

Afterword

The Initial Challenge

When Minnetonka set out to update this *Comprehensive Plan*, Mayor Karen Anderson posed the question, “How should we improve an already good Minnetonka?” That challenge guided the City’s thinking every step of the way.

Minnetonka has now gone through several decades of growth to approach full development. During that time, Minnetonka’s leaders have consistently recognized and enhanced those features that have helped make this community such a desirable place to live, work and play: its wooded hillsides, wetlands and streams, its quiet, protected neighborhoods, and its strong sense of community stewardship.

How Has This Plan Responded?

This plan has responded to the mayor’s challenge by proposing selective refinements to the pattern of land use, improvements to the local roadway network, additions to the park, trail and open space systems, and enhanced protection of wooded slopes and lakeshores. The plan will sustain the City’s residential neighborhoods while improving the design and accessibility of its commercial and community centers. By carefully integrating residential and nonresidential uses in and around commercial centers, in an environment that encourages pedestrian and transit use, the City believes that the appearance and convenience of these centers can be improved so that they will enhance the City’s livability.

What has Been Learned from this Planning Process?

Through the process of updating the *Comprehensive Plan*, Minnetonka has reinforced what was already known -- that there is wisdom in citizens’ understanding of their neighborhoods and the broader community, and that by involving them closely in this process of community building the results can be greatly improved.

How Can This Plan Be Used Effectively?

The *Comprehensive Plan* should be regarded as the central guiding document for all major physical planning and capital improvement decisions by the City. Officials and staff should refer to its goals, policies and maps on a regular basis, either adhering to them or officially revising the plan as circumstances change. The central elements of the plan should be consistent and ongoing while the specifics should be amended to best suit community needs at the time. Above all, the plan should be used.

Where Does Minnetonka Go from Here?

Minnetonka now turns its attention to the future, which can be guided by the decisions made today. Plans like this one are implemented through a series of small and large land use changes, initiated for the most part by the private sector. In Minnetonka, citizen involvement is an integral and welcome part of the planning and development review process. Please join in this ongoing effort to shape the Minnetonka 's future.