



# POLICY PLAN

## 2040 Comprehensive Plan





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## **INTRODUCTION**

The intent of the Policy Plan portion of the comprehensive planning process is to outline in written form what the community desires to be produced or accomplished relative to the physical environment. Secondly, the Policy Plan is intended to set forth guidelines as to how these desires are to be achieved. This chapter identifies general goals and supporting policies. These elements comprise a review and decision-making process and the basis upon which plans, programs and actions can be formulated and initiated.

It is emphasized that these goals, objectives and policies are the basic and fundamental plan for the development of Shorewood. In this regard, their purpose is to provide a decision-making framework to guide all public and private actions and the development of the City. In addition to the active function of guiding response and action, the goals, objectives and policies also serve the more passive function of establishing evaluation criteria for the development and change which subsequently occurs.

This Policy Plan should not be interpreted as an implementation program of actions and/or responses as no time framework or priority of action is intended or stated. The Policy Plan is a guide which directs action of the part of the public and private sectors of the community when responding to needs, problems and opportunities.

The policies are to be considered and utilized collectively. While in some instances a single policy may define and outline a course of action or decision, it is more commonly the case that several policies apply to a given situation. Reactions to individual policies should therefore be tempered pending consideration of all applicable statements.

Policy plans are used as the basis of graphic plans and decision-making due to their flexibility and adaptability. Policies can be applied and used for the basis of decision-making when unanticipated situations emerge. Such is not the case with a map plan in that it is static and fixed. Further, there may be instances when the policies contained in the Policy Plan do not reflect a change in policy direction or address an unanticipated issue. In such cases, the Plan should be amended to include policy statements which reflect the new direction or issue. Operating in such a fashion, the Comprehensive Plan will retain a current and effective status and will not become outdated.

The term “shall” within the framework of the Policy Plan is not to be considered an absolute regulation such as the case in the City’s Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances.

The Policy Plan portion of the Comprehensive Plan is based upon an analysis of the preceding Planning Tactics and Inventory Chapters. To ensure that the Policy Plan reflects the desired ends



of the local community and that such ends are to be accomplished, the Plan has been subjected to detailed and thorough review by the Planning Commission, City Council and City Staff.

To ensure a proper understanding and clarification, the terms utilized are defined as follows:

**Goals:** The generalized end products which ultimately result in achieving the kinds of living, working and play areas that are desired.

**Objectives:** Conditions which must be attained in order to accomplish a particular goal.

**Policies:** Definite courses of action which lead toward goal achievement.

Many goals, objectives, and policy statements are generalized in nature and are directed simply toward community health and welfare. In this regard, many of the policies of the City's 2030 Comprehensive Plan remain valid and have been reiterated in this 2040 Plan. Certain Comprehensive Plan policies are more specific in nature and reflect different courses of action than those contained in the 2030 Plan. In those instances, specific policies have been added in response to new and/or higher priority issues raised as part of the community engagement process.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### Goal:

The City will update (amend) its guidelines and regulations and enforce existing standards to ensure preservation and protection of the natural environment.

### Objectives:

1. Development which occurs is to be compatible with features of the natural environment and preserve environmental features and natural amenities.
2. The natural and aesthetic quality of Shorewood's lakeshore is to be maintained and, where feasible, improved through the protection of shoreland impact zones, landscaping and shoreland buffers.
3. Creative development design to ensure the protection and enhancement of those portions of the community containing unique physical features (e.g. topography, woodlands, wetlands, etc.) is to be encouraged.



4. Natural wildlife habitats are to be provided protection to avoid loss where possible.
5. The environmental balance between natural and man-made physical features is to be maintained through land use development policy.
6. Shorewood's trees and vegetation are valuable assets and consideration is to be given to the preservation and protection of significant trees.
7. All environmentally sensitive areas (e.g. wetlands, shorelands and floodplains) are to be protected.
8. Area lakes' ecological systems are to be conserved and protected for future generations.
9. Where feasible, control over natural open space areas shall be obtained through conservation easements, acquisition or development regulation.

## **Policies:**

1. All development in naturally or environmentally sensitive areas shall conform to state and federal regulations.
2. State and federal environmental regulations shall be incorporated into local policy.
3. Environmental regulations shall be formulated, updated and enforced to ensure the proper protection of natural environmental resources.
4. Environmental assessment worksheets and, when required, environmental impact statements, shall be prepared for developments of the type described in Minnesota Environmental Quality Board's Environmental Review Program, as may be amended.
5. The use of planned unit development cluster concepts shall be considered where protection of natural features is important to the community.
6. New development and the expansion of existing activities shall be restricted and regulated where environmental damage may result.
7. Development on or near shorelands, wetlands, floodplains and other natural features which perform important environmental functions in their natural state shall be restricted or prohibited.
8. Natural drainage patterns shall be preserved whenever feasible.



9. Development on, or alteration of, natural drainage system components shall be restricted so that the need for construction of storm sewer will be minimized.
10. Any adverse impact from increased surface water runoff to adjoining properties shall be avoided to the extent possible.
11. A drainage plan shall be established which utilizes intermediate ponding areas and provides municipal procedures for the acquisition, dedication, or control of areas so designated.
12. Environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands and wooded areas are to be acquired or publicly controlled, when necessary to preserve their integrity as funds are available.
13. Conservation easements and similar methods of preserving open space shall be pursued to ensure that such areas remain in open space indefinitely.
14. Support shall be given to efforts aimed at reducing lake pollution.
15. Protect surface and ground water quality by continuing programs to educate the public and regulate the use of chemical lawn fertilizers.
16. Water bodies and watercourses shall be classified and zoned for specific uses giving due consideration to DNR and LMCD recommended regulations.
17. All reasonable measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse impacts resulting from development on natural wildlife habitats.
18. The location, condition and species of existing significant vegetation shall be indicated in all development requests.
19. Programs designed to protect Shorewood's trees through disease control measures and reforestation shall be encouraged.
20. Preserve existing wooded areas and develop programs and regulations to replace lost tree cover.
21. Incorporate the goals and policies of the Shorewood Surface Water Management Plan into the development review process.
22. Use available natural resources inventories and environmental data.



23. Review existing tree preservation regulations to ensure that such ordinance provisions adequately reflect desired preservation objectives.
24. Consider increased funding for stormwater management efforts in the City.
25. Consider the adoption of regulations which protect bluffs which lie outside of the City's shoreland districts.

**LAND USE**

**Goals:**

- The City shall continue a pattern of land uses which is consistent with the residential and recreational functions of the community.
- The land use plan shall promote harmonious relationships between various land uses (e.g. homes, commercial outlets, churches, parks, schools, etc.) through proper development and application of transitions between different land uses.
- Land use regulations shall discourage land uses which are inconsistent with the residential and natural character of the community.

**Objectives:**

1. A cohesive land use pattern that ensures compatibility and functional relationships among activities is to be formulated and implemented.
2. Community planning and development is to consider the impact to surrounding neighbors, neighborhoods and cities and mitigate the impact with transitions (landscaping, berming, etc.) where possible.
3. Development that is not accompanied by a sufficient level of supportive services and facilities (utilities, parking, access, etc.) is to be prevented.
4. Land uses and environmental quality are to be maintained and, where necessary, upgraded.
5. Community development is to be compatible with features of the natural environment and is to be accommodated without destroying environmental features and natural amenities.
7. Neighborhoods are to be maintained and where necessary, strengthened in character, while at the same time improving and reinforcing community identity.



8. A creative approach to the use of land and related residential development is to be encouraged.
9. Commercial development shall be safe, convenient, attractive, and compatible with the residential character of the community.
10. Establish and maintain a consistent approach to the development of fragmented land parcels (i.e. larger lots having the potential to be subdivided) which encourages cooperation between landowners and provides for access and utility service which complies with City standards.
11. Identify parcels of land with the potential to be set aside as permanent open space and explore means of obtaining conservation easements or financing the acquisition of such parcels.
12. As opportunities present themselves, attempts shall be made to satisfy the Metropolitan Council's minimum residential density directives for "suburban" communities (at least five units per acre for new development and redevelopment).

**Policies:**

General

1. Whenever possible, the impact of physical barriers shall be reduced in order to increase relationships between isolated areas and reinforce continuity and a sense of community.
2. Major streets are to border, not penetrate, neighborhoods.
3. All development proposals shall be analyzed on an individual basis from a physical, economic and social standpoint to determine the most appropriate uses within the context of the planning district in which it is located and within the community as a whole.
4. Land use development shall be related to and reflect transportation needs, desired development and community priorities.
5. Land use development shall be planned so as not to isolate or create landlocked parcels.
6. The use of easements and private streets for the purpose of lot access is to be discouraged.



7. "Flag lot" development shall not be permitted. Adequate access must be established and provided to avoid creating nonconforming property.
8. Intensification of land use activity and development will only be allowed if accompanied by sufficient corresponding increases in related supportive and service facilities such as parks, off-street parking, fire and police protection, etc.
9. Transitions between distinctly differing types of land uses shall be accomplished in an orderly fashion which does not create a negative (economic, social or physical) impact on adjoining developments.
10. Wherever possible, changes in types of land use shall occur either at center, mid-block points so that similar uses front on the same street, or at borders of areas separated by major manmade or natural barriers.
11. The removal of land from the tax rolls shall be considered only when it can be clearly demonstrated that such removal is in the public interest (e.g. the preservation of greenspace).
12. Programs and incentives for continuing privately initiated maintenance, improvements for energy conservation, and redevelopment of existing land use development shall be created and implemented.
13. Where practical, problems with conflicting and non-complementary uses shall be resolved through removal and relocation.
14. To the maximum extent possible, development policies and regulations shall be applied consistently and uniformly.
16. Shorewood's land planning and development shall be on a cooperative basis with neighboring communities, when consistent with Shorewood's adopted goals.
17. Shorewood's lakeshore shall be protected from over-intensification of use and development.
18. Shorewood shall consistently enforce ordinances related to property (and structure) maintenance.



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Residential

1. Low density residential neighborhoods shall be protected from encroachment or intrusion of higher density residential uses and non-residential development via the use of buffering and separation techniques.
2. Residential neighborhoods shall be protected from penetration by through traffic.
3. Access to major streets shall be provided on the periphery of residential neighborhoods.
4. Residential development shall be protected from adverse environmental impacts, including noise, air and visual pollution.
6. Housing styles and development techniques that conserve land and increase energy efficiency shall be encouraged.
7. All new housing shall adhere to the highest community design, planning and construction standards.
8. Innovation in subdivision design and housing development shall be considered through the use of devices such as the cluster and planned unit development concepts.
9. Residential development shall be prohibited on floodplains, bluffs, wetlands and other natural features that perform important protection functions in their natural state.
10. New residential development shall maintain the natural environmental character of Shorewood through the preservation of significant trees, protection of bluffs and wetlands, and maintenance of shoreland impact zones.
11. Integration of housing types or styles within a development shall be allowed when applicable provided the total number of units conforms to the prescribed density for the total development.
12. Shorewood's housing planning and development shall be in cooperation with neighboring south shore communities.
13. City regulations related to “teardowns” and “rebuilt” of single family homes shall be examined, and modified if determined necessary, to ensure that adequate provisions are in place to ensure neighborhood compatibility.



14. In consideration of new or redeveloped housing projects, the minimum density directives of the Metropolitan Council (five units per acre) shall be given due attention.
15. To limit on-street parking and protect adjoining properties from nuisance concerns associated with construction projects, staging plans shall be required for all infill development projects. Minimally, such plans shall address contractor parking locations, construction material storage, construction hours and keeping the streets clean.

Commercial

1. The City of Shorewood's commercial development shall be oriented towards "convenience" type of shopping geared toward neighborhood or community scale markets.
2. Commercial and service centers shall be developed as cohesive, highly interrelated units with adequate off-street parking.
3. Existing and proposed service and commercial uses shall be adequately and appropriately landscaped according to community requirements as may be amended.
4. All existing and proposed service and commercial uses shall be adequately screened or buffered from any adjacent residential development.
5. Orderly transitions between commercial and residential areas shall be established and maintained.
6. Uncoordinated linear commercial development shall be strongly discouraged in favor of a unified development pattern.
7. Joint utilization of parking, access, and other related supportive services shall be promoted in service and commercial districts and individual developments.
8. Safe and convenient pedestrian movement shall be provided within service and commercial developments.
9. When possible or when opportunities arise, major street access for service and commercial development shall be at the periphery of the area.
10. Locate neighborhood convenience centers along minor arterial or major collector streets.



11. Commercial development at street intersections shall be limited and restricted. Development of one quadrant does not indicate or dictate commercial use of the remaining quadrants.
12. Ensure that neighborhood convenience centers are provided with safe and convenient accessibility for both motorists and pedestrians.
13. It shall be the responsibility of higher density residential and non-residential developments to buffer or provide transitions to protect lower density residential uses.
14. Redevelopment of the Smithtown Crossings commercial area shall occur in a manner which promotes Shorewood's community identity.
15. Future commercial development in the City shall consider the character of the community and adhere to the highest possible standards of quality (in terms of both design and finish materials).

#### Commercial Services

1. The existing commercial service development in Shorewood shall be upgraded and improved to the highest possible standards of operation.
2. It shall be the responsibility of existing commercial service developments to assume the burden of making necessary improvements to ensure compatibility with surrounding residential uses.

## **HOUSING**

### **Goals:**

- Healthy and quality housing shall respect the natural environment of the community.
- Maintain the present variety of housing options and provide sufficient housing types, sizes and values to meet the needs of varying segments of the population.
- Maintain and strengthen, where necessary, the character of individual neighborhoods within the community.



- Address local and sub-regional housing issues through cooperative efforts with neighboring communities.
- The City shall promote safe, healthy and affordable housing options.

**Objectives:**

1. Review local development regulations, and amend as necessary, to promote a balanced housing supply.
2. As opportunities present themselves, attempts shall be made to satisfy the Metropolitan Council’s affordable housing directives (48 new units between 2021 and 2030).
3. Identify locations for alternative residential housing types and densities.
4. Make available to residents and property owners educational programs on such topics as renter/landlord rights, home buying, home maintenance, etc.
5. Continue the City’s rental housing license program to maintain current standards for rental housing.
6. Promote private sector maintenance, rehabilitation and redevelopment of existing properties through improved communication of available community services and financial assistance programs.
7. Continue to allow accessory apartments to allow seniors to remain in their single family homes.
8. Encourage housing types that are designed to appeal to senior citizens to allow existing residents to downsize and remain in the City of Shorewood.

**Policies:**

Maintenance, Rehabilitation and Redevelopment

1. Programs for housing structural condition maintenance shall be pursued to protect the health and safety of residents and ensure stability of neighborhoods within the community.
2. Maintenance problems and code violations shall be addressed to improve and strengthen the character of neighborhoods and avoid spreading the impact of deterioration.



3. Substandard housing units shall be rehabilitated whenever possible.
4. Work with Hennepin County to administer programs which provide financial assistance for the rehabilitation of substandard housing units within the community (as funding sources and market conditions permit).
5. Residential redevelopment of substandard housing within the community shall be encouraged whenever compatible with adjacent land uses and economically feasible.
6. Appropriate regulations shall be established for development upon lawful nonconforming lots.
7. Staging plans shall be required for all residential infill projects. Minimally, such plans shall address contractor parking locations, construction material storage and construction hours.

#### Compatibility

1. Low density residential neighborhoods within the community shall be protected from encroachment or intrusion of incompatible higher density residential land uses, as well as nonresidential use categories, through adequate buffering and separation.
2. The character of individual residential neighborhoods shall be respected and maintained.
3. Residential developments shall be protected from and located away from sources of adverse environmental impacts including noise, air and visual pollution.
4. Home occupations, commercial and other nonresidential activities shall be minimized and are not to be evident within residential neighborhoods.
5. Accessory buildings within the community shall be of a compatible design and size to maintain a residential character. These buildings shall be limited exclusively to residential use related activities.
6. Outdoor storage is to be minimized and, in those instances, when it is acceptable, it shall be conducted in an orderly, confined and limited fashion which is consistent with City Code requirements.
7. Violations of property maintenance standards that infringe upon residential neighborhood quality, pose public health and safety problems and threaten neighboring property values shall be aggressively eliminated.



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Variety of Housing

1. Owner occupied housing shall be encouraged.
2. Shorewood's housing needs, as well as the needs of the overall Lake Minnetonka sub-region, shall be addressed by providing and maintaining a variety of housing types, styles and values.
3. The emergence of a polarizing age distribution within the Lake Minnetonka sub-region is to be prevented through the provision of diverse housing that reflects life-cycle stages and economic considerations.
4. A range of property values and rent rates within the Lake Minnetonka sub-regional housing stock shall be encouraged as a means of diversifying the population and sustaining individual communities in the area.
5. Adequate living space and fully utilized housing are to be encouraged and promoted through the provision of a range of choices among housing types and values throughout the Lake Minnetonka sub-region.
6. The development of housing for special needs populations (e.g., elderly, physically challenged) within the Lake Minnetonka sub-region shall be supported by financial assistance programs that may be available as funding sources and market conditions allow.
7. In consideration of new or redeveloped housing projects, the affordable housing directives of the Metropolitan Council (48 units by 2040) shall be given due attention.



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## TRANSPORTATION

### Goals:

- The City shall provide and maintain a safe and efficient system of transportation, sensitive to the needs of residents and the environment of the community.
- The City should establish a plan for an interconnected system of trails, enhancing the safe movement of pedestrians, bicyclists and other modes of non-motorized travel.

### Objectives:

1. Reduce the need for transportation facilities by combining or concentrating various land use activities, when and where feasible.
2. Promote regional transportation facilities that are safe, direct, convenient and environmentally sound and coordinate plans with other jurisdictions.
3. Design safe, efficient and economical local transportation facilities based upon the needs of neighborhoods, integrating these facilities into the community and regional systems.
4. Utilize a comprehensive system and approach to transportation, giving due attention to all modes and related facilities.
5. Assign priorities to various travel routes, modes and programs, then formulate and implement a corresponding action and development effort.
6. Provide safe trail connections to points of interest in the community and link to trails provided by Hennepin County and adjacent municipalities.
7. Implement trail segments on an incremental basis consistent with an overall plan.
8. Explore all outside funding resources to implement local transportation plans.
9. Address automobile traffic, pedestrian movements, on-street parking and stormwater management within local street right-of-way improvements, where feasible.



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**Policies:**

General

1. Transportation facilities shall be planned and improved to function in a manner compatible with adjacent land use.
2. All means of transportation and related facilities shall be considered as one system and therefore coordinated and related comprehensively.
3. Transportation facilities shall be planned and designed to conserve natural resources and minimize ongoing public investment.
4. The transportation system shall be developed to focus on activity centers of Shorewood and neighboring south shore communities, and to promote safe and efficient movement of traffic through and out of the city to the Metro Area.
5. Transportation planning and implementation shall be coordinated with neighboring and affected jurisdictions.
6. Special consideration and attention shall be given to persons who must rely on means other than the automobile for transportation.
7. Dependency upon automobile-oriented transportation shall be reduced where feasible, and where possible higher priorities shall be assigned to pedestrian/bicycle and mass transit travel.
8. The State and County highway systems shall complement and facilitate local movements provided by local streets, bicycle trails and pedestrian facilities. A line of communication shall be maintained with County and State highway officials in order to ensure that planned improvements are consistent with the goals and objectives of the community.
9. Early and continuing citizen involvement shall be provided for and encouraged in transportation planning and implementation projects.

Streets

1. A functional classification system for the street system in Shorewood has been established and shall be maintained, giving due consideration to the Metropolitan Council's Functional Classification System for streets and highways, as may be amended.
2. The classification system should be monitored as needed to revise the classification of streets as traffic and land use patterns evolve.



3. All local or residential streets shall be designed to limit penetration of through traffic and shall direct traffic to collector or arterial streets.
3. Land access onto expander and arterial streets shall be limited or prevented wherever possible.
4. Vehicular access onto arterials streets shall be minimized and limited to points of adequate distances between intersections with proper signalization and/or merging.
5. Street parking shall be prohibited or limited on arterial streets.
6. All intersections shall have proper visibility, design, and control to prevent accidents and violations.
7. Service roads paralleling major arterials shall be controlled to reduce traffic conflicts, hazards and resulting accidents.
8. Single-loaded frontage roads shall be discouraged in the future.
9. Street improvement shall be related to, and phased with, area land development to avoid interrupted or inadequate access.
10. Curb and gutter shall be required in new development and reconstruction of existing streets. Other drainage solutions may be considered where more economical and practical.
11. In those areas where incomplete street facilities exist, action shall be taken to plan, design and develop a street system that reflects the highest standards and relates land use to transportation needs and policies. Action shall be taken immediately to reserve required rights-of-way to prevent redundant additional cost and difficulties.
12. Where feasible and practical, provisions for other transportation modes (i.e. pedestrian, bicycles, etc.) shall be included in street and highway improvement plans.
13. The City shall strive to minimize damage to City streets and prevent premature street decay by enforcing seasonal weight restrictions and by considering options to reduce the number of regularly scheduled heavy vehicles on such streets, including, but not limited to, those utilized for organized trash collection.
14. The City shall work with State and/or County officials to explore possible solutions to ongoing traffic congestion issues at Highway 7 access points.



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15. Maintain a system of evaluating street conditions and prioritizing street maintenance/improvement efforts.
  16. Timeframes for street improvement/replacement efforts shall be identified within the City's capital improvement program (CIP).
  17. A design template for local street right-of-way improvements shall be developed which addresses automobile traffic, pedestrian movements, on-street parking and stormwater management.
  18. As opportunities present themselves, existing unpaved public streets shall be paved in compliance with City street standards.

Parking

1. No development or expansion of activities and uses shall be permitted unless adequate off-street parking is provided.
2. Parking requirements imposed by the City shall be periodically reviewed and studied to ensure supply is reflective of demand.
3. Parking shall be developed in a fashion that conserves land, allows joint utilization and minimizes conflicts with moving vehicular traffic, pedestrians and cyclists.
4. Parking lot access to public streets shall be limited to the functional minimums.
5. The City shall enforce standards for parking lot landscaping.
6. The City shall seek reduction in the demand and resulting space requirements for parking through improved pedestrian and transit facilities and land use development coordination.
7. Consideration shall be given to limiting on-street parking to one side of the street in areas determined by the City to address problematic parking conditions on narrow streets. Alternatively, staggered parking on alternating sides of a street may also be considered.



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Mass Transit

1. Increased service and the use of mass transit shall be encouraged by the City of Shorewood.
2. The City shall work with adjacent City of Excelsior, as determined necessary, to ensure that Shorewood residents are provided reasonable access to transit services.
3. Strive to develop transit service for those who do not have other transportation alternatives.
4. Transit service, through related improvements and land use policies, shall be encouraged by the City during non-peak, non-rush hour periods in addition to peak and rush hour periods.
5. Shorewood business districts shall be encouraged to establish themselves as transit "stations" or suburban collection points through provisions for park and ride, transfer routes and direct express service to other commercial and employment activity centers of the metropolitan area and southwestern sub-region.
6. Availability of transit service, notably during rush hours, to activity areas and regional centers in other communities shall be encouraged.
7. All potential means and methods of providing and improving transit service (school buses, taxis, etc.) shall be explored.

Pedestrian/Bicycle

1. Where possible and economically feasible, a separated traveled surface shall be provided for pedestrians and cyclists.
2. Special attention shall be directed toward and facilities provided for pedestrian movement and access in areas in and surrounding schools, churches, parks, commercial and service centers.
3. Pedestrian street crossings on heavily traveled streets shall be clearly marked and lighted.
4. All street improvement programs and projects shall take into consideration facilities for pedestrians and bicycles as identified in the City's Trail Concept Plan.
5. Non-local streets in Shorewood shall be designed to protect pedestrian and bicycle movement paralleling traffic.
6. New development shall be encouraged to respect the pedestrian/bicycle system and, where possible, contribute to the City right-of-way and development costs.



7. Construction and maintenance of trails shall be based on established standards and specifications to ensure safe conditions.
8. Shorewood will establish development standards for the construction of trails, as well as maintenance standards and programs, to ensure safe conditions.
9. Trail segments shall be established within parks to provide connections between various facilities and to accommodate recreational usage.
10. Priorities for the funding of the construction of trails shall be established based on safety concerns, funding conditions and neighborhood acceptance.
11. Shorewood will explore all funding sources, including outside grant funds for the construction of trails, provided that such funding sources accommodate local needs and design criteria.
12. Shorewood will cooperate with other jurisdictions, including the School Districts and Hennepin County, in providing a trail system that meets local and regional needs.
13. Shorewood will work with other area communities to investigate the establishment of a trail network that could provide connections to points of interest and environmental features, including continuous access around Lake Minnetonka.
14. Shorewood will work with other area communities to investigate the establishment of bicycle and mass transit linkages that would serve bicycle commuters.
15. As part of street improvement/reconstruction planning, due consideration shall be given to the construction of trails and/or sidewalks.
16. Shorewood will identify and prioritize incomplete trail links within the City and develop a plan to improve pedestrian trail connections.
17. Shorewood will collaborate with the adjacent City of Excelsior to improve inter-city vehicle and pedestrian connections.
18. As part of the development of the City's trail system, due consideration shall be given to pedestrian and bicyclist safety.
19. Shorewood will strive to implement sidewalk and trail directives of its Transportation Plan and Park and Recreation Plan.



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## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### Goals:

- The City shall provide those basic facilities and services that ensure the health, safety and general welfare of the public, the cost of which facilities and services are most efficiently shared by the general public.
- The efforts of varying government agencies shall be coordinated to avoid duplication of efforts, unnecessary expense and improper location of public facilities.
- Maintain a sound financial planning program for capital improvements, relating such improvements to actual need, proper location and timing.

### Objectives:

1. Existing services are to be maintained and improved where needed.
2. New community facilities and services are to be developed to meet the needs and interests of the Shorewood community.
3. Public facilities and services are to be planned and provided in a comprehensive coordinated and economic fashion.
4. Full utilization of existing facilities and services is to be accomplished prior to additional investment.
5. Implement policies to provide City water service where financially feasible and where demand can be demonstrated.
6. Facilities and services on a joint-use basis between units of government is to be promoted, improved and increased.
7. Each individual in the community is to be assured safe, equitable and easy access to public facilities and services.
8. Shorewood residents are to continue to have safe, reliable energy services to meet their needs.
9. Energy service conservation is to be constantly promoted and facilitated.



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10. Efforts shall be made to improve the City’s water supply and stormwater management systems.
  11. When opportunities arise, efforts shall be made to promote Shorewood’s community identity through public improvements.

**Policies:**

Parks and Recreational Open Space

1. Shorewood’s park and recreational open space system shall be classified in accordance with standards established by the Metropolitan Council.
2. Funding for park maintenance and necessary improvements (as determined by the City) shall be considered a community priority.
3. The allocation of funds for park improvements for specific facilities will be made on the basis of balancing overall community park needs of Shorewood residents with the specific needs of each facility.
4. The community shall provide for an appropriate balance among active, passive, and cultural recreational areas and activities, tailored to the needs of the total population.
5. Recreational facilities and a year-round program of activities suited to the varied recreational needs of all age groups within the community shall be provided.
6. Parks and recreational facilities shall be distributed throughout the community, based upon neighborhood needs and characteristics of each planning and development district.
7. Sufficient park land to fulfill the needs of the present and projected future population of the community shall be acquired and reserved. Park development shall be undertaken as residential development demands and as funds are available.
8. Recreational open space improvements shall be programmed in accordance with a capital improvement program, updated on an annual basis.
9. Parks shall be designed and maintained with proper lighting, landscaping, shelter design, etc., to ensure a high degree of public safety and protection of public property.
10. Where necessary parks shall be screened, fenced and/or buffered for the safety and protection of the user as well as adjacent property owners.



11. Parks shall be improved and developed to take maximum advantage of natural features of the Shorewood.
12. Safe and convenient pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular access and adequate parking to serve recreational facilities shall be provided.
13. The use of motorized recreational vehicles shall be limited to designated areas.
14. Park and open space facilities and programming shall be planned and developed in cooperation and coordinated with similar services of surrounding communities, the school district, private organizations and the metropolitan area as a whole.
15. Studies shall be undertaken on a periodic basis to analyze the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of the community recreation program. These studies shall serve as the basis for recreation open space planning and programming.
16. Continual citizen participation in the planning, development and operation of recreational open space shall be maintained.
17. The City shall employ a pro-active approach to park development.
18. When opportunities arise, Shorewood shall consider the acquisition of parcels adjacent to the City's existing public beach (Crescent Beach) and conversion of such parcels to park land.

#### Lakeshore Use

1. Lake Minnetonka shall be considered a community recreational facility and appropriate actions shall be taken to permit utilization of the lake by all City residents.
2. Regulations shall be enforced to ensure accessibility to area lakes while at the same time minimizing any potential impact on surrounding uses and adjacent property owners.
3. In order to protect and preserve the amenity provided by area lakes, the City shall encourage uniform land use regulation and enforcement of lakeshore use.

#### Governmental Buildings and Facilities

1. Cooperation and coordination shall be promoted and actively pursued between governmental units in the provision of public facilities and services.



2. The full utilization of investments in public facilities and services shall be achieved prior to making new public investments.
3. Public facilities and services shall be located to the greatest extent possible so as to offer ease of access and minimal response time.
4. All public facilities shall be developed, improved and maintained according to the highest adopted standards of design and performance to serve as examples for private development.
5. All public buildings shall be designed and maintained to be safe, secure and resistant to vandalism while maximizing public and City usability.
6. Those areas, places, buildings, structures and other objects such as Indian mounds having significant architectural, historical, community or aesthetic interests and values shall be restored and preserved, as defined under the Minnesota Historic Sites Act of 1965, as may be amended.
7. Adequate screening, landscaping, and buffering of facilities shall be accomplished in order to minimize their impact on surrounding uses and enhance the community and areas in which they are located.
8. As part of future community facility improvement efforts, consideration shall be given to the creation or establishment of a visible and identifiable physical feature which distinguishes the City of Shorewood from the Cities of Excelsior and Tonka Bay.
9. The City shall examine alternatives and develop a plan for the future use of the Shorewood Community and Event Center.
10. The City of Shorewood shall seek and implement creative ideas for its public spaces which pay homage to the community's history and identity.
11. The City shall strive to make efficient use of its various municipal buildings by evaluating, on a periodic basis, the space needs of various City functions (to ensure adequacy).

#### Public and Semi-Public Utilities

1. City public utilities will be reviewed at the same time that the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is reviewed each year.



2. Demand for urban services shall be anticipated, with emphasis to conserving existing facilities, in order to facilitate orderly, fiscally responsible extension of service systems.
3. Easements for utility systems shall be located according to uniform standards, providing for ease of access for maintenance and repair and minimal disruption of other activities or areas.
4. All utility systems and possible utility and service needs shall be periodically monitored, and all existing systems shall be maintained to assure a safe and high quality standard of service on an ongoing basis and to reduce inflow and infiltration into the city's sanitary sewer mains.
5. The impact of required utility facilities and services shall be minimized upon surrounding uses.
6. Underground installation of all new utility services shall be required and when economically feasible, existing overhead systems shall be converted to underground.
7. Coordination among all utility improvement programs shall be constantly pursued.
8. Telecommunication facilities shall utilize existing tower structures where feasible.
9. Gravity sewer systems are to be encouraged, and sewer lift stations should only be allowed when it is technically infeasible to achieve gravity flow.
10. Separate sanitary and storm sewer systems shall be maintained.
11. Run-off shall be managed to protect the groundwater recharge areas.
12. Benefiting property owners shall assume the burden of improvements made by the City in their behalf.
13. Natural drainage shall be preserved to the extent possible in order to minimize storm sewer costs.
14. Commercial development shall provide adequate water systems to insure proper fire protection.
15. To improve stormwater management within the City, Shorewood shall consider installing curb along problematic streets when opportunities arise.



16. Shorewood shall work toward the eventual connection of all properties to the City's municipal water system and all extensions shall be consistent with the overall plan for City water (i.e. pipe sizes).
17. Properties used for commercial purposes or residential uses involving four or more dwellings shall connect to the municipal water system. Residential developments of three or fewer dwellings shall connect to the municipal water system where it is available. The City reserves the right to deny permission for a subdivision development or redevelopment for subdivision if City water is not available at that property.
18. The overall water system is to remain financially self-supporting.
19. Allow water main extensions to provide water to residents where technically and financially feasible and where demand can be demonstrated. A super-majority of residents shall be considered a demand for water extensions.
20. In addition, the City will consider encouraging property owners with private wells to connect to the public system and will review funding mechanisms to assist this transition.
21. When opportunities present themselves, the City will consider the burying of existing and new power lines to reduce the frequency of power loss during storm events.
22. As part of the update of the City's Water Supply Plan and/or Wellhead Protection Plan, various requirements recommended by the Minnesota Department of Health to protect Shorewood's drinking water supply shall be incorporated.
23. Stormwater drainage facilities and underground utilities shall be considered integral elements of the City's street improvement projects.

### Energy

1. Encourage use of alternative energy forms in new construction.
2. Continue to disseminate information on governmental energy conservation programs and helpful ideas on personal energy conservation methods.
3. Where practical, promote overall energy conservation in the community development process.



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4. The City of Shorewood will, by example, attempt to become a more energy efficient community via future investment in such systems.
  5. Establish regulations to accommodate the installation of alternative energy systems (solar and geothermal) and clarify procedures.

**Collaboration**

1. To the extent possible, the City of Shorewood shall collaborate with nearby lake communities in regard to the handling of shared services.