

Public outreach and Steering Committee help shape Minnetonka's future

Comprehensive Guide Plan Spotlight

What do residents hope Minnetonka looks like in 25 years? That's the question city staff has been asking as it prepares to update Minnetonka's comprehensive guide plan - an important planning document that will guide future development decisions.

The 18-month update process is nearing its halfway point, but recent efforts have focused on two areas - public outreach and input from the 2040 Comprehensive Guide Plan Steering Committee. Feedback from both the general public and the steering committee are a vital component to ensure Minnetonka's residents have a say in the city's future.

Public outreach

In January and February, city staff held 14 outreach sessions to solicit feedback and input. Staff visited with residents at coffee shops, sporting events, Ridgedale Mall, happy hours, the community center and community events.

"Public engagement is an important part of this process," said Steering Committee Member Madeline Seveland. "The city's public outreach is refreshing; the city went out into the community rather than asking the community to come to city hall."



Residents who missed out will have additional opportunities to provide input. Another round of community outreach is planned for the spring and summer once the plan is in draft form. Stay tuned to eminnetonka.com/2040guideplan for updates.

Steering committee

Monthly steering committee meetings began in June 2017 and will continue into summer 2018. The committee has discussed and provided input on policy direction regarding land use, transportation, parks, open space, and natural and physical infrastructure systems. The committee has also analyzed the accommodation of regional population and employment growth projections and will ensure the plan is consistent with similar regional policies.

The 15-person steering committee has focused on housing and commercial densities, quality single-family neighborhoods, preparation for a changing climate, movement and mobility, maintaining a diversity of housing type and price point, and preservation and enhancement of the city's extensive water and natural resources.

More information

To learn more about the process to prepare the 2040 Comprehensive Guide Plan visit eminnetonka.com/2040guideplan. Subscribe to receive email and text updates and stay tuned for public meeting dates and further opportunities to provide input.

QUOTABLE

Here's what steering committee members are saying about the comprehensive plan update.

"Until participating in this planning process, I never really thought about all the moving parts such as land, housing, transportation, parks and trails, water resources and natural areas that all combine to make Minnetonka a great place to live."

-Lance Reschke

"The systematic approach to update the plan is good, and it helps to understand the interconnected issues. Ultimately, this plan is about balancing the broader community interests which can be tricky when issues intersect with one another."

-Brian Kirk

"This is a great opportunity for all people to participate in local government decision-making. Planning Minnetonka's future is open to all."

-Matt Henry

"It's been incredibly eye-opening to be part of the Comprehensive Guide Plan Steering Committee. I'm genuinely impressed by the significant amount of thoughtful discussion and community engagement that goes into every part of the planning. I am truly thankful my husband and I picked such a great city to raise our family."

-Melissa Johnston