

Chapter 1



Community Planning

- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ Plan Overview

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Photo by Janice Laitanen, 2007 Views of the Valley

Section 1: Introduction

GOLDEN Valley has seen many changes since its incorporation as a city. What was once rolling hills and farmland is now a prosperous first ring suburb of Minneapolis that is home to more than 20,000 residents and many leading national and international businesses. Through the years, Golden Valley has built a reputation of having quality housing stock, top-notch City services, and an excellent employment base. This balance of urban style and suburban tranquility could not have been reached without forward-thinking residents and a strong emphasis on community planning.

Why Does Golden Valley Plan?

Golden Valley implemented its first Comprehensive Plan in 1959. Since then, the plan has been updated several times, last revised in 1999. Through thorough planning, the City initiated redevelopment of a downtown hub at the old market crossroads at Winnetka Ave and Golden Valley Rd, facilitated the reconstruction of roads and highways, and completed the many parks and infrastructure projects that make Golden Valley a great place to live.

The Comprehensive Plan helps ensure that Golden Valley remains a dynamic city while implementing goals and policies that work to preserve and upgrade infrastructure. It works to

combat urban sprawl in the region by encouraging growth and redevelopment in targeted areas.

What Is A Comprehensive Plan?

Golden Valley's Comprehensive Plan is a reflection of the community's vision for the city's future development. It directs growth through a series of goals, policies, and objectives to ensure a logical and cohesive development pattern within the city. Minnesota state statute requires government units in the seven-county metro area to have comprehensive plans to ensure that inevitable growth is consistent with regional plans and systems.

Before adopting a Comprehensive Plan, the City Council is required to take input from the public, surrounding cities, and relevant agencies. All Comprehensive Plans are reviewed and approved by the Metropolitan Council.

Once enacted by the City Council, the Comprehensive Plan will be used as a basis for adopting land use ordinances that guide development and redevelop-



photo by Richard Gunderson, 2006 Views of the Valley

A comprehensive plan makes it possible to envision and complete projects like the Golden Valley Rd and Winnetka Ave intersection.

ment. The City's Zoning Map must reflect land use patterns in the Comprehensive Plan. In addition to development projects, the Comprehensive Plan guides officials in proper regulation and administration of community services. As demographics and trends change, the Plan must be reviewed and revised to ensure its functionality. Typically, this occurs every 10 years.

Because the Comprehensive Plan affects each resident of Golden Valley, community participation is critical with every revision of the plan. This is achieved through programs such as *Envision Golden Valley*, City meetings, open houses, and other public forums. 🌟

photo by City staff



Section 2: Plan Overview

GOLDEN Valley's Comprehensive Plan is divided into 11 chapters that describe the background of the City, its goals and policies for future development, and ways in which the Plan will be implemented.

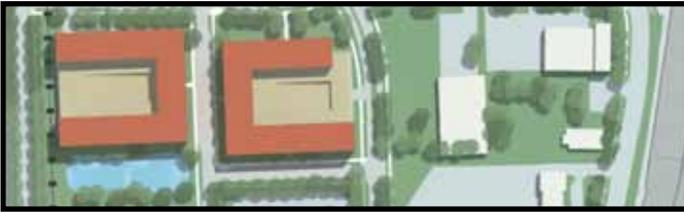
Chapter Outline

Chapters 3 through 10 of the Comprehensive Plan guide the growth and development of specific areas of the City. Each chapter includes goal statements followed by policies and objectives to help further and achieve the goal.



Land Use

The Land Use Chapter outlines and describes the various land use categories in Golden Valley. Categories reflect a logical and well-balanced mix of land uses to make Golden Valley an excellent place to live and work. The chapter includes goals and policies to protect the use, bulk, and density of land in Golden Valley in ways that promote sustainability and overall community health. The Land Use Map illustrates the distinctive land use categories in Golden Valley.



Special Planning Districts

Special Planning Districts are areas in Golden Valley that warrant extra attention because of their location. This chapter includes the I-394 corridor and the City’s efforts to meet future changes in transportation patterns, housing preferences, and market trends in office, industrial, and commercial uses in that area. Its goals and policies link community vision to location-specific planning.



Housing

The Housing Chapter focuses on plans for future housing development in Golden Valley. Its goals, objectives, and policies guide the diversity, density, and quality of the city’s housing stock. The City of Golden Valley’s primary housing responsibility is to ensure maintenance of existing homes and neighborhoods as well as promote quality housing options in future developments.



Parks and Open Space

The Parks and Open Space Chapter preserves Golden Valley’s natural areas and parks. It works in coordination with a separate Parks Systems Plan, which recommends facility improvements and recreational programs at City parks.



Transportation

The Transportation Plan helps protect and enhance transportation corridors throughout Golden Valley that are used for both local and regional travel. It also studies public transportation as an alternative form of commuting. In addition to road and highway networks, the Transportation Plan directs development of trails and sidewalks used for non-motorized commuting.



Wastewater

The Wastewater Plan addresses the regional wastewater system, which is administered by the Metropolitan Council. Its goals and policies are meant to ensure that the system provides adequate wastewater capacity to handle Golden Valley’s existing and future needs. It also includes methods to maintain this important system.



Water Supply System

The Water Supply Plan focuses on making safe water available to Golden Valley and other residents of the region by ensuring that various local government agencies work together to protect and preserve drinking water resources. It sets goals and policies that effectively manage the system.



Surface Water

The Surface Water Plan coordinates efforts with local watershed districts to best enhance surface water quality in Golden Valley. It sets goals and policies to protect local streams, lakes, and wetlands.

The Value Of Planning

The basis for Golden Valley's Comprehensive Plan is community wellness, which can be achieved through active planning and a strong visioning processes. The chapters of the Comprehensive Plan provide a framework for the City's future.

Through the years, planning has helped sustain Golden Valley's reputation as a top-quality city. This edition of the Comprehensive Plan will secure that reputation for years to come. 