

Comprehensive Plan 2008

Introduction

At its most basic level, a comprehensive plan describes the arrangement of a city's component parts – land, streets and buildings – and the infrastructure that makes everything work. It is a physical plan.

Implicitly, however, the policies in a comprehensive plan are not about land and buildings but about the people who live in the city. Thus, a land use policy about industry is about fostering the creation of jobs so that residents can earn income. A parks policy about recreation facilities is about providing safe places where children can play. A transportation policy about transit

is geared toward ensuring that people have the means to get between job and home. Underlying the strategies and policies in a comprehensive plan is a concern for the social and economic well-being of residents of a city.

Sustainability is the over arching theme of *Comprehensive Plan 2008*. Three concepts form the sustainability framework:

- **Jobs and wealth creation.** The city needs to make infrastructure investments and build on programs for business growth and workforce skills to provide a strong economic base for the future.

- **Safe, healthy and enriching community life.** The city wants its residents to be able to make a home, experience the vitality of the city and participate in community activities that draw people together.
- **Greener built environment.** The city will adjust to climate change and other environmental challenges by promoting transit-oriented development, infrastructure that improves air and water quality, and building materials and technologies that are energy-efficient.

Components

Components of the *Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan 2008*

The plan will include six chapters – Land Use, Transportation, Housing, Parks, Water and Historic Preservation. When the six chapters are completed, a Summary and Implementation chapter will be prepared. The plan also will include the adopted *Central Corridor Development Strategy*, the *Saint Paul Downtown Development Strategy* and the *Mississippi River Corridor Plan*, as well as summaries of small area plans and district plans.

Requirements

Legal Requirements Governing Preparation of *Comprehensive Plan 2008*

The state Metropolitan Land Planning Act requires that cities and other local governments update their comprehensive plans every 10 years consistent with the Metropolitan Council's 2030 Regional Development Framework and its system statements for transportation, parks and water. Assuring that cities grow in ways that use regional systems efficiently and that population and employment growth is consistent with the Council's forecasts is the purpose of the plan update process.

Planning Commission

The Role of the Planning Commission

Planning commissioners, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, are responsible for the preparation of *Comprehensive Plan 2008*. To that end, members of the Comprehensive Planning Committee of the commission have been directing a range of activities in preparation for updating the plan since November of 2005.

Six task forces – one for each chapter of the plan – have been meeting for more than a year. They are composed of people who are knowledgeable about Saint Paul and have expertise in the issues. After months of studying the issues thoroughly, they are drafting policies that will be used to guide the growth and development of Saint Paul during the next decade.



Comprehensive Plan

Objectives and Time Line

Preparation of the *Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan 2008* is occurring in three phases: Organization, Preparation, and Public Comment and Approval.

Organization Fall 05

This phase began in September of 2005, when the City received a letter from the Metropolitan Council describing guidelines for the plan. Since then the Planning Commission has focused on the following:

- Themes in the existing plan chapters
- Issues and trends
- Task forces for issues in the plan

Preparation Fall 06 – Summer 08

Organized task forces have been meeting since the fall of 2006 building the framework for the preparation of the six individual chapters of the plan. The process includes the following:

- Establishing a framework to understand the issues and resolve the questions
- Writing draft chapters
- Reviewing the draft chapters

Public Comment and Approval Spring – Fall 08

The public comment and approval process will begin with the open houses in spring 2008. During this time the following will occur:

- Review by adjacent government entities
- Saint Paul early notification system (ENS) to stakeholders
- Planning Commission public hearings – tentatively scheduled to begin in summer 2008 and extend into early fall.
- Review by Mayor and City Council in the late fall of 2008



What You Can Do

Public Participation

Public participation will involve two paths—disseminating information about the six *Comprehensive Plan* topics and gathering comments.

A number of avenues will be used to disseminate information about the plan update and to gather comments and questions. They include:

- The City web site
- District councils
- E-mail list serve
- City libraries
- Cable Channel 18
- Open houses
- Public hearings

E-mail CompPlan@ci.stpaul.mn.us if you have any comments, questions, or input.

Or contact:

Comprehensive Plan
Department of Planning and Economic Development
25 West Fourth Street
Suite 1400
Saint Paul, MN 55102



Comprehensive Plan Open House

Comprehensive Plan

The *Comprehensive Plan* is Saint Paul's road map for future development of its housing, its parks, its workplaces and its streets, bike paths and sidewalks.

To sustain Saint Paul, the Plan focuses on the following—

- Creating the elements that help businesses to grow and employees gain the skills they need for jobs.
- Supporting the programs that make neighborhoods safe and enriching for residents.
- Responding to the climate change and other environmental challenges.



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT