

C. GOALS AND POLICIES

C-1.0 Goals and Policies Overview

The Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act requires the inclusion of a Goals and Policies Statement as follows:

“Identifies the goals and policies of the municipality for its future growth and development. The statement shall enumerate how the Plan is consistent with the overall goals and policies of the chapter, the State Guide Plan and related elements.”

The Handbook on the Local Comprehensive Plan, prepared in 1989 by The State Planning Council and the Division of Planning of the Rhode Island Department of Administration, clearly articulates the difference between goals and policies as follows:

“For the purposes of the local planning process, goals may be treated as ends or results toward which the planning process is directed. Policies may be defined as the courses or methods of action governing municipal decisions designed to reach goals. Both must address issues or problems associated with the development of the city or town.”

To facilitate the use of the North Smithfield Comprehensive Plan Five-Year Update, all goals, policies and actions are presented within the Element (as Section 2-0) to which they apply rather than as a separate Element. Additionally, each Element includes a Consistency Statement (at the end of each Element in Section 5-0) that relates local planning efforts to the overall goals found in the State Guide Plan.