

Grand Rapids

Comprehensive Plan

Adopted July 2011



CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS

IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE



City of Grand Rapids Comprehensive Plan

July 2011

We wish to acknowledge the following people who were instrumental in guiding the Comprehensive Plan process. Also, thank you to the citizens of Grand Rapids for their vision and contributions to this plan through enthusiastic participation in the community survey and focus groups.

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Chapter 1 – Introduction

A comprehensive plan is the official long-range policy document for the City, guiding zoning and land use ordinances, investments in public infrastructure, economic development programs, natural resource use and protection, housing policy, and other issues. The comprehensive plan is a policy document that provides the legal foundation for the city’s ordinances, programs, and capital investment plans. The plan portrays the community’s desired future and guides decision-making by elected and appointed officials on how development, conservation, and public investment take place within the city.

Comprehensive plans identify the community’s desired future looking out 20 years, or in this case, to the Grand Rapids of 2030. The desired future is described with a future land use map and supporting written goals and objectives. Plans typically have three important parts –background information to define “what is,” maps and goals to define the “desired future condition,” and a set of implementation actions to bridge between “what is” and the “desired future.”

Grand Rapids’ 2003 Comprehensive Plan provided a foundation for this current Plan. The 2003 Plan was updated because many policies and recommendations no longer reflected current needs, concerns, and issues of Grand Rapids residents and businesses.

The Comprehensive Plan update took place over the past year guided by a Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee serving as advisors to the Planning Commission and the City Council which adopt the Plan. The public was involved through a community survey, focus groups, and public meetings. Background studies were updated from the 2003 Comprehensive Plan. A vision, set of values, and guiding principles were created to guide the choices for future land use, community services, natural resources and open space, transportation investments, and economic development policies.

Chapter 2 describes the process undertaken by the City of Grand Rapids in creating this updated Comprehensive Plan.

Chapter 3 presents the Vision Grand Rapids’ residents have for their community. Community values and guiding principles that support choices about the future and how to achieve it are also included.

Chapter 4 illustrates the future land use types and locations that are anticipated through implementation of this Plan.

Chapter 5 connects us to the future vision for the City by providing goals, objectives, and implementation steps necessary to achieve the vision.

**Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 462, Section 355
ADOPT, AMEND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; INTERIM
ORDINANCE.**

Subdivision 1. Preparation and review.

The planning agency shall prepare the comprehensive municipal plan. In discharging this duty the planning agency shall consult with and coordinate the planning activities of other departments and agencies of the municipality to insure conformity with and to assist in the development of the comprehensive municipal plan. In its planning activities the planning agency shall take due cognizance of the planning activities of adjacent units of government and other affected public agencies. The planning agency shall periodically review the plan and recommend amendments whenever necessary. When preparing or recommending amendments to the comprehensive plan, the planning agency ... must consider adopting goals and objectives that will protect open space and the environment.