

Chapter 2. Guiding Principles

Introduction

The guiding principles of the *Comprehensive Plan* are intended to reflect the goals and values of the community. These principles acknowledge the City's past while planning for and shaping the future. The principles also recognize that the City does not exist in isolation. Changes in nearby communities and the region will continue to affect the quality of life in Shoreview.

Shoreview Past

Incorporated in 1957, the City of Shoreview is a second-ring suburb north of St. Paul in Ramsey County. The City is relatively long and narrow and bordered or crossed by a number of arterial roadways. These arterials include, from north to south, County Road J, County Road I, Highway 96, and Interstate 694; and from east to west, Highway 49, Lexington Avenue, and Interstate 35W. The community developed generally from south to north and experienced relatively rapid growth in the 1970s and 1980s. This growth was dominated by residential construction, primarily consisting of single-family homes, resulting in a low-density, suburban pattern of development.

During this period of rapid growth, much of the City's public infrastructure was constructed, including the municipal water system, the sanitary sewer system, and the City street system. The City and Ramsey County also acquired park and open space areas, much of it wetlands or floodplains. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the City also implemented a master trail plan and constructed a community center to promote community connectivity and provide a community gathering place.

Shoreview Present

The City is now almost fully developed. Residents are reaping the benefits of past planning efforts to promote quality development, provide for parks and open space, and commit resources for infrastructure such as water, streets, and trails.

Recent surveys of City residents indicate a high level of satisfaction with the quality of life in Shoreview. Residents attribute this quality of life to the open space, parks and lakes in the City and Shoreview's location in the Metropolitan region. The quality of community services, excellent schools, and a feeling of safety were also frequently mentioned as community assets.

Although satisfaction was generally high, citizens have indicated concern about traffic congestion and continued development. Some residents felt a lack of community cohesion caused by the geography of the City and the barriers formed by arterial roadways.

Shoreview Future

The City will face new challenges as a mature community. Given limited opportunities for new development, redevelopment will become increasingly important in shaping the City. Other challenges include changing demographics, an aging housing stock, and increasing congestion on arterial roadways. A number of these issues, such as an aging population and traffic congestion, arise from regional trends and development patterns outside the immediate control of the City.

As this *Comprehensive Plan* responds to these challenges, its goals and policies should provide vision that addresses both present and future needs. The *Comprehensive Plan* should also recognize and acknowledge the City's evolution and place in the region.

Community Vision

In early 1998, the Comprehensive Plan Task Force held a workshop to develop a vision for *Comprehensive Plan*. Given the general high level of satisfaction with existing facilities and amenities, the Task Force's focus was on maintaining the community's quality of life. The Task Force recognized that the City's residents placed a high value on preserving the environmental character of the community, including its lakes, wetlands, and forested areas. At the same time, the Task Force acknowledged that the future would bring new challenges and new opportunities for the City. Overall, the Task Force felt the community's emphasis will shift in the next millenium from community building to community stewardship. This *Vision Statement* was reviewed again and supported by the City Council for the 2008 plan revision.

Vision Statement: *The Comprehensive Plan should promote community stewardship. Community stewardship involves managing the City's assets, including community, environment, and economy, to provide a better quality of life for present and future citizens. Community, environmental, and economic assets are often inter-related and complementary. Where management goals conflict, the Comprehensive Plan should seek to balance community, environmental, and economic needs.*

Guiding Principles

The following six guiding principles for this *Comprehensive Plan* were developed to help incorporate and implement the Community Vision:

- **Build on Existing Strengths.** *Use existing strengths as a foundation to allow the City to respond positively to change while retaining the community's character.*

- **Participation and Inclusiveness.** *Encourage broad citizen participation to benefit from the knowledge, insights, and support of all local residents. Create a community where people from all backgrounds, cultures, and income levels feel included and welcomed.*
- **Connection.** *Increase community cohesion by providing physical and technological links between citizens and their destinations.*
- **Responsibility.** *Accept responsibility for the health and quality of the community, and avoid shifting costs to future generations.*
- **Cooperation.** *Coordinate planning with school districts, community organizations, adjacent communities, county, and regional government and, where possible, seek common solutions that are efficient and cost effective.*

Role of City Government

In addition to the principles outlined above, the City of Shoreview should continue to fulfill its responsibilities to its citizens. Responsive and open government make the City a better place to live. Local government responsibilities include:

- **Long-range planning efforts** to identify and prepare for challenges and opportunities.
- **Responsive government** that plans for and responds to the changing needs of the community.
- **Proactive management** rather than reaction to change.
- **Creating an open environment that promotes communication and dialogue**, involving the community in decision-making and provides information regarding city programs, policies and issues.
- **High ethical standards** for both elected officials and City staff.
- **Equal opportunity** for all residents in housing, employment, public accommodations, public services, and education.