

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The City of Brooklyn Park's Comprehensive Plan addresses community-wide issues and desires. The Plan looks at the entire community with an emphasis on special planning areas. Brooklyn Park is unique in that we have many of the same challenges as the central cities and first ring suburbs paired with issues of new growth communities. The Plan utilizes the information gleaned from the efforts of the City's 2017 strategic planning process called Brooklyn Park 2025 (BP 2025) as the basis for the planning process. The City has identified a need 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

Throughout 2016 the city engaged community members in a collective visioning effort, resulting in the Brooklyn Park 2025 community plan. Nearly 1000 people participated in this iterative process. Thirty-one percent of the input came from events where city staff convened community members at community café events. The majority of the input was gathered through city staff meeting community members out where they already gather, including community/civic group meetings, mini-interviews with youth at Zanewood Rec Center, a senior forum, outreach tables at community events, and through online forums and whiteboards posted throughout the city. In addition, 125 staff members gave their input. On July 28th, 2016, a special community engagement gathering provided community members an opportunity to reflect on the conclusions from the community input period. The Brooklyn Park 2025 Steering committee was made up of residents, council members and city staff. This committee synthesized the community's aspirations and ideas into 6 community goals with detailed descriptions. In the fall of 2016 community members again had an opportunity to give feedback on the draft plan both online and in-person. The final plan was adopted by the City Council in February 2017.

The City held a public hearing on the 2040 Comprehensive Plan at the Planning Commission meeting on March 14 and continued to April 11, 2018 with a recommendation to the City Council provided. A community open house was held on October 30, 2017. The City Council discussed the plan at a joint commission meeting on June 5, 2017. The City Council reviewed the final draft approved the plan for routing on May 29, 2018 with the comment period closing on October 26, 2018. The Plan was approved for submission to the Metropolitan Council for their final review on December 10, 2018.

1.3 How to Use the Plan

The Plan is meant to be a living document, grounded in real challenges and opportunities. It is

meant to be used often. The City will use the input of the public, whether through formal or informal means, to make sure that the vision, goals, and policies remain relevant over time.

Based on the priorities voiced during public input; demographic, physical, social, and economic changes affecting the City; and the requirements of the Metropolitan Council, the Plan is divided into the following chapters:

- 2 – Background/Community Profile
- 3 – Land Use
- 4 – Housing
- 5 – Transportation
- 6 – Economic Development
- 7 – Regional Parks and Trails
- 8 – Sanitary Sewer
- 9 – Water Supply
- 10 – Surface Water
- 11 – Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area (MRCCA)
- 12 - Resilience
- 13 – Implementation



Appointed and elected officials use the City’s Comprehensive Plan as a guide when making decisions. Traditionally, decision-makers reference the Comprehensive Plan when deciding what uses should be allowed on a parcel of land; allocating resources for infrastructure investments; preserving and improving parks, open spaces, and trail connections; and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. Overall, the Plan is meant to provide specific guidance for local officials to accomplish the vision established in 2010; Brooklyn Park, a thriving community inspiring pride where opportunities exist for all.

1.4 Goals and Objectives

While the subsequent chapters include goals specific to the issue covered, the overarching goals of the plan are taken from BP 2025 and woven into the plan as a whole:

Brooklyn Park 2025 Community Goals

**Working together to make Brooklyn Park a thriving community
inspiring pride where opportunities exist for all.**

We asked and you answered! Our community wants to accomplish these goals by the year 2025:

Unifed Community

**A united and welcoming community,
strengthened by our diversity.**

- We have connected neighbors who understand and celebrate our unique cultures.
- Brooklyn Park is unified with a strong positive identity and image.
- Our community's activities, events and services are inclusive, multi-cultural, and accessible.
- We have places and spaces for diverse communities to gather.
- Residents of every age contribute to our community.

Beautiful Places

**Beautiful spaces and quality
infrastructure make Brooklyn Park a
unique destination.**

- Modern transportation options (drive, ride, walk, bike) connect people to education, jobs, and recreation.
- Quality recreation and park amenities inspire activity for all ages and interests.
- Our rich diversity is showcased through our vibrant music, art, food, entertainment, and cultural scene.
- Attractive key corridors, corners, and city centers create destinations that meet community needs.
- Neighborhoods are well-maintained with quality housing for all ages and incomes integrated throughout the community.

Thriving Economy

**A balanced economic environment
that empowers businesses and
people to thrive.**

- People of all ages and backgrounds enjoy financial stability.
- Residents and visitors support an abundance of retail stores, restaurants, and entertainment venues.
- Our business environment inspires private investment and job growth.
- Business and organizations of all types, sizes and specialties start, stay and grow here.
- We are a leader in environmental sustainability, benefiting our economy and community.

Healthy and Safe People

**People of all ages have what they
need to feel healthy and safe.**

- Neighborhoods are empowered and supported by strengthened positive relationships with police.
- Youth are engaged in positive and quality experiences.
- Aging adults have services and amenities to thrive and age in place.
- Everyone has access to quality healthy food options.
- People have access to quality medical and emergency care.

Increased Equity

**Partnerships that increase racial and
economic equity empower residents
and neighborhoods to prosper.**

- Each resident has access to the training and support needed to get and keep a living wage job.
- Each student graduates high school with a pathway to college or career.
- Aging neighborhoods and commercial centers are revitalized through continuous investment.
- The community provides necessary supports and services for community members to overcome life challenges such as hunger, mental illness, and homelessness.

Effective, Engaging Government

**Effective and engaging government
recognized as a leader.**

- The City provides quality services at a reasonable cost.
- Elected officials, commissions, and City staff reflect the diversity of the community and are culturally competent.
- City information is clear, accessible, and delivered in ways that meet the community's needs.
- City laws are understandable, equitably enforced, and relevant to the community.
- The City is well-managed and recognized as a great place to work.

Goals adopted by City Council February 27, 2017