

What are 3 top priorities your local town government officials should pursue to improve the quality of life in your community?

The Town of Addison in Washington County Wisconsin, with its rich agricultural heritage and commitment to environmental stewardship, stands at a pivotal point where strategic priorities can shape its future. Focusing on recycling, preserving local farms, and enhancing recreational opportunities should be at the forefront of local officials's agendas. These areas not only align with Addison's historical values but promote sustainability, economic prosperity, and community well-being.

Addison has demonstrated a proactive approach to waste management through its comprehensive recycling program. The town offers curbside recycling services for residential properties, managed by Harter's Lakeside Disposal, ensuring that materials like paper, cardboard, plastics, and metals are efficiently collected. Additionally, the town facilitates electronic waste recycling in collaboration with Com2, providing residents with options to responsibly dispose of electronic items. These initiatives not only reduce landfill use but also help the town qualify for recycling grants from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, reinforcing the economic benefits of sustainable practices. This should remain a priority for the Town of Addison. Officials should consider increasing recycling pick up from every other week to once a week in order to increase the amount of products being recycled.

Agriculture has been the backbone of Addison since its early settlement in the 19th century, with many German immigrants establishing crop and dairy farms. The town has been challenged by urban growth due to its proximity to the metro Milwaukee area creating stress on local farms as it is difficult to maintain or expand their farming operations. This makes farmers make a very difficult decision between continuing their farming operations or selling to a developer to create subdivisions. Today, farms like Dornacker Prairie Acres, Sunset Farms, and

Ihlandfeld Farms continue this legacy, contributing to the local economy and food security. By prioritizing support for local farms, town officials can promote sustainable land use, preserve open spaces, and encourage agritourism. Initiatives could include facilitating farmers' markets, providing resources for sustainable farming practices, and integrating agricultural education into community programs. Preserving farmland should also be a priority for the future, as farmers are an important demographic for the Town of Addison.

Recreational spaces are vital for community health and cohesion. Addison boasts two public parks—Veterans Memorial Park and Riveredge Park—that offer amenities such as picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports facilities. These parks serve as hubs for community gatherings and physical activity. Furthermore, the town's proximity to natural attractions like Allenton Marsh provides residents with access to hunting land and could also be developed further into trails and board walks providing outdoor experiences. Investing in the maintenance and expansion of recreational facilities can enhance quality of life, attract visitors, and foster a strong sense of community. The Town of Addison should continue to promote recreational spaces within the local community by adding a Splash Pad or swimming pool, as there are no local public swimming areas nearby. Additionally, bike trails to connect local communities would benefit our community. They would promote recreation and offer another environmentally friendly source of transportation.

By focusing on recycling, preserving local agriculture, and enhancing recreational spaces, Addison can build upon its historical foundations to create a sustainable and vibrant future. These priorities not only address environmental and economic concerns but also strengthen community bonds, ensuring that Addison remains a desirable place to live, work, and visit.

Sources:

Town of Addison. *Recycling Department*. Town of Addison, Wisconsin,

<https://addisonwi.gov/recyclingdept>. Accessed 23 May 2025.

Town of Addison. *Park Department*. Town of Addison, Wisconsin,

<https://addisonwi.gov/parkdept>. Accessed 23 May 2025.