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Purpose and Summary

The 2030 Comprehensive Guide Plan has been prepared to guide development, redevelopment and public services and programs through the year 2030, consistent with current community values listed in Chapter I. The overall strategic framework of the 2030 comprehensive plan differs from previous planning efforts in some regards; however, important planning principles and efforts from the past are carried forward and strengthened to implement city policies and initiatives.

This current planning effort looks to the year 2030; however, the plan is intended to provide specific guidance for public decisions over the next ten years. The overall plan is designed as a flexible document and changes to the various components of the plan chapters including the 2030 land use map, policies, implementation strategies and programs, may be initiated to this plan according to the processes established in state law and city ordinance. The 2030 Comprehensive Guide Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Metropolitan Land Planning Act and it is anticipated that the plan will be updated in 2017-2018.

Building on the Past, Looking Towards the Future

The 2030 Comprehensive Plan is comprised of eleven chapters that provide guidance for city planning activities involving private and public development and redevelopment, municipal infrastructure, city programs and facilities, overall city service delivery, and cooperative efforts with other government agencies and non-profit/for-profit groups.

The following summarizes the overall strategic components of the 2030 Comprehensive Guide Plan:

A. Stability in Established Areas

- * The city will seek to preserve the unique character of Minnetonka's existing neighborhoods; however, opportunities to broaden housing choice will be reviewed on appropriate vacant or underdeveloped properties, compatible with adjacent development.

B. Diversity in Household and Housing Types

- * The city will continue to support reinvestment in and revitalization of the city's neighborhoods (low-density residential, higher density residential and mixed-use activity areas) to help retain existing and attract new families with children, young professionals, empty nesters and seniors.

C. Increased Vitality in Neighborhood, Community and Special Purpose Areas

- * The city will support efforts to maintain and/or promote vitality for the various and unique commercial and activity centers by using the "village concept" to encourage opportunities for development/redevelopment.
- * The village concept is designed to enhance opportunities for vitality within commercial areas by allowing well-planned mixed uses centered upon an integrated mix of commercial, residential, employment, and public uses; with parks and open

space; and is pedestrian friendly and transit accessible.

- * The city recognizes that each village in the city is unique and distinctive, based on the individual scale and function of uses in each area.

D. Support for Regional Centers (Ridgedale and Opus) and Corridors (I-394 and Crosstown)

- * The city supports existing businesses, business retention and recruitment, and reasonable expansion (based on existing and planned infrastructure capacity) to remain competitive in the region.
- * The city will provide opportunities for mixed uses and higher density residential uses, and pedestrian improvements to allow better walkability in the regional centers and corridors, particularly where transit opportunities are available.
- * The city will continue to support (and update) plans and programs that encourage cohesive design standards, infrastructure management techniques (such as the I-394 Corridor Plan) and sustainable design techniques.

E. Connectivity to Improve Mobility

- * The city will continue to support programs and strategies to increase connectivity throughout the city, particularly in the village areas and regional centers and corridors.
- * Facilities and areas that support connectivity include transportation and recreational linkages, such as trails, roads and greenways (open space, environmental features and landscaping design elements) will be encouraged.

F. Resource Protection and Sustainable Practices

- * The city will continue to balance preservation efforts to protect Minnetonka's highly valued water and woodland resources.
- * The city will support the application of sustainable principles in land planning, development and redevelopment activities, such as "transit oriented design", "low impact development" and "active living" design standards.

Implementation Requirements

Each chapter of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan includes strategies, programs and a listing of the various implementation measures needed to realize the individual chapter and overall policies of this plan. The purpose for various implementation measures are explained in each chapter of this plan.

The following section summarizes the major implementation strategies of the various chapters requiring changes to existing city programs and regulatory controls. The implementation strategies listed are new initiatives that city will undertake and do not include the administration of current ordinance requirements and ongoing programs:

Chapter IV: Land Use Plan

1. Update the Zoning Ordinance to allow mixed uses in various village areas.
2. Review sections of the zoning and subdivision ordinances to:
 - a. Determine if other techniques are needed to provide additional opportunities for

housing types/residential development that is attractive to a variety of age and income groups.

- b. Determine if performance standards are adequate to define buffering and screening adjacent to residential areas, stormwater ponding requirements, and the appropriate balance between development/redevelopment and natural resource protection may be required.
 - c. Examine the need for additional overlay (similar to the existing I-394 Redevelopment Overlay Districts) and master planning provisions for redevelopment purposes in certain village areas.
 - d. Determine if “interim use” or temporary uses of property provisions are needed to allow the city additional flexibility for areas where redevelopment may occur.
3. Update the Planned I-394 District to allow mixed uses in certain areas and re-confirm transportation related information.

Chapter V: Housing Plan

1. Research “point of sale” inspection and/or improvement programs and determine if it is appropriate to implement such a program in Minnetonka.
2. Investigate the need for a rental licensing and inspections program and associated costs, as well as the legal implications of having or not having such a program in place.
3. Identify potential sites for senior housing development and inform developers that may want to construct senior housing as to these sites.

Chapter VI: Resource Management Plan

1. Review the need to amend current standards for water quality treatment best management practices.
2. Review and incorporate stormwater design criteria in ordinances and regulatory guidelines for development as identified in the 2008 Water Resources Management Plan.
3. Seek permitting authority for water related projects within the Bassett Creek and Nine Mile Creek watershed management organizations to streamline the review process and eliminate duplicated permitting.

Chapter VII: Park, Open Space and Trails Plan

1. Update the detailed Park, Open Space and Trails (POST) plan to incorporate the 2030 Comprehensive Guide Plan and changes that have occurred with the overall park, trail and open space system since 2001.
2. Participate in an athletic needs study with appropriate agencies and partners.
3. Provide multi-year funding for the implementation of the Upper Minnehaha Creek Corridor Plan.
4. Determine appropriate locations for off-leash dog areas within existing city parks to meet the increasing number and needs of dog owners in the city.

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