Grand Rapids
Comprehensive Plan
Adopted July 25, 2011
(Amended July 27, 2015)
We wish to acknowledge the following people who were instrumental in guiding the Comprehensive Plan process. Also, thank you to the citizens of Grand Rapids for their vision and contributions to this plan through enthusiastic participation in the community survey and focus groups.

### Grand Rapids City Council
- **Dale Adams**
  - Mayor
- **Joe Chandler**
  - Council Member
- **Dale Christy**
  - Council Member
- **Gary McInerney**
  - Council Member
- **Ed Zabinski**
  - Council Member

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  - Commissioner
- **Mark Gothard**
  - Commissioner
- **Ron Niemala**
  - Commissioner
- **Dale Yelle**
  - Commissioner

### Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

**Frank Allen**
- Business- Downtown
- Retail/Service

**Meghan Bown**
- Healthy Lifestyle Interests

**Joe Chandler**
- Grand Rapids City Council

**Marn Flicker**
- Residential (rural resident)

**Mark Gothard**
- Residential (urban resident)

**Ben Hawkins**
- Education

**Mark Hawkinson**
- Builder/Developer

**Joe Maher**
- Business- Manufacturing

**Tara Makinen**
- Residential (urban resident)

**Gary McInerney**
- City Council

**Mark Miner**
- Business- Non-downtown
- Retail/Service

**Jack Mooty**
- Environmental Interests

**Ron Niemala**
- Planning Commission

**Ruth Pierce Versaw**
- Social Services Representative

**Barb Sanderson**
- Residential (urban resident)

**Colleen Swanson**
- Health Care Industry

**Mike Twite**
- Planning Commission

**Diane Weber**
- Economic Development Organization

**Ross Williams**
- Residential (urban resident)

**Cheri Zeppelin**
- Tourism/Hospitality Industry
Comprehensive Plan Technical Advisory Committee

Erika Herr
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Dale Anderson
Grand Rapids Civic Center/ Park and Recreation Director

Doug Learmont
Mining representative

Jeff Davies
Grand Rapids Public Works Director

Jerry Cullition
Grand Rapids Housing & Redevelopment Authority Executive Director

Jim Denny
Grand Rapids Chief of Police

Lori Dowling
Itasca County Board of Commissioners

Matt Romanik
Itasca County Airport Manager

Steve Flaherty
Grand Rapids Fire Chief

Tom Pagel
Grand Rapids City Engineer

Anthony Ward
Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission General Manager

With assistance from

Rob Mattei
Grand Rapids Community Development Director

Eric Trast
Grand Rapids Community Development Specialist

CR Planning, Inc.
Brian Ross, Project Manager
Jean Coleman
Diane Desotelle

Cuningham Group
Suzanne Rhees

Spack Consulting, Inc.
Mike Spack
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Chapter 1 – Introduction

A comprehensive plan is the official long-range policy document for the City, guiding zoning and land use ordinances, investments in public infrastructure, economic development programs, natural resource use and protection, housing policy, and other issues. The comprehensive plan is a policy document that provides the legal foundation for the city’s ordinances, programs, and capital investment plans. The plan portrays the community’s desired future and guides decision-making by elected and appointed officials on how development, conservation, and public investment take place within the city.

Comprehensive plans identify the community’s desired future looking out 20 years, or in this case, to the Grand Rapids of 2030. The desired future is described with a future land use map and supporting written goals and objectives. Plans typically have three important parts—background information to define “what is,” maps and goals to define the “desired future condition,” and a set of implementation actions to bridge between “what is” and the “desired future.”

Grand Rapids’ 2003 Comprehensive Plan provided a foundation for this current Plan. The 2003 Plan was updated because many policies and recommendations no longer reflected current needs, concerns, and issues of Grand Rapids residents and businesses.

The Comprehensive Plan update took place over the past year guided by a Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee serving as advisors to the Planning Commission and the City Council which adopt the Plan. The public was involved through a community survey, focus groups, and public meetings. Background studies were updated from the 2003 Comprehensive Plan. A vision, set of values, and guiding principles were created to guide the choices for future land use, community services, natural resources and open space, transportation investments, and economic development policies.

Chapter 2 describes the process undertaken by the City of Grand Rapids in creating this updated Comprehensive Plan.

Chapter 3 presents the Vision Grand Rapids’ residents have for their community. Community values and guiding principles that support choices about the future and how to achieve it are also included.

Chapter 4 illustrates the future land use types and locations that are anticipated through implementation of this Plan.

Chapter 5 connects us to the future vision for the City by providing goals, objectives, and implementation steps necessary to achieve the vision.