

Chapter 2: VISION & COMMUNITY GOALS

The Vision and Community Goals chapter is the heart of the Comprehensive Plan and provides the foundation from which City officials make consistent and supporting land use decisions. This chapter includes a set of general community goals that guided the creation of this Plan.

The concepts in this chapter are some of the few static elements of the Comprehensive Plan. If land uses change or other infrastructure varies from the Plan, decisions will be founded in the goals set forth below. The Vision and Goals were created with the involvement of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (the “Steering Committee”), City officials, and residents of Medina and are broadly supported.

Land use designations are subject to strong social and economic pressures to change. Accordingly, it is appropriate that such systems be periodically evaluated in light of changing social and economic conditions. As development evolves, the Vision and Goals will provide the guidance for accomplishing the vision for the future of the community even when changes are necessary to the land use plan.

Detailed objectives and recommendations are contained within each of the subject chapters of this plan.

Creating the Vision and Goals

The residents, the Steering Committee, City officials and staff participated in the planning process for the Plan. A series of public participation meetings were conducted to introduce and solicit information from the residents of Medina. The Steering Committee held work sessions that focused on integrating the concerns and desires of the community together with accommodating growth and regional impacts. An online forum provided additional opportunity for residents to impact the Vision and Community Goals as they were formulated.

In addition to land use and growth planning, the City implemented open space, natural resources, and infrastructure planning. The goals which guided this process are integrated into this chapter.

Each element of this plan was developed with assistance from city officials and a diverse group of community stakeholders producing a truly representative plan. The City made a conscious decision to emphasize natural resources and open space conservation.

Community Vision

The following statement provides a vision of the community for the future and the resultant goals and strategies.

Medina is a community united by a common goal: to sustain and enhance the quality of life of its residents. Medina will protect its significant natural resources and open space throughout the City, while honoring its rural heritage and fostering safe and well-designed neighborhoods, places of recreation and destinations for citizens to gather. Development within the City will be commensurate with available transportation systems, municipal services and school capacity.

Community Goals

The following Community Goals are derived from the Vision Statement and inform objectives and strategies throughout the various aspects of the Comprehensive Plan.

- Preserve rural vistas, open spaces, and wetlands in all parts of the community to promote the rural character of Medina.
- Protect and enhance the environment and natural resources throughout the community.
- Encourage and incent innovative and environmentally friendly approaches to planning, engineering and development.
- Expand urban services only as necessary to accommodate regionally forecasted residential growth, desired business opportunities and achievement of other Community Goals. Such development and growth shall be at a sustainable pace proportionate with capacity of schools and transportation, water supply and wastewater infrastructure available to the City.
- Spread development so that it is not geographically concentrated during particular timeframes.
- Promote public and private gathering places and civic events that serve the entire community.
- Preserve and expand trails and parks to provide community recreational facilities, connect neighborhoods, and encourage healthy lifestyles of its residents.
- Provide opportunities for a diversity of housing at a range of costs to support residents at all stages of their lives.
- Encourage an attractive, vibrant business community that complements the residential areas of the City.
- Maintain its commitment to public safety through support of the City's police department and coordinate with its contracted volunteer fire departments.
- Manage the City through prudent budgeting processes, retaining a skilled and efficient staff and long-range planning and financial management.