



Introduction
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ENVISION SPRINGFIELD

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Profile Meetings

Introduction

The Envision portion of the Springfield Comprehensive Plan is designed to obtain information and opinions while engaging residents in an open public participation process. This public input helps direct community action and build partnerships between community leaders, stakeholders, citizens, and consultants. Public participation and input are critical to the success of this comprehensive plan and long-term community development. Key components of this process included a town hall meeting, along with input gained from specific focus group meetings with various stakeholders. A design charrette, followed by a public forum were conducted to enable public involvement in the development of prioritized corridors and areas within the community.

Public Input

Profile Meetings with the Steering Committee prior to Public Meetings (April 10 and 24, 2014)

Upon the presentation of economic and demographic information for the community, additional input was received regarding the Envision process. Three focus groups were established to gain targeted input from various stakeholders vested in the community. The Housing and Commercial Development, Economic Development, and Recreation and Tourism focus groups were identified and separate meetings were held for each.

Other points of discussion included the limitations for growth. Based on protected areas and watersheds, development can be limited physically and financially. A Wellhead Protection Area abuts the southeast corporate limit and a 100-year floodplain impacts the western edge of the community, along Highway 50. A natural ridgeline is located roughly at 132nd and would require additional finances for a wastewater lift station on the east side of town. The price point and availability of properties and homes were considered hindrances to growth.



3.2 PUBLIC INPUT

Town Hall Meeting

TOWN HALL MEETING (May 8, 2014)

After a presentation on the Springfield Profile Section, participants were broken into small groups to discuss their thoughts on Springfield. Groups were asked to identify Springfield's positive features, improvements needed, issues facing the community, and projects needed in the community. Groups were asked to present their findings as well as an overarching vision for the future of the community that exemplifies these features. Results from this exercise included:

Positives

- Small School District
- Quality of Life
- Access to Medical Services
- Proximity to Metro Area
- Transportation Connectivity
- Fire Department
- Water/Sewer Infrastructure
- Low Crime Rate
- Springfield History
- Tourism Potential
- Parks and Recreation
- School and Youth Programs

Improvements Needed

- Growth Restrictions – Land Availability/ Suitableness
- Sewer Infrastructure Restrictions
- Lack of Retail Businesses
- Lack of Large Employers
- Lack of Tourism Business
- Lack of Public Involvement
- Outside Perception of Springfield
- Highway 50 Construction
- Highway Traffic
- Lack of New Housing Construction and Development
- Lack of Restaurants
- School Districts – Kids opting out
- Competing City Encroachment

Issues Facing Springfield

- Ground Water Withdrawal
- City Well Needed
- Growth Limitations
- Lack of Special Events
- Drawing People Downtown
- School Learning Communities
- Highway Signage and Visibility
- Lack of Community Identity
- Marketing to Developers
- Economic Development Planning
- Platteview Road Development
- Community Leadership
- South Sewer Interceptor

Projects Identified

- New Municipal Well
- Paving Streets
- Splash Pad (completed)
- Completion of MoPac Trail
- Interlocal Agreements for Recreation Facilities
- Motorsports Track
- Infrastructure Improvements/ Expansion
- Sidewalks – ADA Compliance
- Urban Park
- New City Hall
- New Maintenance Yard/Public Works Building
- Senior Center
- Commuter Park (Park & Ride)

3.2 PUBLIC INPUT

Focus Group Meetings

FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

The purpose of focus groups are to gain knowledge from local experts in and around communities to better understand the opportunities and potential reasons for deficiencies.

Housing and Commercial Development (May 28, 2014)

The availability of both housing and retail businesses was the largest topic for the Housing and Commercial Development Focus Group. The concern was Springfield citizens are conditioned to shop out of town and aren't aware of the opportunities in Springfield. Additionally, the availability of developable land is a barrier to additional housing and commercial growth, despite opportunities. The lack of incentives available, combined with high property costs discourage investment into the community. One form of incentive discussed was investments to remove prioritized areas from the floodplain, thereby removing barriers for private investment.

Economic Development (May 28, 2014)

Light industry and manufacturing was identified as the best opportunity for economic development in Springfield. However, infrastructure improvements would be necessary for large developments in the area. Specifically sewer and transportation infrastructure expansions would be required before significant investment can be made in economic development. The current availability of housing is also not conducive to significant economic growth.

Recreation and Tourism (May 29, 2014)

Promoting and facilitating the growth of a strong youth sports program was a priority of this focus group. Developing a Multi-Sports Complex was identified as an opportunity to support the quality of life for existing Springfield residents as well as bring visitors to Springfield for events.



3.2

Urban Design Element

DESIGN CHARRETTE (June 5, 2014)

The Springfield Design Charrette was held on June 5th at the Springfield Fire Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to give the attendees information on the profile of the comprehensive plan, gain additional concerns of the community, and participate in a charrette process where they could view examples of urban design and relay their visions graphically. Information from recent public meetings and focus group meetings was shared with the attendees but not formally presented. It was important for the consulting team to gather additional information from the attendees that were not present at previous meetings. Participants were able to walk around to various maps and urban design elements. Additional profile information was displayed to inform the public and allow for any questions or discussions with the consulting team, city staff, and the urban design professional.

The urban design charrette was conducted by Tonya Carlson, a graduate student in the Department of Community and Regional Planning within the College of Architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. As part of her professional project, Tonya participated in all the envision meetings and worked with the steering committee and the charrette attendees to develop design sketches for areas of concern within Springfield's planning jurisdiction.

Public Forum (June 19, 2014)

The Public Forum was held two weeks after the design charrette on June 19th at Springfield City Hall. First, a short presentation was given on the process of the Springfield Comprehensive Plan, mainly for the purpose of those who had not attended a previous public meeting. Then, Tonya Carlson (graduate student at UNL) presented her preliminary urban design ideas for five different areas and corridors in Springfield. These design ideas were developed from the information gathered from the town hall meeting, three focus group meetings, and the design charrette. A discussion followed and community members in attendance provided comments and additional ideas. The final urban design concepts are found in the Achieve Springfield chapter and represent various community improvements that participants desire to see in Springfield.



3.3 VISION STATEMENT

VISION STATEMENT

A vision statement for Springfield was created based on the various meetings and charrette process. Such vision statement lays the framework for developing the goals, objectives, and policies; and the development of the future land use and transportation plans. The vision statement for Springfield is the following:

The City of Springfield will be a prosperous, family-oriented community with a full range of housing, business, cultural and recreational opportunities in a safe and attractive environment. This will be accomplished through greater partnering with public and private entities and through planned growth and development.



GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

By determining Springfield's strengths, weaknesses, issues, and concerns, the community can decide what it wants to become and develop a plan that will guide future decisions and achieve the vision of Springfield and its residents. Change and growth are continuous, therefore Springfield must identify specific criteria that will be used to judge and manage change. Instead of reacting to development pressures after the fact, the city, using its adopted vision, can better reinforce the desired changes and discourage the negative impacts that may contradict the vision. A shared vision allows Springfield to develop the goals and policies that will provide the support and direction necessary to bring the vision into reality.

3.4 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

Definitions

A key component to Springfield's Comprehensive Plan are the goals, objectives and policies. These have been developed based upon citizen input that defines a vision of what the city would like to become. The adopted vision statement can be further delineated and translated into broad based goals and objectives that will be used to guide, direct, and base future decisions on growth and development within Springfield jurisdiction. These goals and objectives will also be further developed into policies, which aim to provide the direction and monitoring that will be useful in implementing this plan and realizing the vision. Springfield's goals, objectives, and policies attempt to address various issues, regarding the question of how to plan for Springfield's future.

Goals are the desires and projected state of affairs which the community intends to achieve. Goals are the most general statement of future preferences and outcomes, and set a broad framework for objectives and policies. Goals should be established in a manner that is clearly understood and allows them to be accomplished. It is noted that the goals may need to be modified or changed from time to time to continue to reflect community preferences.

Objectives are the intermediate steps that guide the community from the present to the future. Objectives provide direction and benchmarks that can be used to monitor progress. Objectives also help maintain support and interest in the plan implementation by providing tangible actions that provide perceptible results. By actually observing and participating in the comprehensive plan activities and their results, community residents are able to involve themselves in the development of their community, which strengthens their support for the plan and instills excitement for continued involvement.

Policies are more detailed than objectives, and describe the type of action that should be used to achieve the related goal. Policies are part of the value system linking goals with action. Policies represent plans of action that guide decisions in order to achieve rational outcomes, and are concerned with defining and implementing the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. The adopted policies synthesize the information from the existing growth condition and responses from the public input process in order to develop solutions or actions that will achieve the various goals. Policies are a means to achieving the goals established by the community and they imply a clear commitment to the city's future development.

Goals, objectives, and policies ensure that the Comprehensive Plan accomplishes the desires of the residents of Springfield. When these goals, objectives and policies are followed, development proposals in the community will be evaluated as to their relationship with the citizens' comments and shared desires. Therefore, goals, objectives and policies should be referred to as diligently as the Future Land Use Map or any other part of the Comprehensive Plan when reviewing and/or making recommendations on planning issues.

The goals, objectives, and policies that have been generated for Springfield are organized into general categories. The categories are broad enough to allow multiple issues to fall within them, but narrow enough to allow a fairly clear distinction and separation. These categories are used for a logical organization of the goals and policies, and are not presented in any particular order.

Goal: The unique community character and identity by which Springfield is recognized will be respected and maintained by policy decision makers.

Objectives

CI1 The elements that make Springfield unique, including the important qualities of its established neighborhoods and Downtown, should be identified and protected.

Policies

CI1.1 Major entryways into Springfield will be identified and enhanced in order to emphasize and preserve the natural setting and appearance of the community. Such entryways should incorporate decorative lighting, street medians, and additional landscaping where feasible and appropriate to create a visible invitation into the community.

CI1.2 New developments should reinforce and complement existing community aesthetics.

CI1.3 New developments should provide continuity and interconnectivity between developments through the use of pedestrian trails, roadway connectivity, and shared access.

CI1.4 Local events that celebrate Springfield and attract visitors should be encouraged to improve civic pride and increase community recognition.

CI2 Public art is an important means by which the community can strengthen a sense of place and promote a positive image, and should be incorporated into public projects when appropriate.

CI2.1 When public projects are being considered, a portion of the project budget should be allocated to a public art element to be incorporated into the project, when appropriate.

CI3 The design of individual urban and rural areas should be improved through innovative development practices.

CI3.1 Development proposals that include multiple land uses or are located in areas characterized by multiple land uses should provide open land buffers to separate conflicting uses.

CI3.2 Developments proposed in areas having environmental assets should include the preservation of critical natural areas and vistas.

CI3.3 Commercial developments, neighborhoods, and public and recreational open spaces should be linked by appropriate connections with the transportation system.

CI3.4 Arterial and collector streets should be designed as efficient travel corridors for vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic.

CI3.5 Residents of Springfield should be provided with a broad range of diverse housing types, sizes, and price ranges.

CI3.6 Developments that require the extension of public infrastructure should be designed to maximize the conservation of physical and social resources.

Environmental Protection

Goal: Springfield will encourage the conservation and protection of natural resource areas and open spaces through reasonable, controlled growth, development, and redevelopment that incorporates environmental amenities. Natural resources in and around Springfield will be protected and managed to insure long term quality, availability, and sustainability for the current and future residents.

Objectives

EP1 Areas that include significant native ecosystems and environmentally sensitive areas should be conserved, protected and/or restored through appropriate land use planning techniques.

Policies

- EP1.1 Wetland areas should be preserved.
- EP1.2 Areas that possess a potential risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the public should be developed only when guidelines exist that promote the safe and reasonable development of those areas.
- EP1.3 Areas with particular topographic features that present substantial barriers to development should be maintained in a natural or passively developed condition.
- EP1.4 Healthy natural vegetation should be protected and preserved through creative development design.
- EP1.5 Trees are encouraged throughout the community in public areas and street rights-of-way in order to improve the appearance of Springfield's public spaces. The city should create a set of standards to promote the planting of recommended tree species and develop a plan for removal of those posing a hazard.
- EP1.6 Protect all water supplies and aquifers from development activities that may affect the quality and/or quantity of water. Development shall demonstrate a positive or, at least, a neutral impact on surface and ground water supplies.
- EP1.7 In making land use decisions relative to industrial or other uses likely to pose a threat to air quality, the city will consider proximity for the proposed use to residential areas and meteorological factors such as prevailing wind direction and velocity.

3.4 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

Environment

- EP 2 Springfield will collaborate with other local, county, regional, and state agencies to preserve the 100-year floodplain, areas prone to inundation by stormwater, and natural drainageways, in order to protect the community’s ability to appropriately mitigate stormwater runoff.**
- EP2.1 Natural drainage areas, floodplains, and wooded areas should be utilized as greenways that define and connect neighborhoods within the community.
 - EP2.2 Sources of pollution, both point and non-point, should be controlled through the promotion of best management practices.
 - EP2.3 Federal standards for air and water quality should be followed strictly, and strengthened when appropriate.
 - EP2.4 Energy conservation and sustainable development practices should be encouraged through education, site design, building orientation techniques and landscaping. Additional goals and policies are located in the energy component.
 - EP2.5 Incorporation of adopted stormwater policies into every new development.
 - EP2.6 Zoning and design standards should be created or enhanced to protect the natural resources of Springfield through the encouragement of preservation and conservation practices.
 - EP2.7 As Springfield continues to grow, the city will evaluate the benefits of participation in the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program to prevent flood-caused loss of life and property, by applying identified mapped areas showing the floodplain and floodway and regulating development in those areas.
 - EP2.8 Development within floodplains and areas subject to stormwater inundation should be discouraged, unless accepted and required safety measures are enforced to protect human safety and environmental health.

Parks and Recreation

Goal 1: Springfield will support the development of recreational opportunities that enhance environmental amenities and provide citizens with opportunities to interact with the natural environment.

Objectives

P/OS1 Natural open spaces, drainageways, and green corridors should be preserved to delineate a continuous pedestrian transportation system that interconnects the community and provides access to regional public access areas.

Policies

- P/OS1.1 Creative development patterns should be encouraged that incorporate natural open spaces and greenways in a way that maintains their visibility and multi-modal accessibility.
- P/OS1.2 Floodplain areas along creeks and drainage areas should be used to provide park and recreation opportunities within passive open spaces, land use buffers, and stormwater detention and drainage facilities. Preserve the natural attributes of both the floodplain and floodway to avoid loss of life and property while providing open space.
- P/OS1.3 Parks, open spaces, greenways, and other recreation areas should be used to buffer incompatible land uses from one another to promote quality of life and aesthetic value.
- P/OS1.4 Park and recreation facilities should be designed to accommodate the particular needs and interests of area residents while protecting, preserving, and conserving the environmental character, quality, and integrity of the area.

3.4 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

Parks and Recreation

Goal 2: Springfield will continue to provide appropriate parkland, recreation, and open space facilities that meet the diverse desires of its citizens and visitors and the needs created by additional growth. These facilities should be a combination of the expansion/updating of existing facilities and the establishment of new facilities.

Objectives

P/OS2 Local parkland and amenities should be maintained and improved to reflect a high community appearance standard and project citizen pride.

Policies

- P/OS2.1 Funding mechanisms for park purposes, such as maintenance, improvements, and land acquisition should be created to facilitate the further development of passive and active recreational area.
- P/OS2.2 The location level of service provided for active and passive recreational areas, fields, and other amenities should enable pedestrian access within a 5-minute walk from all residences.
- P/OS2.3 The quantity level of service provided for active and passive recreational areas, fields, and other amenities should be a rate of approximately 1 developed park acre per 14 zoned residential acres.
- P/OS2.4 Parkland shall be dedicated in each development according to park and trails map or park fees shall be paid in lieu of land dedication.
- P/OS2.5 Existing parks should be upgraded to their level of service and amenities according to the approved park and recreation section of this plan.
- P/OS2.6 Provide parks and recreational facilities that are reasonably accessible and have the necessary amenities including open spaces/sports fields for the residents and visitors of Springfield.

P/OS3 New recreational facilities and programs should be encouraged and developed to respond to the particular needs and desires of residents of all ages.

- P/OS3.1 The potential to create, enlarge or rehabilitate outdoor recreation facilities should be explored and pursued if reasonable. The City of Springfield will need to explore the development and expansion of recreational opportunities in the future including, but not limited to: a new multi-sport complex to meet the growing needs for a regional attraction; and updating city parks equipment, especially the lights for the existing softball field and soccer complex.
- P/OS3.2 The current system of trails and sidewalks should continue to be expanded upon to improve connections and accessibility within the community. Landscaping strategies should be implemented adjacent to the MoPac Trail to enhance the experience along the trail and encourage walking, running, and biking events to occur in Springfield.

Parks and Recreation

- P/OS3.3 Encourage private developers to actively contribute to the city's park, recreation and open space system and encourage the development of private recreational facilities to supplement those provided by the city.
- P/OS3.4 Establish new set of standards requiring or promoting dedication of parks and open space and fees in lieu of such dedication.
- P/OS3.5 New residential developments should provide adequate public recreational facilities to serve their anticipated residents as well as the community as a whole. Such recreational development should be based upon the adopted Parks and Recreation Map.
- P/OS3.6 New park and open space sites should be identified within established growth areas, and constructed prior to development and before acquisition becomes too expensive.
- P/OS3.7 Usable park and open spaces should be located in highly visible areas accessible by pedestrian, vehicle and cyclist, rather than located behind development or on remnant tracts of land.
- P/OS3.8 Public acquisition and development of additional park sites should be limited to those with substantial recreation potential.
- P/OS3.9 Location of new schools should generally coincide with location of proposed neighborhood parks according to the adopted Parks and Recreation Map based upon future land use and development. Such locations would eliminate duplicate amenities or inefficient construction.
- P/OS3.10 Maintain and improve recreational amenities offering year round use.
- P/OS3.11 Promote recreation as a means of economic development for Springfield. Regional parks or recreational facilities should be explored. Locating, development and promotion of these opportunities should be performed jointly with Papio-Missouri NRD, Nebraska Tourism, Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Sarpy County Tourism, etc.

3.4 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

Built Environment

Goal 1: Development sites in Springfield will adhere to appropriate design standards and guidelines that ensure compatibility with their proposed and surrounding uses and particular locations.

Objectives

BE 1 The community should ensure an appropriate balance of uses by establishing thresholds for use types based upon historic development trends, market influences, and public desires.

Policies

BE1.1 Long term growth areas (as found in the Future Land Use Plan) for the city should be preserved in order to facilitate future urban development.

BE1.2 Acreage developments should be directed to areas outside of future urban growth areas in order to minimize conflicts between urban and acreage uses and so the city may provide urban services as efficiently as possible. Urban development should occur in areas immediately abutting the city that reflect a logical and timely extension of urban infrastructure.

BE1.3 Any lighting used to illuminate an off-street parking area, sign or other structure should be arranged so as to deflect light away from any adjoining property or from public streets and minimize light escape from excessive uplighting, through fixture type, height and placement.

BE1.4 The use of existing land features, vegetation, and stream corridors should be preserved as natural buffers.

BE 2 The quality of existing neighborhoods and defined districts within the community should be strengthened by enhancing neighborhood identities through revitalization efforts.

BE2.1 The historical, cultural, and institutional resources of the community should be preserved, protected, and promoted.

BE2.2 As Springfield grows, new development should distinguish itself from the cities of Papillion, Gretna, and Louisville.

Built Environment

Goal 2: Springfield will grow and develop in a balanced manner that respects private rights and promotes public benefit.

Objectives

BE 3 Development should take place in an orderly fashion, take advantage of existing urban services, and avoid, to the extent possible, patterns of leapfrog, noncontiguous, and scattered development.

Policies

- BE3.1 Contiguous and infill development should be encouraged as preferred practices, and sprawling development patterns should be discouraged.
 - BE3.2 Growth limit boundaries should be implemented that are based upon the efficient provision of adequate infrastructure to guide new growth to areas most able to support new development.
 - BE3.3 Infill growth and development should be strongly encouraged in areas served by existing and available infrastructure in order to maximize infrastructure system efficiency.
 - BE3.4 Higher intensity and/or less compatible commercial uses should be located in areas not adjacent or in close proximity to residential neighborhoods.
 - BE3.5 Higher density residential development should be used as a transitional land use between commercial developments surrounding low-density residential neighborhoods; compatible low-intensity office development should be encouraged as an alternative transitional land use into low-density residential neighborhoods.
 - BE3.6 Annexation decisions should be based on the ability to provide services and ensure fiscally responsible boundary expansions.
 - BE3.7 Subarea studies should be pursued with other agencies when there are common issues that need to be addressed.
- BE 4** **Opportunities should be sought for the city to cooperate with Sarpy County and adjacent communities to develop and coordinate complimentary growth patterns.**
- BE4.1 Regional policies and programs should be sought within Sarpy County that provide and protect defensible edges between rural and urbanizing land.
 - BE4.2 Within Sarpy County, development within an area defined as a future growth limit that may hinder the appropriate and logical expansion of urbanizing communities should be minimized.
 - BE4.3 Interlocal agreements shall be achieved with each adjacent jurisdiction in order to recognize suitable growth jurisdictions so that land may be developed efficiently and appropriately. Such agreements should be based upon topography; infrastructure and service capabilities; and watershed, fire and school districts.

3.4 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

Residential

Goal 1: Springfield will enable the development of a mix of housing types and residential densities to provide housing opportunities for, and meet the needs of, its various socioeconomic groups.

Objectives

R1 Land development regulations should be developed and implemented to guide high quality new residential environments.

Policies

- R1.1 Many activities of daily living should occur within walking distance. Neighborhoods should include homes, stores, workplaces, open space, schools, parks and other recreational opportunities.
- R1.2 New housing development proposals should preserve, protect, and incorporate existing environmental features such as natural drainage ways or vegetated areas.
- R1.3 Residential areas should be protected from incompatible land uses that may create adverse impacts. New and existing residential development should be separated from more intensive uses, such as heavy agriculture and industrial development, by the use of setbacks, vegetated screens, buffer zones, or impact easements.
- R1.4 Adequate screening and buffering which follow the design guidelines should be provided between residential areas and adjacent commercial and industrial development, including structures, highways, streets, parking and service areas.
- R1.5 The housing needs of the elderly and disabled should be addressed in a way that allows aging residents to remain in Springfield. Such housing opportunities shall be located where compatible with the surrounding residential neighborhood as well as other land uses.
- R1.6 Multi-family and elderly housing should be located nearest to commercial areas to ensure high levels of accessibility.
- R1.7 Residential areas should be designed with a pedestrian orientation, including interior trails that connect to the public sidewalk system. Such trails and sidewalks should be designed to encourage walking and bicycling, and provide multiple connections within and between neighborhoods, commercial, public and recreational areas. Sidewalks should be provided on both sides of streets, or in alternative locations as allowed through design standards.

Residential

- R1.8 Public uses should be located near the center of neighborhoods.
 - R1.9 Parks and open space should be within a five minute walking distance of all residences.
 - R1.10 The city shall encourage sustainable development policies that utilize natural features and drainage to minimize the impact of development upon the watershed and nearby waterways.
 - R1.11 The city shall encourage energy/water efficient development in all housing units; this includes the use of energy/water efficient appliances, proper insulation, retention of all old growth trees when possible for shading purposes, and implementation of rain gardens or drought tolerant species for lawns.
 - R1.12 Springfield should encourage construction of independent living residential development for seniors.
- R2 New housing development should be served by public infrastructure at the least cost.**
- R2.1 The efficient use of infrastructure should be promoted by focusing well-designed new and redeveloped housing on vacant, infill, or under-developed land.
 - R2.2 Develop subdivision regulations that provide for a quality living environment while avoiding inefficient and expensive public infrastructure expansions, such as implementing cluster developments.
- R3 Springfield should implement neighborhood conservation programs, including an aggressive residential rehabilitation program.**
- R3.1 The aesthetic viability and quality of existing residential neighborhoods should be encouraged to influence and be reflected by new developments.
 - R3.2 Promote the preservation, maintenance, and renovation of existing housing and neighborhoods throughout the city. The appearance and condition of existing housing should be preserved to prevent the negative impact of poorly maintained property upon the viability of neighborhoods.
 - R3.3 Assess, enhance, and maintain infrastructure and services in existing neighborhoods.
 - R3.4 The city should explore providing an incentive program for residents who participate in improving their property's appearance and/or energy/water efficiency.

3.4 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

Residential

Goal 2: New neighborhoods will be designed and developed with a sense of community that reflects Springfield’s history, culture, and unique character.

Objectives

R4 New neighborhoods should provide a sense of place with a mix of compatible uses that serve residential needs.

Policies:

- R4.1 Streets should interconnect neighborhoods with limited dead-end and cul-de-sac streets, and encourage walking, reducing the number of automobile trips, and conserving energy by reducing the length of automobile trips.
- R4.2 Proposed street layouts should respond to local topography, water courses, and greenways while still maintaining connectivity and navigability.
- R4.3 Higher building densities and higher intensity residential land uses should be encouraged to separate single-family and low density residences from commercial uses.
- R4.4 New housing developments should provide an aesthetic character that represents traditional “neighborhood” design.
- R4.5 The City of Springfield will review and consider, whenever possible, any new or alternative development concepts or proposals, provided such concepts or proposals are consistent with and do not compromise in any way the established disposition of the adopted land use, design guidelines, and goals, objectives and policies of this plan.
- R4.6 The city’s development regulations should be flexible enough to allow for unique housing products and creative development design, while limiting the mass produced form of past development trends, and encourage neighborhoods to maintain the unique small town feel that is important to the city’s residents.

Main Street Corridor

Goal: Springfield should continue to establish the Main Street Corridor/Downtown as a vibrant mixed use central district and entrance for the city which combines retail, office, civic, and arts corridor which appeals and provides services, shopping, food, and entertainment for locals and tourists alike.

Objectives

MSC1 The Main Street Corridor should be supported by an aggressive attempt to address unattractive, nuisance, and vacant properties in order to help the area grow in its appeal and preserve and enhance its historic and aesthetic character.

Policies

- MSC1.1 The use of development incentives tailored to attract uses to properties within Downtown should be explored as a means to encourage appropriate reinvestment in the area.
- MSC1.2 Infrastructure improvements in the Downtown area should be designed to enhance the appearance of Downtown, including streets, sidewalks, parking, utilities, lighting, signage, façade improvements, and other streetscaping elements.
- MSC1.3 Downtown development should promote pedestrian access through the use of sidewalks and trails that connect the Main Street Corridor to the Highway 50 Corridor, the Sarpy County Fairgrounds, and the rest of the community.
- MSC1.4 Springfield should consider the implementation of a Downtown Improvement District to help fund the improvements to the buildings and streetscape in the area.
- MSC1.5 The profitability of Downtown buildings should be increased by securing financial return from the use of the second floor spaces.
- MSC1.6 Main Street should be redeveloped as a promenade and thought of as a front door to the community. Main Street will give the first impression of the city for tourists and enhance the experience of all who enter Springfield.

MSC2 The Main Street Corridor should be enhanced and designed to celebrate and promote Springfield's heritage and culture.

- MSC2.1 The Urban Design Guidelines should be used to help guide the re-development/transition of the area.
- MSC2.2 The display of public art should be incorporated into public projects.
- MSC2.3 The display of private art should be encouraged through display methods and locations that enhance the experience of visiting the area while remaining compatible with Springfield's values and aesthetic character.
- MSC2.4 Historical buildings should be preserved, protected, and celebrated.

MSC3 Businesses which complement the existing businesses should be encouraged to locate along the Main Street corridor.

- MSC3.1 New businesses locating to the Downtown area should have similar exterior architectural style and character as the existing buildings.
- MSC3.2 New businesses locating to the Downtown area should complement the uses of the other businesses. For instance, the addition of a restaurant for tourists after they visit attractions or finish shopping should be explored.

3.4 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

Highway 50 Corridor

Goal: Springfield should redevelop and enhance the Highway 50 Corridor as an entrance to the city as well as a commercial corridor.

Objectives

HC1 The Highway 50 Corridor should be supported by an aggressive attempt to address unattractive, nuisance, and vacant properties in order to help the corridor grow in its appeal and preserve and enhance its aesthetic character.

Policies

- HC1.1 The use of development incentives tailored to attract uses to properties along the highway corridor should be explored as a means to encourage appropriate reinvestment in the area.
- HC1.2 Improvements along the corridor which abide by state highway rules and guidelines should be explored and implemented to enhance the appearance of the Highway 50 Corridor. This could include improvements to the roadway, elements within and outside of the right-of-way, structures along the corridor, landscaping, etc.
- HC1.3 Pedestrian and bicycle access should be added to new and existing buildings along the corridor by connecting to and accessing the MoPac trail where possible. Trails and sidewalks along the corridor should be located along the rear side of the commercial development to avoid dangerous conditions due to the highway adjacency.
- HC1.4 Highway 50 should be redeveloped as an entrance to the community and efforts should be focused upon making the community more visible and enticing to those traveling on Highway 50.
- HC1.5 The existing creek, natural riparian vegetation, and wetlands along Highway 50 should be preserved and protected. Negative impacts on the environment from development along the corridor should be vehemently discouraged.
- HC1.6 The natural attributes of both the floodplain and floodway must be preserved and protected to avoid loss of life, loss of property, and harm to the environment and natural quality of the area.
- HC1.7 Architectural design of the redevelopment along the Highway 50 corridor should complement and not stray from the character of the existing buildings in the City of Springfield.
- HC1.8 New businesses locating to the Highway 50 Corridor should cater to the needs and desires of Springfield residents as well as those traveling and commuting to and from Omaha.

Commercial and Office

Goal: Springfield will maintain and expand the variety of retail and commercial service activities and densities available to residents as well as visitors to the community.

Objectives

C/O1 New office, retail and commercial development should be provided in locations within the existing city boundaries that conveniently serve existing neighborhoods, or in areas designated on the Future Land Use Map such as along Highway 50 and Platteview Road, as well as infill along Main Street.

Policies

- C/O1.1 New or established commercial uses should not encroach upon, or expand into, existing residential neighborhoods, unless otherwise designated as mixed use.
- C/O1.2 Strip commercial development should be discouraged and avoided when possible; commercial centers should not be developed in a linear strip along a roadway nor be completely auto oriented, but rather locate parking to the inside and create more pedestrian orientation. In areas where linear commercial development occurs due to existing parcels, topography constraints, or other factors, such developments be encouraged to build according to the established guidelines of the area or corridor. Creativity in construction of such developments is encouraged while meeting minimum guidelines.
- C/O2 Site design for new commercial areas should incorporate elements that promote high quality developments.**
- C/O2.1 The impact of commercial activities on neighboring land use areas, particularly residential ones, should be minimized through site design and landscaping strategies, appropriate building orientation, and buffering.
- C/O2.2 Appropriate transitional methods should be considered at all locations where the development or expansion of commercial land use abuts existing or planned residential development.
- C/O2.3 Signage used within and around commercial areas should be designed to complement the materials and scale of surrounding development.
- C/O2.4 Commercial development along arterial roads shall be strategically located so as not to compromise the character of the area. Development percentages shall be established for commercial land uses at major intersections.
- C/O2.5 Commercial districts should be located:
- where urban services and infrastructure are available or planned for in the near future;
 - on sites supported by adequate road capacity – commercial development should be linked to the implementation of the transportation plan;
 - so that they enhance entryways or public way corridors, when developing adjacent to these corridors; and
 - in a manner that supports the creation, maintenance, and preservation of green space.

3.4 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

Commercial and Office

C/O3 Commercial and Office areas should be supported by an attempt to promote quality retail commercial and business park uses within Springfield's jurisdiction.

- C/O3.1 The use of development incentives tailored to attract uses to properties should be explored as a means to encourage appropriate investment and reinvestment in certain areas.
- C/O3.2 Infrastructure improvements should be designed to enhance the potential of commercial growth, including water, sewer, and streets.
- C/O3.3 Small business development and employment growth should be supported throughout the community.
- C/O3.4 Future commercial retail and business park development should be coordinated and encouraged.
- C/O3.5 Future commercial development should be of a certain type and size which will help the community thrive but not harm Springfield's image and small town character.

Industrial

Goal: Springfield will encourage business and industrial development as an important source of revenue and employment for the community.

Objectives

- I1 Site design for new industrial areas should incorporate elements that promote high quality developments as described in the Urban Design Guidelines.**

Policies

- 11.1 The impact of industrial activities on neighboring land use areas, particularly residential ones, should be minimized through site design strategies, screening, landscaping, appropriate building orientation, and buffering.
- 11.2 Appropriate transitional methods should be implemented at all locations where the development or expansion of industrial land use abuts existing or planned residential development.
- 11.3 Signage used within and around industrial areas should be designed to complement the materials and scale of surrounding development.
- 11.4 Industrial districts should be located:
- where urban services and infrastructure are available or planned for in the near future;
 - on sites supported by adequate road capacity – industrial development should be linked to the implementation of the transportation plan;
 - so that they enhance entryways or public way corridors, when developing adjacent to these corridors; and
 - in a manner that supports the creation, maintenance, and preservation of green space.
- I2 I.2 The impact of industrial activities, including increased traffic, noise, and pollution on neighboring land uses should be minimized through appropriate site design measures, and should be mitigated to lessen environmental hazards.**
- 12.1 New industrial development should be located in areas of similar or compatible use.
- 12.2 New industrial development should be located in areas where adequate public services, facilities, and infrastructure already exists or can be provided in an efficient manner.
- I3 I.3 Industrial areas should be supported by an attempt to promote quality light industrial type uses within Springfield’s jurisdiction.**
- 13.1 The use of development incentives tailored to attract uses to properties should be explored as a means to encourage appropriate investment and reinvestment in certain areas.
- 13.2 Infrastructure improvements should be designed to enhance the potential of industrial growth, including water, sewer, and streets.
- 13.3 Small business development and employment growth should be supported throughout the community.
- 13.4 Future light industrial and employment development should be coordinated and encouraged in the areas designated by the Future Land Use Plan.
- 13.5 Heavy industrial uses, if developed, should be directed in the areas designated by the Future Land Use Plan.

3.4 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

Transportation

Goal: The transportation network for Springfield will provide interconnected access between neighborhoods and commercial areas, a balance of opportunities for vehicular, pedestrian, and other forms of transportation, and levels of service that respond to and influence land use needs.

Objectives

T1 A variety of funding mechanisms and sources should be identified to fund street improvements.

Policies

T1.1 The city's development fees should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the appropriate relation between actual costs and revenue is maintained.

T1.2 The city should continue to look joint project funding with the NRD, county, state and Feds for various transportation and trail projects.

T2 Street intersections should be designed or improved to minimize vehicular/pedestrian/cyclist conflicts and eliminate dangerous driving conditions.

T2.1 Efficient pedestrian movement throughout the city should be encouraged through site design, development patterns, and land use strategies.

T2.2 Safe and well-maintained curbs, curb-cuts, and sidewalks should be provided throughout the city.

T2.3 Pedestrian access through sidewalks and trails should be incorporated into the design of city streets when appropriate.

T3 Transportation-related decisions should be made in consideration of land use impacts including, but not limited to, adjacent land use patterns, both existing and planned, and their designated uses and densities.

T3.1 Commercial signage along major arterials should be kept to a minimum and be low profile in order to minimize the distraction of motorists.

T3.2 Adequate vehicular circulation and interconnectivity within commercial developments should allow access among adjacent commercial developments without the need to drive on the public streets.

T3.3 Traffic within residential neighborhoods should not include substantial pass-through trips that originate and end outside the neighborhood.

T3.4 Possible development of a bypass south of the I-80 at Platteview Road or Pflug Road is recognized. Continued research on such development should be done and careful consideration of land use decisions should be made as development progresses.

Community Facilities

Goal 1: Springfield will provide and maintain a high level of governmental and civic services and facilities that sustain and enhance the quality of life for all residents and businesses.

Objectives

CF/S1 Public buildings and structures should be well built, functional, and designed to blend attractively within the context of surrounding development and to serve as a guide for future development or redevelopment.

Policies

- CF/S1.1 Public facilities and services should be provided in a timely, orderly, and efficient arrangement that supports existing and planned land use patterns and densities.
- CF/S1.2 Public personnel and equipment should be located throughout the community to provide timely and effective response and service.
- CF/S1.3 All public sites, buildings, and landscaping should be kept attractive and well-maintained.
- CF/S1.4 Sustainability development programs should be implemented within public building projects.
- CF/S1.5 Facilities should be provided that offer services, activities, and special events for the special needs and elderly residents in the community.
- CF/S1.6 Conservation programs and energy-efficiency practices and programs should be encouraged that reduce operating costs for energy, sewer, and water usage.

CF/S2 Work to repair/update the public infrastructure so as to create an inviting environment for attracting new residents and businesses into Springfield. All improved properties should be connected to the public sewer and public water systems. The extension of city services will be controlled so as not to over extend the system while not hindering appropriate development.

- CF/S2.1 The provision of additional public services should be utilized to encourage future land development patterns that promote efficiency.
- CF/S2.2 Existing infrastructure systems should be maintained and improved to enhance the economic value of existing neighborhoods and other development areas.
- CF/S2.3 Work to replace badly deteriorating streets as opposed to patching them.

3.4 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

Community Facilities

Goal 2: Springfield will provide new infrastructure and community facilities and conduct improvements and upgrades in a fiscally responsible manner.

Objectives

CF/S3 Infrastructure projects should be planned, funded, and constructed in a manner that maximizes the public benefit and minimizes the public cost.

Policies

- CF/S3.1 Infrastructure should be built to a size and capacity that will serve the full development potential of a particular area in order to minimize the need to replace or improve facilities too soon after construction.
- CF/S3.2 Infrastructure should be maintained in a safe and operational condition through regular inspection and preventative maintenance.
- CF/S3.3 The infrastructure necessary to support future development should be provided concurrently with that development.
- CF/S3.4 The costs of offsite infrastructure impacts and improvements should be financed by developers rather than the community as a whole.
- CF/S3.5 Cooperative relationships with the development community should be sought to identify and implement creative methods of financing for infrastructure improvements.
- CF/S3.6 Site designs should encourage compatibility with the natural characteristics of a site, minimize grading and impervious cover, and preserve site hydrology to the maximum extent possible.
- CF/S3.7 Annexation requests should address the various impacts upon public safety and community facilities prior to final consideration.
- CF/S3.8 Annexation policies should encourage contiguous development.
- CF/S3.9 Opportunities to co-locate community facilities should be sought to maximize efficiencies in service provision and reduce capital and operating costs.
- CF/S3.10 Evaluate all possible alternatives to continue to provide sufficient service to current and future residents.
- CF/S3.11 Identify all funding mechanisms and sources to fund new infrastructure or improve existing services.

Economic Development

Goal: Springfield’s focus for economic development will combine retention and expansion of existing businesses and the pro-active attraction of high impact businesses. Springfield will promote and welcome a broad variety of businesses; develop its entrepreneurial capacity through public and private partnerships, while leveraging its unique strengths in quality of life, location and education. The city shall strive to promote balanced growth bringing in residential, commercial and industrial growth to create a self-sustaining community.

Objectives

ED 1 Economic development partnerships between local entities, Sarpy County, and private companies should be encouraged and sought in order to assist existing and expanding business enterprises. The City of Springfield shall work with the Chamber of Commerce, Sarpy County Economic Development Corporation, and other economic development groups to encourage and promote economic development within the city and the surrounding jurisdiction.

Policies

- ED 1.1 An identity for Springfield should be developed that can be utilized as a marketing tool for new business and residents.
- ED 1.2 The recreational and entertainment opportunities within Springfield should be expanded so they may be promoted as quality-of-life and lifestyle amenities to new residents.
- ED 1.3 Springfield’s safe small town character and close proximity to Omaha should be continually promoted regionally.
- ED 1.4 The youth of Springfield should be encouraged to remain in Springfield or return to the city after completion of their post-secondary education. The youth of the community should be involved in the identification and development of city projects.
- ED 1.5 Encourage, promote and develop economic development partnerships between local entities and private companies to assist existing and expanding business enterprises.
- ED 1.6 The city needs to be involved in all economic development ventures.
- ED 1.7 Encourage and promote the development of home-based businesses and telecommuting based upon high technology communication infrastructure.
- ED 1.8 The city should develop zoning and subdivision regulations and follow the Urban Design Guidelines to provide quality design and aesthetics for new commercial, industrial, and even residential developments particularly at the entrances to the community.

3.4 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, & POLICIES

Citizen Participation

Goal: The citizens and residents of Springfield will be informed about the planning process, included in policy guidance activities, and encouraged to become involved in the creation of the future of Springfield described in this Plan.

Objectives

CP 1 Citizen volunteers should be encouraged to participate in ongoing plan implementation activities.

Policies

CP 1.1 The city should utilize multiple methods and utilize technology to provide education about the planning process to its citizens, including the city's website and surveys.

CP 1.2 Citizen committees and focus groups should be used when appropriate to address specific issues as needs and desires continue to change.

CP 1.3 Ongoing citizen involvement programs should be created that provide residents the opportunity to be involved in all phases of the planning process.

Plan Implementation

Goal: Springfield will implement this Plan through a joint effort of the citizens and leaders of the community. This Plan will be reviewed and updated as necessary to reflect changing public preferences and needs.

Objectives

PI1 This Plan should be reviewed on an annual basis for necessary updates, and should be reviewed in detail every five to ten years for potential significant updates.

Policies

PI 1.1 When major new, innovative development opportunities present themselves and have the potential to impact several elements of the Plan and which are determined to be of importance, an amendment to the Plan should be considered.

PI2 The policies and vision of this Plan should be supported by additional planning projects during the planning period.

PI 2.1 The city should utilize subarea planning studies to address the particular land use, infrastructure, or other needs of a defined area.

PI 2.2 Zoning, subdivision, and other regulations and development guidelines should be developed/amended and implemented that support and further the policies of this Plan.

PI3 Public resources are scarce and should be conserved and used efficiently, meaning infrastructure should not be built or developed if it is not needed.

PI 3.1 Public infrastructure, including transportation facilities, water, sewer, parks, schools, and libraries, are essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the community; as the community grows, these systems and facilities should be developed concurrently.

PI 3.2 Private capital is a significant part of the funding used to construct infrastructure in new developments and the city should pursue partnerships with private developers, investors, and other private funding sources to offset the costs of new growth.

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