



SHOREWOOD

2040 Comprehensive Plan



The City of Shorewood wishes to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their time and dedication in completing the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update.

Their commitment, cooperation and contributions are greatly valued and appreciated.

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Shorewood has undertaken an update of its current 2030 Comprehensive Plan both in response to a mandate received from the Metropolitan Council and to identify community issues and concerns. In part, these considerations will serve to direct and focus the work effort.

As a means of obtaining input and gaining insight into local needs and opinions, a series of interviews were undertaken with City Council members, Planning Commissioners, and City staff. The interviews provided significant and valued perspectives on objectives and needs to be addressed in planning the future of Shorewood. This information is summarized in the “Planning Tactics” section of this document (attached as Appendix A). To be stressed however, is that this initial feedback process does not end, but rather will be a continuing theme of the Plan Update process.

Additionally, the city held three open houses and completed a community survey to allow residents and property owners to voice their opinions on what they desire for the City and their respective areas of interest.

Following this input from citizens and property owners, “draft” materials were presented to the Planning Commission and City Council prior to conducting formal and required public hearings. It is through this participation process that community concerns were raised and addressed.

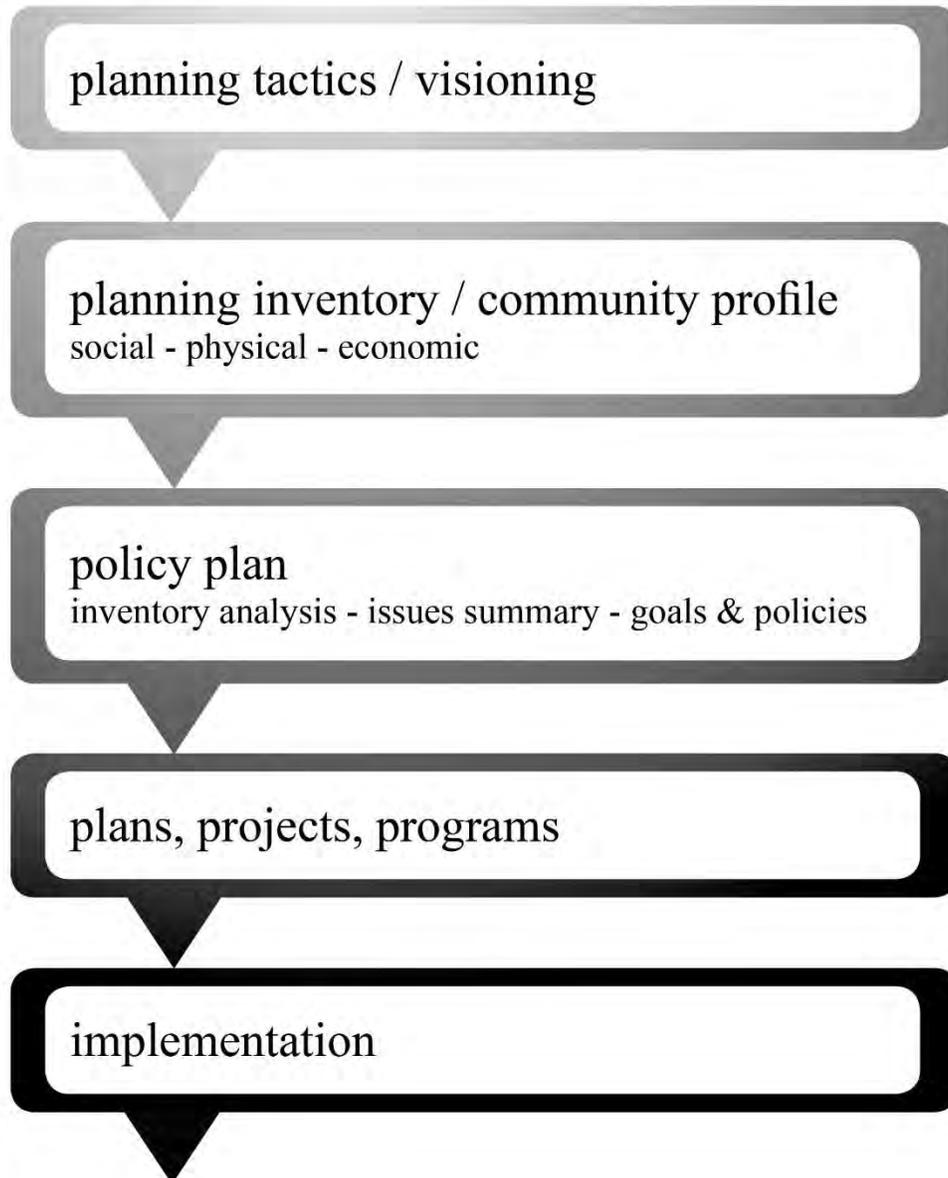
Beyond the desires and needs of the local representatives, it is important to note that the regional planning directives of the Metropolitan Council will also influence the content of the Comprehensive Plan Update. More specifically, the Metropolitan Council’s *Thrive MSP 2040* Regional Development Guide establishes a regional context within which the City of Shorewood must define its role and direct its future. *Thrive MSP 2040* mandates specific regional criteria that must be addressed in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update.

In the material that follows, a description of the Comprehensive Plan Update process is provided first. Next, a discussion of local and regional planning history is presented. The major component of this Plan is dedicated to the comments, opinions, needs, and issues that were identified through a series of interviews held to receive input from community officials and City staff. Again, a summary of this information is provided in the “Planning Tactics” report which is attached as Appendix A. The report concludes with a summary of key issues and focus areas that will be further reviewed and refined during the Visioning process of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update.



PLANNING PROCESS

Comprehensive planning is a broad base problem solving process. As such, the effort involves well-defined steps, beginning with problem and objective identification and progress to proposed solutions and actions. The diagram on the following page graphically illustrates the general series of stages which have been undertaken in planning for the City’s future.



The general comprehensive planning process must, however, be specifically tailored and designed for the jurisdiction it serves. In the case of Shorewood, the 2040 Comprehensive Planning work



program has been divided into five phases with various sub-components intended to cover both macro and micro perspectives of the community.

The first phase was the Planning Tactics which identified local concerns and needs. Through the Tactics interviews, open houses and survey, input was received from City Council members, Planning Commission members, and residents.

The second phase of the planning process involved the assembly of a technical Inventory to document the City and its facilities as they currently exist. The Inventory addresses social, environmental and physical conditions of the City.

Phase three involved the formulation of a Policy Plan. Following the Inventory and Issues Identification, the City defined desired community planning goals that it wishes to accomplish over the next 20-year period. In this regard, policies have been formulated to define actions for accomplishing the desired community goals.

Phase four involved the formulation of the Community Framework guide plan which provides specific plan recommendations for natural resources, land use, housing, transportation, utilities, and community facilities.

The fifth and final stage is Implementation, which involved an analysis of the City's implementation tools (development regulations and capital improvement plans) to ensure that they will effectively serve to implement the Comprehensive Plan goals.

Subsequently, the draft Plan will be sent to adjacent jurisdictions and affected school districts for comment and the Metropolitan Council for review and approval.

To ensure that the City's Comprehensive Plan is truly reflective of the community's interests and objectives and is responsive to constituent concerns, the work must be directed from the outset by the views and opinions of officials, citizens, and property owners. As one of the initial phases of Shorewood's Comprehensive Plan Update, a broad cross-section of individuals was consulted to gain a portion of this local perspective and orientation. Additionally, comments from surrounding and affected units of government will be solicited. This information, when combined with the pending technical community inventory, will establish the basis for Plan formulation.

PLANNING HISTORY

The Lake Minnetonka area, of which the City of Shorewood is a part, was a major tourist destination in the late 19th Century. The area was characterized by luxurious hotels and inns and was accessible via the railroad and State Highway 7.

The City of Shorewood was organized as a village in 1956. Prior to that time, it was part of the former Excelsior Township, as were the nearby Cities of Excelsior, Tonka Bay and Deephaven. The former Village of Shorewood became a statutory City in 1974. Incorporation efforts were



prompted by concerns that remaining property in Excelsior Township would be “lost” by ongoing annexation activities.

Shorewood is primarily a residential community and includes shorelines on Lake Minnetonka, Christmas Lake, Como Lake, Galpin Lake, Silver Lake, Lake Virginia, and Lake William.

The City of Shorewood took its initial steps to control its destiny in 1956 with the development of a Zoning Ordinance. The City adopted its first Comprehensive Plan in 1981, which outlined the type community that the City of Shorewood desired to become. In this regard, the Plan established related goals and policies, as well as a Land Use Plan.

Since 1981, the Plan has undergone several amendments (updates) and, most recently in 2009, as the City’s 2030 Comprehensive Plan.



REGIONAL PLANNING

As part of the mandated comprehensive planning process, the City of Shorewood is required to coordinate its Comprehensive Plan in a manner consistent with the *Thrive MSP 2040* Regional Development Guide, as adopted by the Metropolitan Council.

To build the foundation for a prosperous, equitable, livable, and sustainable future, the *Thrive MSP* document identifies seven general policies to guide land use and regional development. These policies are as follows:

Orderly and Efficient Land Use: Align land use, development patterns, and infrastructure to make the best use of public and private investment.

Natural Resources Protection: Conserve, restore, and protect the region’s natural resources to ensure availability, support public health, and maintain a high quality of life.

Water Sustainability: Conserve, restore, and protect the quality and quantity of the region’s water resources to ensure ongoing availability, support public health, and maintain a high quality of life.

Housing Affordability and Choice: Promote housing options to give people in all life stages and of all economic means viable choices for safe, stable, and affordable homes.

Access, Mobility and Transportation Choice: Sustain and improve a multimodal transportation system to support regional growth, maintain regional economic competitiveness, and provide choices and reliability for the system’s users.

Economic Competitiveness: Foster connected land use options to provide businesses and industries with access to materials, markets, and talent.

Building in Resilience: Promote sensitive land use and development patterns to achieve Minnesota’s adopted greenhouse gas emissions goals at the regional scale, and to develop local resiliency to the impacts of climate change.

The Metropolitan Council has classified the City of Shorewood as a “Suburban” community. The *Thrive MSP 2040* Regional Development Guide provides the following specific growth strategies for “Suburban” communities to ensure orderly and efficient land use:

- *Plan for forecasted population and household growth at overall average densities of at least five units per acre, and target opportunities for more intensive development near regional transit investments at densities and in a manner articulated in the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan.*



- *Identify areas for redevelopment, particularly areas that are well-served by transportation options and nearby amenities and that contribute to better proximity between jobs and housing.*
- *In collaboration with other regional partners, lead major redevelopment efforts.*
- *Lead detailed land use planning efforts around regional transit stations and other regional investments.*
- *Plan for and program local infrastructure needs (for example, roads, sidewalks, sewer, water, and surface water), including those needed to accommodate future growth and implement local comprehensive plans.*