

Chapter I

Introduction

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

I.1 Purpose

In 1988 the State of Rhode Island enacted the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act requiring the 39 communities in the State to prepare and adopt a local Comprehensive Plan. This plan supersedes all previous Comprehensive Plans for the Town of Burrillville. The intent of the Act stems from the following findings of the General Assembly:¹

1. The absence of accurate technical information and comprehensive planning by municipal government as a rational basis for long-term physical development creates conflicting requirements and reactive land use regulations and decisions.
2. Municipal government is responsible for land use, but lacks the technical information and financial resources to plan for orderly growth and development and the protection and management of our land and natural resources.
3. Land, water and air are finite natural resources. Comprehensive planning must provide for protection, development, use and management of our land and natural resources.
4. Comprehensive planning and its implementation will promote the appropriate use of land. The lack of comprehensive planning and its implementation has led to the misuse, under-use and over-use of our land and natural resources.
5. The coordination of growth and the intensity of development with provisions for services and facilities is a proper objective of comprehensive planning.
6. Comprehensive planning is needed to provide a basis for municipal and state initiatives to ensure all citizens have access to a range of housing choices, including the availability of affordable housing for all income levels and age groups.
7. Municipal comprehensive planning must recognize and address land uses in contiguous municipalities and encourage cooperative planning efforts by municipalities.
8. Comprehensive planning will provide a basis for improved coordination so that local plans reflect issues of local, regional and state-wide concern.
9. Improved coordination is necessary between State and municipal governments to promote uniform standards and review procedures as well as consistency in land use regulations.

¹ Handbook on the Local Comprehensive Plan for the Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act, June, 1989, The State Planning Council, Division of Planning, Rhode Island Department of Administration.

The State's goals for comprehensive planning provide the overall direction for this Plan. In accordance with State laws and regulations, Burrillville submitted copies of the Comprehensive Plan to the surrounding communities and did not receive any negative feedback. The planning process, statements of goals and policies, and the issues of growth, land use, and quality of life are consistent with the State Guide Plan, and are as follows:²

1. To promote orderly growth and development that recognizes the natural characteristics of the land, its suitability of use and the availability of existing and proposed public and/or private services and facilities.
2. To promote an economic climate which increases quality job opportunities and overall economic well being of each municipality and the State.
3. To promote a balance of housing choices, for all income levels and age groups, which recognizes the affordability of housing as the responsibility of each municipality and the State.
4. To promote the protection of the natural, historic and cultural resources of each municipality and the state.
5. To promote the preservation of the open space and recreational resources of each municipality and the state.
6. To encourage the use of innovative development regulation and techniques that promote the development of land suitable for development while protecting our natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources and achieving a balanced pattern of land uses.
7. To promote consistency of state actions and programs with municipal comprehensive plans and provide for review procedures to ensure that state goals and policies are reflected in municipal comprehensive plans.
8. To ensure that adequate and uniform data are available to municipal and state government as the basis for comprehensive planning and land use regulation.
9. To ensure that municipal land use regulations and decisions are consistent with the comprehensive plan of the municipality and to ensure state land use regulations and decisions are consistent with State guide plans.
10. To encourage the involvement of all citizens in the formulation, review and adoption of the comprehensive plan.

² Handbook on the Local Comprehensive Plan for the Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act, June, 1989, The State Planning Council, Division of Planning, Rhode Island Department of Administration.

The Comprehensive Plan for Burrillville is a document with accompanying graphics and maps which addresses historical trends, current and future conditions in each of the following functional areas:

- Land use;
- Natural and cultural resources;
- Housing;
- Recreation/Open Space
- Community services and facilities;
- Transportation; and,
- Local economy;

The Plan presents goals, policies and recommendations for each element, as well as a program for the implementation of these recommendations within a 5-20 year time frame.

The Comprehensive Plan is a broad-based policy document which presents the Town's intentions for its future development as defined by the citizens of the community, and adopted by the Planning Board and Town Council. The underlying theme of this document is consistent with the following key priority objectives of the State's Land Use Plan 2025:

- Sustain Rhode Island's unique character through use of the Urban Services Boundary, rural centers, and holistic approaches to planning.
- Promote permanent greenspace throughout the rural, urban, and waterfront areas.
- Develop concentrated well-designed centers, neighborhoods and special places.
- Offer diverse affordable housing stock.

I.2 Growth Issues

Over the past 10 years Burrillville has undergone a period of moderate growth and new development. This has brought about a new awareness of the fragile nature of the community's resources, recognition that the town will continue to grow, and a desire to ensure that such future growth is compatible with the rural character of the community. This rural character has been defined in many ways throughout the planning process, but essentially includes the following elements:

- The village atmosphere and identity, including the mills and mill housing around which each village grew;

- The rustic landscape, including forested areas, open fields, farmland, rural roads, stone walls and other similar landscape features; and,
- The lakes, ponds, rivers and streams found throughout the Town.

Preservation of this rural character was a major theme of the planning process, as identified by the Comprehensive Plan Committee and the general public.

Issues Identification - The issues which were considered through the planning process were identified through a variety of sources. These include a citizen survey conducted by the consultant in the spring of 1990, a questionnaire submitted to Town and community service providers, an issues identification exercise conducted with the public attending the first public workshop on the Plan and through discussion at monthly Comprehensive Plan Committee meetings. Table I-1 summarizes these issues (not prioritized). This list, while not all encompassing, is representative of the concerns presented by the public during the planning process. These issues, and many inter-related topics form the problem statement to which the goals, policies and recommendations respond.

Table I-1
Summary of Issues Raised During the Planning Process

1.	Maintaining the area's rural character.	20.	Need for new recreational areas.
2.	Water quality protection.	21.	Redevelopment of the old mill complexes.
3.	Promotion of industrial park and initiatives for development of Routes 100 & 102.	22.	Growth with consideration of existing Town character.
4.	Need for various road improvements.	23.	Development in wetlands or over groundwater aquifers.
5.	Maintenance of Zambarano hospital as an active facility providing employment for Town residents.	24.	Cooperative use of Zambarano facilities or purchase of unused land/buildings for Town/public use.
6.	Need to review minimum lot requirements in the zoning ordinance.	25.	Uncontrolled commercial expansion along Route 102.
7.	Overdevelopment in general.	27.	Improvements to Pascoag commercial center.
8.	Overdevelopment of the lake areas.	28.	Need for more active recreation areas.
9.	Allowing cluster development and condominiums.	29.	Encourage use of lakes for recreation.
10.	Development of commercial and industrial activities, especially along main routes such as Rte. 102.	30.	Extension of water and sewer lines, particularly to areas surrounding the lakes and ponds for water quality protection purposes.
11.	Continued development without sewers.	31.	Poor condition and maintenance of sidewalks.
12.	Allowing industrial development.	32.	Continued decline of the Pascoag village center.
13.	Maintenance of the existing village quality and revitalization of the village.	33.	Need for more commercial and industrial development for tax base expansion purposes.
14.	Permitting small building lots.	34.	Maintenance of village character.
15.	Preservation of open space, aquifers, wetlands and other natural resources.	35.	Improve existing housing conditions, and promote affordable housing.
16.	Improvements to Town government facilities, including Town Hall.	36.	Development, including industrial, which threatens the Town's water supply.
17.	Centralizing Town facilities.	37.	Development without preservation of open space.
18.	Keeping new building in character with existing development.	38.	Inappropriate industrial development, particularly that which does not support the tax base.
19.	Improved parking at Town facilities.		

I.3 Citizen Survey Summary

A telephone survey of over 400 Burrillville residents was conducted from March 26 through April 4, 1990. The purpose of the survey was to gain a more thorough understanding of Town residents' opinions on growth and development issues, community services, quality of life and other planning-related questions.

Town Image - To identify views on the image of the Town, respondents were asked what they liked best about Burrillville, and then which features they found least favorable. Most commonly mentioned as the things liked best about the Town were its rural atmosphere and country character (70 percent) and the quiet and peaceful nature of the community (14 percent).

Items which were most often indicated as least liked included taxes being too high (19 percent), road conditions (15 percent), and over-development of the community. Other features which were mentioned with some frequency included electric company operations and prices, lack of retail stores in the community, politics and government, and Town services.

Town Services - In general, residents were satisfied with the services and their quality. With the exception of water service, sewer service and planning and zoning, where many respondents were unable to rate the quality of the service because they were unfamiliar with it, most residents feel that the Town's services are either average or above average.

Highest ratings were for the public, but non-municipal services, including rescue service (57 percent above average), and fire protection (49 percent above average). Other services rated highly include active recreation facilities (24 percent above average), schools (21 percent above average) and police service (20 percent above average).

Quality of Life - Respondents were asked to identify the importance of various reasons people have chosen to live in Burrillville. Their reasons grouped from the most important to the least are as follows:

- Presence of farms and open space
- Schools
- Recreational opportunities
- Historic character
- Opportunities for quality housing
- Employment opportunities
- Shopping opportunities

The data reveal that Burrillville residents are attracted to the community largely because of its small town, rural qualities, which the Town couples with quality public services, including schools and housing.

Future Development - The availability of quality housing in Burrillville is influential to residents' quality of life in Burrillville. Over 70 percent of respondents indicated that it was important to encourage the development of shops, stores and restaurants. The high percentage of respondents supportive of future development of shops, stores and restaurants is borne out by the number of respondents mentioning the lack of retail stores as one of aspects of Town they liked the least. Seven of ten people interviewed indicated that the Town should encourage development of manufacturing businesses. Respondents

felt that manufacturing development should be located along Route 102, in the existing industrial park, in Pascoag center or along Route 100.

Over 90 percent of respondents indicated that the presence of farms and open space was an important reason for living in Burrillville. The rural character of the community appears to be one of the many amenities the Town offers to residents, which is recognized and appreciated. Eight of ten interviewees stated that they favored the expenditure of Town money to protect open spaces and farmland from future development.

Development Regulations - A question asking respondents to rank the planning and zoning process as above average, average or below average showed that most respondents feel the present process is adequate. Burrillville adults are in favor of strict interpretation of the Town's zoning standards (88 percent), and believe that existing zoning standards are about right or not strict enough.

Slightly more than 40 percent of respondents indicated that the present rate of development in Burrillville was too fast, while 13 percent indicated it was too slow. About 40 percent of respondents indicated that the rate of development is about right. Again, this shows the general feeling of contentment with existing conditions, and respondent's desires to maintain these conditions.

Summary - The most highly valued aspects of the Town are its small town character, open space and quiet, peaceful nature. Citizens are generally pleased with the services and facilities provided by the Town, but have particular concerns with street and road maintenance, parks and playgrounds, the landfill and planning and zoning.

There is concern about over-development, rapid growth, and the ability of the existing planning and zoning process to respond to this growth pressure. Protection of open spaces is of concern, and most residents would appear to support expenditure of Town funds to protect open spaces and farmland from future development. Residents are positive about development of more retail stores and manufacturing space also received support from the interviewees.

I.4 Demographic Changes

The demographics of the community include population and social characteristics which describe the makeup of the residents of Burrillville, such as age, gender, income, occupation and other factors. The composition of the existing and projected population of the

Town is important to understanding how the Town should develop in future years. Population was reviewed on a town-wide, census tract and planning district basis.

Census Tracts - Census tracts are geographic divisions within the community, defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. They generally correspond to population density, i.e., smaller tracts for higher density areas, larger tracts for lower density areas. Tract boundaries are established by local committees, the State Division of Planning and the Bureau of the Census.

Burrillville was comprised of two census tracts (CT) for the 1980 Census, numbered 129 and 130. Census tracts (from the 1980 Census) are illustrated on Map 1. They correspond generally to Pascoag and Harrisville (CT 129) and the remainder of the Town (CT 130). These tracts were slightly modified in the 1990 Census to accommodate the growth of the Town, with CT 129 remaining the same, and CT 130 being divided into two sections, 130.01 and 130.02, divided at Route 98, Sherman Farm Road. CT 130.01 includes the area west of Rte. 98, and CT 130.02 includes the area east of the highway.

Planning Districts - With the exception of Chapter VIII, Recreation, Conservation and Open Space, Census Tracts 129, 130.01 and 130.02 shall be considered planning districts. In addition, much detail is given to the Pascoag Census Designated Place (CDP), which is a portion of Census tract 129. CDP's are areas recognized by the Census Bureau as distinct neighborhoods that contain a core business area.

Historic and Current Population - Best available data was used for all statistics, including 2000 Census data where available. The Town's population has grown significantly over the past 90 years, as shown on Table I-2 and Figure I-1.

Census tracts 2000

Massachusetts



Legend

- roads
- water
- CT 129
- CT 130.02
- CT 130.01



Source: Burrillville Planning Dept., GIS, 6-16-05

Gloucester

Map 1

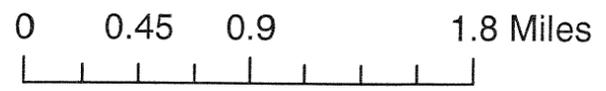
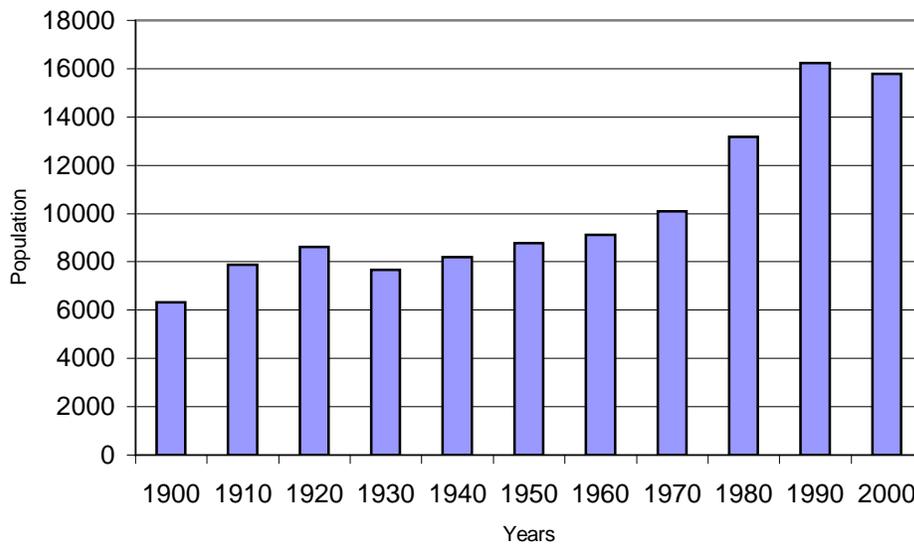


Table I-2
Burrillville Population Trends, 1900-1990

Year	Population	Change
1900	6,317	---
1910	7,878	24.7
1920	8,606	9.2
1930	7,677	-10.8
1940	8,185	6.6
1950	8,774	7.2
1960	9,116	3.9
1970	10,087	10.7
1980	13,164	30.5
1990	16,230	23.3
2000	15,796	-2.7

Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000.

Figure I-1
Burrillville Population, 1900-1990



Source: U.S. Census of Population, 2000.

The increase in population since 1990 is partly due to natural increase. Between 1990 and 2001, there were 2029 births, and 1843 deaths in Burrillville, a natural increase of

186 persons.¹ Since the population decreased by 434 persons during that time, this indicates that there was a net natural increase of 186 persons during that period. This indicates a modest out migration from the Town of Burrillville.

Population Distribution - In order to better understand where the population is living in Burrillville, an analysis of population distribution was performed.

Table I-3
Summary of Population by Planning District 1990, 2000

District/ Tract	1990	Percent of Total	2000	Percent of Total	Actual Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 1990-2000
CT130.02	7,429	45.7	7,402	46.8	-27	-.36
(CT129)	5,484	33.7	5,036	31.8	-448	-8.1
(CT130.01)	3,317	20.4	3,358	21.2	41	1.2
Total	16,230	100.0	15,796	100.0	434	2.6

Sources: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1990, 2000.
Recreation, Conservation, Open Space Plan, Burrillville, Rhode Island, April 1988
(1980 data).

The boundaries of the Planning Districts in this Plan were redrawn to correlate to the Town’s Census tracts. This resulted in the redistribution of population as shown on the above table. Census tract 129 yielded the largest decrease in population from 1990 to 2000, showing a negative 8.1 percent. This may be, in part, a reflection of the consistent economic decline associated with Pascoag Main Street and surrounding the residential areas; the number of second floor residential uses along Main Street has decreased. Additionally, this area of Pascoag is most transient, and, if there is going to be a discrepancy between what the census provides and what the population actually is, that difference would be in Pascoag. Though, not having the time to contest census estimates, it is believed that the more obvious economic disinvestment has spawned a bias of sorts with regards to population trends –vacant Main Street buildings does not always mean outmigration population-wise.

¹ Based on information received from RI Department of Health, through 1987, and from the Burrillville Town Clerk’s office for 1988, 1989. It is likely that the figures for births are undercounted in 1988 and 1989, and as they become available from the State, they will be added to the profile.

I.5 Population Projections

Population projections were prepared by the Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning.

Table I-4 indicates projected population for upcoming years 2005 to 2030:

Table I-4
2000 Population Projections for Burrillville

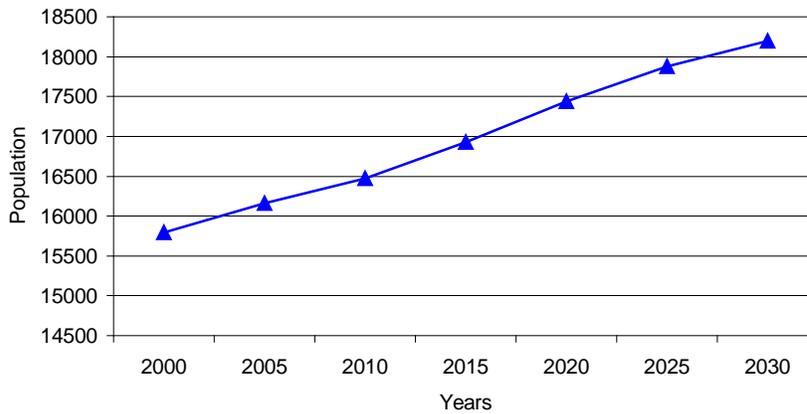
	State Estimate	Percent Change
2000	15,796	
2005	16,163	2.32
2010	16,469	1.89
2015	16,928	2.79
2020	17,439	3.01
2025	17,876	2.50
2030	18,195	1.78

Sources: 2000 projections, R. I. Dept. of Administration, Division of Planning Department.

These figures suggest an increasing population, but one which is expected to grow at a slightly slower rate than in the past 20 years. A 4.21 percent increase in total population is estimated between years 2000 and 2010, compared to a 5.8 percent increase for years 2010 to 2020. Figure I-2 illustrates historic population trends and future projections.

Figure I-3 shows population growth by the actual change which occurred every ten years, to illustrate the rate of increase. After a high growth period between 1900 and 1910, the Town experienced fairly steady increases, with the exception of the depression period between 1920 and 1930, which likely saw closure of many local mills, loss of employment and an exodus of population. Between 1930 and 1970, growth remained between 300 and 1200 persons per decade. Between 1970 and 1980, there was a dramatic increase in new residents, with an increase of over 3,000 people in ten years. A similar increase occurred during the period between 1980 and 1990 (3,066 persons). Based on future population estimates, the period between 1990 and 2000 shows a slower rate of increase, at some 1,800 new residents over the decade.

Figure I-2
Population Trends and Projections, 1990-2020
Burrillville, Rhode Island

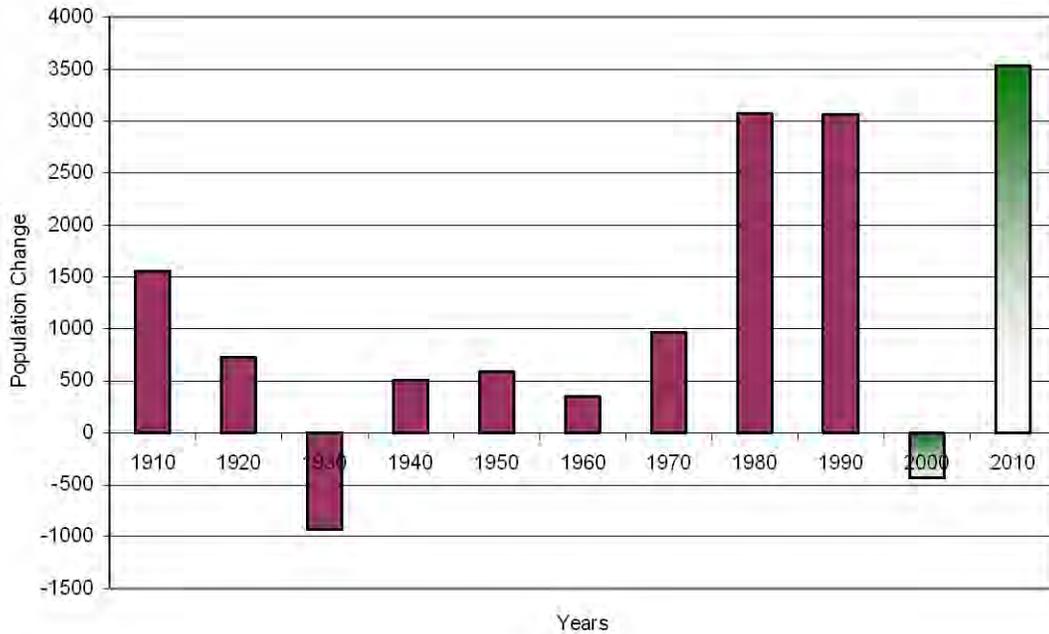


Sources: Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning.

Age and Gender of Population - According to the 2000 Census, the largest percentage of Burrillville residents were between the ages of 35-44 and 45-54, followed by the 25-34, 10-14 and 15-19 year age groups (see Table I-5). The smallest age group, comprising 1.8 percent of the total population, were 85+ years of age. The State as a whole, by comparison, showed the age groups 35-44 and 45-54 as the largest, and the 85+ year age group as the smallest. Burrillville had a somewhat older overall population, with a median age of 37.5 years, compared to a statewide median of 36.7 years.

In 2000, 28.2 percent of Burrillville's population was under age 18, while in 1990, 27.9 percent were under age 18. Household size has declined from 2.92 persons per household in 1990 to 2.75 in 2000, supporting the assumption that there are more, but smaller families.

Figure I-3
Population Changes, 1910 to 2010
Burrillville, Rhode Island



Sources: RI Department of Economic Development, Basic Economic Statistics, 1900-1980.
Rhode Island Statewide Planning, projections, 2000.

Figure I-4 illustrates 2000 Town and State population distributed by age as a percentage of their respective total populations. Burrillville contains a larger percentage for the 35-44 and 45-54 age groups. The less established age cohort, 20-24 age group, is a smaller percentage of total than that of Rhode Island. This may indicate Burrillville's lack of opportunity for college-age students or young professionals. Generally speaking, the state contains a higher percentage of older people than Burrillville.

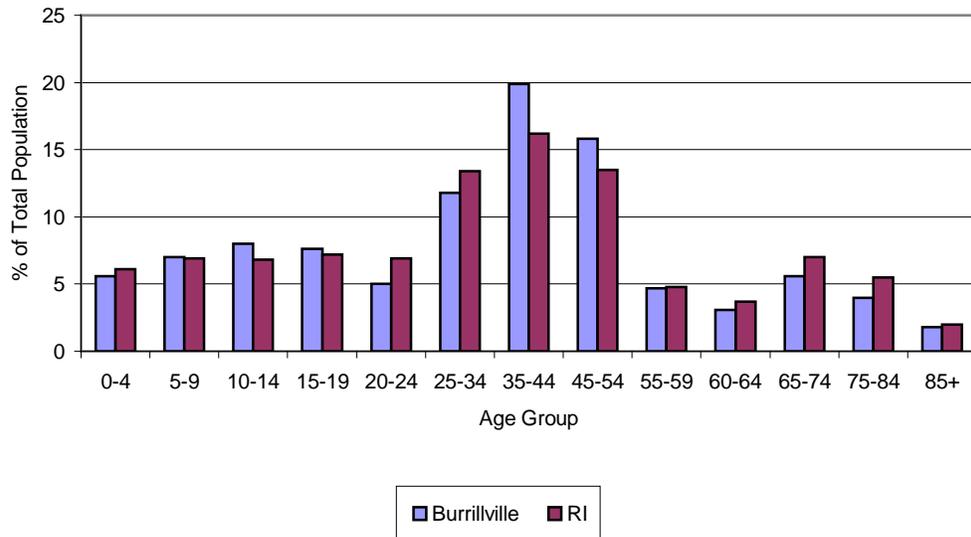
Table I-5
Age Distribution of the Population, 2000
Burrillville and Rhode Island

Age Group	Burrillville	% of Total	State of RI	% of Total
0-4	886	5.6	63,896	6.1
5-9	1,106	7.0	71,905	6.9
10-14	1,271	8.0	71,370	6.8
15-19	1,204	7.6	75,445	7.2
20-24	796	5.0	71,813	6.9
25-34	1,864	11.8	140,326	13.4
34-44	3,145	19.9	170,310	16.2
45-54	2,500	15.8	141,863	13.5
55-59	738	4.7	49,982	4.8
60-64	486	3.1	39,007	3.7
65-74	882	5.6	73,684	7.0
75-84	632	4.0	57,821	5.5
85+	286	1.8	20,897	2.0
<u>Total</u>	<u>13,164</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>947,154</u>	<u>100.00</u>

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000.

Projections by Age Group - Table I-6 shows Burrillville's current and future population distributed by age. The Census has not yet published detailed data regarding age breakdowns from the 1990 count. Therefore, the Town elects to use the Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Planning age distributions applied to the Town's total population projections. The 1990 Census indicates that approximately 27.6 percent of the Town's population is under age 18, and the estimates shown on the following table indicate 27.9 percent is under age 18, a close approximation.

Figure I-4
Comparison of Age Group Distribution
Burrillville and Rhode Island



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000.

Between 1990 and 2000, those age groups expected to lose population include 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 40-44, 60-64, and 65-69. Age groups expected to increase by more than 20 percent include 30-34, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, and 75+. This implies that the Town's population is aging, student age population (10-19) is decreasing, and that the higher-earning labor force group (40-64) is increasing.

Table 1-6 seems to reflect the out-migration of college-age students by depicting a large exodus of the 20-24 age group. The decrease estimated for the 45-54 age group is a bit puzzling, but perhaps reflects a predicted downsizing trend associated with empty nesters wishing to capitalize on an every growing demand for real estate.

Household and Family Composition - Households are defined in the Census as persons per occupied housing unit. In 1990, Burrillville had 15,538 persons in 5,313 households yielding an average household size of 2.92. Current town-wide household size is 2.75 persons, based on the 2000 population of 15,483 persons and 5,559 total households. This indicates a potential demand for more housing units which serve smaller households.

Table I-6
1999 Population Projections by Age, 2000 to 2015

Age Group	Year 2000	Percent of Total	Year 2010	Percent of Total	Percent Change 2000-2010	Year 2015	Percent of Total	Percent Change 2010-2015
0-4	886	5.6	1,077	5.5	21.5	1,109	5.4	2.9
5-9	1,106	7.0	958	4.9	-13.3	1,130	5.5	17.9
10-14	1,271	8.0	843	4.3	-33.6	1,007	4.9	19.4
15-19	1,204	7.6	629	3.2	-47.7	889	4.3	41.3
20-24	796	5.0	1,363	7.0	71.2	659	3.2	-51.6
25-34	1,864	11.8	3,099	16	66.2	3,108	15.2	.2
35-44	3,145	19.9	2,431	12.5	22.7	2,952	14.4	21.4
45-54	2,500	15.8	3,370	17.4	34.8	2,669	13	-20.8
55-59	738	4.7	1,895	9.8	156	1,950	9.5	2.9
60-64	486	3.1	1,201	6.2	147	1,901	9.2	58.2
65-74	882	5.6	1,307	6.7	48.1	1,884	9.2	44.1
74 +	922	5.8	1,138	5.8	23.4	1,189	5.8	4.4

Source: <http://www.planning.state.ri.us/misc/ripop.pdf> 1999; Community Profile, Census 2000, TOB

In 2000, there were 4,253 families, 29.2 percent of which had children under the age of 18. The combined total of children age 19 and under was 4,467, or 1.05 children per family. The percentage statewide was slightly higher, at 1.06 children per family.

Regional Population - The region is generally defined as Burrillville, Woonsocket, Glocester, Smithfield, North Smithfield, Rhode Island; Blackstone, Millville, Douglas, Uxbridge and Webster, Massachusetts, and Thompson and Putnam, Connecticut (see Figure I-7). The planning region used for this Plan had a 1990 population of 157,044, which increased to 164,223 in 2000 (see Table I-7). This represented a region-wide increase of nearly 4.3 percent. Burrillville shares 9.6 percent of the region's total population, while decreasing 2.7 percent from 1990 to 2000. Burrillville is the fourth largest community in the region as of year 2000.

Table I-7
Regional Population, 1980-1990

	1990 Population	2000 Population(1)	% of Region	Actual Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 1990-2000
Burrillville	16,230	15,796	0.10	-4,343,066	-0.03
Glocester	9,227	9,948	0.06	7,211,677	0.08
Smithfield	19,163	20,613	0.13	14,502,277	0.08
No. Smithfield	10,497	10,618	0.25	121525	0.01
Woonsocket	43,877	43,224	0.26	-653-2,037	-0.01
Blackstone, MA	7,900	8,804	0.05	9,041,330	0.11
Uxbridge, MA	9,440	11,156	0.07	17,161,066	0.18
Millville, MA	2,380	2,724	0.02	344687	0.14
Douglas, MA	4,820	7,045	0.04	22,251,090	0.46
Webster, MA	15,560	16,415	0.10	8,551,080	0.05
Thompson, CT	9,350	8,878	0.05	-4,721,209	-0.05
Putnam, CT	8,600	9,002	0.05	40220	0.05
Region Totals	157,044	164,223	1	70,160,677	0.05

Sources: RI Department of Administration, Division of Planning; Massachusetts State Data Center; Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2000.

I.6 Goals, Policies and Implementation Actions

During the past 20 years Burrillville has experienced the most substantial growth in population in its history, adding over 7,000 new residents. Most of this growth has been through in-migration to the community, with people finding Burrillville an attractive and economical place to live. As the urbanized communities of Rhode Island have experienced a decline in available affordable housing, the satellite communities, such as Burrillville, Glocester, Foster and others will continue to experience an influx of families and individuals who, for reasons relating to affordability and or simply desiring a more rural quality of life.

Population is expected to continue to grow, although at a slower rate than recently experienced. As the availability of developable land in Burrillville continues to decrease, there will be fewer opportunities for development, increase in land values and a corresponding slowing of population growth. Over the next ten years the population is expected to steadily increase, however, families will have fewer children. In addition, elderly and adults from higher earning labor force brackets will increase. High school graduates and college age populations will continue to out-migrate. These changes must be monitored

and factored into local decisions regarding community services, facilities and land use changes.

As these changes occur, it is important that public sentiment regarding growth and development be maintained at the forefront of local decision-making. Public participation in the planning process shows substantial concern for: maintaining the rural character of the community, while allowing growth, which will comfortably support existing and future infrastructures of the community. The natural environment of Burrillville is highly valued by its residents, and viewed as important to both the quality of life and the successful future economic development of the community. While residents highly favor land preservation, they also understand the importance of maintaining the affordability of the community through tax base expansion. Residents feel a balance can be achieved through modifying existing land use regulations, particularly the zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations. The recommendations of this Plan focus on these overall desires of the Burrillville citizenry, and their hopes and aspirations for the future of their community.

I. General Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions
I.1 To accommodate growth, allowing for orderly and reasonably timed improvement and expansion of facilities to serve this growth.	I.1.a In accordance with RI State Land Use Plan 2025, growth should occur within existing village centers where infrastructure and services are present.	I.1.a.1 Higher density development should occur in areas served by or planned to be served by public water and sewer.
		I.1.a.2 Lower density development should occur in outlying areas where public sewer and water service is not available..
		I.1.a.3 The Town will conduct a study of impact fees as a growth control measure.
		I.1.a.4 Review and update the Comprehensive Community Plan at five-year intervals, and ensure that changing public needs are met.

I. General Goals	Policies	Implementation Actions
I.2 To guide the type and location of development to create a desirable land use pattern and protect the natural, environmental, cultural and historic qualities of Burrillville.	I.2.a Growth should be directed toward land which is environmentally suitable for development, and away from the Town's critical natural resources.	I.2.a.1 Higher density development should occur within and or contiguous to the established villages.
		I.2.a.2 Lower density development should occur in the rural outlying areas of the community and should be controlled through zoning measures.
		I.2.a.3 The site plan review process should include an environmental assessment for major projects which will estimate the number of new residents the project will generate.
I.3 To recognize the needs of individual population groups, such as the elderly, students, and labor force age groups.	I.3.a Consider the age group needs of the Town's population when planning for future community services and facilities.	I.3.a.1 Review age group projections for students when planning for upgraded school and recreational facilities.
		I.3.a.2 Review projections for labor force age groups when reviewing plans for new nonresidential development.
		I.3.a.3 Consider establishing a task force to monitor the needs of the Town's growing elderly community.