

# The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth

## City of Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan Update – 2008

The **2008 Comprehensive Plan Update** also known as **The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth** is a guide for the future development and redevelopment of the City of Minneapolis. This Plan, which addresses economic and development changes within the City, serves as a reference document to which regional, state, county, and other public or private agencies can relate their respective planning and development discussions. It relates to the development and interrelationship of land uses, transportation, housing, economic development, public services and facilities, environment, parks and open spaces, heritage preservation, arts and culture and urban design. It consists of a narrative document and a series of illustrations, photographs, tables, and maps.

### What is the City of Minneapolis' Comprehensive Plan?

1. It is a **visioning document** that serves as a guide for public and private growth and land development decisions within the City.
2. It is a **tool** that addresses land use, transportation, housing, economic development, public services and facilities, environment, open space and parks, heritage preservation, arts and culture and urban design in the City.
3. It guides the City's development so that it occurs in a coordinated, efficient, effective and sustainable manner in a way that **balances opportunities** and promotes a **high quality of life** for residents and visitors.

### Why did the City Update the Comprehensive Plan?

The City of Minneapolis updates its Comprehensive Plan periodically to address economic and development changes. To meet State law requirements and regional planning requirements guided by the Metropolitan Council, the City updated its Comprehensive Plan in 2008. The updated Comprehensive Plan anticipates economic and development challenges and proposes solutions. It balances competing interests and defines common goals. It is based on a desired future condition of the community, and directed by analysis of existing conditions, use of available information, and prediction of future events based on educated assumptions. The City's primary objectives for this update of the Comprehensive Plan are to:

1. Strengthen and clarify the City's existing **policy framework for future planning**, zoning and development decisions;
2. Complete a **future land use map** that reflects the City's vision and policies; and
3. Simplify and **improve the format** of the plan to make it easier for elected officials, City staff, developers, businesses, neighborhood groups and other community stakeholders to understand and use.

### The 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update Process.....

The 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update is a **collaborative process** lead by CPED-Planning Division in close cooperation with the City Planning Commission, Public Agencies, The City Council, Residents and Stakeholders. The Plan Update included an intensive **public participation process** with residents and other stakeholders. Public participation techniques used included: Community Forums, Public Surveys and Results, Public Open Houses, City Planning Commission Public Hearings and Public Comment Periods, and, a Multi-media Outreach. Additionally, several internal meetings were conducted by the Planning Division staff with various City Departments to address all issues within the community

equitably. The **technical approach** to the Plan Update preparation sequentially included: data collection and assessment of existing conditions; analysis of opportunities and issues; development of concepts and policies; and, the outlining of implementation steps.

### **What is in the City's updated Comprehensive Plan?**

The Comprehensive Plan Update primarily consists of chapters organized in topical areas listed below. Each chapter includes *Goals; Context Analysis; Policies, and Implementation Steps* for achieving the stated goals and policies.

**Land Use** – Describes land use designations with policies to protect, maintain, revitalize or develop the city's residential, commercial, industrial, transit station areas, and employment centers. This chapter introduces the future land use map and land use designations showing how the City intends to grow.

*Goal: Minneapolis will develop and maintain a land use pattern that strengthens the vitality, quality and urban character of its downtown core, commercial corridors, industrial areas, and neighborhoods while protecting natural systems and developing a sustainable pattern for future growth.*

**Transportation** – Emphasizes integration between land use and the city's multi-modal transportation system. Recommended systems include additional access for pedestrians and bicycles, transit and rail service and automobiles.

*Goal: Minneapolis will build, maintain and enhance access to multi-modal transportation options for residents and businesses through a balanced system of transportation modes that supports the City's land use vision, reduces adverse transportation impacts, decreases the overall dependency on automobiles, and reflects the city's pivotal role as the center of the regional transportation network.*

**Housing** - Incorporates policies about the mix and diversity of housing types ranging from duplexes and high rise condominiums to supportive housing and life-cycle housing, as well as restoration of post-war single-family ramblers and stately mansions.

*Goal: Minneapolis will build and maintain the strength, vitality, and stability of the city's neighborhoods by providing a variety of housing opportunities to meet the needs of all members of the community.*

**Economic Development** – Incorporates policies that recognize that a healthy, sustainable economy depends on supporting its businesses, the people employed by its businesses and the places in which businesses are located.

*Goal: Minneapolis will grow as the regional center for employment, commerce, industry and tourism, providing opportunities for residents, entrepreneurs and visitors.*

**Public Services and Facilities** - Addresses infrastructure needed to serve planned land uses, essential government services, the relationship to other institutions like the public library system, and promoting community health.

*Goal: Through sound management and strategic investments, Minneapolis will maintain and develop public services and facilities that promote health, safety and an enhanced quality of life for all members of this growing community.*

**Environment** - Addresses sustainable practices that protect public health and maintain environmental quality.

*Goal: Minneapolis will promote sustainable design practices in the preservation, development, and maintenance of its natural and built environments, provide equal access to all of the city's resources and natural amenities, and support the local and regional economy without compromising the needs of future generations.*

**Open Space and Parks** - Recaps the recently adopted Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board comprehensive plan and describes how various other types of open space enhance the city.

*Goal: Minneapolis will cooperate with other jurisdictions, public agencies, and the private sector to provide open space, green space, and recreational facilities to meet the short and long-term needs of the community and enhance the quality of life for city residents.*

**Heritage Preservation** - Considers the protection, conservation and enhancements to the traditional urban character of the city.

*Goal: Minneapolis will promote the sustainable practice of protecting and reusing our culturally significant built and natural environment, including buildings, districts, landscapes, and historic resources, while advancing growth through preservation policies.*

**Arts and Culture** - Discusses cultural events and public art that enhance land use, public spaces and overall community livability.

*Goal: Minneapolis will continually grow into a more diverse and vibrant city, ensuring that residents have access to rich and meaningful arts and cultural activities that are vital to the city's quality of life and economic success.*

**Urban Design** - Considers the aesthetics, design and quality of the built environment, including the compatibility between different types of densities and land uses.

*Goal: Minneapolis will be an attractive and inviting city that promotes harmony between the natural and built environments, gives prominence to pedestrian facilities and amenities, and respects the city's traditional urban features while welcoming new construction and improvements.*

## **How is the Updated Comprehensive Plan Implemented?**

The City's Comprehensive Plan is implemented primarily in two different ways, they are: deliberate action by the City and its partners; and, the free market process within the regulatory framework. The following are some actions that will implement the City's Comprehensive Plan.

- **Formal adoption** of the Comprehensive Plan by the Planning Commission and the City.
- **Zoning code, regulatory and policy changes** that reflect the concepts outlined in the Comprehensive Plan's policies.
- **Prioritization of projects** recommended in the Comprehensive Plan in the City's annual Capital Improvement Plans/Programs and funding allocations.
- **Partnerships with private developers** to realize the goals and policies and or specific development or redevelopment projects outlined in the Plan.
- **Promotion of public/private partnership** projects for physical improvements, and/or program improvements based on the recommendations in the Plan implement.
- **Federal, state, and other agency coordination and collaboration** to implement projects as per the Plan's vision.

The City of Minneapolis' implementation strategy for its Comprehensive Plan goes beyond the statute requirements and includes department business plans, funding programs, and planning tools and tactics. Citywide land use policies guide the development and interpretation of this comprehensive plan and the city's zoning code. To fully appreciate this plan's vision and how it will be realized, the Plan should be read as a whole.

***Additional Information***

More information about the Comprehensive Plan update is available online at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/comp\\_plan\\_update.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/comp_plan_update.asp)

Email comments and questions to [update@minneapolisplan.info](mailto:update@minneapolisplan.info) or call (612) 673-2098

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