



# Strategic Plan

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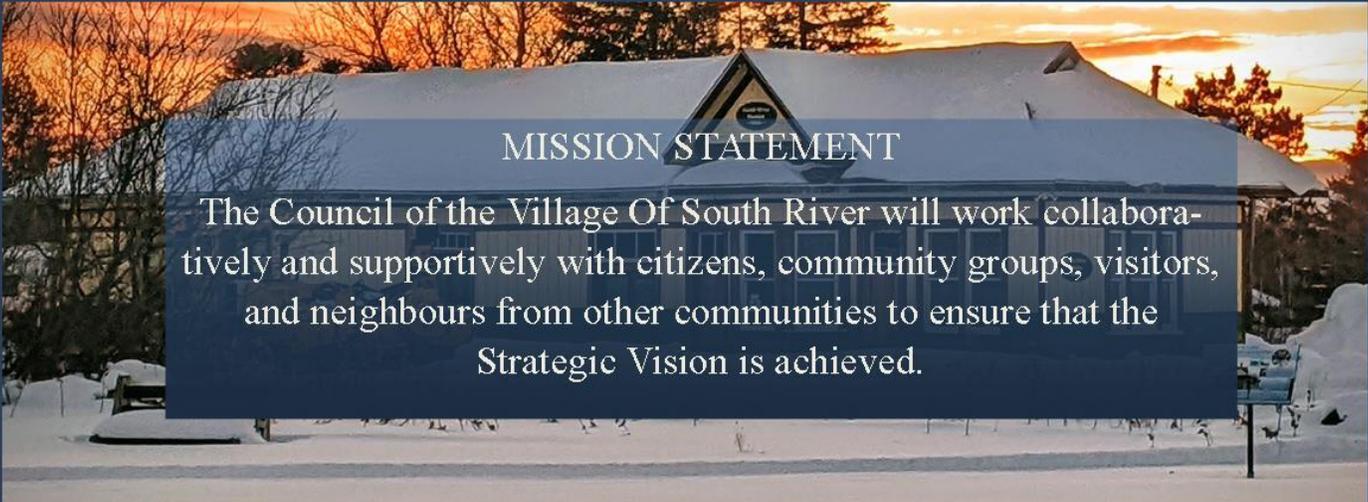
*The Village of South River*

**2023**



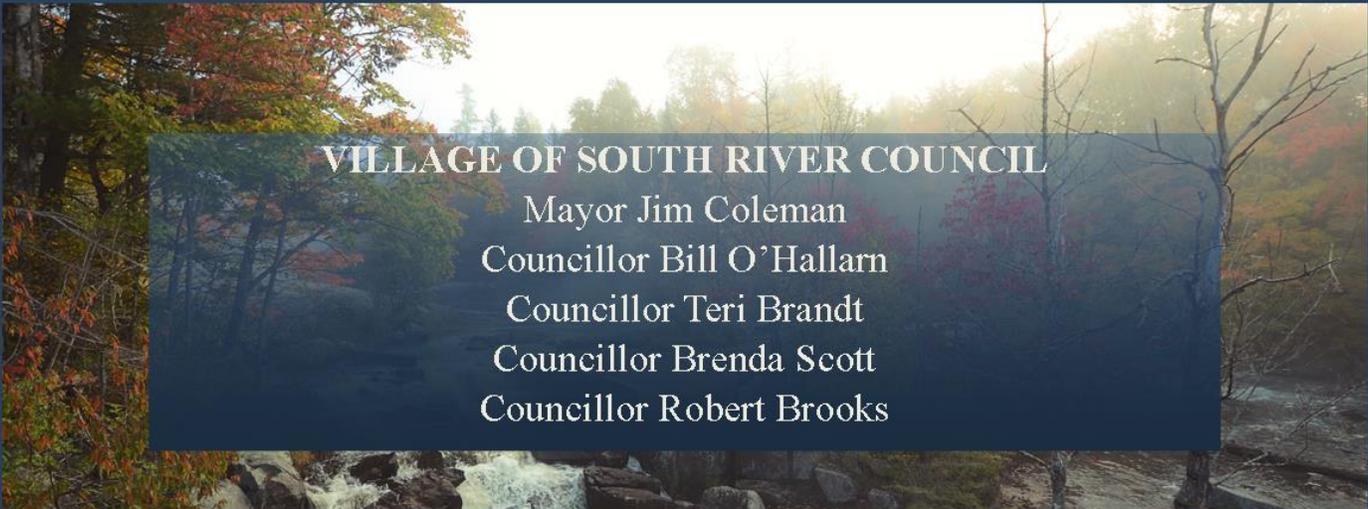
## STRATEGIC VISION

The Village of South River will be a safe, green, healthy, attractive and economically vibrant community that plans for its future in a financially sustainable and economically responsible manner.



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Council of the Village Of South River will work collaboratively and supportively with citizens, community groups, visitors, and neighbours from other communities to ensure that the Strategic Vision is achieved.



## VILLAGE OF SOUTH RIVER COUNCIL

Mayor Jim Coleman  
Councillor Bill O'Hallarn  
Councillor Teri Brandt  
Councillor Brenda Scott  
Councillor Robert Brooks

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# Strategic Plan Legend

## Responsible Parties

<b>CC</b> Committee of Council	<b>S</b> Staff	<b>BP</b> Business Partners
<b>C</b> Council	<b>SI</b> Special Interest	<b>OP</b> Outside Professionals
<b>JC</b> Joint Council	<b>O</b> Organizations	<b>ACED</b> Almaguin Community Economic Development

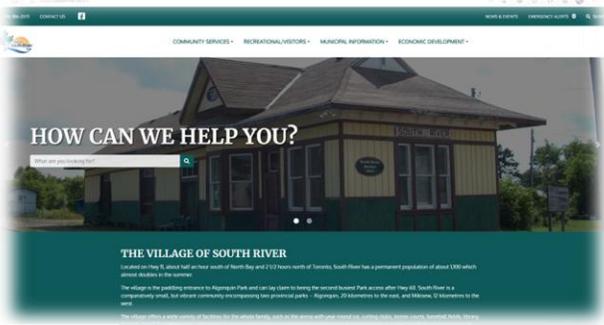
## Types of Goals

<b>ST</b> Short Term	<b>LT</b> Long Term	<b>OG</b> On Going
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# 1 South River Communications

## 1.1 South River Website

The Village of South River website is the primary medium to keep people informed of events and issues in the Village. This includes the Village Facebook page. Administration will ensure that effective methods to keep both the Village Website and Facebook are well maintained, relevant and up to date.



This will include the promotion of any Village events, communication that is of interest to the residents, visitors and others.

Strategies will be developed to encourage all local groups to promote any local events on our website. Residents and groups will be encouraged to upload photographs that promote the beauty of our area and celebrate events that

have taken place. A disclaimer for the use of submitted pictures to the Village will be developed. Links to Explore South River, ACED, and Chamber of Commerce will be maintained on this website.

The electronic communications of the Village will be reviewed annually to improve communications where ever possible.

Council, Staff
Short Term, Ongoing

## 1.2 Village Newsletter

“Ripples”, the Village of South River bi-monthly newsletter, provides residents with reminders, local events, Council updates, and municipal news. This will be maintained and continue to be used to keep people informed as to what is happening in the Village.

Council, Staff
Ongoing

## 1.3 Village Letter to New Residents

A letter will be developed to be sent to all new residents, welcoming them to the Village, directing them to our web site, and containing appropriate links to the Bylaw Officer, and Joint Building committee.

## 2 Economic Development

### 2.1 A.C.E.D

The Almaguin Community Economic Development delivers economic development services throughout the Almaguin Highlands providing: Business and entrepreneurial support by connecting businesses with support and funding opportunities, professional network development, marketing and promotion of tourism including local events, regional economic planning, research and analysis, and offering support to the municipalities.



While this organization has been successful in obtaining government grants to assist with funding, this is not annualized funding. The Village has supported increased financing in principal, and will have to ensure that funds are available if this is needed. Council wished to continue to support and partner with ACED and its members whenever possible.

Joint Council, Council, Special Interest
Short Term, Long Term, On-Going



### 2.2 Happy Landing Commercial Court

The Village of South River has been successful over the last 10 years with the development of the former site of the Happy Landing. South River Brewery, NAISA, and South River Pharmacy have businesses on the property. As well the Village has worked with a local planner and surveyor to lay out suitable property parcels and commercial streets within the Happy Landing Commercial Court. The Village will actively promote the development of the property by seeking business plans from interested parties, which will contribute to the development of this community. As we have ACED to assist us, we will endeavor to keep them apprised of the commercial properties that we have available for sale.

Council, Staff, Business Partners
Short Term, Long Term, On-Going

**2.3 New Places to Live**

South River will need additional places for people to live for new staff to support the expansion of our local businesses. The Village needs to look at local properties that are presently owned by the Village and develop a plan to make those properties available for sale. Some are not presently accessible, so sale of this land will be a long term project.

The Village will work with local land owners to encourage development of new building lots, rental units, and new apartments in the Village. They will also make people aware that granny flats are now legal and encourage their use where appropriate. The Village will work with property owners to encourage development on sites that are presently vacant by assisting with appropriate zoning changes as required.

There are properties outside the Village that could be developed into housing units for people wishing to move to the area. ( e.g. former high school ). The Village will investigate how we can work with provincial and federal bodies, local municipalities and business partners to assist in the development of these properties.

The Village will investigate ways to increase the footprint of the Village so that more housing can be made available, especially affordable and low income housing.



Council, Staff, Business Partners, Special Interest, Organizations
Short Term, Long Term, On-Going

**3 Community Improvement**

**3.1 Community Improvement Plan**

Developing community pride and presenting tidy, well cared for properties and park lands will encourage new families to want to move into our Village and provide a pleasing backdrop to visitors visiting or vacationing in the area.

We have developed a CIP incentive plan for businesses that expand based on increases as determined by MPAC. This has assisted some local businesses in growing. The Village will review that use of the CIP funding annually and determine if it is meeting the needs of the businesses that want to do business in the Village.

The Village will also investigate supports or assistance that could be made available to homes that do not meet the property standards.



Council, Staff
Short Term, Long Term

### 3.2 Community Gardens



Council of the Village of South River has created and improved community garden plots on land across the tracks from the train station, providing vegetable planters boxes for interested residents to grow some food. The gardens have been improved annually at Village expense and through the use of volunteers. The Village needs to encourage the use of the gardens, as the gardens are used only by a few people. The main issues right now are the watering, and theft. The Village has planned to install a potable water line to replace the solar drive point now in use. This should be done as we continue the water main

upgrades in the Village. The Village will investigate the installation of a security camera at this site both for the garden but also the skate board park.

Originally food bank volunteers had garden plots to provide fresh produce to the food bank. This is no longer the case. The Village needs to work with the food bank to establish a new working plan for the use of the gardens by food bank volunteers. This would include the possible relocation of the community gardens within the Village.

Council, Staff, Special Interest
Short Term, On-Going

### 3.3 Beautification

Council will investigate funding to assist with the greening of municipal properties in communities along its rail lines. The Village will also explore other funding sources to purchase climate appropriate shrubs, trees and fruit trees to increase the “curb appeal” of the village. The Village needs to consider hiring a gardener to look after our gardens throughout the village

Council will continue to fund the planter boxes, municipal flower beds and ensure attractive landscaping at Municipal buildings and along our municipal streets.



Council, Staff, Special Interest, Organizations
On-Going

**3.4 Train Station**

The Train Station is currently undergoing repairs to provide a washroom, parking and improvements to the waiting room and conductor’s area. It is hoped that the station will once again be a real station where the passenger trains stop so people can board the trains. The Village will complete these renovations and will ensure effective lobbying and working with the Ontario Government and Ontario Northland to make this a reality when the passenger trains start running again. There is a timeline for the completion of the project of December 2023



Council, Committee of Council, Special Interest
Short Term, Long Term, On-Going

**4 South River Culture and Recreation**

**4.1 Culture and Recreation Committee**

The Village will attempt to establish a culture and recreation committee.

Council, Staff, Joint Council, Special Interest
Short Term

**4.2 Events Calendar**

An events calendar will be established and maintained on the SR Website and included in Ripples

Staff
Short Term, On-Going

**4.3 Soccer**

The Village of South River will continue to run the summer soccer program at the arena group

Staff, Committee of Council
Short Term, On-Going

**4.4 Beach Volley Ball**

The Village will continue to maintain the beach volleyball courts for use by interested groups



Staff, Committee of Council
On-Going



**4.5 Pickle ball and Tennis**

The Village and staff will continue to maintain the tennis courts and facilitate their use for both tennis and pickle ball

Staff, Committee of Council, Organizations
Long Term

**4.6 Volunteers**

The Village will work to encourage the use of volunteers where ever possible. This will include a program to document needs, recruitment, training and policies for volunteer use.

Staff, Council
Short Term, On-Going

**4.7 Skateboard Park**

The Village will maintain the existing skate board park and investigate possible expansion as use determines. This includes the building of a pump track for BMX bicycles beside the skateboard pad.



Staff, Council, Business Partners
On-Going

**4.8 Disc Golf**

The Village will continue to maintain the present disc golf facilities and discuss future needs with the Disc Golf Association.



Staff, Special Interest
On-Going



**4.9 Youth Curling**

The Village will work with the SR Curling Club to determine if we can assist the club with expanding the club’s ability to sponsor curling for our young people.

Short Term
Council

**4.10 Seniors Activities**

The Village will continue to support the South River Friendly Circle Seniors Centre.

Council, Staff, Special Interest
On-Going



**4.11 Major Events**

The Village will work with interested organizations to establish and encourage major events in the Village. Though a wide variety of events may be considered such as Arts, Music or Cultural festivals, the Village would like to host annual events that showcase the talent in the area, bring in visitors and provide entertainment events for the public. This may require the use of an intern or staff assigned to this for specific periods of time.



Council, Staff, Special Interest, Committee of Council, Special Interest, Joint Council, Organizations
Long Term



**4.12 Tom Thomson Park**

Promote Tom Thomson Park, and its various amenities; boat launch, disc golf course, picnic area, sound stage, and general use of the park.

When funding allows, Council would like to construct a shelter/bandstand on the concrete platform, for use as an amphitheater, stage and exercise sessions.

Council, Staff, Special Interest, Outside Professionals
On-Going

**4.13 Things for Kids**

Council want to encourage existing groups; figure skating, minor hockey, gazelles, and others, to allow the creation of more things for children to do in the village

Council, Staff, Special Interest
On-Going

**4.14 Mini Golf**

Look into the Village building a mini golf course.

Council, Special Interest
Short Term, On-Going



**4.15 Summer Camp**

Work with the Hockey Opportunity Camp to re-establish the summer camp for local children.

Council, Staff, Business Partners
Short Term



**4.16 Creating Active and Inspired People**

South River has a limited tax base, but we have Tom Thomson park and other spaces that could be used by youth and seniors for outdoor recreation, increasing people’s physical fitness and resilience. Establish a Walking Trails Master Plan, that would link the downtown to the Tom Thomson park and other walking paths throughout the Village.

Apply for a capital grant from FedNor and NOHFC to allow us to meet the present need of walking trails that would create better accessibility, and increase the use of our park, and the river. The deadline for this is June 14 2023 and funding from \$10,000 to \$150,000 is available. The Village will investigate the hiring of a sports and recreation trainer (possibly kayaking, disc golf, or yoga).



Council, Staff, Outside Professionals
Long Term

**5 South River Machar Arena**

The Village of South River will create a capital and operating plan for the arena that builds reserves, maximizes the use of grants, and creates equitable funding with our partners, in order to maintain the high level of service that we currently offer to our residents and region.

Council, Staff, Special Interest, Business Partners
Short Term, Long Term



## 6 South River Public Works

### 6.1 Staff Retention

Council is committed to ensuring that staffs are available as needed and that we maintain a pool of trained qualified staff to perform the duties required of the public works department.

Council, Staff, Committee of Council
Short Term, On-Going

### 6.2 Water

The Village of South River's goal is to provide clear, high quality water to all residents. South River is in the middle of phase one of the water main and road replacement and about to start phase two. Council will continue to follow through with these two projects for the next few years. The Water Plant will require upgrading in the coming years and Council supports applying for grants for capital maintenance of this plant.



Council, Staff, Committee of Council, Business Partners
Short Term, Long Term, On-Going

### 6.3 Sidewalks

A plan to update and expand the sidewalks is a necessary priority in promoting safe, healthy living for the residents of and visitors to the Village.

Council, Staff, Committee of Council
On-Going

### 6.4 Streets and Roads

The Village will take every opportunity as funds become available to resurface and replace roads. The priorities for upgrading are the industrial area and Eagle Lake Road.



Council, Staff, Committee of Council, Business Partners
Long Term



**6.5 Waste and Recycling**

The Village will continue to work with our present business partner regarding pick up of garbage and recycling. As the laws and regulations change about recycling, the Village will work to ensure affordable recycling plans. The Village will continue to work with ARI at present for the disposal of hazardous waste and hazmat days, but also look at future initiatives with the City of North Bay for this disposal.

Council, Staff, Business Partners
On-Going



**6.6 Snow Removal**

Village will maintain the present standards, review annually, and make appropriate adjustments

Council, Staff, Business Partners, Committee of Council
On-Going

**6.7 Winter Walkways**

The Village will plow a winter walkway to allow residents to walk safely to the grocery stores on Highway 124, this walkway will be kept plowed by public works. The winter walkway at Tom Thomson Park will be maintained.



Council, Staff, Committee of Council
Short Term

### 6.8 Compost

Public works will investigate the feasibility of a system to collect and compost organic waste to divert it from our garbage collection system. The development of organic compost is a possibility.



Committee of Council
Short Term

### 7 South River Machar Medical Centre

Continue to support our shared service with our partners

Staff, Council
Long Term



### 8 South River Machar Union Library

Continue our shared co-funding with our partners

Staff, Council
Long Term



### 9 South River Power Generation Station Corporation

Meet annually with the board of SRPGC and look at opportunities for expansion of our production of

green energy.



## 10 South River Machar Fire Department

### 10.1 Joint Fire Committee

Council will continue to work with our Shared Services partners

Council, Staff, Joint Council
Short Term

### 10.2 Training and Examination Issues

The Village with its partners will address the issues presented by the new training and examination requirements of the Province.

Council, Staff, Joint Council
On-Going



### 10.3 Hydrant Flow Tests

When the present water main projects are completed, the Village will ensure that appropriate fire hydrant flow testing is carried out to ensure adequate supply for fire suppression.

Staff, Committee of Council, Business Partners
Short Term

## 11 South River Cemetery

### 11.1 Alternatives

The South River Cemetery has a limited number of plots available for sale. New options need to be explored including



land acquisition, alternate forms of burial, such as cremation, memorial walls etc The mortuary is in need of repair, Council needs to investigate with licensed professionals.

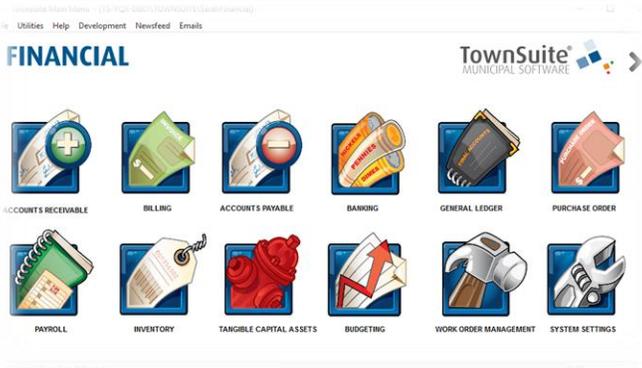
Staff, Council, Business Partners, Special Interest
Short Term

**12 General Administration**

**12.1 Asset Management Plan**

An asset management plan that meets present legislation has been developed to manage our assets into the future. The Village is committed to an annual review of the plan and continue to look to the future needs with 5 and 20 year plans.

Staff, Council
Short Term, On-Going



**12.2 Computer System Updates**

The Village has hired Townsuite to update our computer systems. Council and staff are committed to completing this update in the near future.

Staff, Council, Business Partners
Short Term

**12.3 Electronic Meetings**

Council will make our present system available for those who sign in.

Staff, Council
Long Term

**12.4 Updated Lighting in Village Properties**

Some lights in our building have been converted to energy efficient LED systems. The Village will look at replacing the lights at the old VIC and any other appropriate places with LED or other energy efficient alternatives.

Staff, Council, Business Partners
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Short Term

**12.5 Art Collection Policies**

The Village has acquired artwork of various sorts over the years. Some is displayed in the Council Chambers and some outdoors on Village property. An inventory needs to be completed. As well policies need to be developed as to the acquisition of artwork in the future, maintenance of the existing collection, and how the Village will dispose of any art that is no longer wanted.



Staff, Council

Short Term



**12.6 Green Energy and Environmental Stewardship**

Council will take every opportunity to actively promote the use of green energy and environmental stewardship. This will include more energy sustainable options for heat, light, looking at electric options when vehicles need replacing, looking at active transport opportunities and expanding our car pooling parking.

Staff, Council