

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The City of Brooklyn Park has undertaken an update of the Comprehensive Plan to address community wide issues and desires. More recent planning efforts had concentrated on undeveloped parts of the community; this plan addresses the entire community with an emphasis on special planning areas. Brooklyn Park is unique in that we have many of the same issues as the central cities and first ring suburbs as well as issues of new growth communities. The Plan is intended to address redevelopment and reinvestment in the older parts of the community, sustainability of new development and the need to create a “community of the whole”.

1.2 Process

The Planning Commission led the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan and City staff wrote each chapter for their discussion and consideration. The Commission held monthly workshops to cover various chapters with invitations to all city committees/commissions, city council, staff and public notices via the city web site and newspaper. The five work sessions culminated in a public hearing held on November 14, 2007 and reconvened on December 12, 2007; with a recommendation to the City Council provided in February of 2008. The City Council reviewed the plan at meetings on February 25, March 17, and April 28 of 2008. The Council approved the plan for routing on April 28 with the comment period closing on December 1, 2008. The Plan was submitted for Metropolitan Council Review on December 31, 2008.

1.3 Goals

Many of the chapters include goals specific to the issue covered. However, the overarching goals of the plan are to:

- Plan for all ages – the entire life cycle – from youth to seniors
- Create safe places to live, work, and play
- Create a sustainable community in the near and long term

1.4 Policy Objectives

Neighborhoods

Plan and design development on the basis of creating identifiable, valuable, high-quality residential neighborhoods with housing available for all life stages and incomes. Link each neighborhood to public open space and transportation options.

Employment and Services

Attract well designed, high-quality office, retail and industrial development and redevelopment to generate a high number of well-paying jobs and present an attractive image to residents, visitors and neighboring communities.

Open Space

Preserve and where possible expand open space, natural space and parks for public use and enjoyment. Actively encourage connections between existing and proposed open spaces, parks, water amenities, historic landmarks, schools and other places of interest.

Transportation

Provide and promote an appropriate and integrated transportation system for vehicles, transit, bicycles, and pedestrians that safely and efficiently achieves access and enhances development potential.

Livability

Create and maintain spaces to play, relax, stroll, and be inspired for healthy living with safety and comfort. Support institutions that provide life-long learning.

Corridors

Enhance the major transportation routes which serve as corridors through the city. Ensure corridors improve the economic vitality of adjacent neighborhoods with appropriate land uses, landscaping, trails, sidewalks, etc.

Sustainability

Create a City that can successfully continue over a long period of time. Encourage thoughtful development that maintains or restores the natural environment and reduces costs associated with inefficiency.

Civic Engagement and Partnerships

Promote civic engagement by residents, employers and employees, and visitors to improve our city. Build partnerships to achieve our goals. Celebrate our accomplishments and pride in our community.

Utilities and Infrastructure

Invest wisely to ensure the long-term quality of our infrastructure which supports all the activities we appreciate.

Implementation

Create a plan that is ambitious yet achievable.