



Sustainable Living by the Sea: Belmar's Blueprint for Building a Livable, Affordable and Inclusive Community

Ken Pringle, the Mayor of Belmar, views the issue of sustainability in its broadest sense. His objective is to make Belmar an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable community. The ultimate goal is to create and maintain a livable, inclusive and affordable community in which Belmar's businesses can thrive and all its residents can lead enjoyable lives with respect and concern for one another and their natural resources.

"We believe the most effective and enduring way to achieve a more Sustainable Belmar, is to build a more Liveable Belmar."

Ken Pringle, Mayor

Liveability & Sustainability Go Hand-in-Hand Belmar's Objectives Include:

- √ Using Smart Growth strategies to encourage development that will grow and enhance the community and sustainability;
- √ incorporating designs and planning that make the community more enjoyable, while making cars less important and desirable;
- √ encouraging development that will relieve the tax burden on residents, while enabling more residents to work and shop in town; and,
- √ promoting efforts that reinforce Belmar's sense of community and encourage social sustainability.

Elements of Belmar's Strategy

1. Preserving and Enhancing Belmar's Strong Sense of Community by:
 - Enforcing Belmar's quality-of-life laws & housing codes.
 - Restoration of primarily owner-occupied neighborhoods.
 - Commitment to a broad range of recreational programs.
 - Helping seniors live healthy, independent and affordable lifestyles.
 - Creating opportunities and places for residents to meet and catch up with one another.
 - Cultural enrichment and entertainment through the newly formed Arts Council of Belmar.
2. Belmar Redevelopment Plan - www.belmar.com/default.asp?section_ID=22
 - Attract quality mixed-use development that will increase Belmar's tax base.
 - Increase Belmar's year-round residential population.
 - Inclusion of a food store in the Transit Village redevelopment area.
 - Include public spaces to encourage walking, gathering & community events.
 - Creation of SRC for all development in the redevelopment area (check website)
 - Apply for USGBC LEED for Neighborhood Development pilot.

Township Statistics

Population - 6,045 year round, 60,000 in summer months

Land Area - One square mile with water on three sides



www.belmar.com

Elements of Belmar's Strategy (continued)

3. Commitment to Clean Water and a Quality Environment

- Pick up litter before it gets in the water.
- Improve the Quality of Storm Water Run-off into lakes, river and ocean by implementing:
 - a. Integrated Pest Management policy, b. vegetative border on the banks of Silver Lake, and c. installation of stormwater filtration systems.
- Long term design steps to improve Belmar's environment, for example:
 - a. parking designed to improve stormwater quality, and
 - b. clean up of contaminated sites.
- Planting of a Tree Nursery at Camp Evans Site.
- No Discharge Zone designation in the Shark River.
- Pet waste - Mutt-Mitt Dispensers made available by Borough.
- Community-wide yard sale to reduce waste disposal needs.
- Adopt-a-Spot volunteer program to maintain and enhance Belmar's beauty.
- Oyster Hatchery Project for the Shark River to restore oyster ecosystem.
- Installation of waterless urinals in public bathrooms along the beach front.

4. Affordable and Inclusive Housing

- Working to incorporate upper story affordable & sustainable housing into mixed-use redevelopment.
- Exploring creation of Accessory Dwelling Use in zoning laws - would provide year-round affordable housing for income-eligible senior citizens.
- Where practicable, incorporate renewable energy technology.

5. Energy Conservation and the Use of Renewable Energy

- New municipal buildings will be USGBC LEED Certified.
- Use of alternative energy design elements in all future municipal buildings.
- Use of B-20 Diesel Fuel in municipal Diesel Truck Fleet.
- Installation of solar walkway lighting at the marina.

6. Transportation and Mobility

- Commitment to the rights of pedestrians to walk in a safe & attractive environment.
- Bike Belmar - monthly events that promote biking - www.bikebelmar.com/index.asp.
- Address role that Neighborhood Electric Vehicles (NEVs) can play.
- Promote greater use of NJ Transit's Coast Line.
- Established a reliable trolley service in Belmar & planning ferry service on Shark River.

7. Community Consensus, Education and Leadership

Belmar is a high profile community with opportunity to show leadership and educate a broader community, e.g. educate summer visitors to Belmar.

8. Promoting the Plan's Objectives and Measuring Progress

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