

Section 5: Implementation

Introduction

The Lathrop Comprehensive City Plan serves as a public policy guide for the planned development and growth of the city. The aim of the plan is to provide a frame in which the desires of the public are balanced with the fiscal, political, and social constraints of the municipal government. That balance can be achieved by realizing the visions contained in Section 2. However, the success of that realization is directly connected to the degree that the policies set forth in the City Plan are addressed and employed in future municipal decision making. The implementation of the goals and objectives is dependent on a combination of official municipal policy, volunteer citizen actions, and private, third-party contributions.

Implementation Recommendations

1. Consult the Comprehensive City Plan policy recommendations when making development decisions for the City.

To maintain a high level of service to all community residents and business owners, it is imperative that growth be effectively managed. New residential housing, for example, requires not only subdivision planning, but also the extension of public services, additional water and sewer capacity, and mitigation of increased traffic congestion. The policies suggested in the city plan offer methods and actions to assist Lathrop in managing future development, and the impact of such development on the goals of the city plan should be taken into account with any development decision.

2. City leaders, in cooperation with citizen volunteers and private industry, should examine and prioritize the goals of the Comprehensive City Plan, and develop a timetable to accomplish goals based on that prioritization.

While the goals and objectives contained within this plan will promote and help plan for growth and development in the near future, it is simply not financially or administratively feasible to immediately implement all of the recommendations. As such, it is important to prioritize the goals and objectives based on the immediate development needs of the city, and complete actions as time, funding, and personnel permit.

3. Utilize community volunteers, civic organizations, formal municipal committees and boards, and local private business owners to implement the goals of the city plan.

To most effectively implement the recommendations contained in this plan, the City of Lathrop should assign objectives and actions to the most appropriate community groups. For example, objectives relating to park and trail development should be led by the park board, while downtown beautification may be charged to the chamber of commerce, downtown merchants association, or an interested volunteer civic/church group. By delegating responsibilities to a variety of interested

groups, not only will the objectives be completed by the best matched volunteers, but also a greater number of actions can be simultaneously undertaken, thereby meeting a greater number of goals in a shorter timeframe.

4. Annually assess progress towards the accomplishment of plan visions and goals.

A city plan is only effective if it is a viable part of the decision-making process of a community. As such, Lathrop should annually assess progress towards achieving the visions in the city plan by examining completed objectives and met goals. Those organizations charged with addressing particular goals should also evaluate their success, and report their progress to the Board of Aldermen. As part of the assessment process, challenges encountered in meeting goals should be addressed and, if necessary, used to modify the implementation plan.

5. The Lathrop Comprehensive City Plan should be updated approximately every five years.

As noted throughout this plan, the City of Lathrop is entering a period of significant growth and development. As such, the visions, goals, and objectives, though accurate for the present-day, will most likely require modification to meet the changing needs of a growing city. As such, the city plan should be routinely revisited by a committee of interested citizens, representatives of civic organizations, the private sector, and municipal officials, both elected and professional.