

CHAPTER 2

INTRODUCTION

The first Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Barrington was adopted in 1958. Major revisions were made in 1972, 1981, 1990, and 2000. This 2010 update (sometimes referred to as “the 2010 Comprehensive Plan”) is built upon the structure and format of the 1990 and 2000 plans, while incorporating current data and revised planning principles for selected elements. The desires of its citizens, the current needs of the community and the forces expected to impact the Village and surrounding communities in the future have all been given due consideration in the development of this plan.

Public participation was an important aspect to the update of this Plan. During the summer of 2010, Village residents, property owners, and business owners were invited to attend eight neighborhood meetings regarding the update of the Comprehensive Plan. The meetings gave the public the opportunity to review the recommendations of the existing document, discuss current opportunities and concerns, and make recommendations for future plans in their neighborhoods and throughout the Village. In addition to the neighborhood meetings, the Village Plan Commission held eight public workshops to discuss and review proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan.

The following planning studies were utilized in preparing this update, and are referenced where appropriate:

- Village of Barrington Water Supply Study, prepared by Burns and McDonnell (2006)
- Village of Barrington Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan Analysis, prepared by Huff & Huff (May 2007)
- Village of Barrington Stormwater Management Study, prepared by Hey and Associates (April 2010)
- Village of Barrington Community Design for CMAP’s Go To 2040 Plan, prepared by Topogaphis in cooperation with the Village of Barrington (2009)
- Barrington Bikeway Study, prepared by TransSystems Corporation (February 1998)
- Village of Barrington Bikeway User Map, prepared by the Village of Barrington (2011)
- Village of Barrington Sidewalk Map, prepared by Village of Barrington (2011)
- Village Center Master Plan prepared by The Lakota Group in cooperation with the Village of Barrington (August 1999)

CURRENT COMMUNITY PROFILE

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the Village population is 10,327. The U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) for 2005-2009 estimates the Village has 3,822 households. These figures are not as high as those listed in the 2000 Comprehensive Plan, which estimated there would be 12,496 persons and over 4,000 households in the Village in 2010. The deceleration of population growth may be attributed to the national recession that began in 2007, which strongly affected the housing market.

According to the 2005-2009 ACS, residential units in Barrington were approximately 81 percent owner-occupied and 19 percent renter-occupied. This is a significant change from 1990, when 72 percent were owner-occupied and 23 percent renter-occupied. The 2005-2009 ACS dataset also indicates the Village contains 3,081 single-family detached housing units and 226 single-family attached housing units (81

percent of the total). The balance of the housing stock is comprised of 157 duplexes (4 percent of the total), and 604 multi-family dwellings with three or more units (15 percent of the total).

The Village is home to 689 local, regional, national and international businesses, such as Motorwerks of Barrington, Pepper Construction, GE Healthcare Financial Systems, and Pespico. According to data collected by the Village through ongoing surveys and the issuance of permits, there is approximately 3,250,675 square feet of commercial space in Barrington. The current vacancy rate for all commercial property in the Village is approximately 14 percent. The current vacancy rate for retail property is approximately 6 percent. The Village data also indicates that there are 5,111 full-time and 3,014 part time employees working in the Village as of March of 2011.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

These broad, philosophical objectives should be used in evaluating planning proposals and decision-making relative to future land uses:

A. Natural Resources

1. Improve the water quality of aquifers, lakes, rivers, wetlands and streams, and protect them from pollution.
2. Respect, preserve and protect natural topography, soils and vegetation.
3. Maintain capacity of drainage basins, waterways and floodplains.
4. Enhance wildlife habitats and protect them from encroachment by development.
5. Control noxious emissions of air pollutants, odors, sounds, artificial light, etc.
6. Establish greenway corridors along waterways to protect water quality, provide wildlife habitats, preserve floodplains and where feasible, provide recreation.

B. Character

1. The existing character of the Village, which includes diverse and appropriately scaled architecture and historic places, should be reflected in the scale and arrangement of new development.
2. Structures and sites of architectural, historical, or cultural significance should continue to be protected by inclusion in the Historic District.
3. A heterogeneous population should be encouraged by offering a diversity of housing types, prices and living environments.
4. Employment opportunities should be provided to sustain a high degree of citizen self-sufficiency.
5. The Village Center should function as an active, pedestrian-friendly, multi-use center serving as the Village's main retail district and civic activity area.
6. A system of waterways, common open spaces, landscaped pedestrian areas, sidewalks, bikeways and rights-of-way should permeate the entire Village.
7. Mitigation of traffic congestion caused by through traffic and the railroads should be a priority.
8. New residential developments should be linked to the Village Center and other areas of the Village.

C. Services

1. Contemporary procedures of municipal government and management should be employed wherever they can improve the effectiveness of services.
2. Joint uses of public facilities, (e.g. schools and parks), should be planned and programmed wherever possible.

3. Special districts should be established to provide facilities and services which relate to area-wide resources and users.
4. Public sewer and water utilities should be extended to all properties within the Village, as soon as this becomes financially feasible.
5. Movement of persons and goods should be made more efficient by taking full advantage of mass transit, bicycle and pedestrian opportunities and efficient grouping of goods and services providers.
6. The Village should exercise all possible legal control to manage growth, density and the design quality of development on the surrounding unincorporated lands.

D. Infrastructure

1. Growth of the Village in commercial and residential developments should be based on the ability of the Village's infrastructure to service the new developments.
2. New developments and areas of redevelopment should be encouraged to use natural resource-sensitive methods of storm water control to reduce the size and number of storm sewers as well as improve water quality.

E. Public Education, Empowerment and Involvement

1. The Village should increase public education and awareness regarding zoning and development regulations, tree preservation, septic tank maintenance, water conservation, historic preservation and other such issues that are important to residents, through the public participation process.
2. The Village should publicize civic events, including public meetings, through various means, including the village website, community access cable channel, community events sign, radio, print, and other signage.
3. Residents should be kept informed about significant development proposals through the Village newsletter, public access television and website, and should be invited to give input during the public hearing process.
4. Partnerships with community groups and residents in projects to improve the community should be encouraged.

Cooperation among all members of the community and, in particular, among the civic officials, is vital to the successful use of a comprehensive plan. It is strongly recommended that similar encouragement of cooperative efforts be promoted in all of the jurisdictions surrounding the Village of Barrington, and that their objectives be coordinated with those of the Village of Barrington as set forth in this Chapter.