housing units;
 - c. Year-round and seasonal, single-family and multi-family housing units, both the number and as a percentage of total housing units;
 - d. Owner-occupied and rental units, both the number and as a percentage of occupied housing units;
 - e. The median age of housing units;
 - f. The number of single-family and multi-family units constructed each year for the past 10 or more years;
 - g. The current median home sale price, and the general trend in home sales prices over the past 10 or more years; and
 - h. The median monthly rental price for one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom rental units, and the general trend in rental prices over the past 10 or more years.
- 5.2 Identify existing housing patterns and conditions.
(Recommend including a. and b. to fulfill this standard)
- a. Discuss areas of the community, or neighborhoods, in which housing is located and, for each area, the average density, the prevalent housing types, the general condition of housing, and the general age of housing; and
 - b. Discuss any condition-related issues that may be occurring within the municipality, such as high rates of foreclosure or abandonment, general neglect or deterioration of the housing stock, overcrowding of housing units, etc.
- 5.3 *(Recommendation)* Include the following data points related to housing affordability:
- a. The number and percentage of households within the community that are housing cost-burdened, meaning that they are paying more than 30% of their income on housing;
 - b. The number and percentage of households within the community that are severely housing cost-burdened, meaning that they are paying more than 50% of their income on housing;
 - c. The number and percentage of low- and moderate-income (LMI) households that are housing cost-burdened;
 - d. The number and percentage of LMI households that are severely housing cost-burdened;

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

- e. The number and percentage of cost-burdened LMI households that are currently renting; and
 - f. The number of cost-burdened LMI households that own their home, also as a percentage of total cost-burdened LMI households.
- 5.4 Assess existing and future housing needs, including the need for affordable housing.
(Recommend including a. through g. to fulfill this standard)
- a. State how many units will house the future population, either at build-out or at the end of the 20-year planning horizon;
 - b. Discuss the ways in which the population is changing in terms of age, ethnicity, income, and household size;
 - c. Discuss the adequacy of the available range of housing unit sizes and/or types (studio, 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom; rental and ownership; condominium; etc.) in accommodating a range of future population needs;
 - d. Discuss the current housing options available within the community for the homeless population, including the number of shelter beds that currently exist;
 - e. Discuss the relationship of housing price (both sales and rental) to household income over the past 10 or more years;
 - f. Discuss any needs related to the risk of homelessness for severely cost-burdened low- and moderate-income (LMI) households;
 - g. Discuss the types of affordable housing (for LMI populations, families, the elderly, special needs populations, rental, etc.) that are in most need within the community.
- 5.5 Demonstrate how one of the mandated low- and moderate-income thresholds will be met.
(Recommend including either a. or b. to fulfill this standard)
- a. For municipalities that have already met one of the mandated low- and moderate-income housing thresholds:
 - i. Provide a statement as to which threshold has been met; and
 - ii. Provide the data necessary to show how the threshold has been met, including the current number of LMI housing units in the municipality and the percentage serving each population type (family, elderly, and special needs); or
 - b. For municipalities that have not already met one of the mandated low- and moderate-income thresholds:
 - i. Provide the number and percentage of low- and moderate- income housing units that currently exist within the municipality. The percentage should be calculated based on the total number of *year-round* housing units;
 - ii. Provide the existing number of LMI housing units by population served i.e. the families, the elderly, and those with special needs. The percentage should be calculated based on the total number of year-round housing units;
 - iii. Identify the 10% threshold i.e. the number representing 10% of the existing year-

- round housing stock;
 - iv. Identify the existing deficit i.e. the gap between the 10% threshold and the current number of LMI housing units;
 - v. Provide the forecasted 10% threshold i.e. 10% of the housing units forecasted either at the end of the 20-year planning horizon or at build-out);
 - vi. Identify the estimated future deficit i.e. the gap between the existing LMI housing units and the forecasted threshold);
 - vii. Discuss the general success rate of each previous strategy for providing low- and moderate-income housing units, (if a numeric estimate was given as to how many units would be produced using the strategy, the actual number produced should be compared to the estimate or, if a numeric estimate was not given, state whether the strategy was highly successful, moderately successful, or not successful);
 - viii. Discuss the factors that affected the success rate of each previously proposed low- and moderate-income housing strategy;
 - ix. Describe of all of the strategies that the municipality will implement moving forward to meet or exceed the 10% threshold for low- and moderate- income housing;
 - x. Discuss the reasons why each proposed strategy is likely to be effective given past experiences, current economic conditions, building trends, etc.;
 - xi. Provide an estimate as to how many low- and moderate-income housing units will likely be produced through the implementation of each proposed strategy that demonstrates numerically that the 10% threshold will be achieved;
 - xii. Include associated implementation actions within the Implementation Program that present the path by which each proposed strategy will be implemented;
 - xiii. Provide a realistic estimate of when the stock of low- and moderate-income housing will equal 10% of the total year-round housing stock; and
 - xiv. Include interim, time-based benchmarks by which the municipality can measure its progress toward the goal, and describe the process by which the municipality will assess whether benchmarks have been met and adjustments will be made.
- 5.6 *(Recommendation)* Include a statement as to whether the municipality has an inclusionary zoning ordinance. If the municipality does have an inclusionary zoning ordinance:
- a. Identify the types of development incentives are currently offered; and
 - b. Describe how the municipality currently complies with or will comply with the requirements of RIGL subsection [45-24-46.1\(b\)](#).
- 5.7 Include goals that embody the state’s goals for housing and policies to support each goal.
- 5.8 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that will:
- a. Provide for the development of housing units in adequate numbers to meet future population needs, including the development of a minimum of 10% of the year-round

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

- housing within the community as low- and moderate-income housing;
- b. Promote the use and rehabilitation of the existing housing stock and maintain a housing stock that is safe, healthy, and sanitary;
 - c. Locate new housing in appropriate areas of the community at densities that are appropriate to the characteristics of the land, the availability of infrastructure and community services, and the densities of surrounding neighborhoods;
 - d. Complying with the requirements of RIGL subsection [45-24-46.1\(b\)](#), (Inclusionary Zoning) if applicable; and
 - e. *(Recommendation)* Preserve the stability and character of existing residential neighborhoods and prevent the displacement of low-income residents.

6. PLANNING FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 6.1 Describe the types and patterns of economic activities that exist within the municipality.
- a. Identify the business and industry sectors within the municipality that are significant employers, large revenue generators, or substantial contributors to the tax base;
 - b. *(Recommendation)* Include an inventory of significant agricultural operations by identifying:
 - i. The scale of the agricultural sector in the community, including supporting uses such as processing centers, distribution centers, etc.;
 - ii. The locations and types of active agricultural operations; and
 - iii. Farmlands that have been protected from development, even if currently idle.
 - c. Identify the business, industry, and agricultural sectors within the municipality that are expanding or shrinking; and
 - d. Discuss any areas of the community where the economic activity, including agriculture, is changing, whether in terms of size, form, or nature of activity.
- 6.2 Assess and discuss the ways in which the local government can improve the local business climate.
- a. Discuss the significant opportunities that exist to further support the businesses within the community's major or expanding business sectors;
 - b. Discuss any issues that may exist related to the services and infrastructure provided for local businesses;
 - c. Discuss any local economic or regulatory issues affecting the business and industry sectors within the municipality;
 - d. Describe any local economic development plans, programs, or other incentives currently in effect or offered by the municipality; and
 - e. *(Recommendation)* Discuss the opportunities to further support agriculture relative to capacity, access, and partnerships.
- 6.3 Include goals that embody the state's goals for economic development and policies to support each goal. Include goals that embody the state's goals for agriculture and policies to support each goal.
- 6.4 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that address the expansion and stabilization of the economic base, including agriculture where feasible, and the promotion of quality employment opportunities and job growth.
(Recommend including a. through d. to fulfill this standard)
- a. Create a climate in which business activity will grow and businesses will thrive;
 - b. Conserve and enhance areas suitable for economic expansion or redevelopment;
 - c. Preserve the best farmland for agricultural use; and
 - d. Keep active farms in agricultural use and promote the use of idle agricultural land.

7. PLANNING FOR SERVICES AND FACILITIES

The Act requires comprehensive plans to provide an inventory of “existing physical infrastructure” and descriptions of “services provided to the community”. The following list of infrastructure, facilities, and services are not meant to be exclusive. Any infrastructure, facility, or service not listed here but considered to be significant to the community should be included.

- 7.1 Identify existing significant public infrastructure and facilities on a map, by showing and clearly labeling the following if present within the municipality:
- a. All municipally-owned or operated buildings, including but not limited to city/town hall, administration buildings, schools, community or senior centers, libraries, fire stations, police stations, etc.;
 - b. Solid waste transfer stations and municipal compost or refuse disposal sites; and
 - c. Wastewater pump stations and wastewater treatment plants.

WATER SUPPLY

- 7.2 Identify water-supply related natural features and sensitive water supply areas on one or more maps.
- a. Surface reservoirs used for potable water;
 - b. Aquifers;
 - c. *(Recommendation)* Sub-surface reservoirs used for potable water;
 - d. *(Recommendation)* Groundwater recharge areas;
 - e. *(Recommendation)* Community and non-community wellhead areas.
- 7.3 Identify existing and proposed water service areas on a map, if applicable (*inclusion of “proposed” areas is recommended*).
- 7.4 Describe the ways in which water is provided to the community and any proposed future modifications (*inclusion of “proposed” modifications is recommended*).
(Recommend including a. through c. to fulfill this standard)
- a. Discuss the different types of water supply systems (major public water suppliers, minor public water suppliers, self-supply, etc.) that are in use within the municipality;
 - b. Discuss all of the water sources supplying water to the municipality (i.e. specific surface or ground water resources); and
 - c. Include, if one or more public water suppliers serve the municipality:
 - i. Identification of the major public water suppliers, if any, that serve the community;
 - ii. Identification of the type of each major supplier (regional, municipal, private, etc.);
 - iii. Identification of the percentage of persons within the community that are served by

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

- each major public water supplier;
 - iv. Identification of the average monthly and peak monthly amounts of water currently being supplied by each major public water supplier;
 - v. Identification of the projected average monthly and peak monthly amounts of water that will be supplied by each major water supplier at the end of the 20- year planning horizon;
 - vi. Discussion of the existing capacity of each major supplier's water infrastructure, as confirmed by the Rhode Island Water Resources Board in the most recently approved Water Supply System Management Plan (WSSMP), including the amount of water flow that the infrastructure can currently accommodate;
 - vii. Discussion of any major projects or plans that have been proposed by each major public water supplier; and
 - viii. Discussion of the municipality's coordination with the supplier(s), especially as it pertains to the municipal role in implementation of the WSSMP(s) with regard to water supply source protection, water availability, demand management, drought mitigation and response, and water emergencies.
- 7.5 Assess and discuss existing and anticipated future issues and needs concerning the supply of potable water to the municipality, including the general adequacy of water sources to meet current demands.
(Recommend including a. through c. to fulfill this standard)
- a. The quality of potable water sources;
 - b. The potential impacts of natural hazards and climate change; and
 - c. If served by one or more public water supplier, the capacity of public water infrastructure.
- 7.6 Include goals that embody the state's goals for water quality and supply and policies to support each goal.
- 7.7 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that address meeting future demands for water quality and supply.
(Recommend including a. through e. to fulfill this standard)
- a. Promote water conservation and the efficient use of water in both the public and private sectors;
 - b. Improve or preserve water quality;
 - c. Plan and prepare for drought conditions;
 - d. Respond to water emergencies; and
 - e. Where applicable, include implementation actions that support or align with those found within any Water Supply System Management Plans that cover the municipality.

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

- 7.8 Identify existing and proposed sewer service areas on a map by showing areas that currently have access to a sewer line, regardless of whether the buildings within the area are in fact connected to the sewer system.
- (Recommend including the following as appropriate)* Areas to which sewer access is planned within the 20-year planning horizon of the comprehensive plan.
- 7.9 Describe the wastewater management system, including wastewater infrastructure for which the municipality is responsible, if any.
(Recommend including a. through d. to fulfill this standard)
- The current usage and capacity of any municipally-operated wastewater management systems;
 - The ways in which any municipally collected wastewater is treated and dispensed;
 - Any plans for improvements in the management of wastewater; and
 - Any current municipal regulations regarding on-site wastewater management, including wastewater management districts.
- 7.10 Assess and discuss the current and anticipated future issues and needs regarding wastewater management facilities, infrastructure, and services, including any issues related to condition or capacity.
(Recommend including a. through c. to fulfill this standard)
- Discuss whether residents are able to adequately access the service;
 - Discuss the effectiveness of the service at achieving desired outcomes; and
 - Identify any existing and future major issues related to administration of the service.
- 7.11 Include goals that embody the state's goals for wastewater management and policies to support each goal.
- 7.12 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that address meeting future demands for wastewater management.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- 7.13 Describe the municipal approach to stormwater management.
(Recommend including a. and b. to fulfill this standard)
- Describe the municipality's maintenance program for stormwater infrastructure; and
 - Describe any current municipal regulations or standards regarding stormwater management including any Low Impact Development (LID) approaches to stormwater management.
- 7.14 Assess and discuss the current and anticipated future issues and needs regarding stormwater management infrastructure and services, including any issues related to condition or capacity.

(Recommend including a. through d. to fulfill this standard)

- a. Discuss the effectiveness of the service at achieving desired outcomes;
 - b. Assess the adequacy of funding for the maintenance program;
 - c. Discuss any plans for improvements in the funding for or management of stormwater; and
 - d. Identify any areas regularly subjected to flash flooding during storm events due to overwhelmed or unmaintained infrastructure.
- 7.15 Include goals that embody the state’s goals for stormwater management and policies to support each goal.
- 7.16 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that address meeting future demands for stormwater management.
- a. *(Recommendation)* Include an action to implement low-impact development standards for stormwater management.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 7.17 Describe the municipal solid waste management system.
(Recommend including a. through g. to fulfill this standard)
- a. Describe the method(s) by which municipal solid waste is collected (e.g. picked-up curbside, dropped-off by residents at a transfer station, private hauler, some combination of methods, etc.);
 - b. Identify the types of municipal solid waste that are collected by each identified method e.g. mixed refuse; mixed recyclables; yard waste; hard to dispose of items, such as mattresses, furniture, e-waste, Styrofoam, textiles; and construction and demolition debris);
 - c. Identify the permitted capacity of local transfer stations, the current estimates of transfer station usage, and whether the transfer station is municipally-owned or private;
 - d. Identify the types of municipal solid waste (mixed refuse, recyclables, etc.) that are currently being brought to the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation facility;
 - e. Identify the types of municipal solid waste that are being sent somewhere other than the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation facility;
 - f. Identify the current rates of solid waste recycling and diversion, the process by which recyclables are segregated from the waste stream, and the municipal plan for achieving a minimum 35% recycling and minimum 50% diversion rate; and
 - g. Describe the current ways in which the solid waste management system is being funded.
- 7.18 Provide an assessment of the current and anticipated future issues and needs regarding solid waste management facilities and services including any issues related to the condition or capacity of solid waste facilities.
(Recommend including a. through c. to fulfill this standard)

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

- a. Discuss whether residents are able to adequately access the service;
 - b. Discuss the effectiveness of the service at achieving desired outcomes; and
 - c. Identify any existing and future major issues related to administration of the service.
- 7.19 Include goals that embody the state’s goals for solid waste management and policies to support each goal.
- 7.20 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that address meeting future demands for solid waste management and achieving a minimum 35% solid waste recycling rate and a minimum 50% solid waste diversion rate.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- 7.21 Describe the public safety and emergency services (*inclusion of “emergency services” is recommended*) provided to the community, as well as the facilities and infrastructure associated with these services.
(*Recommend including a. through d. to fulfill this standard*)
- a. Include the ways in which public safety and emergency services are provided to the community;
 - b. Include the respective numbers of police stations, fire stations, and public ambulatory service facilities located within the municipality;
 - c. Identify the general disbursement of public safety facilities throughout the municipality; and
 - d. Describe any plans for improvements in the provision of public safety and emergency services.
- 7.22 Provide an assessment of the current and anticipated future issues and needs regarding public safety facilities and services, including any issues related to condition or capacity.
(*Recommend including a. through c. to fulfill this standard*)
- a. Discuss whether residents are able to adequately access the service;
 - b. Discuss the effectiveness of the service at achieving desired outcomes; and
 - c. Identify any existing and future major issues related to administration of the service.
- 7.23 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that address meeting future demands for public safety services.

PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

- 7.24 Describe all aspects of the public educational system.
(*Recommend including a. and b. to fulfill this standard*)
- a. Provide a description of the overall public educational system; and
 - b. Include overall school system enrollment figures per grade and capacity per grade.
- 7.25 Provide an assessment of public school needs.
(*Recommend including a. through d. to fulfill this standard*)

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

- a. Provide enrollment projections by grade level forecasted over a 10-year period;
- b. Compare enrollment projections and existing school capacity by grade level;
- c. Discuss any existing or anticipated future issues with school capacity, whether the issues are related to over or under enrollment; and
- d. Discuss any existing or anticipated future issues with the condition of existing school facilities.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

- 7.26 For municipalities that provide library services, describe the public library system.
(Recommend including a. and b. to fulfill this standard)
- a. Identify the number of public library facilities within the municipality; and
 - b. Identify the general disbursement and accessibility of public library facilities throughout the municipality.
- 7.27 Provide an assessment of the current and anticipated future issues and needs regarding public library facilities and services, including any issues related to condition or capacity.
(Recommend including a. through c. to fulfill this standard)
- a. Discuss whether residents are able to adequately access the service;
 - b. Discuss the effectiveness of the service at achieving desired outcomes; and
 - c. Identify any existing and future major issues related to administration of the service.
- 7.28 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that address meeting future demands for public library facilities and services.

COMMUNITY OR SENIOR CENTERS

- 7.29 For municipalities that provide community or senior centers, describe the services provided and associated facilities.
(Recommend including a. and b. to fulfill this standard)
- a. Identify the number of community or senior centers within the municipality; and
 - b. Identify the general disbursement and accessibility of the centers throughout the municipality.
- 7.30 Provide an assessment of the current and anticipated future issues and needs regarding public community or senior center facilities and services, including any issues related to condition or capacity.
(Recommend including a. through c. to fulfill this standard)
- a. Discuss whether residents are able to adequately access the service;
 - b. Discuss the effectiveness of the service at achieving desired outcomes; and
 - c. Identify any existing and future major issues related to administration of the service.

- 7.31 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that address meeting future demands for public community or senior center facilities and services.

ENERGY PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

- 7.32 (*Recommendation*) Describe the municipal approach to energy production and consumption.
- a. Assess the adequacy of zoning and siting standards for energy production facilities and describe any municipal regulations pertaining to renewable energy production such as solar and wind; and
 - b. Describe any municipal initiatives regarding a baseline assessment of the amount of energy being used by municipal buildings, vehicles, and equipment or, if a baseline assessment has already been completed, conserving and efficiently using energy in public buildings, transportation, and equipment.
- 7.33 Include goals that embody the state's goals for energy production and consumption, and policies to support each goal.
- 7.34 (*Recommendation*) Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that address energy production and consumption.

8. PLANNING FOR TRANSPORTATION

- 8.1 Illustrate the existing transportation network on a map, including the following components where they exist:
- a. Major streets, highways, and interstates, (*recommend identification of roadways according to the Highway Functional Classification System*);
 - b. Bus routes and major bus hubs;
 - c. Separated bicycle paths;
 - d. Rail stations and railway lines;
 - e. Ports and harbors;
 - f. Airports and airport overlay zones (*illustration of airport overlay zones is recommended*); and
 - g. Any other major transportation facilities that may exist within the municipality.
- 8.2 Assess the community's transportation system by:
- a. Describing the transportation modes currently serving the community;
 - b. Describing the existing and proposed major facilities and routes that serve transit riders, bicyclists, and pedestrians;
 - c. Describing the existing and proposed major facilities and routes that facilitate the movement of freight, including air, marine, rail, highway, and pipelines;
 - d. Describing the large-scale transportation facilities that exist within the community if any, such as airports, ports and harbors, bus depots, etc.;
- (Recommend including e. through j. to fulfill this standard)*
- e. Identify the major traffic generators, for example schools, hospitals, military facilities, stadiums, major parks, regional shopping centers, business parks, etc.;
 - f. Identify the areas of the community that could benefit from the addition of bus or rail transit, and specifically areas where the existing or proposed density or the demographic characteristics of the area's population show a need for transit;
 - g. Identify the areas of the municipality that are perceived to be unsafe for bicyclists or pedestrians in which the community has stated a desire for the use of such transportation modes;
 - h. Describe any areas in which linkages exist between transportation modes and identification of the areas that would be better served by improved linkages;
 - i. Identify and discuss any prevalent transportation issues that exist within the community such as congestion, intersection safety, parking shortages, lack of public transportation in high density areas, barriers to transit access, etc., and the areas of the community in which these issues exist; and

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

- j. Include the following data points:
 - i. The percentage of the population that lives in a household without a private vehicle;
 - ii. The percentage of the working population that uses public transit for commuting purposes; and
 - iii. The percentage of the working population that bike or walk for commuting purposes.
- 8.3 Include goals that embody the state's goals for transportation and policies to support each goal.
- 8.4 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that addresses fast, safe, efficient, and convenient transportation that promotes conservation and environmental stewardship.
(Recommend including a. through c. to fulfill this standard)
 - a. Develop and support a multi-modal transportation network that includes accommodations for bicyclists, pedestrians, and automobiles, and, where appropriate, freight and transit;
 - b. Improve community livability, environmental stewardship, and user safety through transportation infrastructure design and maintenance; and
 - c. Improve the compatibility of major transportation facilities with surrounding land uses.

9. PLANNING FOR NATURAL HAZARDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- 9.1 *(Recommendation)* Identify the high-priority natural hazards and climate change trends that are likely to impact the municipality.
- 9.2 Identify the areas of the community that could be exposed to flooding, including riverine and coastal flooding, sea-level rise, and coastal storm surge by including:
 - a. One or more maps that illustrate the areas that would currently be inundated in the event of a 1% and 0.2% storm as they appear on the most recent Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs);
 - b. One or more maps that illustrate the areas that would be inundated in the event of Category 1 through 4 hurricanes; and
 - c. One or more maps that illustrate the areas that are projected to be inundated due to 1', 3', and 5' of sea-level rise.
- 9.3 *(Recommendation)* Discuss the high-priority impacts that the municipality would face in the event of future natural hazards and long-term climate change, as identified through a preliminary community vulnerability assessment, by:
 - a. Stating the high-priority impacts that the municipality must address, as derived through a preliminary vulnerability assessment; and
 - b. Discussing the ways in which the municipality will address each high-priority impact, which may include undertaking more detailed vulnerability assessments for specific assets, populations, resources, etc.
- 9.4 Include goals that embody the state's goals regarding natural hazards and climate change and policies to support each goal.
- 9.5 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that would help avoid or minimize the effects that natural hazards pose to life, infrastructure, and property.

10. PLANNING FOR LAND USE

- 10.1 Identify existing land uses on a map.
- 10.2 Identify existing zoning districts on a map and provide a description of each.
- 10.3 Include a Land Use section that contains all the information pertaining to Standards 10.4 through 10.9.
- 10.4 (*Recommendation*) Include a development capacity (build-out) analysis that is based on the regulations of the existing zoning districts, including estimates of:
 - a. Total future population at anticipated build-out; and
 - b. The year by which residential build-out is anticipated, based on historic trends.
- 10.5 Illustrate future land use and residential density categories on a Future Land Use Map (FLUM) according to the following:
 - a. All land areas within the municipality's boundaries must be designated with a future land use category;
 - b. Each future land use category depicted on the FLUM must be labeled within the map's legend;
 - c. (*Recommendation*) Include the State's Urban Services Boundary on the FLUM, where applicable;
 - d. (*Recommendation*) Identify locally-designated growth centers on the FLUM, if applicable;
 - e. The following items must be depicted on the FLUM:
 - i. Existing permanently protected conservation areas;
 - ii. Significant existing, permanently protected outdoor recreational areas; and
 - iii. Areas of the municipality in which residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural uses are desired as a future land use.
 - f. The FLUM must be consistent with Figure 21-02(1) of Land Use 2025: *Rhode Island's State Land Use Policies and Plan* by applying the following minimum and/or maximum residential densities, or, where the municipality feels that consistency may not be appropriate, giving a narrative that describes why the minimum and/or maximum residential density is not warranted:
 - i. Areas shown as "Sewered Urban Development" on Figure 21-02(1) must have a minimum residential density of 5 dwelling units per acre.
 - ii. Areas shown as "Urban Development" on Figure 21-02(1) must have a minimum residential density of 1 dwelling unit per acre.
 - iii. Areas shown as "Conservation/Limited," "Reserve," "Non-urban Developed,"

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

“Prime Farmland,” or “Major Parks and Open Space” on Figure 21-02(1) must have a maximum residential density of 1 dwelling unit per acre.

- g. For coastal communities, the FLUM must be consistent with the policies and regulations of the RI Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC), including:
 - i. Aligning the future use designations shown on the FLUM with CRMC’s water type classifications (Types 1-6, as applicable);
 - ii. Aligning future use designations shown on the FLUM with CRMC’s rules for designated coastal barriers; and
 - iii. Aligning the residential densities shown on the FLUM with any requirements for residential density contained within Special Area Management Plans that are applicable to the municipality.
- 10.6 Include descriptions of each of the future land uses and densities shown on the Future Land Use Map that discuss, at a minimum:
 - a. The general uses that are desired within the future land use category (residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, civic, institutional, open space, recreation, etc.); and
 - b. The average residential density or the range of residential densities that are desired within the future land use category if residential uses are to be permitted.
- 10.7 Analyze any inconsistencies between existing zoning districts and the desired future land uses illustrated on the Future Land Use Map:
 - a. Describe the existing zoning in the areas that have been determined to be inconsistent;
 - b. Describe the future land use designations of areas that have been determined to be inconsistent, and
 - c. Clearly delineate on a map the areas that have been determined to be inconsistent.
- 10.8 For any inconsistencies that exist between the existing zoning districts and the Future Land Use Map and categories, propose resolutions by selecting and discussing one of the following options:
 - a. Propose to change the zoning of a particular area to an existing zoning district that is consistent with the future land use designation, giving a brief description of the zoning district that includes the allowed uses; or
 - b. Propose the creation of a new zoning district that would achieve consistency with the future land use designation, and the application of the new district to the inconsistent area, giving a brief description of the intended zoning district that includes the expected allowed uses.
- 10.9 (*Recommendation*) Discuss any inconsistencies that exist between the desired future land uses illustrated on the Future Land Use Map and the comprehensive plans of contiguous municipalities.
 - a. Identify the conflicting future land use designations;

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

- b. Discuss of the conflict that seems to exist; and
 - c. Include a brief explanation of why the future land use was selected for the area.
- 10.10 Include goals that embody the state’s goals for land use and policies to support each goal.
- 10.11 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program for land use that address:
- a. Promoting orderly growth and development;
 - b. *(Recommended as appropriate)* Minimizing potentially conflicting land uses in contiguous municipalities and appropriately using shared resources;
 - c. Ensuring that municipal land use regulations are consistent with the goals and policies set forth within the comprehensive plan; and
 - d. Amending the zoning ordinance and map to provide consistency with the comprehensive plan, if applicable.

10A. DESIGNATING A LOCAL GROWTH CENTER

Communities have the option of using their comprehensive plans to designate and get State approval of a local growth center. If a community wishes to designate a local growth center, the following requirements must be met.

10A.1 Include a map of the growth center, illustrating:

- a. The exact boundary of the land to be included within the growth center; and
- b. The future land use designations within the growth center.

10A.2 Include a narrative that discusses:

- a. The economic purpose or reason for the establishment of the growth center, including the desired outcomes of designation, and the types of businesses, residents, and visitors that the growth center is likely to serve;
- b. The public investment priorities that will be targeted for the growth center once adopted;
- c. The ways in which the growth center compliments what is going on in the rest of the municipality, neighboring municipalities, and the rest of the state, in terms of services and housing choices provided to residents and visitors, and the economic purpose;
- d. The impact that designating the growth center is expected to have on development and investment patterns in areas of the municipality outside of the growth center;
- e. The ways in which the municipality will incentivize growth within the center and/or limit growth outside of the center;
- f. The potential impacts of natural hazards and climate change on the growth center, if any, and the ways in which the municipality intends to mitigate these impacts; and
- g. The ways in which the growth center meets each of the following criteria:
 - i. Encourages growth in an area with existing infrastructure and services;
 - ii. New infrastructure is planned to support compact growth;
 - iii. Includes mixed land uses;
 - iv. Creates a range of housing opportunities and choices;
 - v. Protects and enhances critical environmental resources;
 - vi. Provides a variety of transportation choices;
 - vii. Promotes community design that contributes to a sense of place; and
 - viii. The center is appropriately scaled.

10A.3 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that would help to implement the designated growth center.

10B. MAINTAINING LOCAL GROWTH CENTER DESIGNATION

Communities that have already designated a growth center in a State-approved comprehensive plan can choose to maintain the growth center's approval status by completing the following requirements. If the following requirements are not met, State-approval of the growth center will lapse.

10B.1 Include a map of the growth center, illustrating:

- a. The exact boundary of the land to be included within the growth center; and
- b. The future land use designations within the growth center.

10B.2 Include a narrative that discusses:

- a. The economic purpose or reason for the establishment of the growth center, including the desired outcomes of designation, and the types of businesses, residents, and visitors that the growth center is likely to serve; and
- b. The public investment priorities that will be targeted for the growth center.

10B.3 Include implementation actions within the Implementation Program that would help to further implement, maintain, or enhance the designated growth center.

11. THE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

- 11.1 Include a separate Implementation Program that meets all the requirements of this section and includes specific implementation actions as required by sections 2 through 10 of these Standards.
- 11.2 Include the specific municipal implementation actions to be undertaken to achieve each goal of the comprehensive plan.
 - a. Include sufficient, specific implementation actions to which the municipality will commit in order to achieve each of the comprehensive plan's goals;
 - b. Provide a timeframe for each implementation action;
 - c. *(Recommendation)* Assign a responsible party to each implementation action, including the city or town council for actions that will require the amendment of codes and ordinances by the municipal legislative body; and
 - d. Include an action to implement a development moratorium post-adoption of the comprehensive plan if one is so desired.
- 11.3 Identify any implementation actions involving the expansion or replacement of public facilities that are reflected in the current Capital Improvement Program.
- 11.4 Specify the schedule by which the zoning ordinance and zoning map will be amended to provide consistency with the comprehensive plan by:
 - a. Specifying the amendments that will be undertaken within the first twelve (12) months after adoption of the comprehensive plan that are related to any desired development moratoriums;
 - b. Specifying, in 2-year increments, (*"2-year increments" are recommended*) the amendments that will be undertaken to bring consistency with the comprehensive plan; and
 - c. *(Recommendation)* Proposing all amendments to be completed within the 10-year period subsequent to the adoption of the comprehensive plan.

12. MAPPING STANDARDS

- 12.1 All maps must have a title that is reflective of the data shown on the map.
- 12.2 All maps must have a legend that provides information about all of the data presented within the map.
- 12.3 Information about the source(s) of all of the data being shown on the map must be clearly identified.
- 12.4 All map symbology, including colors or shading of features, must be clearly distinguishable.
- 12.5 On all maps, specific areas within the municipality should not be left without relevant information and features intended to cover the entire municipality (e.g. existing zoning districts and Future Land Use categories) must cover the entire municipality.

13. THE FORMAL ADOPTION PROCESS

- 13.1 Comprehensive plans must be incorporated by reference into the municipal code of ordinances by the city/town council.
- 13.2 Prior to adoption of a comprehensive plan, the city/town council must hold a minimum of one (1) public hearing, which may be a joint meeting with the planning board/commission.
- 13.3 Prior to adoption of a comprehensive plan by the city/town council, the planning board/commission must:
 - a. Disseminate information to the public about the plan revision;
 - b. Solicit both written and oral comments during the preparation of the plan;
 - c. Hold a minimum of one (1) public hearing, which may be a joint meeting with the city/town council; and
 - d. Submit a recommendation to the city/town council regarding adoption of the plan.
- 13.4 Prior to all hearings of the city/town council and the planning board/commission at which the comprehensive plan is to be considered, the municipality must publish notice of the public hearing at least once each week for three (3) successive weeks prior to the date of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation.
- 13.5 All public notice of hearings at which the comprehensive plan is to be considered must:
 - a. Specify the place, date, and time of the hearing;
 - b. Indicate that adoption of the comprehensive plan is under consideration;
 - c. Contain a statement of the proposed amendments to the comprehensive plan or summarize and describe the matter under consideration;
 - d. Advise those interested where and when a copy of the matter under consideration may be obtained, examined, or copied; and
 - e. State that the plan may be altered or amended prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising, as a result of further study or because of the views expressed at the public hearing.
- 13.6 Comprehensive plans must be submitted to the Division of Statewide Planning within thirty (30) days of adoption by the city/town council.

Comprehensive Plan Content Completion Checklist

The Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual lays out the standards for complying with the requirements of the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act. The following checklist draws from the Manual to identify specific items that must be included in your community’s comprehensive plan in order to receive State approval. This list is intended to provide you with an easy method to verify that required material has been included in your plan. It will also assist us in expediting the review of your plan.

Please note that not all numbered standards are included on the list below. Not included are general standards (e.g. data must be reliable), standards that require evaluation as part of the State review (e.g. the plan is internally consistent) and standards identified as “recommended” in the Manual.

If a certain requirement is not applicable to your community, please indicate by an “NA” in the “Page or Map” column. If you have comments or explanations pertaining to any of the Standards, please include them at the end.

Stand.	Requirement	Page(s) or Map(s)
1.5	20-year population projection	
Natural Resources		
2.1a	Surface water, including ponds, rivers, and streams, and watersheds have been included on one or more maps	
2.1b	Aquifers have been included on one or more maps	
2.1c	Wetlands and saltwater marshes have been included on one or more maps	
2.1d	Floodplains have been included on one or more maps	
2.1e	Forested areas have been included on one or more maps	
2.1f	Existing large, intact, or connected blocks of habitat area have been included on one or more maps	
2.1g	Known critical, uncommon, or fragile wildlife habitat areas have been included on one or more maps	
2.1h	Valuable agricultural soils	

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

2.2	Existing permanently protected conservation areas (both public and private) have been identified on a map	
2.3	Prominent issues facing the municipality's significant natural resources have been identified and discussed	
2.4	The municipality's priorities for land conservation have been identified and discussed	
2.6	Goals that embody the state's goals for natural resources and policies to support each goal have been included	
2.7	Implementation actions that address the protection and management of natural resources have been included	
Recreation and Open Space		
3.1	Existing recreational areas and sites have been identified (preferably on a map)	
3.2	Existing and future recreational needs have been analyzed	
3.3	Areas for the potential expansion of recreational facilities have been identified	
3.4	Goals that embody the state's goals for recreation and policies to support each goal have been included	
3.5a	Implementation actions that address the protection and management of existing recreational resources have been included	
3.5b	Acquisition of additional resources, if appropriate, have been included	
3.5c	Implementation actions that address meeting identified recreational needs have been included	
Historic and Cultural Resources		
4.1	Historic and cultural resource areas and sites (such as, but not limited to, historical buildings, landmarks, and scenic views) have been identified	
4.1a.i	One or more maps showing properties or districts listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places have been included	

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

4.1a.ii	One or more maps showing locally designated historic districts established through the zoning ordinance have been included	
4.1b	Clear identification of the name of each mapped resource area or site has been included	
4.5	Goals that embody the state's goals for historic and cultural resources and policies to support each goal have been included	
4.6	Implementation actions that address the protection of historic and cultural resources have been included	
Housing		
5.2	Existing housing patterns have been identified	
5.4	Existing and future housing needs, including the need for affordable housing, have been assessed	
5.5	How one of the mandated low- and moderate-income thresholds will be met has been demonstrated	
5.7	Goals that embody the state's goals for housing and policies to support each goal have been included	
5.8a	Implementation actions that address the development of housing units in adequate numbers to meet future population needs, including the development of a minimum of 10% of the year-round housing within the community as low- and moderate-income housing have been included	
5.8b	Implementation actions that address promoting the use and rehabilitation of the existing housing stock and maintaining a housing stock that is safe, healthy, and sanitary have been included	
5.8c	Implementation actions that address locating new housing in appropriate areas of the community at densities that are appropriate to the characteristics of the land, the availability of infrastructure and community services and the densities of surrounding neighborhood have been included	
5.8d	Implementation actions that address complying with the requirements of RIGL subsection 45-24-46.1(b), (inclusionary zoning incentives), if applicable, have been included	

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

Economic Development		
6.1a	The business and industry sectors within the municipality that are significant employers, large revenue generators, or substantial contributors to the tax base have been identified	
6.1c	Business, industry, and agricultural sectors within the municipality that are expanding or shrinking have been identified	
6.1d	Areas of the community where the economic activity, including agriculture, is changing, whether in terms of size, form, or nature of activity have been discussed	
6.2a	Significant opportunities that exist to further support the businesses within the community's major or expanding business sectors have been assessed and discussed	
6.2b	Issues related to the services and infrastructure provided for local businesses have been assessed and discussed	
6.2c	Local economic or regulatory issues affecting the business and industry sectors within the municipality have been assessed and discussed	
6.2d	Local economic development plans, programs, or other incentives currently in effect or offered by the municipality have been assessed and discussed	
6.3	Goals that embody the state's goals for economic development (including agriculture where feasible) and policies to support each goal have been included	
6.4a	Implementation actions that address the expansion and stabilization of the economic base, including agriculture where feasible, and the promotion of quality employment opportunities and job growth have been included	
Services and Facilities		
Significant Public Infrastructure and Facilities		
7.1a	All municipally-owned or operated buildings, including but not limited to city/town hall, administration buildings, schools, community or senior centers, libraries, fire stations, police stations, etc. have been identified on a map	
7.1b	Solid waste transfer stations and municipal compost or refuse disposal sites have been identified on a map	

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

7.1c	Wastewater pump stations and treatment plants have been identified on a map	
Water Supply		
7.2a	Surface reservoirs used for potable water have been identified on one or more maps	
7.2b	Aquifers have been identified on one or more maps	
7.3	Existing water service areas have been identified on a map, if applicable	
7.4	The ways in which water is provided to the community have been described	
7.5	Existing and future issues and needs concerning the supply of potable water to the municipality, including the general adequacy of water sources to meet current demands, have been assessed and discussed	
7.6	Goals that embody the state's goals for water quality and supply and policies to support each goal have been included	
7.7	Implementation actions to support each goal and address meeting future demands for water quality and supply have been included	
Wastewater Management		
7.8	Existing and proposed sewer service areas, showing areas that currently have access to a sewer line regardless of whether the buildings within the area are in fact connected to the sewer system, have been identified on a map	
7.9	The wastewater management system, including wastewater infrastructure for which the municipality is responsible, if any has been described	
7.10	Current and anticipated future issues and needs regarding wastewater management facilities, infrastructure, and services, including any issues related to condition or capacity have been assessed and discussed	
7.11	Goals that embody the state's goals for wastewater management and policies to support each goal have been included	

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

7.12	Implementation actions to support each goal and that address meeting future demands for wastewater management have been included	
Stormwater Management		
7.13c	The municipal approach to stormwater management has been described	
7.14	An assessment of the current and anticipated future issues and needs regarding stormwater management infrastructure and services, including any issues related to condition or capacity has been included	
7.15	Goals that embody the state's goals for stormwater management and policies to support each goal have been included	
7.16	Implementation actions to support each goal and that address meeting future demands for stormwater management have been included	
Solid Waste Management		
7.17	The municipal solid waste management system has been described	
7.18	An assessment of the current and anticipated future issues and needs regarding solid waste management facilities and services, including any issues related to the condition or capacity of solid waste facilities has been included	
7.19	Goals that embody the state's goals for solid waste management and policies to support each goal have been included	
7.20	Implementation actions to support each goal and that address meeting future demands for solid waste management and achieving a minimum 35% solid waste recycling rate and a minimum 50% solid waste diversion rate have been included	
Public Safety Services		
7.21	Public safety services provided to the community, as well as the facilities and infrastructure associated with these services have been described	

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

7.22	An assessment of the current and anticipated future issues and needs regarding public safety facilities and services, including any issues related to condition or capacity has been included	
7.23	Implementation actions to support each goal and that address meeting future demands for public safety services have been included	
Public Education		
7.24	All aspects of the public educational system, including a description of the overall public educational system have been included	
7.25	An assessment of public-school needs has been provided	
Public Library Services		
7.26	For municipalities that provide library services, the public library system has been described	
7.27	An assessment of the current and anticipated future issues and needs regarding public library facilities and services, including any issues related to condition or capacity has been provided	
7.28	Implementation actions that address meeting future demands for public library facilities and services have been included	
Community or Senior Centers		
7.29	For municipalities that provide community or senior centers, the services provided and associated facilities have been described	
7.30	An assessment of the current and anticipated future issues and needs regarding public community or senior center facilities and services, including any issues related to condition or capacity has been included	
7.31	Implementation actions that address meeting future demands for public community or senior center facilities and services have been included	
Energy Production and Consumption		
7.33	Goals that embody the state's goals for energy and policies to support each goal have been included	

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

Transportation		
8.1a	Major streets, highways, and interstates have been included on a map	
8.1b	Bus routes and major bus hubs have been included on a map	
8.1c	Separated bicycle paths have been included on a map	
8.1d	Rail stations and railway lines have been included on a map	
8.1e	Ports and harbors have been included on a map	
8.1f	Airports have been included on a map	
8.1g	Other major transportation facilities that may exist within the municipality have been included on a map	
8.2a	The transportation modes currently serving the community have been described and assessed	
8.2b	The existing and proposed major facilities and routes that serve transit riders, bicyclists, and pedestrians have been described and assessed	
8.2c	The existing and proposed major facilities and routes that facilitate the movement of freight, including air, marine, rail, highway, and pipelines have been described and assessed	
8.2d	Large-scale transportation facilities that exist within the community if any, such as airports, ports and harbors, bus depots, etc. have been described and assessed	
8.3	Goals that embody the state's goals for transportation and policies to support each goal have been included	
8.4	Implementation actions to support each goal and that addresses fast, safe, efficient, and convenient transportation that promotes conservation and environmental stewardship have been included	
Natural Hazards and Climate Change		
9.2a	One or more maps that illustrate the areas that would currently be inundated in the event of a 1% and 0.2% storm as they appear on the most recent Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) have been included	

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

9.2b	One or more maps that illustrate the areas that would be inundated in the event of Category 1 through 4 hurricanes have been included	
9.2c	One or more maps that illustrate the areas that are projected to be inundated due to 1', 3', and 5' of sea-level rise have been included	
9.4	Goals that embody the state's goals regarding natural hazards and climate change and policies to support each goal have been included	
9.5	Implementation actions that would help to avoid or minimize the effects that natural hazards pose to lives, infrastructure, and property have been included	
Land Use		
10.1	Existing land uses have been identified on a map	
10.2	Existing zoning districts have been described and identified on a map	
10.5	<p>Future land use and residential density categories have been illustrated on a Future Land Use Map (FLUM) that meet the following standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All land areas within the municipality's boundaries have been designated with a future land use category • Each future land use category depicted on the FLUM has been labeled within the map's legend • Existing permanently protected conservation areas have been identified on the FLUM • Significant existing, permanently protected outdoor recreational areas have been identified on the FLUM • Areas of the municipality in which residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural uses are desired as a future land use have been identified on the FLUM 	
10.6a	Descriptions of the general uses that are desired within the future land use category (residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, civic, institutional, open space, recreation, etc.) have been included	
10.6b	The average residential density or the range of residential densities that are desired within the future land use category, if residential uses are to be permitted, have been identified	

Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning Standards Manual

10.7	<p>Any areas of the municipality in which inconsistencies exist between the existing zoning districts and the desired future land uses illustrated on the Future Land Use Map have been analyzed and clearly delineated on a map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the existing zoning in the areas that have been determined to be inconsistent have been described • the future land use designations of areas that have been determined to be inconsistent have been described 	
10.8	For any inconsistencies that exist between the existing zoning districts and the Future Land Use Map and categories, proposed resolutions have been selected and discussed	
10.10	Goals that embody the state’s goals for land use and policies to support each goal have been included	
10.11a	Implementation actions that address promoting orderly growth and development have been included	
10.11c	Implementation actions ensuring that municipal land use regulations are consistent with the goals and policies set forth within the comprehensive plan have been included	
10.11d	Implementation actions amending the zoning ordinance and map to provide consistency with the comprehensive plan, if applicable, have been included	
Implementation Program		
11.1	A separate Implementation Program has been included in the plan	
11.2b	A timeframe for each implementation action has been provided	
11.3	Implementation actions involving the expansion or replacement of public facilities that are reflected in the current Capital Improvement Program have been identified	
11.4 & 11.4b	A schedule by which the zoning ordinance and zoning map will be amended to provide consistency with the comprehensive plan, specifying the amendments that will be undertaken to bring consistency with the comprehensive plan has been included	