

DRAFT GOALS – Aurora

GOALS

Each Plan Element within the Comprehensive Plan will include a series of goals and policies in order to formulate measurable steps for achieving the community's overall vision. The goals establish long-range aims for the city and are intended to serve as guides for the Comprehensive Plan. They represent general statements that identify community aspirations or desired conditions.

POLICIES (formal wording, might need to be described as well as a label – policy documents)

Each goal is accompanied by several policy statements. Policies describe actions aimed at achieving each of the Plan Element's goals. Policies will be developed following the review and refinement of Plan Element Goals.

EXAMPLE

Goal: *Maintain an official Land Use Plan that embodies principles of smart growth in identifying the most appropriate locations for development and redevelopment.*

Policies: *Prepare and adopt a Land Use Plan that designates land use areas and guides development to appropriate areas in order to ensure desirable land use patterns and minimize conflicts.*

LAND USE

1. Goal: Maintain an official Land Use Plan that embodies principles of smart growth in identifying the most appropriate locations for development and redevelopment.
2. Goal: Support the compact, efficient, and orderly growth of urban development.
3. Goal: Plan land uses and implement standards to minimize land use conflicts.
4. Goal: Plan for the revitalization of an economically and socially vibrant mixed use central business district.
5. Goal: Support mixed use development that is focused on integrating land uses such as medium and high density residential, commercial, office, light industrial, public and semi-public, indoor recreation, parks, and open space in an appropriate and mutually supportive manner.
6. Goal: Plan for the orderly, efficient, and fiscally responsible growth of residential and mixed use development.
7. Goal: Promote continued development of high quality, high value commercial, office, technology, industrial, mining and natural resource-related businesses that enhance the City's economy through improved tax base and expanded opportunities for living wage jobs.
8. Goal: Support development that enhances community character and protects natural resources.
9. Goal: Protect, conserve, and enhance the City's natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas for the community's long-term environmental and economic benefits.

HOUSING

1. Goal: Provide a balanced housing supply available for people at all income levels with a variety of product types that meet the life-cycle needs of all Aurora residents.
2. Goal: Establish a community of well-maintained housing and neighborhoods.
3. Goal: Provide for expansion of housing options within the downtown central business district.
4. Goal: Provide for resilient housing design, construction, renovation, and management that maximizes cost effective energy efficiency and minimizes exposure to climate risks.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Goal: The transportation system in the City of Aurora shall facilitate safe and efficient movement of residents, visitors and goods and services within and through the community.
2. Goal: Continue to establish and maintain a safe, coordinated and interconnected multimodal network of streets, sidewalks, bikeways and trails. Hoyt lakes trail connectivity.
3. Goal: Balance transportation needs with environmental factors and the desired land uses as identified in the Future Land Use Plan.
4. Goal: Transportation planning shall be a collaborative effort among the City of Aurora, surrounding Iron Range communities, Saint Louis County, and MnDOT.

UTILITIES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

5. Goal: Provide city utilities to all residents in a safe, efficient, resilient and cost-effective manner.
6. Goal: Prioritize infilling on vacant land and redevelopment of blighted or disused properties to better utilize existing utility facilities, over greenfield expansions or annexations, where facilities and service need to be extended.
7. Goal: Avoid environmentally sensitive areas when extending and constructing utilities and community facilities. Develop utilities with concern for aesthetic appearance and integration with surrounding environments.
8. Goal: Maximize the economic development benefits of coordinated infrastructure improvements, such as street reconstructions with sewer, water, power, and functional streetscaping.

9. Goal: Strengthen a strong sense of place in the Central Business District by supporting and promoting area recreation, arts and culture organizations, facilities and events.

NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Goal: Protect the resources and ecological value of the water bodies within the City of Aurora.
2. Goal: Encourage intergovernmental and private sector coordination and collaboration for natural resources planning, mitigation and restoration efforts.
3. Goal: Support the preservation of non-renewable natural resources and the wise, well-planned extraction / consumption and re-establishment of Aurora's renewable resources.

RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURAL ARTS RESOURCES

1. Goal: Provide high-quality year-round park, recreation and trail facilities and programs that meet Aurora's evolving needs.
2. Goal: Provide a safe and welcoming environment within the city's park facilities and open spaces.
3. Goal: Strengthen Aurora's role as tourist destination within the Arrowhead and East Range region.
4. Goal: Enhance and enrich Aurora's community identity through various forms of expression of cultural arts.
5. Goal: Facilitate partnerships and collaborations with other public agencies, community based groups, and the private sector to expand opportunities for cultural arts within Aurora.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Goal: Improve Aurora's economic climate and varied employment opportunities.
2. Goal: Provide a mining and natural resource management-friendly business environment. Why isn't this a more general statement about being business and management inclusive? It could be broader. It could be more of a policy and a broad goal. Joint powers, we have a whole thing on economic developments should we incorporate this into this document? We can enhance this

document for each community with more specific documents. This needs to support existing proposed documents.

3. Goal: Establish a superior quality of life for Aurora’s residents and business owners.
4. Goal: Provide an environment for the highest quality system of education from pre-school through 12th grade, promote undergraduate and graduate level educational opportunities and continued, life-long learning for residents.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

1. Goal: Work proactively and cooperatively with IRRRB, ERJPB, neighboring and overlapping governmental jurisdictions to provide high quality, cost effective services to the East Range region.
2. Goal: Partner with neighboring and overlapping jurisdictions to provide efficient, cost effective, high-quality services, where practical or mutually beneficial.
3. Goal: Continue to cooperate and coordinate transportation system maintenance and enhancements with State, County and neighboring communities.
4. Goal: Collaborate with Federal, State and regional governmental agencies to address economic and environmental opportunities.
5. Goal: Involve the school district and medical institutions in long range planning efforts and in reviewing current and future economic development proposals.