

# COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

## CREATING YOUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

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### WHY PLAN?

A Comprehensive Plan sets community priorities and provides a foundation for land use and zoning ordinance decisions. A Comprehensive Plan offers a framework for proactively planning for changes in the future and helps decision-makers in spending public funds to the maximum benefit.

### WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

A document which records a public planning process that becomes an expression of a community's vision and a strategic map (or framework) for local government to reach that vision. The Comprehensive Plan is meant to:

- Preserve important natural resources, agricultural land
- Create the opportunity for residents to participate in guiding a community's future
- Identify issues, stay ahead of trends, and accommodate change
- Ensure that growth makes the community better, not just bigger
- Foster sustainable economic development
- Provide an opportunity to consider future implications of today's decisions
- Protect property rights and values
- Enable other public and private agencies to plan their activities in harmony with the municipality's plans

#### A Comprehensive Plan Can Include Sections on:

- Demographic Analysis
- Resource Assessment
- Land Use
- Public Utilities and Facilities
- Economic Development
- Housing
- Transportation
- Parks and Recreation
- Intergovernmental Cooperation
- Implementation Strategies
- Official Map
- Zoning Map

### WHAT ARE THE STEPS OF A PLANNING PROCESS?

A planning process has four main steps, which depending on a community's size can take six months to two years to complete. These steps include:

1. Project Start-up: Establish a Process
  - Determine budget, identify resources, committee and council roles, and planning process facilitator
2. Community Visioning - Assessment
  - Public visioning session
  - Identify Assets, Opportunities, Threats
  - Develop a Community Vision Statement
3. Plan Strategy Development
  - Turn community assessment into Goals, policies, and strategies
  - Organize strategies into Plan sections
4. Adoption and Implementation
  - Prioritize recommendations
  - Adopt plan document and begin implementation
  - Planning Commission should periodically review and amend plan

#### Roles in a Planning Process:

##### Public

- Helps inform issues and sets vision

##### Planning Commission/Committee

- Reviews and analyzes issues
- Develops strategies and plan
- Recommends Plan to Council for adoption

##### City Council

- Officially adopts Plan

##### Planning Facilitator

- Researches strategies
- Develops document
- Facilitates meetings