

Town of White Creek Draft Vision and Goals

A vision statement is a vivid idealized description of a desired outcome that inspires, energizes and helps you create a mental picture of the future. Vision statements are often confused with mission statements, but they serve complementary purposes. The best vision statements describe outcomes that are five to ten years away, although some look even further out. The vision statement should focus on the desired outcome at its completion date and should be based on the best possible outcome. The purpose of the vision statement is to inspire, energize, motivate, and stimulate, not to serve as a measuring stick for success; that is the job of objectives and goals that follow.

Based on community input (Data Gathering Phase, Farm Focus Meeting, and Public Visioning Workshop), the following statement articulates a consensus of where residents of the Town of White Creek want their community to be in the future. The statement is written in the present tense to articulate what residents of White Creek will actually experience after the ideal outcome is realized:

Town-wide Vision Statement

White Creek is a prosperous rural and farm-oriented community. We take pride in and promote our local traditions, old-fashioned values, public spirit, and active participation in our historic community. Our quality of life is enriched by our natural beauty, environment and our abundant open spaces including farm fields, woodlands, streams, and hills. Residents highly value and take advantage of the many cultural and outdoor recreational opportunities in or near White Creek. Higher density residential land uses and businesses are concentrated in the quaint village and hamlets, and lower density land uses co-exist with farms throughout the countryside. We are fully prepared to manage change in a manner that balances community goals and private landowner desires. White Creek has diverse and thriving agriculture done in an environmentally sound way. Our farms and residents support a variety of locally owned businesses. Local job opportunities are available. White Creek is a diverse, affordable community for people of varying ages and backgrounds. Public services are of the highest quality and are provided efficiently and cost effectively. To do this, White Creek seeks local, private/public, and regional partnerships wherever possible. Our planning programs provide town officials and community members with information and tools to help them make long-term decisions that are consistent with this vision. We are a safe and secure place, and our commitment to carrying on our traditions and values sustains White Creek as a supportive environment for our citizens. This vision is the gift we give to our children through the years.

Our Vision for Agriculture

Agriculture is the primary land use in White Creek, is the foundation of our local economy, and provides stability to the Town and entire region. Farmland remains available for current and future generations of farmers. Farms are successful, prosperous, and family-owned and are supported by key agricultural infrastructure. There are opportunities for new farm start-ups. White Creek offers a quality of life that makes our Town attractive to young people who want to enter the agricultural profession. Farming is done in an environmentally safe way. Consumers enjoy increased availability to a local supply of fresh farm products grown in White Creek. This helps make our Town a self-sufficient and healthy community. Farmers and their non-farm neighbors live in harmony, seek to understand each other and treat each other with consideration and respect. The non-farm community is informed and educated about agriculture and agricultural practices, and enhanced relationships create ongoing, two-way communication. Agricultural practices are understood by farmers and non-farmers. Farmers and farmland owners are supported in their efforts through land use policies and regulations that promote and support continued farming. Impacts of new development on farms are minimized.

Definition of Agriculture in White Creek

Agriculture is an activity that produces fruit, fiber, animal products, timber, and other goods and services from the land including but not limited to maple syrup, bee products and Christmas trees. A farm is the location where agriculture takes place and includes both hobby farms that produce goods not for profit, and commercial farms that produce goods for profit. On-farm buildings, equipment, processing facilities and practices which contribute to the production, preparation, or selling of crops, livestock, livestock and wood products are all part of a farm operation.

Vision and Goals by Topic:

The Economy in White Creek:

- Commercial development is oriented to small businesses and is primarily located in or near the village where there is a vibrant Main Street, and at other locations in concentrated nodes where commercial development already exists.
- There is a diverse local economy.
- There are local jobs and opportunities for young people.
- Small businesses serve local residents.
- 21st century technologies and communications support our farms and other businesses.
- Our existing businesses are retained.
- Agriculture is the primary land use and economic base in Town that maintains

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stability to the Town and Region.

- There is increased availability to local farms supply fresh produce and farm products to help make White Creek a self-sufficient and healthy community.
- Farms are successful, prosperous, and family-owned.
- Farmland remains available for future farmers and key infrastructure supports farms. Agri-businesses such as veterinarians, feed stores, and equipment dealers are available locally to support town farms.

Agriculture in White Creek:

- Farmland remains available for future farmers and key infrastructure supports farms.
- Farmers and their non-farm neighbors live in harmony, seek to understand each other and treat each other with consideration and respect. The non-farm community is informed and educated about agriculture and agricultural practices and we foster enhanced relationships with non-farmers to create ongoing, two-way communication. Agricultural practices are understood by farmers and non-farmers.
- New farms start-up and young people are attracted to the agricultural profession.
- Farming is done in an environmentally safe way.
- Farmers and farmland owners are supported in their efforts through land use policies and regulations that promote and support continued farming.
- Impacts of new development on farms are minimized.

Our Community Character:

- Open lands including farm fields, streams, wetlands, hilltops and vision corridors are protected. Farms and forests remain the major landscape features.
- White Creek is a place for young and old to live and work.
- Cultural heritage resources and cultural events exist.
- People in White Creek are friendly, caring, helpful, and concerned.
- More residential development takes place in or near the village or hamlets to keep farmland open and productive.
- White Creek is not over regulated.
- Our pastoral and scenic beauty remains.
- There are high levels of volunteerism and involvement in the community.
- People take pride in our community and individual properties.
- Historic properties are maintained and are a valued part of the community.
- Old-fashioned, rural, and small town lifestyles are maintained with a high level of pride.
- Non-farmers are informed and educated about farms and farm practices, and recognize the contributions of farms to open space and rural lifestyles.
- White Creek is a safe community.
- We have a strong sense of community.

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The Environment:

- White Creek is a model for alternative energy and self-sufficiency.
- We have clean air, water, and aquifers.
- Some growth occurs, but it is compact, and well-planned to minimize impact on open space, farms, and other critical environmental characteristics of White Creek.
- Diverse wildlife habitats are preserved.
- Our forest resources are sustainably managed.

Arts, Culture and Recreation:

- Opportunities are oriented to outdoor and natural resource based recreation.
- There is enhanced access and connections to greenways and trails, and enhanced awareness and use of state parks and state lands.
- Indoor recreational programs and facilities are available.
- The Town promotes local activities such as White Crick Tournament and White Creek BBQ.
- There is a Town park or recreation center for children.
- We promote organized sports and youth groups such as boy and girl scouts, and 4-H clubs.
- The community offers diverse arts and cultural opportunities.

Services and Infrastructure:

- White Creek offers affordable public services to prevent over-taxation.
- Our roads are maintained as rural roads.
- Modern cable, phone, and internet services are available.
- We have excellent schools that are supported by the community.
- Our roads are high quality and are maintained as rural roads.
- We have affordable taxes.
- Keep and support fire department and rescue squads.
- We promote shared services with other municipalities to keep public service costs down.

Housing

- White Creek is an affordable place for all families.
- We promote home-ownership and support use of modular homes.
- There is a diversity of housing stock.
- Housing maintains the historic character of our community.