

Town of Goodland

PO Box 269
110 N Benton Street
GOODLAND, IN 47948-0269
219-297-4841

James A. Butler, Council President
Gary Rheude, Council Member

Trisha Dowden, Council Member
Tina M. Ward, Clerk/Treasurer

The Town of Goodland is seeking a grant from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs to fund a Comprehensive Plan. This plan is needed to guide Goodland through the next 50 years and beyond. Goodland has worked very hard over the last 30 years to build and improve infrastructure, such as water sourcing, treatment and distribution, installation of a sewage collection and treatment system, stormwater control, fire protection, etc. With that solid foundation in place, it is time to look at our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and develop a plan to guide Goodland into the future.

Among other things, we need to develop a statement of objectives for future development. This statement must realize the current state of our town and country, ranging to from things such as online shopping reducing the need for brick-and-mortar buildings to the aging of our housing. We must develop a statement of policy for land use development. We must plan for housing for at least three levels, entry level, such as apartment buildings, secondary such as that first affordable house and finally the next level as people move through their lives. We must decide which parts of town will be our parks, industrial or residential, and further plan and develop our utilities to accommodate each.

Simultaneously to our Comprehensive Plan, we must develop a plan for our parks, not only our sports and playground areas but also walking paths, enhancing our fishing area, water recreation for children and other things that will make Goodland an attractive, fun and safe place to live. We have taken steps along these lines and acquired property, but we must make the community aware of those steps and ask their help with what goals to set, how to achieve those goals, and finally help with achieving them.

Goodland has hired a consulting firm with experience in developing and writing Comprehensive Plans. We have also formed a committee to help with the planning and applied for a grant to fund the effort. While we were unsuccessful in getting our project funded in the latest round, we are very confident we will achieve success in the next round, which will take place in November of this year. It is not uncommon to have to apply for funding numerous times before achieving success, each time revising our application to make our application as attractive and fundable as possible. Our fire department required four attempts but finally became a reality. Persistence is the key.

We are seeking individuals with imagination and the willingness to think big. We want those individuals to attend a few meetings, work with our committee and help decide what Goodland will be over the next 30 to 50 years and beyond. Small town USA is facing an uphill battle to stay relevant and prosper, and Goodland is no exception. But if we all work together, we can make our corner of the world a great place to live. Please attend our town council meetings, Comprehensive Planning meetings and help give us advice and ideas. Your idea may just be what is needed.