

Municipal Vision Principles

Bluffton

1. **Vibrant Downtown Riverfront Hub** – Transform Bluffton’s downtown into a dynamic hub for dining, entertainment, and social gathering by integrating riverfront development. This includes expanding restaurants, food, and drinking options, creating unique entertainment venues, and activating the riverfront with public spaces and events. These efforts aim to establish a vibrant, inclusive destination that attracts both residents and visitors.
2. **Thriving Local Economy & Quality of Place** – Foster local business growth by encouraging investment in locally-owned enterprises, creating a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurship, and enhancing the quality of place. By leveraging Bluffton’s small-town charm, local talent, and natural assets, this initiative aims to strengthen community identity while increasing economic opportunities.
3. **Sustainable (Re)Development & Connectivity** – Enhance downtown through infrastructure improvements, including walkable sidewalks, better connectivity, and the revitalization of underutilized or blighted properties. The aim is to maintain Bluffton’s rural heritage while promoting modern design principles that improve quality of life, foster community pride, and respect the town’s historic and cultural character.

Poneto

1. **Safe, Connected, and Attractive Community** – Enhance public safety and the perception of safety through improved town services, enforcement of ordinances, and the maintenance of clean, well-kept properties. Invest in strong infrastructure, including sidewalks, water, sewer, and broadband, to ensure connectivity and a foundation for future growth while improving the appearance and livability of the town.
2. **Engaged and Collaborative Governance** – Build stronger relationships between the community, elected officials, and county government by promoting open communication, transparency, and collaboration. Foster community engagement through town hall meetings, social media, and events that bring residents together to strengthen trust and shared purpose. Focus on initiatives that promote community togetherness through events experiences that celebrate Poneto’s identity.
3. **Quality Living and Growth for the Future** – Define a clear vision for Poneto’s future by addressing housing needs through infill development on vacant properties and supporting appropriate new home construction. Attract small-scale commercial development, such as a convenience store or gas station, to serve residents while improving the town park and public spaces to enhance the overall quality of life.

Vera Cruz

1. **Enhanced Connectivity and Outdoor Emphasis** – Establish Vera Cruz as a gateway to Ouabache State Park by developing trails and pathways that connect the town to the park, fostering outdoor recreation opportunities. Support businesses that cater to outdoor lifestyles, creating a symbiotic relationship between the town’s economy and the park’s natural appeal.

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2. **Safe, Modern, and Family-Friendly Community** – Modernize the downtown park to enhance safety and appeal as a central hub for families and children. Improve public safety with traffic-calming measures to address speeding and ensure safe neighborhoods. Invest in updated infrastructure, including sidewalks, roads, and drainage systems, to create a clean, accessible, and functional environment for residents and visitors.
3. **Smart Growth and Revitalization** – Support moderate growth through single-family home development on larger lots and targeting commercial infill opportunities in the downtown area to address blight and vacant properties.

Uniondale

1. **Sustainable Growth Through Housing and Economic Development** – Reverse population decline and attract new residents by promoting owner-occupied housing development, including infill projects on town-owned lots. Simultaneously, identify areas for industrial development on the town's fringes to attract quality employers, aiming to create at least 150 jobs in the next decade. This combined approach supports sustainable growth, enhances funding for local government, and revitalizes the community.
2. **Enhanced Infrastructure and Community Amenities** – Invest in critical infrastructure improvements, particularly the sewer system, to support residential and industrial growth. Build on Uniondale's existing strengths, by expanding recreational opportunities and fostering events that benefit residents and draw visitors. Explore hiring a town manager or maintenance staff to ensure ongoing care for public spaces and services.
3. **Preserving Character While Building Community** – Maintain Uniondale's small-town charm and sense of community through thoughtful planning and collaboration with county government. Pursue incremental growth that aligns with the town's values, strengthens partnerships with neighboring municipalities, and ensures a cohesive vision for the future. Promote initiatives that bring back essential services, such as grocery stores and gas stations, to enhance residents' quality of life.

Ossian

1. **Focused Growth for a Thriving Future** – Direct residential, commercial, and industrial development to strategic areas on the town's fringes. Prioritize residential growth near existing neighborhoods, commercial expansion along SR 1 at the north and south ends, and industrial opportunities in the southwest to ensure balanced and sustainable growth.
2. **Enhancing Local Offerings While Preserving Character** – Spur new businesses in dining, retail, and entertainment that complement Ossian's family-friendly atmosphere and small-town values. Focus redevelopment efforts along the downtown area and SR 1 corridor to create opportunities that enhance the community's appeal without compromising its identity.
3. **Strengthening Community While Honoring Tradition** – Maintain Ossian's family-friendly, small-town charm by supporting development that aligns with the community's values. Encourage

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projects and initiatives that build on the town's traditions and foster a sense of safety, belonging, and pride among residents.