

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Village of Shorewood Comprehensive Plan is intended to be a guiding document for policy decisions regarding issues such as land use, transportation, and urban design. More than providing just the traditional comprehensive plan elements of development goals and land use policy, the plan seeks to communicate a vision of the built environment that will be Shorewood in the future. At the core of that vision is the premise that beyond mere function, the elements that make up the built environment will cohesively blend to create a community of exemplary design and a high quality of life for Village residents. To achieve this goal the Comprehensive Plan outlines the following principles and planning elements:

Key Development Principles

- The plan strives to provide opportunities for a balance of essential land uses. While like most suburban communities, the predominant land use will be residential, leaving significant areas of land identified for retail and services uses, employment center uses, community facilities, open space areas, and recreation.
- Residential uses in the Village are envisioned to be a combination of exemplary land planning and architectural design that creates an identifiable character and sense of place. Appropriate locations exist throughout the planning area to provide residential neighborhoods that serve a variety of lifestyle needs ranging from families just starting out to senior-oriented lifestyles. Regardless of the lifestyle opportunities offered, the Village Plan sets design quality and character identity as one of the key focal points of the development process.
- Retail and commercial developments in the Village are identified at strategic locations throughout the planning area, both maximizing the major roadway corridors and serving local neighborhood needs. Both as new construction and redevelopment, such uses are essential to achieve a high quality of life for Village residents. The plan establishes key urban design standards for all commercial and retail uses throughout the planning area, focusing again on unique and identifiable architecture, exemplary site features, and a cohesive approach to land planning.
- Natural resource amenities are identified throughout the planning area for both preservation and enhancement. Additional open spaces are planned for recreational use. The plan envisions a hierarchy of both passive and active open spaces throughout the Village to meet both the neighborhood and community needs of its residents. Open spaces are viewed as a design amenity to be embraced and accentuated in development plans.

Strategic Planning Elements

- Implementation of the Shorewood Towne Center and its expansion areas.
- Development of the Metra Rail Station and an associated Transit Oriented Development.
- Re-development of the Route 52 & Route 59 intersection as a gateway commercial destination.
- Implementation of the Village's major public works components, including the construction of a waste water treatment plant and expansion of the Village's water capacity.
- Development west to/and including the Wikaduke Trail and its arterial development potential.
- Enhanced residential and commercial development within the Aux Sable Creek Watershed that integrates high quality residential and commercial development with open space preservation goals and natural resource protection.

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Shorewood, Illinois. The Comprehensive Plan represents the Village's policies for future growth and development. The Plan establishes policies for growth management, land use, transportation and other community development-related issues. The benefits of the Village's Comprehensive Plan extend to all Shorewood Residents. By careful planning, the Village is able to best utilize its' resources and provide the highest quality of living for residents and businesses.

The Comprehensive Planning program was conducted in light of changing development patterns and conditions in the Shorewood area. The Village had adopted a Comprehensive Plan in April of 2001. In recognizing these changing conditions, the Village engaged in this process to review the policies of the 2001 plan and address new development issues that had arisen in the Village.

The Comprehensive Planning process involved numerous phases. These phases included: inventory and identification of key planning factors; evaluation of alternative planning concepts; preparation of goals and objectives; development of long-range planning policies; and adoption by the Village. Throughout this process, the Village has conducted numerous public workshops and encouraged the active participation and input of citizens.

This Comprehensive Plan has several legislative uses that are important to understand:

1. The Comprehensive Plan is a set of goals and objectives that are aimed at guiding the future development of the Village.
2. The Comprehensive Plan serves as a vital tool in assisting the Plan Commission and Village Board in the decision making processes that each of those bodies face. The Comprehensive Plan should help guide decisions regarding such development issues as subdivisions, annexations, map amendments and development agreements.
3. The Comprehensive Plan is the primary tool from which the Plan Commission and its advisors may draw from in addressing the growth pressures facing the Village of Shorewood.
4. The Comprehensive Plan clearly provides a unified set of goals and objectives to all of the stakeholders involved in the development process in the Village of Shorewood. These parties include the Village Board, Plan Commission, Village staff, outside governmental agencies, developers, the courts and the general public.
5. The Comprehensive Plan is an educational resource that outlines the goals, objectives, development plans and resources associated with the Village of Shorewood