



Why Does the City of Urbana Need a Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan is our community's vision for where we want to be in twenty years. It is the long-range planning guide for our City, designed to direct all future actions of the City. Included are the strategies to achieve the goals and objectives by which land use, neighborhood preservation, economic development, transportation, social, environmental and quality of life decisions are made.



Under the **Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/11-12-5)**, every plan commission and planning department is charged with preparing and recommending a Comprehensive Plan "for the present and future development or redevelopment of the municipality." The Comprehensive Plan covers land within the corporate limits, and contiguous territory not more than 1.5 miles beyond the corporate limits and not included in the municipality. The Plan shall be advisory, and shall not be construed to regulate or control the use of private property in any way.

The City of Urbana's current Comprehensive Plan was approved in 2005. Since that time, there has been an economic recession and more recently a pandemic, both of which had a significant economic impact on our area. To ensure that our updated Comprehensive Plan will serve as a useful guide as we navigate the future, it must be able to withstand or recover quickly from changing conditions.

How Does the Plan Impact Me?

- If you care about the sustainability of our resources and environment,
- If you care about walkable neighborhoods,
- If you care about accessible transportation and safe routes,
- If you care about affordable housing,
- If you care about Urbana's arts & culture scene,
- If you care about entrepreneurship and business diversity,
- If you care about economic growth and jobs,
- **If you care about the future of Urbana, the Urbana Comprehensive Plan impacts you!**



Who Decides What is Included in the Plan?



YOU!! The Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan process involves extensive community engagement all along the way. Anyone who lives, works, plays, visits and studies in Urbana should have a say in how our City moves forward. This community-wide conversation focuses on where we have been, where we are now, and where we want to be in 20 years. It is up to all of us to ensure the Plan is resilient and equitable!

What is the Process?

The City's Comprehensive Plan studies, assesses, and makes recommendations about the many elements that make up a community. Determining what the Plan will address is an important part of the planning process, and the City is working closely with community residents and partners to ensure the key elements are addressed in the Plan. Every community is unique, but typical elements include: quality of life, economic growth, housing, natural resources, land use, and transportation. Once key elements are identified from the first phase of community involvement, additional community engagement reviews existing conditions and establishes a vision, goals, and specific strategies to improve each of these elements.



How Do I Get Involved?

- Email ImagineUrbana@Urbanallinois.us to let us know what elements of our community interest you most so that you can join conversations that brainstorm ways to improve upon what is most important to you.
- Be a champion in your neighborhood to spread the word on getting your neighbors involved and/or host a discussion group in your neighborhood.
- Attend and engage in community discussion groups.



Don't wait and risk not being pleased with the outcome --- engage now and help construct the city you believe we are, and should be!

How is the Comprehensive Plan Implemented?

The most important step is implementation. Continuous review and progress monitoring holds everyone accountable to the plan's vision. Annual reviews and revisions of ordinances and plans is considered a best practice. In addition to monitoring and updating the Plan, the following tools are vital to ensuring the successful implementation of the Comprehensive Plan: (1) the Capital Improvement Plan and annual budget which allocate public expenditure on projects; (2) community plans and programs



that address specific subjects; and (3) ordinances and development regulations that control the location, form, and character of private projects.

The Comprehensive Plan is NOT...

- X A document that regulates or controls the use of private property in any way.**
- X A neighborhood plan**, but rather a community-wide plan integrating general community concerns across the entire plan.
- X A rigid unchangeable document**, but one that is regularly reviewed and amended as needed.
- X The only guiding document for our City**, but will incorporate existing approved plans such as the City's Bicycle & Pedestrian Plans and Climate Action Plan.
- X A Plan that sits on a shelf and is never implemented.** It is an ever present guide for making decisions that impact our City.

