



Introduction & Vision

An old saying amongst those in the planning profession is that if you fail to plan, what you are in reality doing is planning to fail. Communities are always facing this dilemma. If the community you work, play, and live in does not have a plan for its future, what ultimately may happen is that the community will fail to adapt to change and to take advantage of opportunities.

The concept of comprehensive planning is very much related to the economic prosperity of communities. A comprehensive plan can be a tool for planning the future growth or decline of a local community. Most importantly, a comprehensive plan can be used to address the constant change and evolution of a community.
(UI Ext, 2013)

Introduction & Vision

Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan is the Village's long range policy guide for growth and other changes in the community, and serves multiple purposes. The plan presents the big picture vision for what the community wants to become in the future followed by recommendations for achieving that vision, provides guidelines for developing Village regulations, sets priorities in the allocation of public dollars for civic improvements, gives direction to the private sector concerning policy on land development, and aids in the legal defense when a planning decision is challenged in the courts. Finally, it protects and preserves the Village's assets by assuring that land is developed according to the community's vision. *(Meck and Retzlaff, 2006)*

The Comprehensive Plan, as a policy guide, sets a basic framework to guide activities and change, but is also intended to be flexible and adaptive over time, adjusting as conditions and opportunities evolve. Regular updates as approved by the Village Board are important in assuring the plan adjusts to the changing needs of the community.

The Illinois Municipal Code provides general guidance for Comprehensive Plans. According to the Code, the Village has the authority, "To prepare and recommend to the corporate authorities a comprehensive plan for the present and future development or redevelopment of the municipality... which...when adopted, shall be the official comprehensive plan of that municipality." Comprehensive Plans in Illinois, by themselves, are advisory only; however portions may become law through the enactment of municipal ordinances. *(IGA, 2013)*

The Comprehensive Plan should accomplish the following:

1. Present the big picture and state the vision
2. Engage the citizenry in the process
3. Guide regulation and public investment
4. Give direction to developers and residents
5. Protect the community with careful and thoughtful planning

(Meck and Retzlaff, 2006)



Vision



Engagement



Guidance



Direction



Protection



Civic Meeting, Orland Park. (Wehmeier, 2013)

Planning Process

The Village of Orland Park's Land Development Code establishes the authority and process for the update of the Comprehensive Plan. The Development Services Department administers the development of the plan, but "shall include all reasonable efforts to obtain the views, comments and criticisms of interested departments, divisions, agencies, organizations, groups, firms and residents of the Village" (*VOP, 2013a*). This update began with significant research, stakeholder interviews and a public visioning session. Throughout the process, input was solicited from the citizenry via surveys and meetings. The Development Services Department posted each chapter on the Village website and also presented each chapter to the Plan Commission and the Development Services and Planning Committee. More details about the update process for this plan can be found in Appendix A.

2013 Comprehensive Plan Process



143rd Street Train Station, Orland Park. (Wehmeier, 2013)



Ravinia Woods Office Center, Orland Park. (Wehmeier, 2013)

2030 Vision

A community driven vision paints a broad picture of the Village's future and is the foundation of a successful Comprehensive Plan. What is special about Orland Park and how do we enhance that? What is important to us as we move forward? How do we address change in the future? Each Chapter of this plan includes recommendations to guide Orland Park into the future.

The Big Idea...

“An enriched life in a premiere community”

Orland Park will...

- Facilitate a high quality of life.
- Reflect a unique and dynamic sense of place.
- Inspire residents and visitors.
- Attract private investment and business.
- Foster a high quality built environment, enriched by natural open space.



Mimi's Café, Orland Park

Quality Places Natural Spaces

Memorable places and spaces have a definitive sense of place. What is that? Quite simply, it means the quality of your experience while in a place. This includes communal identity and social memory, which are the ingredients of 'sense of place' (*The Jerde Partnership and Kliment, 2004*). Placemaking has become popular to draw out and emphasize a community's sense of place and is defined as "the process of adding value and meaning to the public realm through community-based revitalization projects rooted in local values, history, culture and natural environment" (*Zelinka and Harden, 2005*).

So what makes Orland Park unique? The people? Vast open spaces? Masonry based architecture? Great schools? Shopping and Dining? In reality, it is all of these things and more. Highlighting and showcasing a sense of place specific to Orland Park is critical to achieve the *QualityPLACES NaturalSPACES* vision. The most successful sense of place efforts rely on the history and dynamic of the existing community. The below list provides a set of guidelines to enhance a unique identity for Orland Park. A more comprehensive list of placemaking principles, developed by the Urban Land Institute, offers more detail and can be found in Appendix B.

QualityPLACES

1. Focus on a public realm network with a variety of functional places and pedestrian and bicycle networks that link those places to surrounding neighborhoods and centers.
2. Leverage infrastructure, especially roadways, as a way to promote a sense of place and reflect the character of the surrounding area.
3. Promote design requirements for buildings that include masonry based features and an emphasis on transparency, rhythm and detailing.
4. Establish a wayfinding and signage system that distinguishes between distinct areas, but provides a unified Orland Park identity.
5. Consider form based regulation for mixed-use districts like Downtown Orland Park, the Regional Core and Neighborhood Centers.
6. Preserve and enhance existing neighborhoods and successful development patterns.
7. Monitor and implement best practices in planning and placemaking.
8. Through public engagement, promote and enhance existing neighborhoods sense of identity.
9. Use historic and culturally significant sites and events to develop a design vocabulary for scale and architecture of the built environment.

NaturalSPACES

1. Emphasize preservation of natural, cultural and historic features. Implement restoration and maintenance of natural open spaces.
2. Discourage development of environmentally important areas like steep slopes, wetlands, water bodies and forested areas.
3. Integrate appropriate natural elements, reflective of Orland Park's history, into all public realm spaces.
4. Increase access to and promote natural spaces within and adjacent to Orland Park including the Forest Preserve Districts and Open Lands purchases.
5. Utilize green infrastructure practices that create naturalized, usable and functional open spaces.



QualityPLACES

NaturalSPACES



Orland Crossing, Orland Park. (Webmeier, 2013)



Lake Sedgewick, Orland Park. (Webmeier, 2013)



Lowe's Public Realm, Orland Park. (Wehmeier, 2013)



Cheesecake Factory, Orland Park. (Wehmeier, 2013)



John Humphrey Sculpture, Orland Park. (Wehmeier, 2013)

Chapter Overview

Land Use, Design & Character

Orland Park will build upon the best assets of the community, promote the type of development that serves all ages and establish an unforgettable and authentic public realm. Orland Park will continue to be a premiere location to live and will draw visitors, private investment, businesses and residents of all ages.

Key Concept

Network of quality places and natural spaces.

Economic Development

Orland Park will continue to be a desired business location, a retail and entertainment destination and a premiere place to live. It will also offer more high quality employment opportunities, a vibrant downtown and an unforgettable sense of place.

Key Concept

Prosperity and sustainability through a diversified economic base.

Mobility & Access

Orland Park will have a safe, efficient, accessible transportation network that accommodates all users, mitigates congestion, and contributes to a unique community identity.

Key Concept

Interconnected network that accommodates all users.

Open Space, Parks & Recreation

Orland Park will have a unified, connected and accessible open space infrastructure system. The Village will capitalize on its natural heritage to create a beautiful, sustainable and healthy place by connecting open spaces, preserving sensitive resources, providing active and passive recreation opportunities, and education the public.

Key Concept

Open space as infrastructure.

Community & Culture

Orland Park will facilitate community life for all ages through education, arts and culture, recreation, an engaging environment, religious communities, clubs, healthy neighborhoods, public participation and responsive governance.

Key Concept

Nurture sense of place through a high quality of life.

Sustainability & Stewardship

Orland Park will be a sustainable, healthy place with efficient and functional infrastructure that is balanced with nature and community.

Key Concept

Balance and coordinate the 'Three E's': Environment, Economy and Equity



Multi-Use Path Crossing, Orland Park. (Wehmeier, 2013)

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