

CHAPTER 1, INTRODUCTION

The City of Oshkosh 2005 Comprehensive Plan Update is the product of a three-year planning process conducted to not only update the city's 1993 Comprehensive Plan, but also to adopt a plan in accordance with the requirements of the State of Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Legislation, section 66.1001.

The state's Comprehensive Planning Law was passed as part of the 1999-2001 biennial budget. Oftentimes referred to as the "Smart Growth Law", the Comprehensive Planning Law defines a comprehensive plan as containing 9 elements, a requirement for consistency, and a requirement for public participation at every stage of the planning process. The Comprehensive Plan covers a 20-year planning period, with the intent that an update will be conducted in at least 10 years.

Plan Organization

The Comprehensive Plan is organized into 9 elements, as follows:

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In addition to these nine chapters, the plan also includes additional information in the appendices, as referenced in this document.

Requirement of Consistency

The comprehensive planning law requires that beginning January 1, 2010, if a local governmental unit engages in any of the following actions, those actions should be consistent with that local governmental unit's comprehensive plan:

- a. Official mapping established or amended under s. 62.23 (6).
- b. Local subdivision regulation under s. 236.45 or 236.46.
- c. County zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s. 59.69.
- d. City or village zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s. 62.23 (7).
- e. Town zoning ordinances enacted or amended under s. 60.61 or 60.62.
- f. Zoning of shorelands or wetlands in shorelands under s. 59.692, 61.351, or 62.231

Goals, objectives, and implementation actions are identified throughout the document. As the actions are implemented, the city will insure they are consistent with the requirements as listed above.

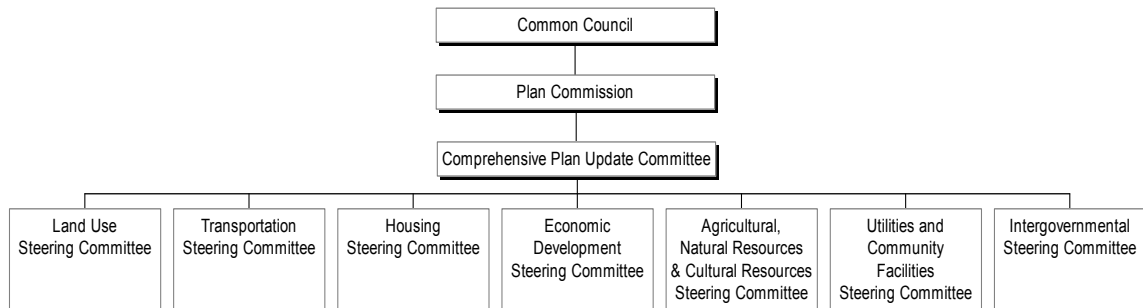
Benefits to comprehensive planning include:

- * Coordinates community activity;
- * Proactive approach rather than reactive; and
- * A road map to the future.

Public Participation

In compliance with the public participation requirements, in June 2002, the Oshkosh Common Council adopted the “Public Participation Plan”, which served as a general guideline on committees that would be formed for this process, how communication would be provided regarding the plan and amendments to the plan, and how and where to submit written and oral comments during the preparation of this comprehensive plan.

In preparation of this plan, seven steering committees and one oversight committee were charged with the responsibilities of preparing certain elements of the Plan. These committees consisted of representatives from city boards and commissions, staff members from several city departments, and representatives of local, regional, and state organizations and agencies. The following graphic shows the relationship of the Steering Committees to the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC) to the Plan Commission and to the Common Council.



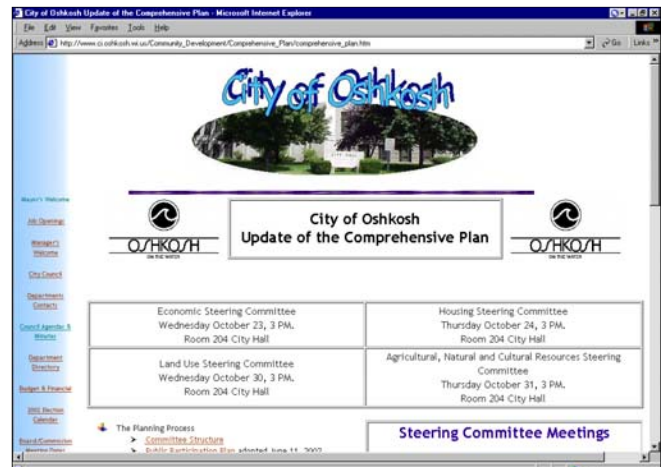
Throughout the process, all meeting notices were posted in city hall, the Oshkosh Public Library, on the city's public access cable channel 10 (OCAT), and on the city's website. Meeting summaries were maintained on the city's website and paper copies were available in the Department of Community Development.

Where applicable, the Steering Committees began reviewing the existing 1993 Comprehensive Plan to determine which portions of the plan met the goals of the “Smart Growth” legislation and what additional information was needed in order to meet the state's requirements for a comprehensive plan.

As chapters were finalized, they were forwarded on an individual basis to the CPUC for their input and review. Once the CPUC was finished with its review, the individual elements were forwarded to the Plan Commission for its review.

Because the Plan Commission played an integral part of the CPUC, the intent at the Plan Commission meetings was to have a general presentation of the chapter to all members of the Plan Commission, in addition to having the presentation aired on Channel 10. Then when appropriate, Plan Commission members approved those chapters as the final draft version.

The Plan Commission held a public informational meeting on this Comprehensive Plan on January 4, 2005 and held a formal public hearing on the document on January 18, 2005. The Plan Commission recommended to the Common Council adoption of the Comprehensive Plan by resolution (#05-01) on January 18, 2005 with a 8-0 vote. The Common Council adopted the Comprehensive Plan by ordinance on March 22, 2005.



Implementation Action Summary

Throughout each chapter, actions are identified to achieve the goals of the plan. As part of its responsibilities, the CPUC narrowed the list of implementation actions presented throughout this document to a short list of actions that are considered to be the highest priority for implementation. All actions in this document are part of the implementation, but this shorter list of actions was viewed as items most important for implementation. Additional details on these actions are provided in this document and specifically in the “Chapter 10, Implementation Element”, but are also listed here briefly:

1. Revise Zoning Ordinance to address:
 - a. Creation of minimum requirements for open space area and/or recreation facilities for high-density residential development (or require a deposit to a park development fund).
 - b. Landscaping requirements for new developments and parking lots.
 - c. Minimum lot sizes and setback standards for residential, commercial, and industrial properties.
 - d. Parking space requirements.
 - e. The minimum lot sizes and setback standards for shorelands and other natural features.
2. Revise Land Subdivision Ordinance to address:
 - a. Cluster development requirements for protecting environmentally sensitive areas.
 - b. Tree retention and tree replacement during development.
 - c. Eliminating conflicts between stormwater management and development requirements.
 - d. Update of the parkland dedication fees and land dedication requirements.
3. Within the planning period, adopt cooperative boundary agreements with all surrounding towns describing agreed upon jurisdictional boundaries, land uses and service levels within the city’s extraterritorial jurisdiction area.
4. Officially map a north-south arterial on or near Clairville Road in the Town of Algoma.
5. Continue to implement the recommendations of the “Downtown Action Plan”.
6. Identify and implement aesthetic improvements for gateways/key corridors into and through the city, including update of the “Highway 41 Corridor Plan”.
7. Participate in the implementation and revisions of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Campus Master Plan when those recommendations are consistent with this Comprehensive Plan.
8. Incorporate planning and review processes for pedestrian and bicycle transportation-related issues into an existing city board or commission.
9. Update the “Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation Plan”, including:
 - a. Further identify and develop a linked network of parks and trails around and within the city.
 - b. Design and construct the Fox River Corridor with a continuous, looped trail system and an environmentally sensitive design for the shoreline.
10. Implement “Neighborhood Improvement Strategies” in specific geographic areas for neighborhood and housing issues.

11. Create master plan for city's growth area in the Town of Algoma.
12. Create master plan for the Lake Butte des Morts area, including the Highway 45 corridor.
13. Work with public and private housing providers to plan for the development of additional housing units affordable to low and moderate income owners and renters as needed and to secure additional subsidies for rental of existing privately owned units.

Some actions involve the updating or revision of documents; some the creation of new plans; and some the continuation of processes already in place. Citizens, boards and commissions, government officials, business owners, public institutions, state and regional agencies, and city staff will be involved with the implementation of these actions over time.