

CITY FOCUS

SPRING 2006

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THE CITY OF

DUBUQUE

Showing the Spirit.

SPECIAL INSERT: Water Department
Consumer Confidence Report

City Manager's Message

What is Dubuque's "Comprehensive Plan" and why should you care about it? We hope to answer those questions in this issue of City Focus.

One answer can be found in the children's classic, "Alice in Wonderland." When Alice reached the fork in the road, she asked the Cheshire Cat, "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"

"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.

"I don't much care where," said Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.

Dubuque's Comprehensive Plan is the community's guide to future development, public policies, and decision-making. It examines the city as a whole and the surrounding region. It also takes into consideration the past and present conditions of the community to determine the direction for future growth and development. In short, it is our road map to the future. The Comprehensive Plan is used by the Mayor and City Council as a guide for decisionmaking and making policies, as well as prioritizing resources. City staff utilize the plan to make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council.

Prior to 1995, Dubuque's Comprehensive Plan had not been updated since 1936. Following the challenging period of the 1980s, more than 5,000 area residents participated in the Vision 2000 community planning process in 1991 and 1992 which resulted in a shared vision statement for the tri-state area. This served as a foundation for an update to the Comprehensive Plan, which added policies, goals and objectives for the physical, economic, and social aspects of the community. The updated Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Dubuque City Council in two phases in 1994 and 1994. Subsequently, the community experienced substantial growth and the plan was updated again in 2001-2002.

The City's Long-Range Planning Advisory Commission is currently in the middle of a year-long process to again update the City's Comprehensive Plan. The commission, with assistance from the City Planning Services Department, has already held a number of meetings to collect public input to make the necessary modifications to this working document. However, input is welcomed throughout the process.

The initial public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan's Goals and Objectives will be held at the Long-Range Planning Advisory Commission at 7 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 17**, in the Carnegie-Stout Public Library. A complete schedule for the update process is provided in the publication.

If you would like additional information or would like to provide input, please contact the City of Dubuque Planning Services Department at 589-4210 or planning@cityofdubuque.org.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Van Milligen
City Manager



2002 Dubuque Comprehensive Plan

The City of Dubuque's 2002 Comprehensive Plan is a 50-page document which consists of 14 elements in three major categories:

Physical Environment – Land Use and Urban Design, Transportation, Infrastructure, and Environmental Quality.

Economic Environment – City Fiscal and Economic Development.

Social Environment – Health, Housing, Human Services, Education, cultural Arts, Recreation, Public Safety, and Diversity.

Each element is further defined by numerous objectives and goals but, due to space constraints in this publication, only the 14 elements are described. For a full-text version of the Comprehensive Plan, visit the Planning Services section of the City website at www.cityofdubuque.org or contact the Planning Services Department at 589-4210.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

LAND USE AND URBAN DESIGN GOALS must address interrelated factors affecting the physical development of a city, including the satisfaction of human needs, the vitality of the local economy, the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment and the efficiency of public infrastructure and service provision. Urban design establishes a context for development in response to the community's desired image. While new development is encouraged, short term benefits must be weighed against long term impacts to the community's quality of life. Land use and urban design decisions will always affect the future in significant, and sometimes irreversible, ways. It is incumbent that a land use plan balance the need for growth with the protection of existing community assets.



TRANSPORTATION GOALS must address a safe, efficient and aesthetically appealing transportation system, which is essential to tie the community together and to link the community to the region. Transportation networks to the nation are important for economic growth because they provide needed access for the import and export of goods and services, as well as for visitors to Dubuque. The circulation pattern and condition of the local street system should not only provide safe, reliable access to work, schools, shopping and residences but also will have a major influence on where future growth is likely to occur. The location and quality of other means of transportation, including an airport, public transit, pathways, railroads, highways and navigable water, in addition to providing accessibility to all parts of the community, are important factors for new and expanding business, industry and residential development.



INFRASTRUCTURE GOALS must address the maintenance, improvement and capacities of aging utility and street systems while continuing to provide extensions and expansions of these systems to meet changing community needs. "New" forms of infrastructure, including communication and data and information processing systems, have become an important aspect of our community's life and livelihood. The pace and extent of the city's growth and development pattern will impact the timing and demand for infrastructure provision. Public expenditures for infrastructure can shape the city's land use pattern as effectively as development regulations. The phasing of new and extended infrastructure must be based on both the fiscal capability of the City and sound land use decisions made in an integrated management process.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY GOALS must address the balance between responsible stewardship and protection of our environment and the impacts of urban living. And while there is growing public awareness that personal health and safety can be directly effected by the livability and sustainability of our immediate environment, it must also be understood that a community can both affect and be affected by regional and even global environmental issues. Dubuque's natural and built environments establish the city's appearance and image as a healthy, safe and viable place to live, work and play.

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

CITY FISCAL GOALS must address the allocation of limited available resources among competing interests, departments, activities and programs. These goals should develop an acceptable balance of costs and services with respect to quality, quantity and financing. City fiscal goals should emphasize policy and budget objectives, demands on and accomplishments of City governmental units and alternative funding and service levels. The purpose of these City Fiscal goals is to help focus on the major policy decisions of what services City government will provide, who will pay for them and the implications of such decisions in achieving the goals in all elements of the Comprehensive Plan.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS must continue the active and vital collaboration between public and private sectors to promote the economic health and well-being of our region. Economic development encompasses well-informed decisions regarding business retention and recruitment, work force development, available and appropriate locations for new business and industry, public investment in supportive infrastructure and financial incentives which can induce private investment and economic growth. The preservation and expansion of the community's economic base should be a prime objective. Unless existing business

and industry are healthy and there are expanding employment opportunities that pay a living wage, the population will not be stable, the tax base will decline and government's ability to finance public services and facilities will be impaired. The future development of the community depends on maintaining and enhancing local economic development efforts directed towards these goals.

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

HEALTH GOALS must address health and medical issues that fall within the scope of both public and private providers. Government often cites "health, safety and the general welfare" as necessary and important public purposes. The public's health and continued wellness must be of concern to the community as a whole. The promotion of good public health practices and lifestyles and the provision of necessary and adequate private health care to all members of the community must be the shared responsibility of both the public and private sectors.



HOUSING GOALS must address the issues of housing availability, affordability and accessibility for all members of the community. Public intervention in the private housing market is sometimes necessary to promote and/or encourage quality, safe, sanitary and affordable housing, to administer federal income assistance to those in greatest need or to spur reinvestment and renewal in existing, older neighborhoods. The provision of shelter is a basic human need that demands special attention in the arena of human services delivery and stands alone as an important element. Our community's very image is reflected in large measure by the pride and well-being displayed in our neighborhoods.

HUMAN SERVICES GOALS must address a variety of needs resulting from societal changes, economic restructuring and demographic shifts. These goals strive for an optimum level of service, that is, the greatest degree attainable under local conditions and acknowledging competition for limited available



resources. While other Comprehensive Plan elements deal more directly with economic development, housing, health, environmental quality, education, transportation and public safety, City government has an indirect role in the provision of needed human services to community residents as it works with and is supportive of area providers.

EDUCATION GOALS must address the educational and informational needs of all members of the community as life-long learning opportunities are made available at many levels of interest and for all ages and abilities. Education must not be relegated to the schools alone but must become a collaborative experience that weds public and private sector, business and government, parent and child in partnership with each other and our educational institutions. A community's quality of life and ability to attract and retain both economic growth and residents often depends on the quality and quantity of educational facilities and services.



CULTURAL ARTS GOALS must address the arts as an important aspect of our community's basic quality of life. The cultural arts not only enrich our experiences but educate us about the world we live in. The diversity of the world as represented through the cultural arts is one way to share the culture and knowledge of different peoples and places. The freedom and opportunity to create and explore the cultural arts should not be understated or ignored.

RECREATION GOALS must address the provision of facilities and activities for leisure time enjoyment by all members of the community. Both public and private resources are needed to provide a full range of recreational experiences. The community's overall health, wellness and quality of life are interrelated with the variety and availability of parks, open space and recreational opportunities that are accessible to all. Accessibility includes both physical and financial access to recreational facilities and activities. Recreation can serve to meet positive human needs and is one of the key factors in Dubuque's livability.



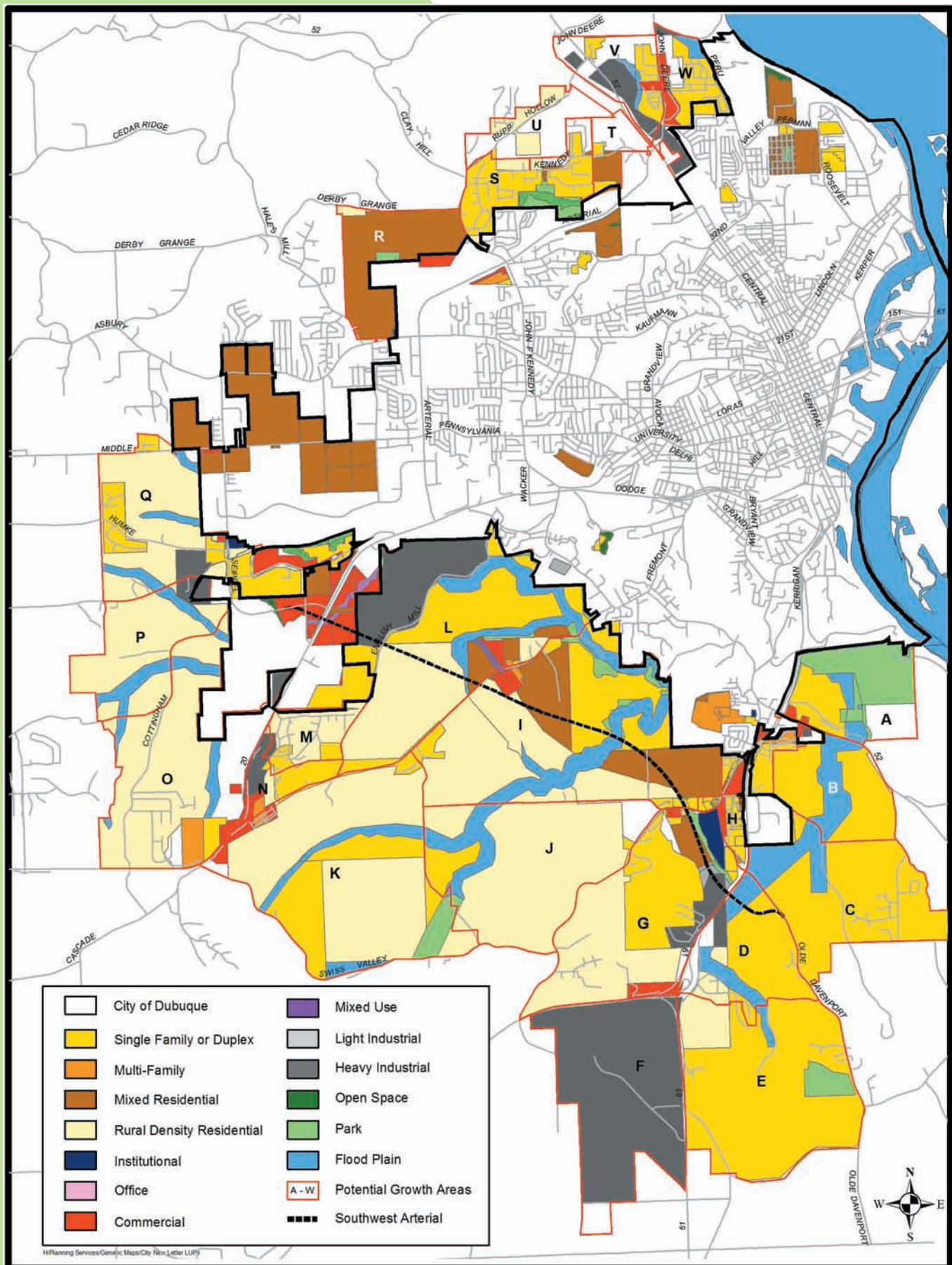
PUBLIC SAFETY GOALS must address acceptable and appropriate levels of risk and response. As the city grows and equipment and facilities age, the need for quality public safety services continues and may increase. Current and potential residents and businesses are attracted to the community in part because they wish to have a sense of security about their lives, families and properties. Public safety efforts should seek to reduce the amount and effect of external harm to individuals and damage to property, as well as to promote an atmosphere of personal security from external events.



DIVERSITY GOALS must address the differences and the similarities found in our community. As citizens of Dubuque, we share common hopes and dreams for our future even though we may not look or dress or think alike. Our diversity can be our strength as we learn new ways and forge new friendships. The world is no longer a place where Dubuque, or any other community, can exist in isolation; rather, the world has come to Dubuque in all its many colors, its many ideas, its many challenges and opportunities. ■

Proposed Future Land Use Map 2030

Vacant Developable Land & Potential Growth Areas



Plan Update Timeline

February 1– March 1, 2006

Future Land Use Map displayed in the Rotunda at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library for public review and comment.

February 15, 2006

Future Land Use Map Stakeholder Meeting

Developers' Roundtable and Chamber of Commerce members invited and open to general public.

March 15, 2006

Open House for Future Land Use Map

4:30 - 6:30 p.m., Carnegie-Stout Public Library Rotunda

March 15, 2006

Public Hearing on Future Land Use Map at Long Range Planning Advisory Commission Meeting

April 19, 2006

Stakeholder Workshop and Public Open House for Review of the Comprehensive Plan's Goals and Objectives. Participants shared comments. Staff collected and organized comments for review by Commissioners on May 17.



May 17, 2006

Initial Public Hearing on Comprehensive Plan's Goals and Objectives at Long Range Planning Advisory Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Carnegie Stout Public Library Auditorium.

June 21, 2006

Commissioners review goals and objectives for **Land Use and Urban Design and Transportation** elements at Long Range Planning Advisory Commission meeting, 7:00 p.m., Carnegie Stout Public Library Auditorium.

July 19, 2006

Commissioners review goals and objectives for **Infrastructure and Environmental Quality** elements at Long Range Planning Advisory

Commission meeting, 7:00 p.m., Carnegie Stout Public Library Auditorium.

August 16, 2006

Commissioners review goals and objectives for **City Fiscal and Economic Development** elements at Long Range Planning Advisory Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Carnegie Stout Public Library Auditorium.

September 20, 2006

Commissioners review goals and objectives for **Health and Housing** elements at Long Range Planning Advisory Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Carnegie Stout Public Library Auditorium.

October 18, 2006

Commissioners review goals and objectives for **Human Services and Education** elements at Long Range Planning Advisory Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Carnegie Stout Public Library Auditorium.

November 15, 2006

Commissioners review goals and objectives for **Cultural Arts and Recreation** elements at Long Range Planning Advisory Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Carnegie Stout Public Library Auditorium.

December 20, 2006

Commissioners review goals and objectives for **Public Safety and Diversity** elements at Long Range Planning Advisory Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Carnegie Stout Public Library Auditorium.

January 17, 2007

Open House for revised Goals and Objectives. 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Carnegie Stout Public Library Rotunda Room.

January 17, 2007

Public hearing for revised Goals and Objectives at Long Range Planning Advisory Commission Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Carnegie Stout Public Library Auditorium.

January, 2007

City Council Work Session and Public Hearing on Updated Comprehensive Plan as recommended by the Long Range Planning Advisory Commission, 6:30 p.m., Carnegie Stout Public Library Auditorium.



For additional information, or to provide feedback on the Comprehensive Plan Update, please contact the City of Dubuque Planning Services Department:
(563)589-4210
planning@cityofdubuque.org

Dubuque Long-Range Planning Advisory Commission

Membership:

Nine members, with eight appointed by the City Council to three-year terms, including a member of the City Council designated by the City Council, and a member of the Zoning Advisory Commission designated by the Zoning Advisory Commission.

Current Members:

Patricia Cline (City Council Member)
Mary Lynn Neumeister
Lou Oswald
James Prochaska
Richard Stein
Charles Winterwood, MD (Chairperson)

Meetings:

7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month in the Third Floor Auditorium of the Carnegie-Stout Public Library

Purpose:

- To provide a leadership role in the planning, coordinating and sponsoring of a periodic community planning process.
- To coordinate and supervise the preparation and maintenance of the Comprehensive Plan.
- To provide input to the City Manager in the preparation of the City Manager's recommended multi-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
- To make comprehensive studies of the present condition and the future growth of the city to provide input into the community planning process and to guide and accomplish a coordinated, consistent and harmonious development of the city in accordance with the present and future needs thereof to the end that the health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity and general welfare may be promoted.
- To make or cause to be made such surveys, studies, maps, plans or charts of the city with due regard to its relation to neighboring territory as may be determined as necessary to carry out the purposes of the Commission.
- To recommend amendments to all or a part of the Comprehensive Plan in response to the community planning process, upon its own initiative or upon recommendation presented by the Zoning Advisory Commission, but only after a public hearing.
- To review proposed urban renewal plans and urban renewal plan amendments and urban revitalization plans and urban revitalization plan amendments for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan for the city.
- To undertake public information efforts to enhance public understanding of the community planning process generally and the Comprehensive Plan specifically.
- To undertake from time to time other specific long range planning projects which may be referred to it by the City Council.

Dubuque City Council

Roy D. Buol, Mayor
Ann E. Michalski, At-large
Ric W. Jones, At-large
Kevin J. Lynch, 1st Ward
Karla A. Braig, 2nd Ward
Joyce E. Connors, 3rd Ward
Patricia A. Cline, 4th Ward

The Dubuque City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of the month in the third-floor auditorium of the Carnegie-Stout Public Library, 360 West 11th Street.

Editorial Information

City Focus is a publication of the City of Dubuque.

Editor: Randy Gehl

Design: big fish creative

Photography: Randy Gehl,
Cathy Goodman,
and Doug McCallum
(with contributions)

For up-to-date information on events and programs, visit our website:

www.cityofdubuque.org

Feedback

The City of Dubuque welcomes your comments and suggestions about your city government or anything appearing in this publication. Inquiries must include your name, address, and telephone number, or an e-mail address so a response can be provided.

E-mail or use the form below and send to:

City Manager's Office
50 West 13th Street
Dubuque IA 52001-4864
publicinfo@cityofdubuque.org
563.589.4110 (phone)
563.589.4149 (fax)

Clip and Send Your Comments to the City Manager's Office, 50 West 13th Street, Dubuque, IA, 52001-4864

Name _____
City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Address _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

Comments: