

12. Implementation

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Introduction

The Implementation Element prescribes those actions necessary to realize the visions presented in this plan.

Supporting policy statements and all goals and objectives of the plan are provided in each associated element chapter. There are often strong connections between the individual plan elements.

Measuring Progress

To track planning progress and help to ensure that the plan is implemented, milestone dates (see definition in box) are provided for each objective. Special attention has been given to the milestone dates to ensure that individual objectives act in harmony with other stated goals and objectives. City staff and the Plan Commission have reviewed the milestone dates to ensure that they are feasible expectations for the City.

To ensure that the plan elements are understood in their totality over the life of the plan, the Evansville Plan Commission, Economic Development Committee, and Municipal Services Committee will annually review the goals and objectives. Part of this effort will also include addressing conflicts which may arise between the nine elements.

Responsibilities

Implementation of the Evansville Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan will be the primary responsibility of the Plan Commission. The Plan Commission will make decisions and recommendations pertaining to development issues, in accordance with this Comprehensive Plan. At least one champion/partner is provided for each objective. This person/agency will work in conjunction, or under the direction of the Plan Commission.

Milestone Date

A specific date, after the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, when the City will review the plan implementation action to see if the objective has been met and consider additional implementation strategies to achieve the stated goal. It would be preferable to complete each implementation action sooner than the milestone date assigned to it.

Updating the Comprehensive Plan

As stipulated in 1999 Wisconsin Act 9, a comprehensive plan must be updated at least once every 10 years. However, in order to ensure that the City's plan is an effective management tool, the Plan Commission will review the plan goals and objectives annually to track those activities that have been completed, modify remaining goals & objectives, and add additional objectives as needed.

The Plan Commission initiated its first complete update of this plan in 2014. Information from the 2010 census was used to update several tables. This update included a comprehensive review of the inventory information presented in each chapter. Furthermore, the City coordinated with all partners identified in the Intergovernmental Element Chapter to understand any external changes that may impact the plan. Finally, the Plan Commission completed a comprehensive review of all visions outlined in this plan to evaluate progress and consider additional opportunities. Another update should be initiated by 2024 with info from the 2020 census incorporated into the plan.

Implementation Policy

It is the policy of Evansville to use its Comprehensive Plan as a central tool in local decision-making.

Implementation Programs

The Comprehensive Planning Law requires community plans include a compilation of goals, objectives, policies and programs. Included among the objectives are several program initiatives. These programs include: wellhead protection, Main Street façade improvement, and property maintenance. These are in addition to the City's current capital improvements program efforts. These programs complement the visions presented in this plan and impact each of the nine required plan elements.

Another important tool for the implementation of this plan is annexation. The greatest potential for annexation exists along the western and northern boundaries of Evansville. It is anticipated that over the life of this plan, residents in these areas will seek annexation to the City to support development opportunities. When the City annexes property, several issues often arise:

1. Town land divisions, adjacent to the City, approved through certified survey maps (CSM), divide up acreage making it more difficult to layout efficient urban density developments around rural development.
2. Bringing public water and sewer through or around existing CSM developments to nearby vacant land is costly and disruptive.
3. Those annexed sometimes complain about surrounding development at higher density, the high and unexpected costs for them to connect to public water and sewer lines, etc.

Extraterritorial zoning and plat review are the primary tools recommended to address issues surrounding growth of the City into surrounding areas.