



Developing a Community Vision for the Village of Richmond





Overview

The village of Richmond has begun a process to create a community plan to reflect its desires and goals. As part of this process residents provided input on their vision for the community and comments on the issues and opportunities that exist for the village. The comments from these sessions have been compiled into a series of visionary principles that are outlined in this document for review and consideration by the Richmond Village Steering Committee.

The Richmond Village Steering Committee should review these principles and provide comments, additions, and edits before approving this document. The updated principles will be used, in conjunction with the existing community data, to create a community strategic directions workbook designed to solicit feedback on the proposed guiding principles from all residents of Richmond. Summaries of resident comments and input gathered from the April 2008 Open House and Visioning Session are included in the Appendix.

Visionary Principles

1.) Create a Liveable and Sustainable Community

The Village of Richmond values its strong community, historic character, and unique natural environment. The village seeks to operate and grow in a sustainable manner such that a healthy balance is found between protecting the environment, maintaining a viable economic base, and promoting the ideals of the community. The revitalization of existing areas within the village core is important to the community.

Residents wish to maintain the village way of life, ample open space and agricultural life that is unique to Richmond and ensure that growth occurs in a planned, managed way. The community strives for a balance that embraces the rural way of life with the convenience of the nearby Ottawa city amenities.

As a sustainable and liveable community, Richmond must support a mix of uses, housing types, and facilities that will cater to all age groups. Businesses in the village core will be supported by the community and will be reflective of the village character, both in size and in the services that are provided to the residents and visitors. Housing, businesses and other uses developed in Richmond must contribute to the sustainability of the community and respect the character of the village.



2.) Protect and Enhance Richmond’s Historic Village Character

Richmond should maintain the pace of life, sense of community, friendly atmosphere, and scale of development that reflect its historic past and is reflective of its rural small-town character. The village’s rural and historical roots should be reflected in future development to ensure that new development matches existing development patterns – especially in areas like the grid road pattern, lot size and development density.

The Jock River is a treasure and together with the surrounding greenspace has great potential to serve as a central focal point in the village. As part of the village core the river could be enhanced through increased accessibility, amenities like canoe launches and fishing points, flora and fauna, and park areas.

Richmond should have a focal point in the heart of the village and along the Jock River. McBean and Perth streets should be developed as a showcase of the pride in the community’s history and culture.

Visitors will be welcomed to Richmond with well-maintained streets, a vibrant core with attractive businesses, and abundant natural open spaces. The village should create a friendly and safe pedestrian environment such that the historic core and natural environment is accessible for all residents and visitors.

3.) Protect the Natural Environment and Incorporate Constraints into the Plan

The surrounding natural environment and ability to easily access agricultural lands, open spaces, forests, creeks and rivers defines Richmond’s rural character. The protection of the Richmond’s natural areas, floodplains, drainage systems, and source water is a key desire of the community both to safeguard the environment and maintain the character of the village. The residents of Richmond will participate as active stewards of the environment by seeking to minimize their environmental impact, educating the public, and creating partnerships with the City of Ottawa and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

In existing natural areas there should be a balance between access and the protection and maintenance of the natural environment. These areas could include improvements such as the creation of natural paths, increased natural areas, and the creation of a system of connected green corridors as a means to enhance the enjoyment of the areas while protecting the natural environment. Existing park and natural areas, such as the Rideau Trail and the bird sanctuary at the lagoons, will be maintained and protected as a destination for residents and visitors. The Jock River and surrounding floodplains are



very important natural features in the village and shall be protected from development.

Protecting the natural environment, aquifers, source water and floodplains within the village will be a priority over development. Flood plains within Richmond will be protected from development and maintained as important green space within the village. Development on agricultural areas and fields surrounding the village will be assessed to ensure that the natural environment, source water, and natural drainage are not affected. Environmentally friendly and forward looking development and technology will be encouraged, where possible.

4.) Plan for Future Land Uses

Richmond should be a place where all age groups and income levels can live and can have access to land uses and services that meet their needs. Richmond residents want the possibility to age in place with the ability to live, work, and play at all stages of life. New development should cater to the range of housing and services required by youth, families, and seniors. Commercial development should be provided in the existing main street areas with a scale and character reflective of what currently exists in the village.

Any new development should complement and reflect village character and be based on the existing character of buildings and densities in the village. The existing urban design elements, such as lot size, grid road pattern, and historic elements are important to the community. Development shall occur in a managed way so that it is consistent with the village lifestyle and pace of life. All development must be supported with adequate servicing, transportation, and economic development strategies to ensure that the growth is sustainable and contributes to the life of the community.

Richmond can be a destination for the region – the Fall fair is a major seasonal draw, but this could be developed into something larger. Richmond has a vibrant community with local institutions (such as churches, clubs, fairgrounds, and historic sites) that should be protected and fostered with supportive land uses and growth policies. Richmond residents value the open spaces, agricultural lands, and vacant areas (even if it is privately owned) as important aspects of the community.



5.) Expand and Maintain Transportation Infrastructure

Richmond residents seek a better link to the transportation network available in the City of Ottawa. Richmond’s reliance on the automobile to connect outside of the community places seniors and youth at a disadvantage. Improved and regular bus service during the day and on weekends will allow young people and older people to travel to urban Ottawa for education, employment, and services needs while still living in Richmond.

Within the Richmond village core car use can be reduced and alternatives like walking and cycling encouraged. There should be a system of recreational pathways, including footbridges, for pedestrians and cyclists across the Jock River that is connected with a network of village sidewalks. Outside the village, the creation of dedicated bicycle lanes that link Richmond to other communities could allow reduced automobile usage.

A village transportation strategy, including sidewalks, pathways, bridges and roads, will be created to ensure that new development does not tax the existing infrastructure and conforms to the infrastructure in place in Richmond.

6.) Create and Protect Open Space, Recreation and Community Services

Richmond’s plan will capitalize on the beauty of the Jock River area and create parklands with seating, pathways, and appropriate community venues along the central corridor. This park area will serve to create a green core within the village and should provide a safe, accessible area all residents can enjoy. Further, a multi-season recreational pathway (walking and cycling) along the full length of the Jock River and in other natural areas around the village will make the river more accessible. The village core and neighbourhoods should be connected to recreational areas and key community facilities with sidewalks, roads, and pathways. Within the village, cycling and walking will be supported with the creation of a pedestrian and cycling friendly network of pathways and crosswalks.

The expansion of key facilities such as the arena, fairgrounds, and soccer fields will help ensure that there are recreational facilities and multi-use parks for all seasons. Facilities must exist for all age groups, especially for underserved segments like youth aged 12 – 16 and seniors.

Richmond will work to attract and support more community services, such as a medical clinic and day-care centre, so that resident needs can be accommodated in the village. The village should be permitted to grow in such a way as to sustain local schools.



7.) Ensure Long-term Sustainability of Servicing and Groundwater

Richmond wants to ensure that the quality and quantity of the village’s groundwater is sustained over the long term. A detailed management plan for groundwater protection should be created with information and education available to residents. Private wells that serve the existing community must be protected and maintained.

New development that may put groundwater supply at risk shall utilize city services and incur all expenses required to upgrade the necessary systems. Existing residents will have the option to hook up to city services but will not be required to do so unless groundwater protection issues are identified.