

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN VISION STATEMENTS

The community vision statements were first developed in a community forum held during the preparation of the city's 2000 Comprehensive Plan. The vision statements were updated in a City Council/Planning Commission workshop in 2005. In 2016, the City Council and Planning Commission reviewed and updated the statements again. At the same time, the city facilitated community input on the vision statements through social media.

Maintain a safe and secure community.

Plymouth values the safe and secure environment currently found in the community. Safety and security are reflected in the low crime rate and superior police protection, quality fire protection and response time and the availability of health and community services. Residents value the involvement of individuals, households and neighborhoods in creating a safe environment.

Protect and enhance the natural environment.

Plymouth values the natural resources in the community, including lakes, ponds, streams, wetlands and the rolling and wooded terrain and consequently, the preservation and maintenance of these resources. A healthy environment is important to people, and the existing natural resources contribute to the livability of the community.

Support high quality education.

Plymouth values education, supports the public and private schools in the community and places an emphasis on educating the youth of the community. Plymouth values the quality of school facilities, the safety of school buildings and grounds and the quality of school programs.

Maintain and enhance housing quality and diversity.

Plymouth values housing that is attractive, well constructed and maintained to ensure quality of life for all residents. Plymouth also values diverse housing opportunities in neighborhoods throughout the community, including affordable housing, renter and owner-occupied housing, senior housing and life-cycle housing.

Protect and enhance convenience and mobility.

Plymouth values the convenience and mobility provided by the community's strategic geographic location in the metropolitan area. Three regional highways run through the community, providing direct

access to the rest of the region. The layout of the community affords convenient access to goods and services within the community. The trail system and public transportation provide valuable alternative modes of transportation. The mix of housing and business within the community allows residents to live near their place of employment. Moving forward, investment in all modes of transportation is essential to realizing the city's vision.

Promote and strengthen economic vitality.

Plymouth values the strong economy and diverse tax base within the community, which includes high quality commercial and industrial development to complement the residential development. The diversity of development within the community results in a balanced tax base and a wide variety of employment opportunities. Plymouth recognizes, however, that as the community ages, maintenance of its assets as well as redevelopment will be necessary components of the community's economic vitality. Therefore, Plymouth supports both maintenance programs (e.g. code enforcement) and redevelopment as tools to sustain economic health.

Provide high quality city services and facilities.

Plymouth values both the facilities and services the city provides. The park and trail systems as well as special programs contribute to the quality of life within the community. Other city facilities and services, such as public safety, public works, recycling and long-term planning also contribute to a high quality of life. The many resident volunteers that supplement the work of city staff represent an important contribution for which the city is rightfully proud. The city is well-governed and well-managed, and both residents and businesses look forward to a continued high level of city-based services. The city will continue to be responsive to the emerging trends and changing needs of its residents and businesses.

Meet the needs of all age groups within the city, with a particular focus on young people and the aging population.

Plymouth recognizes that the nation is aging. And the city is no exception. Plymouth will pay increased attention to the special needs of its aging population in all aspects of community life – housing, all forms of transportation, services and facilities and especially, sense of community. Young people likewise have special needs with respect to the same aspects of community life, most notably housing options and all forms of transportation.

Enhance and strengthen the sense of community.

Plymouth is a welcoming community that appreciates differences and fosters diversity. Plymouth values its sense of community. People are connected to the community, want to continue to strengthen this sense of place, are involved in community life (government, religious institutions, schools, libraries, recreation, arts and volunteer efforts) and are able to bridge physical barriers to come together. There is a pride in the community that will be made stronger as the community matures.

LAND USE GOALS AND POLICIES

Establish and maintain a land use pattern that reflects the community's desire to provide for a variety of land uses, including residential neighborhoods of varying densities and housing types, retail commercial and office areas, industrial developments, civic uses and parks and open space.

- Encourage the mixing of complementary uses to enhance convenience, livability and accessibility and decrease traffic.
- Facilitate clustering of new development to preserve natural communities identified in the 2006 *Natural Resources Inventory*.
- Support the needs of an aging population for shopping, passive and active recreation, including walking and biking trails, and other support services within easy access.
- Support further subdivision within existing single family neighborhoods only when it is consistent with the density and intensity of the neighborhood and meets the standards and intent of the subdivision regulations.
- Encourage preservation of outlots that were created for open space in return for smaller lot sizes in the adjacent neighborhoods.
- Require vegetative screening and other types of buffers to provide transitions between land uses of different intensities, e.g. single family neighborhoods and retail commercial developments.
- Promote sustainable building practices in all new developments and redevelopments.
- Support redevelopment of obsolete, underutilized and deteriorated uses.
- As northwest Plymouth continues to develop, respect the many natural features that reflect the character of the area.

Achieve a balance among: 1) efficient delivery of public services; 2) preservation of natural and cultural resources; and 3) respect for individual property rights.

- Provide public services and facilities in a cost-effective manner.
- Support an orderly and efficient staging of infrastructure and utilities.
- Apply development standards that protect the environment and advance community values while allowing sound use of private property.
- Encourage resource preservation in areas where parks and open spaces are planned and in areas of high erosion potential (steep slopes and bluffs).
- Promote solar access protection.

- Where feasible, support preservation of resources (sites and structures) that are historically significant to Plymouth.

Encourage that all areas of Plymouth be visually appealing, vital and continually maintained.

- Apply development standards that produce quality design, aesthetic appeal and compatibility in building height and mass between existing properties and adjacent new development.
- Establish regulations that ensure all types of residential, commercial and industrial structures and properties are maintained.
- Construct and maintain high quality, attractive public facilities.

Pursue complementary economic growth and redevelopment opportunities that serve to further enhance the community's economic and social vitality and in turn help sustain Plymouth's high quality of life.

- Promote development of well-designed commercial and industrial uses to maintain the community's diversified tax base and provide varied employment opportunities.
- Support existing Plymouth businesses.
- Recruit diverse businesses that are complementary to Plymouth's existing businesses.
- Support redevelopment of obsolete and deteriorated commercial and industrial development.
- Encourage development and infrastructure improvements that support the daytime worker population.

Support efforts that strengthen community identity, contribute to a high quality of life and enhance Plymouth as a desirable place to live, work and play.

- Strengthen City Center as a community-wide focal point.
- Provide non-motorized connections across major physical barriers at key locations where feasible.
- Encourage new development to integrate pedestrian and bicycle facilities—both within and connecting to adjacent development – and transit facilities.

- Encourage development or redevelopment, where needed or appropriate, of high profile buildings with high quality finishes at major entrances to the community.

HOUSING GOALS AND POLICIES

Promote the development and preservation of a supply of quality housing that is affordable at all income levels and at all stages of the life cycle.

- Provide opportunities for the development of quality housing that is diverse in terms of ownership, price, type and style, for all people at all incomes.
- Ensure that Plymouth provides housing opportunities for individuals and households at all stages of the life cycle, including first time homebuyers and those wishing to move up to their second or third home and households wishing to down size as children move out.
- Promote the use of sustainable design practices for proposed housing projects.
- Actively encourage residential developers to include housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income persons and local employees as part of their proposals in order to provide a range of mixed-income housing throughout the community. Toward that end, the City will provide information about Plymouth's goals for affordable housing to anyone inquiring about possible development within the city.
- Provide financial and technical assistance to developers of housing that is affordable to low and moderate persons when appropriate.
- Promote the development of housing for persons with special needs, including accessible housing for persons with disabilities.
- Support efforts to assure equal access to housing in Plymouth regardless of household race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or familial status.
- Continue to pursue federal and state resources on behalf of developers for affordable housing that help meet Plymouth's need for low- and moderate-income life cycle housing.
- Review all development proposals for their potential to contribute toward meeting the City's goals for affordable housing.

Encourage and ensure that all housing and neighborhoods in Plymouth are well maintained.

- Support programs and activities that promote the maintenance and enhancement of the Plymouth housing stock.
- Support local programs that provide low- and moderate-income households with financial assistance to maintain and rehabilitate their housing.
- Preserve the current affordable housing stock in the city through programs to assist with maintenance activities.

Promote development patterns that link housing for all people at all incomes with services and employment centers by all forms of transportation, particularly public transit and non-motorized forms of transportation.

- Support residential development that makes efficient use of land and public infrastructure.
- Provide opportunities to develop new housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income persons in areas that are accessible to employment centers and public amenities through public transit and non-motorized transportation.
- Work with Plymouth businesses to identify opportunities to promote affordable housing to meet the needs of the area workforce.
- Support efforts to maintain and rehabilitate existing affordable housing in areas that are near employment centers and public amenities.

SURFACE WATER GOALS AND POLICIES

CITYWIDE GOALS

Water Quantity (i.e., Flood Control): Reduce the potential for flooding and minimize related public capital and maintenance expenditures necessary to control excessive volumes and rates of runoff.

Water Quality: Achieve water quality standards in lakes, streams, and wetlands, consistent with intended use and classification.

Erosion Control: The City will minimizing the loss of soil into wetlands, lake, streams and creeks through plan review, education, enforcement and management.

Wetlands: The City will administer the State Wetland Conservation Act, consistent with the rules of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Public Participation, Information, and Education: The City will continue to increase public involvement and knowledge in management and protection of water resources through public participation and education.

Monitoring: The City will continue to support a comprehensive water resources monitoring program to help identify progress toward meeting water quality goals and allocations assigned by total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). Water quality parameters include total suspended solids (TSS), total phosphorus (TP), nitrogen (N), and chloride (Cl).

Maintenance and Inspection: The City will preserve the function, quantity, and quality of water resource facilities through routine inspections, regular maintenance activities, and administration of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act.

Recreation, Fish, and Wildlife: The City may support water recreation activities and improve fish and wildlife habitat by implementation of programs which will improve water quality.

Groundwater: The City shall strive to prevent contamination of the aquifers and promote groundwater recharge including water conservation practices to maintain base flows in streams.

Finance: The City may regularly evaluate and monitor funding sources used to finance water resources management activities.

WATER BODY GOALS (STREAMS AND LAKES)

Shallow Lakes: The goal for all shallow lakes within the City is to have an average total phosphorus concentration of 60 µg/l or less, secchi depths greater than 1 meter and to have chlorophyll-a concentrations below 20 µg/l.

- The Watershed Management Organization (WMO) or Watershed District may have different goals for each lake, however in general, 303d listed lakes will need to work toward meeting the specific goals set forth in the US EPA approved TMDL implementation plan. The goal for lakes not listed as a 303d impaired water is protection of the resource to prevent the water body from being listed as impaired in the future.

Deep Lakes: The goal for all deep lakes within the City is to have an average total phosphorus concentration of 40 µg/l or less, secchi depths greater than 1.4 meters and to have chlorophyll-a concentrations below 14 µg/l.

- The Watershed Management Organization (WMO) may have different goals for each lake, however in general, 303d listed lakes will need to work toward meeting the specific goals set forth in the US EPA approved TMDL implementation plan. The goal for lakes not listed as a 303d impaired water is protection of the resource to prevent the water body from being listed as impaired in the future.

Streams: The City shall have water quality goals in streams for E. Coli, dissolved oxygen, chloride, and biotic integrity.

- The Watershed Management Organization (WMO) may have different goals for each stream, however in general, 303d listed streams will need to work toward meeting the specific goals set forth in the US EPA approved TMDL implementation plan. The goal for streams not listed as a 303d impaired water is protection of the resource to prevent it from being listed as impaired in the future.

TRANSPORTATION GOALS AND POLICIES

Provide a high-quality, cost-effective, multi-modal transportation system that provides access to land uses in the city and provides for the safety and efficient movement of people and goods within and through the city and region.

- Treat all modes of transportation and related facilities as one integrated system to be coordinated and developed with other partners and stakeholders.
- Support regional improvements to major transportation facilities to remove bottlenecks and improve safety and traffic flow through the city.
- Promote ridesharing and other travel demand management strategies to help reduce peak hour commuter congestion.
- Require developers to provide the transportation facilities (roadways, transit, and bicycle/pedestrian) needed to support development.

- Where feasible, support on-road facilities on lower volume/lower speed streets (average 400 ADT) that encourage bicycle use for commuting.
- Where feasible, support off-road trails on higher volume/higher speed roadways that encourage bicycle use for commuting.
- Provide pedestrian and bicycle connections among neighborhoods, major activity centers, municipal and regional parks and regional trail systems, and work toward eliminating barriers for pedestrian and bicycle movements at crossings of major trail facilities.
- Support continued rail access to industrial areas to provide options for freight movement.

Maintain independent high-quality transit services for Plymouth users.

- Provide and support transit services throughout the city to help ensure routes and schedules meet resident and employee needs.
- Promote public participation in transit planning.
- Annually review ridership service levels and per ride costs and make service adjustments where needed to best serve diverse needs.
- Support and promote park-and-ride facilities that are integral to the transit network.
- Integrate transit facilities into land use and other infrastructure to facilitate increased usage.
- Coordinate transit services and infrastructure with other communities and providers to maximize efficiencies and service.

Enhance safety for users of the transportation system through implementation of best practices, use of design standards, infrastructure maintenance, and enforcement of traffic regulations.

- Restrict and/or limit property access on high-volume roadways and encourage good design/development practices that adhere to access guidelines.
- Discourage pass-through traffic, including non-local truck traffic, on local streets in residential neighborhoods.
- Use best transportation design and maintenance practices.
- Work with law enforcement to address traffic law compliance issues.
- Work toward the elimination of major sources of modal conflict points in the city.
- Limit obstructions to air space where heliports are in place or planned.

Work to avoid and/or minimize transportation facility impacts on the environment and private property.

- Design roadways and other infrastructure in a manner that is sensitive to the physical, environmental and cultural context in which they are located.
- Promote best management practices in transportation and site design to minimize runoff, erosion and other impacts, and to improve surface water quality.
- Coordinate project development efforts with regulatory and peer agencies.

Maximize available financial resources to efficiently maintain and improve the transportation system.

- Provide timely reinvestment in essential elements of the transportation system to maintain system functionality and minimize life-cycle cost.
- Use pavement management and other monitoring systems to provide information for making sound investment decisions.
- Seek alternative funding options to leverage local and state aid funds for implementing improvements.
- Balance safety, environmental impacts and cost-effectiveness when making roadway decisions and setting priorities for improvements.

PARKS GOALS AND POLICIES

Provide a high-quality park and open space system that offers a balance of active and passive recreational opportunities.

- Continue to maintain and renovate the park system.
- Continue to build out the Northwest Greenway.
- Acquire the land needed for new parks and trails by requiring dedication in new developments and by purchasing land for community-wide park needs.
- Add and enhance cultural resources and historic interpretive opportunities.
- Continue to include natural areas as a component of the park system.

- Consider acquiring areas of unique, high-quality open space or natural resources that are not adequately protected by regulations.
- Establish regulations and incentives that will require or encourage private preservation of open space and natural resources.
- Prohibit private parks from serving as a substitute for any segment of the public park system.

Develop and maintain a trail/city sidewalk system throughout the community to provide recreation opportunities and encourage non-motorized transportation.

- Provide trail/city sidewalk connections among municipal and regional parks, neighborhoods and major activity centers.
- Provide trail/city sidewalk connections to state, regional, county and adjoining community trail systems.
- Identify physical barriers to non-motorized access and provide connections across these barriers at key locations where feasible.
- Consider providing trail/city sidewalks on both sides of streets when roadway traffic speed volumes or other safety considerations warrant.
- Establish a functional hierarchy of trail/city sidewalks relating to maintenance, jurisdiction and financing.
- Remove snow from designated trail/city sidewalk based on defined City Council-approved criteria.

Provide recreation programs and facilities that are well used, accessible and cost-effective.

- Monitor recreation trends and use patterns, and respond with appropriate programs and facilities.
- Continue to maintain and seek additional partnerships with school districts, athletic associations, contractors and other providers of recreational opportunities.
- Where there are opportunities for partnerships, act as a facilitator rather than the provider of new recreational facilities and programs.

- Assess user fees to offset operation and maintenance costs for public facilities when warranted.
- Continue to update and provide accessible programs, facilities, parks and trails.

WATER SUPPLY GOALS AND POLICIES

Provide residents and businesses with affordable potable water that is safe and high quality.

- Meet or exceed all federal and state drinking water standards.
- Inform customers of maintenance practices that may affect water quality.

Provide a low-maintenance, cost-effective water system that meets the long-term needs of residents and businesses.

- Design and construct a water system that supports the City's Land Use Plan at ultimate development.
- Establish assessment rates, fees, and connection charges to ensure that new development pays for construction of the initial system.
- Require developers to pay the cost of off-site water facilities necessary for any development that occurs in a non-sequential order.
- Operate and maintain the water system to ensure its long-term function with equitable user charges.

Provide adequate water supply and pressure for residents and businesses.

- Design and construct a water system that meets demands for fire protection.
- Require that new structures with a ground elevation of 1,040 feet or higher above sea level install booster pumps if static pressure is 35 pounds per square inch (psi) or lower.
- Work with residents to find solutions for low water pressure.

Continue working with adjacent communities to provide a cooperative water system for emergency service.

Provide water service for developing areas in a planned manner by constructing new mains, wells and a water treatment plant, if demand requires.

Protect the City's sustainable water supply through conservation by reducing the demand for water, improving the efficiency of water use and reducing loss and waste of water.

- Conform to the Water Emergency and Conservation Plan.
- Continue a tiered system of charges that increase rates with increased use.
- Inform customers about individual water conservation practices.
- Evaluate a program to provide homes with low flow water fixtures.

Protect the groundwater source from contamination by conforming to the Wellhead Protection Plan.

SANITARY SEWER GOALS AND POLICIES

Provide a low maintenance and cost effective sanitary sewer system that meets the long term needs of the City's residents and businesses.

- Design and construct a sanitary sewer system that supports the City's land use plan and its ultimate development.
- Establish assessments and connection charges to ensure that development pays for the construction of the initial system.
- Operate and maintain the sanitary sewer system to ensure its long term function with equitable user charges.
- Continue to address infiltration/inflow of clear water into the sanitary sewer system.

Work with the Metropolitan Council and adjoining communities to provide a mutually cooperative sanitary sewer system.

- Maintain existing arrangements for sanitary sewer with adjacent communities.
- Provide a trunk system that meets the needs of Plymouth and adjoining communities.
- Participate in cost sharing arrangements that result in mutual benefit to participating communities.

Provide sanitary sewer service to undeveloped areas in a planned manner.

- Require developers to pay the cost of off-site sanitary sewer facilities necessary for any development that occurs in a non-sequential order.

PUBLIC FACILITIES GOALS AND POLICIES

Provide and maintain quality public facilities.

Provide for adequate maintenance and the orderly replacement of the City's buildings and equipment.

Continue to work with other public, private and non-profit agencies (e.g., Hennepin County, school districts and social service agencies) to ensure that the City's needs for facilities are met.