



Village of Bawlf

Municipal Sustainability Plan



Bawlf Municipal Sustainability Plan

Introduction

The Bawlf Sustainability Plan exhibits Bawlf's commitment toward building a sustainable future. It provides long-term visions, goals, and strategies that will guide Bawlf into the future. It is an overarching document that will provide direction for all other plans within the Village.

The Municipal Sustainability planning process was an exceptional way for the Village of Bawlf to look long-term at the community they desire and to now take proactive steps to build the ideal community residents desire. It is a comprehensive approach that examines the five pillars of sustainability.

Environment

Economy

Social

Culture

Governance

Sustainability planning is a holistic approach that examines each of the individual pillars and makes the connections to the health and well-being of the entire community. This plan reflects the hopes and dreams of the community and is a depiction derived from the community that reveals what is truly important to them. Hence this plan is intended to be a guiding document for Village staff and Council as they prepare current and future capital and operating budgets.



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Background

In 2005, the Federal Government introduced a new funding source for municipalities to address their individual needs as they look into the future. Known as the New Deal for Cities and Communities or Gas Tax this funding requires each community to create their own sustainability plan. Once each plan is created the funding dollars can be used for the following projects:

- Public transit
- Water
- Wastewater
- Solid waste
- Community energy systems
- Active transportation infrastructure
- Capacity building

Insert picture



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The Process

To ensure this plan was an accurate representation of what residents desired for their community they were invited to bring their thoughts and ideas to multiple community engagement sessions and to fill out questionnaires. The first community engagement session provided the foundation for the plan. The twenty-four community members present were asked the following questions:

- 1. What are the most important things to you about life in Bawlf?*
- 2. What changes would you most like to see?*
- 3. What are your hopes and dreams for Bawlf 50 years from now?*
- 4. What can you personally contribute so we can reach this dream?*

From the responses a draft plan filled with the community's visions and goals was created. To ensure the plan was headed in the right direction a second meeting was held to examine this draft plan. This meeting had residents answer three main questions with regards to this plan:

- 1. Do you agree with everything stated here?*
- 2. What are appropriate actions we can take to reach each of these goals?*
- 3. What are ways that we, as individuals, can reach these goals today?*

A direct by-product of the second community engagement session was the establishment of a Community Action Team that would implement specific ideas and initiatives that the community wanted to see. The Bawlf Community Builders is now one of the vehicles in which the community's hopes and dreams will come to reality.

This is an integral part of any sustainability planning, to create the capacity for citizens to work with Village staff, Council and other community groups and organizations to be the change they want to see.



Visions for the future

1. We respect and promote our natural environment
2. We are a safe, inclusive, and caring community
3. Strong dynamic leaders guide us into the future
4. We have the necessary infrastructure to reach our
vision of the future
5. We value life long learning
6. Residents of all ages have a high quality of life and
have the ability to recognize their full potential
7. All of us contribute so we can reach our dreams
together



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Vision #1

We respect and promote our natural environment

Goals

1. We view water as a precious resource

Action Steps

Continue to maintain a sustainable water supply for all Village residents

Action Steps

Educate the public on the value of water conservation methods such as low flow fixtures, and rain barrels.

2. To decrease the amount of energy used from non-renewable energy sources

Action Steps

Complete energy audits on existing Village buildings and make appropriate retrofits

Action Steps

Educate residents through newsletter on simple ways to reduce their power bills

Action Steps

Begin to encourage residents to explore alternative forms of energy such as solar and wind

3. Enhance and promote existing recycling program

Action Steps

Reduce the amount of waste going to landfills by education of recycle, reuse, and reduce principles to residents

Action Steps

Continue to work with other municipalities on innovative solutions to secure long-term recycling programs

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Goals

4. **Conserve/ restore selected natural areas**

Action Steps

Revise existing Municipal Development Plan to reflect the desire for:

- Community green areas

- Use of trees and other native plants

Vision #2

We are a safe, inclusive, and caring community

Goals

1. **All residents feel a strong sense of belonging**

Action Steps

'Welcome Team' makes personal visits to all new residents

Action Steps

Information brochures are given to new and existing residents that inform them of all local businesses, community groups, and community events

Action Steps

Every effort is made through various functions and events for everyone to know all their neighbors by their first name

2. **Fire and other protective services are maintained in the community**

Action Steps

Work with Regional partners and local volunteers to ensure the sustainability of these vital services



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Goals

3. People take pride in being a Village resident

Action Steps

Village is kept clean through individual efforts (education and promotional item) and group efforts such as Village clean up

Action Steps

Village beautification project (i.e. new flower beds)

Action Steps

Recognize and share cultural experiences and Village history

Action Steps

Cultivate and maintain a sense of school pride even once children have finished school

4. Host more formal and informal community events

Action Steps

Look for new and interesting community events to host such as Village garage sales, BBQ's, block parties, dances, etc

Action Steps

Continue to seek out new ideas for community events/ activities from people who do not regularly participate community functions

5. Promote local businesses

Action Steps

Promote/ demonstrate the advantages to buying locally

Action Steps

Continue to discover innovative ways to promote and advertise local businesses

Vision #3

Strong dynamic leaders guide us into the future

Goals

1. Optimize municipal operations

Action Steps

Complete needs assessment for Village staff and necessary training/ development, recruitment/ retention, and succession planning

2. Strengthen existing Regional partnerships

Action Steps

Continue the dialogue with the other municipalities within Camrose County to find mutually beneficial projects/ initiatives to work together on

Action Steps

The Village will be the driving force in establishing new potential partnerships

3. Develop young leaders

Action Steps

Work with the school on the continuation and development of new opportunities (i.e. mayor for a day/ social studies program/ scholarship opportunities/ etc)

Action Steps

Find ways for youth to take a leadership role in community events and projects

4. Council and other community organizations implement sustainable principles in decision making and reporting

Action Steps

Education on examining and applying the five dimensions of sustainability lens to local decision making and reporting methods

Action Steps

Council will review and revise the MSP annually



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Vision #4

We have the necessary infrastructure to reach our vision for the future

Goals

1. We continue to have the infrastructure needed to attract new residents and businesses

Action Steps

Develop a long-term capital asset replacement plan

2. Complete sewer system upgrade and improvements of local roads

Action Steps

Sub prep Sanden Street railway Avenue - Martin Avenue

Pave Sanden Street

Sub prep Hanson Street Martin Avenue - North Avenue

Pave Hanson Street Molstad Avenue- North Avenue

Sub prep Niblock Street railway Avenue- Molstad Avenue

Pave Niblock Street

Sub prep Jamison Street Railway Avenue- Molstad Avenue

Pave Jamison Street

Replace waterlines Sanden Street Railway Avenue - Molstad Avenue

Replace waterlines Hanson Street Martin Avenue- North Avenue



Vision #5

We value life long learning

Goals

1. School enrollment maintains acceptable numbers to operate exceptional programs

Action Steps

Promotion and advertising of Village based around Family values

Action Steps

Strategic advertising/ promotional campaign around new Rural Children's Centre

Action Steps

Work with the school to increase the extra-curricular activities for students

Action Steps

Collaboration with school to help provide innovative and relevant learning experience for its students

2. Adults have the opportunity to access a range of formal and informal quality learning experiences

Action Steps

Questionnaire to go out in newsletter for what people would be most interested in learning

Action Steps

Have students teach computer classes at the school for Seniors/ adults in community

Action Steps

Establish joint-use agreement with school for classroom space for various courses



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Vision #6

Residents of all ages have a high quality of life and have the ability to recognize their full potential

Goals

1. New and innovative economic opportunities are explored to allow residents to work locally

Action Steps

Actively pursue partnerships with the private sector and promotion of economic development within the Village

Action Steps

Make necessary changes to the Municipal Development Plan to maintain an adequate supply of developable land within the Village for economic growth

Action Steps

Residents, Council and all community groups act as ambassadors to the Village in its promotion of economic growth

2. Senior Citizens have the ability to live locally as long as they desire

Action Steps

Investigate the needs and issues concerning Seniors housing

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Goals

3. Encourage a diverse number of opportunities for residents to explore their artistic gifts

Action Steps

Expose local talent at local community events

Action Steps

Establish community events based around the arts

4. Create more opportunities for recreation and leisure

Action Steps

Engage citizens in development of programs and facilities

Action Steps

Investigate the opportunity to expand the walking trail around the Village

Vision #7

All of us contribute so we can reach our dreams together

Goals

1. All residents feel informed about local events and initiatives

Action Steps

Continue to seek various methods in keeping the community informed

Action Steps

Implement the Village fan out phone list for appropriate events/ activities



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Goals

2. To increase the number of people who volunteer within the community

Action Steps

Develop clear explanations around the volunteer's roles in order to reduce anxiety and confusion

Action Steps

Develop volunteer positions that suit people's skill set and comfort level the best

Action Steps

Village sponsored events for the recognition of individuals and groups

Action Steps

Establish a meaningful volunteer recognition program

Action Steps

Personally invite potential new volunteers to help out with smaller tasks

4. All residents have the opportunity to voice their opinions on Village issues

Action Steps

Commit to public participation through suggestion boxes, open houses, surveys, web page, and advertisement of open Council meetings

