



Local Planning Handbook Update

Community Development Committee

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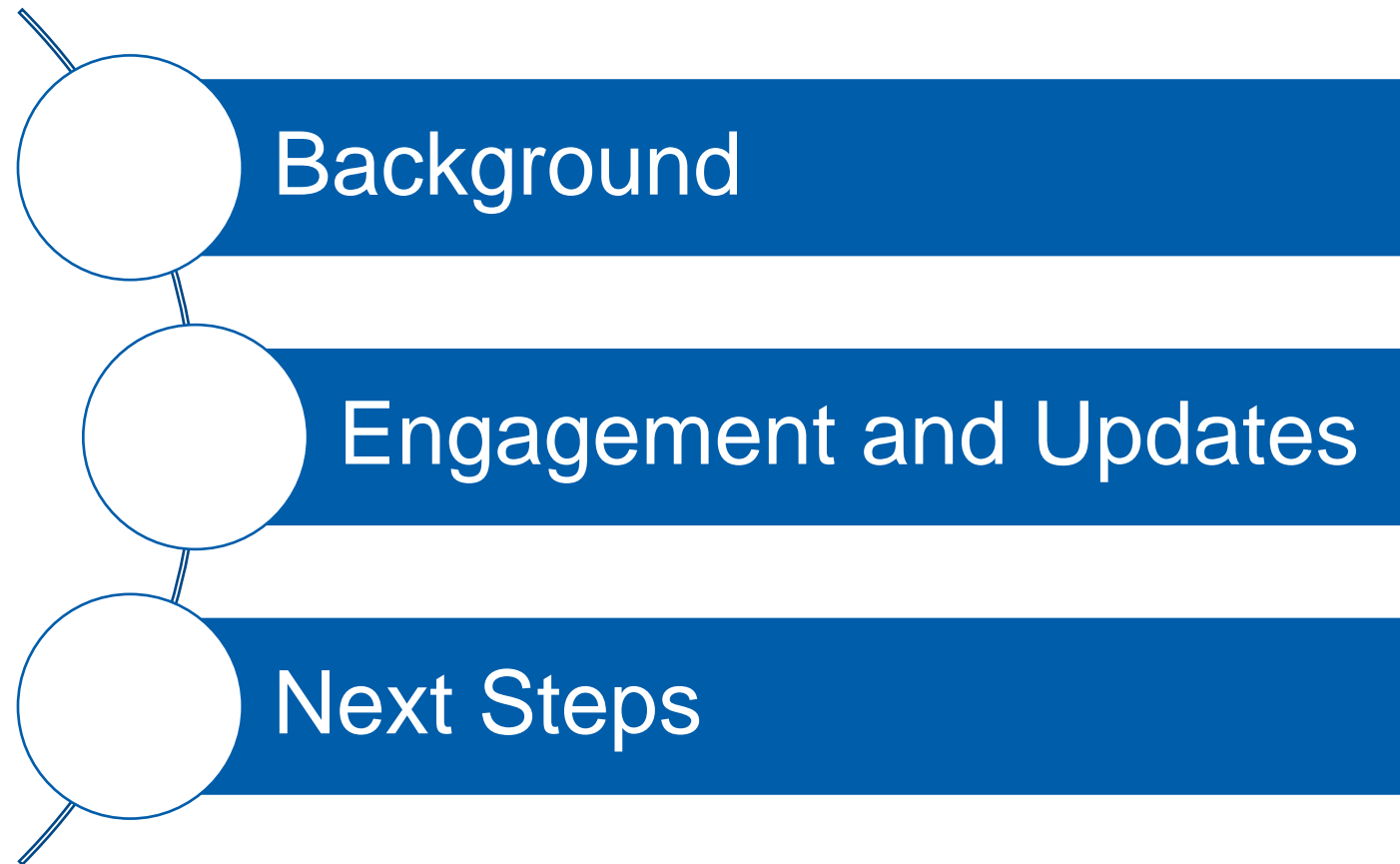
May 5, 2025



Today's Agenda



Local Planning Handbook Update



Background



What is the Local Planning Handbook?



The One-Stop-Shop for Comprehensive Planning

- Designed to support communities with the update of their local comprehensive plans.
- Clear guidance on minimum requirements and how to meet them
- Tools, maps, resources, and technical assistance
 - To help meet minimum requirements
 - To get more out of their local planning process
 - To help with a variety of planning issues of interest to communities across the region
- Community-specific information and checklists
- Training and resources beyond the minimum requirements

New Local Planning Handbook Launch: August 2025

Local Planning Handbook: Plan Elements

Plan Element Pages

- Landing page for each required element
- Information and Resources relevant to subject area
 - *Factsheets*
 - *Templates*
 - *Policy Plan Summary*
 - *Links to External Resources*
- Get More Out Of Your Plan

PARKS AND TRAILS

Parks and open space are key contributors to the region's livability, sustainability, and quality of life. Parks and open space strengthen residents' physical, psychological, and social wellbeing by providing opportunities for recreation, stress reduction, and social interaction. Natural areas provide environmental benefits by preserving natural resources, reducing air pollution, and managing stormwater runoff.

The **2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan** is the metropolitan system plan for the Regional Parks System. The Regional Parks System was created by the Legislature in 1974, and is supported by the Metropolitan Council in partnership with ten regional park implementing agencies that own and operate regional parks and trails. The Regional Parks System is one component of the greater recreation and open space system that includes local, state, and federal parks and open space areas, as well as private and nonprofit facilities. All play an important role in supporting and protecting the overall outdoor recreation system and should be recognized in your local comprehensive plan.

Parks & Trails Plan

- + REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS
- + LOCAL PARKS AND TRAILS

Parks & Trails Resources

- Plan Examples
- Fact Sheets
- Mapping
- FAQs
- Best Practices
- Forms & Templates

PLAN ELEMENTS

We are an interconnected region. Our roads, jobs, natural resources, and residents cross community borders. We each have a responsibility to consider the interaction of land use and transportation, access to jobs and housing choices, and the effect we have on the environment and water resources. Comprehensive plans provide an opportunity to prepare for growth and strengthen connections throughout the region. These Plan Element pages identify minimum requirements, optional elements, and connect you to resources to help you complete and implement your comprehensive plan update.



Land Use



Transportation



Water Resources



Parks & Trails



Housing



Resilience



Economic Competitiveness



Implementation

Local Planning Handbook: Community Pages

Community Pages

Community Specific Information

- Regional Growth Forecasts
- Affordable Housing Need
- Sewer Allocation Forecasts
- Interactive Map
- Checklist of Minimum Requirements
- System Statements

COMMUNITY PAGES

SHOREVIEW

[Print this Page](#)

STATUS TRACKER

Status trackers identify Council review deadlines, Committee meeting dates, and show the movement of your project through our process. The time line starts when you submit your plan update or amendment online and appears for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update and any in-progress Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

2040 Comprehensive Plan Update



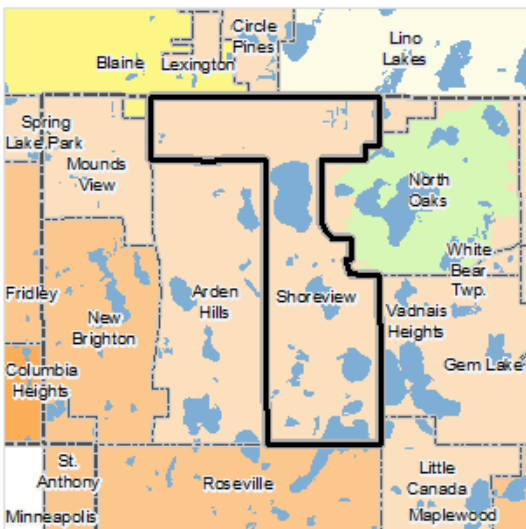
STATUS TRACKERS FOR ALL COMMUNITIES (UPDATES ONLY)

FORECASTS AND COMMUNITY DESIGNATIONS

The Council updates its 30-year **forecasts** at least once per decade. Forecasts indicate when, where and how much population, household and job growth the region and its communities can expect. Forecasts are used to help plan infrastructure needs and weave consistent growth expectations throughout your plan. These are your recent adopted forecasts.

Forecast Year	Population	Households	Employment
2010	25,043	10,402	11,665
2020	27,400	11,800	13,200
2030	27,400	12,000	14,100
2040	27,400	12,100	14,700

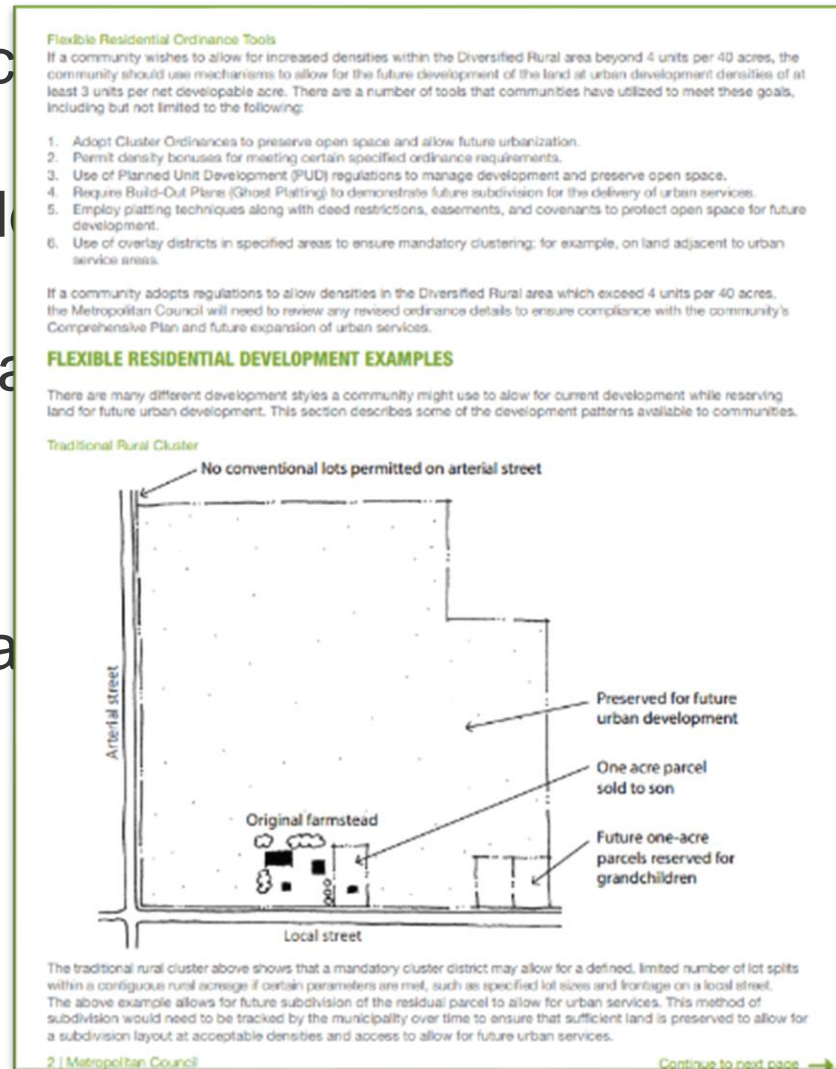
Shoreview is designated as Suburban. (Look under Council Policy tab at the bottom for specific policy for each designation.)



Shoreview, Community Designation Map
(Click on the image for larger map)

Local Planning Handbook: Technical Assistance

- Guidance on Council
- Templates and Models
- Best Practices/ Local
- Fact Sheets
- Educational and Tra



FACT SHEET / HOW-TO

PLAN EXAMPLES

BEST PRACTICES

FAQ

OTHER

Fact Sheets are **summary based** documents that provide useful information on topics necessary to complete minimum requirements. How-To's are **instruction based** documents that provide guidance on completion of a task. Both resource types are meant to provide assistance on topics relevant to updating your comprehensive plan update.

GENERAL INFORMATION

LAND USE

2016 Generalized Land Use Categories and Definitions

2020 Census

Density and Activity Near Transit

Flexible Residential Development Examples for Diversified Rural Areas

Housing Unit vs. Group Quarter

How to Calculate Floor Area Ratio

How to Measure Employment Intensity and Capacity

How to Request A Forecast Change

MRCCA Plan Review and Approval Process

Net Residential Density

Planning to Protect the Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area

System Statement Dispute Steps

Thrive Land Use Policy: Agricultural

Thrive Land Use Policy: Diversified Rural

Thrive Land Use Policy: Emerging Suburban Edge

Thrive Land Use Policy: Rural Center

Engagement



Research methods informing updates

Testing



Watch/record users complete relevant activities on live or test site

- 4 – 6 participants can identify about 80% of usability issues
- Useful throughout process

“ *Use the Local Planning Handbook to...*

Interviews



Talk with users about their work, environment, preferences

- Before building new or substantial revisions/updates
- Language, most valued resources

“ *Tells us about your experience and team...*

Surveys



Gather user information, opinions on broader scale

- Confirm or follow-up to other findings
- Ratings or rankings of existing or planned features

“ *Rate your need for specific data about...*

Website and Resource Updates (so far)

Staging Site- Work In Progress

Most relevant information at the top

Customized, ready to go maps

Interactive, regional map- data visualization

Tools and Resources: Community Specific Datasets, GHG Emissions Tool, Natural Systems Inventory, grant information etc.

Anoka Co. Online Plans Submittal

Anoka County

[2050 Comprehensive Plan - Get Started](#) [Maps](#) [Resources](#) [Submission Status](#)

[Community Profile for Anoka](#)

Access key information and trends about the Twin Cities region or any city, county or township, including charts and data on population, employment, income and poverty, housing, commuting, land use and development.

[Download Anoka Shapefiles](#)

[Explore Mississippi River Critical Corridor information](#)

The MRCCA is a state, regional and local government program that provides coordinated land planning and regulation for the 72-mile stretch of the Mississippi River through the seven-county metropolitan area covering 54,000 acres of land in 30 local jurisdictions.

[Anoka County interactive map](#)

Sector Reps	Marrit Clapp-Smith Patrick Boylan Emma Dvorak Amber Turnquest
Districts	2, 9, 10 and 11
Council Members	Reva Chamblis Diego Morales Peter Lindstrom Gail Cederberg

Forecasts and Community Designations

The Council updates its 30-year [forecasts](#) at least once per decade. Forecasts indicate when, where and how much population, household and job growth the region and its communities can expect. Forecasts are used to help plan infrastructure needs and weave consistent growth expectations throughout your plan. These are your recent adopted forecasts.

Forecast Year	Population	Households	Employment
2020	363,887	133,879	113,221
2030	387,860	146,226	138,102
2040	406,520	155,735	148,325
2050	433,570	166,720	162,132

Anoka County is designated as Urban Center, Urban, Suburban, Suburban Edge, Emerging Suburban Edge, Rural Center, Diversified Rural and Rural Residential.

[Allocation of Affordable Housing Need](#)

Local Government Focus Groups

Purpose of the Focus Groups

- Gather feedback from stakeholders on draft minimum requirements
- Align minimum requirements with Imagine 2050
- Assess clarity, accessibility, and resource needs
- Identify gaps in existing tools & support

Participants

- 6 representatives from developed communities
- 9 representatives from developing communities
- 2 consultants
- Mix of new and experienced planners

Structure

- Two meetings per cohort, one week apart (4 meetings total)
- Materials shared in advance (2040 & draft 2050 Minimum Requirements)
- Sessions recorded and transcribed
- Internal meeting summaries prepared



Focus Group Results



Key Themes

Clarity & Context

- Unclear language (Mandatory vs. Suggested)
- Need for rationale behind requirements ("The Why")

Checklist & Structure

- Checklist order

Density, Land Use & Zoning

- Foresee challenges with projections and staging
- More guidance needed on ADUs, and zoning vs. land use

Tools & Support

- Tech assistance, templates, and GIS data
- Strong reliance on Handbook
- More engagement with sector reps

Draft Minimum Requirements

Summary of proposed updates and changes:

30-35%
New or
Significantly Updated
Requirements*

*estimate based on March 2025 Draft Req

Climate and Natural Systems

- Identify areas for protection and improvement
- Set goals and strategies for natural system resilience
- Address climate vulnerabilities and adaptation
- Include GHG reduction targets and sector-specific inventories

Transportation

- Safety analysis, prioritize investments and incorporate local and regional plans
 - Comprehensive pedestrian element
 - Summarize ADA plan status and progress

Water Resources

- Identify stormwater BMPs, including native plantings and bioengineering
- Map and describe DWSMAs, private wells, groundwater management areas, and their vulnerabilities

General Planning Requirements

- New minimum density, land guided for affordable housing, and staging requirements
- Land Use Categories that include single family must include at least one additional product type

Next Steps



Next Steps

- Continue to enhance the new website based on usability feedback.
- Develop a schedule of technical assistance resources to be developed pre and post website launch.
- Continue to update website and resources during the comprehensive planning period and beyond.





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