

### **What is a comprehensive plan?**

A comprehensive plan is a policy document that describes what Town residents want the community to be in the future and charts strategies for achieving this. The plan serves as the foundation for decisions about Town land use, infrastructure and services. The comprehensive plan does not change or create any regulations or requirements, but it may recommend new policies and regulations as implementation strategies.

Five factors make a plan *comprehensive*:

1. The plan covers the entire geography of the Town.
2. The plan integrates authentic and diverse community participation.
3. The time horizon considered in the plan is long-range, extending one or two decades into the future and well beyond the pressing concerns of today.
4. The plan provides comprehensive guidance on where and how growth and various land uses should take place.
5. The plan clarifies relationships between physical development goals, such as land use and infrastructure or land conservation, with social and economic goals, such as economic development.

### **What is in the comprehensive plan?**

**The comprehensive plan** will be organized into four components.

*Vision statements* are broad but concise descriptions of what we want the community to be in the future. The vision statements serve as a foundation for goals and strategies. Vision statements encapsulate the desired future conditions of the community in 2031.

*Goals* provide concise statements of WHAT the community aims to accomplish over the life of the plan—for the next 20 years—assuming the Town will update the plan from time to time. The goals provide the basic organization and direction for the plan's strategies.

*Strategies* are specific actionable measures for HOW to implement the goals.

*The future land use plan* provides jurisdiction-wide land use classifications and mapping that tie the vision, goals, and strategies to the land. The future land use plan includes subarea plans for the unique geographies in the Town.

**Is the comprehensive plan regulatory?**

A comprehensive plan is an advisory policy document. It is not the same as the Land Use Code which contains zoning and subdivision regulations. However, the comprehensive plan is the framework for making changes to the land use code.

**How are comprehensive plans used?**

**Citizens** use comprehensive plans to protect the qualities that brought them to their community. By participating in the creation of the plan, citizens can be a part of the planning process and help guide the location and intensity of future development. **The Town** uses the comprehensive plan as a policy guide for big-picture decisions including infrastructure investments and coordination on annexation. A specific focus of this comprehensive plan update is to integrate policy guidance for zoning updates that will follow the adoption of the plan. **Property owners and developers** use the comprehensive plan as a guide to predict what uses could occur both on and near their properties, allowing them to make informed land-use planning decisions.