

EXECUTIVE SUMMARYCITY OF SHAKOPEE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT 06/20/2018

2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A PLAN WITH PURPOSE

All too often, comprehensive plans are developed as technical documents of little interest to the average person who lives or works in the community. This plan is different.

Like other comprehensive plans, Envision Shakopee serves as a tool for City Council, the Planning Commission, city staff and other government entities as they consider priorities and make decisions regarding public policy, public investments and private development proposals.

But the plan is more than a technical document to be used only by city government. This is a plan for the residents of Shakopee and the wider Shakopee community – all who live here, work here or conduct business and those who visit our great city to enjoy all it has to offer.

Shakopee has been blessed with incredible economic growth and a number of assets that set it apart from other communities in the Twin Cities. We are now in a position to harness those assets and leverage them toward continued success. The Envision Shakopee plan is our first step on this path toward Shakopee's bright future – together, as a community.



The mission of the City of Shakopee is to provide the opportunity to live, work and play in a community with a proud past, promising future and small-town atmosphere within a metropolitan setting.

plan of action to lead our community to where we want to be in the future—depicting how we would like to grow and change, what we would like to improve, and what we would like to preserve and strengthen for future generations.

PLANNING CONTEXT

THE QUESTIONS WE FACE

Shakopee is a community in transition. It has evolved from a small town with a few thousand residents into a fast-growing suburban city of over 40,000. In a little more than a decade, Shakopee doubled in population and experienced incredible economic growth with the addition of 5,000 jobs. It has physically expanded with new infrastructure to serve development across 30 square miles of northern Scott County. Such rapid change in a community inevitably brings a variety of challenges, but also presents incredible opportunities.

As Shakopee looks to its future and considers its position in the Twin Cites region, our community stands at a turning point. Because we have grown so quickly, we now face a number of critical questions that we must address to ensure Shakopee moves forward in a shared direction and with a shared sense of purpose.

Envision Shakopee sets a framework for our community to answer these and other important questions. The Envision Shakopee 2040 Comprehensive Plan is an expression of the community's vision for the future and a strategic map to reach that vision. This plan guides the physical, social and economic development priorities of Shakopee for the next twenty years and beyond.

How can Shakopee remain competitive in a fast-changing economy?

How can the city provide the best and most efficient services to our residents and businesses?

How can the city improve the quality of life for all Shakopee residents?

What is our identity as a community and how do we embrace it as we grow?

HOW THIS PLAN WAS CREATED

Envision Shakopee was shaped by robust community engagement and technical analysis. A nine-month community process ran congruent with a twelve-month data and analysis process. At twelve months, the draft plan document was presented for a six-month refinement and community review process.

Consultant Team

The plan was developed by a consultant planning team lead by MKSK with the support of HR&A Advisors, Toole Design Group and in partnership with city leadership.

Shakopee City Council

Shakopee City Council provided guidance and direction throughout the planning process via periodic updates at council meetings and work sessions, and participation in community engagement events.

Technical Advisory Committee

A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) composed of Shakopee staff members from multiple departments met via phone conference with the planning team during critical phases of the planning process. The TAC acted as a sounding board for the planning team, reviewing recommendations and community engagement materials.

PROJECT TIMELINE













DOCUMENTATION

REVIEW

& ADOPTION

JUNE – SEPT 2017



SEPT – DEC 2017



NOV 2017 – FEB 2018



FEB – JUNE 2018



JUNE 2018 – FEB 2019



MAR – JULY 2019

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Envision Shakopee planning process was designed to inspire all who live, work, play and learn in the City of Shakopee to take part in defining a clear vision for the future of the city. Community engagement efforts included small focus groups and interviews, online engagement, presentations, city presence at community events and festivals, city staff presentations at community groups and organization meetings, and three Envision Shakopee community workshops. Additionally, the planning team reviewed community input gathered through other community engagement and planning efforts by the city and Scott County and incorporated the findings into the plan.

In total, across Envision Shakopee outreach and data collected from aligned community engagement efforts, this community engagement process enabled more than 3,000 people to help shape the direction of the comprehensive plan for Shakopee.

Community feedback was organized by topic and strong themes emerged from the data. These themes were further tested in ongoing engagement. Through this work, the themes were refined into 10 Community Priorities, as discussed on the following page.

3,000 +

RESIDENTS, LEADERS, EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS ENGAGED

IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT

140 FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS

150 COMMUNITY WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

425 PARTICIPANTS AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

47 CITY STAFF SURVEYED

505 EMPLOYEE SURVEYS

WEB ENGAGEMENT

2,500 WEBSITE SESSIONS

1,750 USERS

8,040 PAGE VIEWS

75 SURVEYS SUBMITTED

OTHER INPUT

1,270 SCOTT COUNTY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

700 NATIONAL CITIZENS SURVEY

A PLAN FOR OUR COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

The ten community priorities began as strong themes that emerged from community feedback early in the planning process. The themes were then tested in subsequent phases of engagement, and refined with additional feedback into clear priorities.

The community priorities served as high level guides for the tone and breadth of the plan. They directly influenced the plan's structure, the big ideas for Shakopee's future, to follow, and the goals & strategies found in each section of the plan.





Shakopee residents have been excited about this new approach to planning for the city's future but are also concerned the city will not stick to its plan. It is critical that planning and public investments be strategic, connected to a long-term plan and in-line with the community's values.

COMMUNICATION EFFORTS NEED TO CONTINUE TO EVOLVI



People want more information from city government, especially on the city's website. For example, more details about proposed development projects and better information about events and festivals. There is a desire for improved communication and collaboration between the city, its neighboring jurisdictions and other government agencies.





A growing number of people feel housing prices are out of their reach or that the available housing does not meet their needs. For example, seniors need one-level living while many families with kids need reasonably priced units with more bedrooms.





Many would like to see higher quality architecture and design standards to improve the overall aesthetics of the community. This includes everything from a need for better code enforcement to a desire to have fewer "cookie cutter" buildings.

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS ARE CRITICAL



People are dissatisfied by Highway 169 traffic and see a need for additional improvements for commuters. There is interest in improving roadway safety and other transportation options, including transit, biking and walking for commuting, exercise and other daily activities.

ADDITIONAL PARK & TRAIL CONNECTIONS ARE NEEDED



The city is building a great trail system, but additional improvements, connections and wayfinding signage are needed. For example, a bike trail over Highway 169 near Southbridge is highly desired. The river is one of the city's biggest underutilized assets and people want access to it.

A SENSE OF COMMUNITY & BELONGING IS IMPORTANT



People like being around their neighbors and want more opportunities to gather, celebrate and meet. This includes a call to stitch together seemingly disconnected neighborhoods, such as Southbridge. There is also an ardent desire to maintain Shakopee's unique identity and small-town character.





Downtown Shakopee has historic and unique characteristics that can be leveraged to encourage public and private improvements. A strong mix of independent, unique and high-quality retail and restaurants are desired.

WE MUST MAINTAIN A STRONG & DIVERSE ECONOMY



Shakopee has experienced considerable jobs growth in recent years, but most residents work outside of the city and most employees commute from elsewhere. The plan should support an appropriate jobs/housing balance and a diverse employment base.

WE MUST ENSURE LONG-TERM FISCAL STABILITY



As Shakopee considers its opportunities for investment, growth and improvements, people want to know that city leaders are strategically considering short-term and long-term financial impacts. Acting as stewards of the public's resources, the city should balance the needs of current and future generations while maintaining the overall fiscal health of the city.

HOW THE PLAN WILL BE USED

The Envision Shakopee 2040 Comprehensive Plan serves as a guidebook for the city's vision and blueprint for the next 20 years. The plan will be consulted by the City Council, boards and commissions, city staff and other government entities as they assess the character, location and extent of public investments and private development proposals. Envision Shakopee will ensure that decisions are being made to guide growth and development in Shakopee that adhere to a shared vision authentic to our community.

The plan is a high-level and flexible document—allowing decision-makers to respond to new trends or unforeseen opportunities with shifts in strategy or priority, while setting a direction to guide these decisions to be consistent with the vision and principles of the plan.



STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN

FIVE SECTIONS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

While the Introduction and Community Overview provide the background and context for Envision Shakopee, the following five sections, numbered I – V, provide the foundation for the implementing the community's vision.

Each section (I - V) contains one to three chapters. The chapters discuss existing conditions, outline issues and opportunities, and set Goals & Strategies for implementation. The community priorities are reflected throughout the Goals & Strategies of each chapter.

Following the sections I-V is the Implementation & Action Plan. Found there is a matrix containing all goals and strategies from the plan's sections, listed in order and identified as short-, medium-, or long-term items for implementation.

Embedded across the sections and chapters of Envision Shakopee are twelve "Big Ideas" for Shakopee's future. These big ideas cross multiple topics—reflecting the interconnectedness of all plan elements—and are an accumulation of community priorities, planning analysis, and goals for Shakopee.

ENVISION SHAKOPEE AT A GLANCE

INTRODUCTION

- » Planning process
- » Plan structure
- » Community Priorities
- » Big Ideas for Shakopee's Future

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

» Planning context: Shakopee's past, present and future



EconomicCompetitiveness



THE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

- » Housing
- » Quality of Life
- » Neighborhoods & Sense of Place



- » Land Use,
 Development
 & Community
 Design
- » Transportation
- » Infrastructure



THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- » Parks, Trails & Open Space
- » Natural Resources
- » Resilience



- » City Administration
- » Communications
- » Finance

IMPLEMENTATION & ACTION PLAN

» Matrix of Goals and Strategies from all sections (I – V) with Action Plan

BIG IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE OF SHAKOPEE



As a regional entertainment destination and employment center, first impressions can set the stage for repeat visits and sustained business attraction, while also reinforcing community pride for residents. Shakopee should work with Scott County to beautify Highway 101 as a signature gateway to the community. A coordinated design strategy for landscaping and signage at other gateways and entry points to Shakopee should be pursued.

All elements of Envision Shakopee are interconnected. These Big Ideas are an outgrowth of community priorities and planning analysis—outlining a vision for Shakopee. They are embedded across the Goals & Strategies of the plan.



Shakopee has an incredible asset in the Minnesota River. Opportunities to enhance access to it, both visually and physically should be pursued along the river's course through the city. This includes improving trail connections and views to the waters edge, supporting quality riverfront development in Downtown, and preserving land for new parks with river frontage, especially in environmentally sensitive or flood-prone areas.



Modern competitive workplaces offer a variety of amenities that attract and retain businesses and employees alike. The addition of Quarry Lake Park and trail access in the Valley Green Business park is a desirable model for employment centers in Shakopee. Opportunities to enhance these centers with open spaces, walking paths, and dining options should be pursued to ensure the viability of Shakopee's employment centers.



As Shakopee continues to grow, there will be an increasing need to provide a broader diversity of housing options, both to serve existing residents with changing needs and to attract new employees to contribute to Shakopee's economy. High quality, well-designed multi-family and attached housing types should be supported in various locations throughout Shakopee, especially in close proximity to employment centers and transit.

BIG IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE OF SHAKOPEE



First Avenue is the gateway to Downtown and an important linkage to the Valley Green Business park. Aging commercial sites are underutilized assets that can be redeveloped with a mixture of uses, filling the gaps in the city's housing, office, and retail/dining offerings, while improving the appearance and walkability of this important corridor.



Shakopee is a growing city with an historic downtown as well as numerous neighborhood and retail centers. Strategic improvements to key roadway corridors, through a combination of private redevelopment efforts and public street design will enhance proximity and connectivity for residents and employees, providing options to access shopping, dining and retail services by multiple modes of travel.



Shakopee has rich natural environment, including the Minnesota River, wetlands, woods, and prairie landscapes. Yet many of these features are disconnected and difficult for people to access. A robust trail system with consistent signage and wayfinding should safely and conveniently connect Shakopee's residents to nature, both within existing parks and greenways, and to future additions to the preserved landscape.



Shakopee is a diverse city with a wide variety of neighborhoods. The popularity of public events like Rhythm on the Rails and performances in Huber Park are evidence of the community's desire to gather together and spend time with residents from across the city. Opportunities to create more public spaces and events throughout Shakopee will broaden these connections and reinforce the quality of day-to-day life for Shakopee's citizens.

BIG IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE OF SHAKOPEE



Shakopee has a strong economic base in the manufacturing sector. As the nature of industry evolves and modernizes, the city must continually position itself to leverage its assets for business attraction and retention. Shakopee should market its existing industrial base as part of an advanced economy corridor, foster connections between Valley Green and Downtown, and promote the West End for the next generation of advanced manufacturing.



As a center of industry and commerce,
Shakopee can encourage business
development and entrepreneurial activity
by supporting the start-up business culture.
Co-working and maker spaces, a business
incubation facility, and the potential to partner
with a technical or community college are
all initiatives the city can explore to expand
its economic diversity and opportunities for
residents and employees.



Most Shakopee residents work elsewhere in the region, while most employees in the city commute into Shakopee. Highway congestion has become a daily frustration, affecting residents' quality of life, and affecting the city's desirability as an employment location. Shakopee should advocate for the extension of Bus Rapid Transit into the city, support regional highway improvements and encourage transit-oriented development.



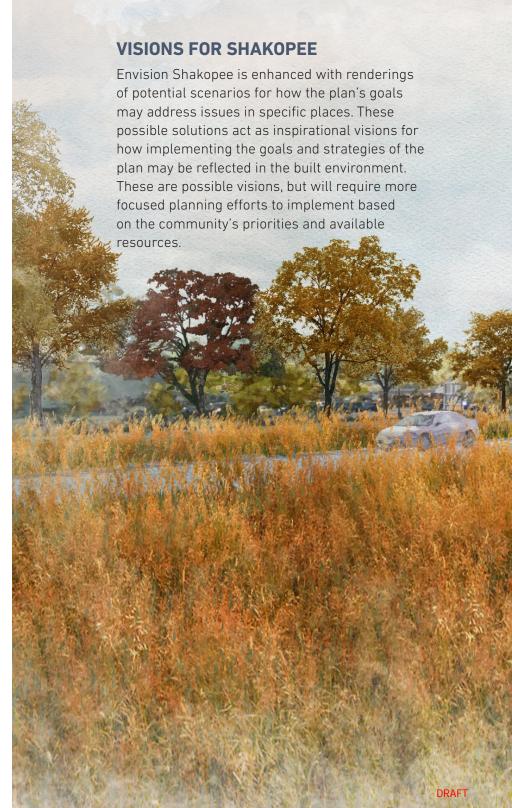
Shakopee is home to phenomenal entertainment assets that draw millions of visitors to the city on an annual basis. The city should continue to leverage these assets for continued investment and economic development by supporting programming partnerships and physical connections between public and private recreation and entertainment venues - enhancing Shakopee's cachet as *the* place to visit in the Land of Big Fun.

A VISION FOR THE HIGHWAY 101 GATEWAY

Hwy-101 is has been a traditional gateway to Shakopee and its regional entertainment destinations and major employment centers. The highway offers a first impression of the community for visitors and is a daily sight for commuters. First impressions can set the stage for repeat visits and sustained business attraction, while also reinforcing community pride for residents.

Envision Shakopee recommends the city work with Scott County to beautify Hwy-101 as a signature gateway to the community. Native tree and grass plantings could return the corridor to the area's natural landscape while providing a scenic view, changing with the seasons. The addition of landscaping will screen industrial development and provide an aesthetically pleasing gateway for both drivers on 101 as well as cyclists on the Minnesota Valley State Trail. This coordinated design strategy for landscaping and signage could be applied at other gateways and entry points to Shakopee and should also be pursued.







A VISION FOR FIRST AVENUE

A corridor in transition, First Avenue is still the gateway to Downtown Shakopee. Part of the original town plat for Shakopee, small, connected street blocks lend First Avenue fantastic neighborhood fabric. Proximity to downtown and the riverfront provide momentum and opportunities to revitalize First Avenue. Aging commercial sites are underutilized assets that can be redeveloped with a mixture of uses, filling the gaps in the city's housing, office, and retail/dining offerings, while improving the appearance and walkability of this important corridor.







A VISION FOR THE RIVERFRONT

The Minnesota River played a significant role in the foundation of Shakopee and is one of the city's most valuable resources. Yet residents and visitors have little access to the scenic and recreational opportunities which the river provides. Envision Shakopee provides a vision for the downtown riverfront, building on the success of Huber Park by transforming the underutilized south bank along Levee Drive.

Visible from both the Holmes Street and Hwy 101 bridges, a riverfront transformation would complete a continuous public open space along with Huber Park and create a welcoming gateway and front door to both downtown and the city. While the Minnesota Valley State Trail and Holmes Street bridge and tunnel already provide fantastic pedestrian connectivity dowtnown, a terraced walkway could provide the final connection to the water's edge with streetscaping along Levee Drive providing a streel level transition of the public realm between existing and future residential development along the downtown riverfront.







A VISION FOR THE TRAIL NETWORK

Shakopee has more than 88 miles of multi-purpose trails which together create a pedestrian network connecting neighborhoods, parks, and destinations. The city has done an excellent job of using underutilized spaces to create trail corridors. The Scenic Heights to Tahpah Park Drainageway Trail is a prime example of this, as a 2.5-mile drainage easement which also connects both Shakopee East and West Junior High Schools, the Community Center, and four neighborhoods was used a corridor to construct the trail.

While Envision Shakopee recommends many visionary and ambitious projects it is also meant to illustrate how relatively simple improvements can enhance community character and quality of life. Many residents use and love the trail network, but have identified a lack of simple trail amenities. Adding shade trees, benches, landscaping, improved crossings, and wayfinding signage throughout the trail system will make it more accessible and enjoyable to use. Such improvements can be made strategically and as resources allow.







A VISION FOR SAFER TRAVEL

Shakopee contains a network of streets and thoroughfares intended to connect people and places. However, some of these roadways are quite wide and have infrequent pedestrian crossings. Envision Shakopee recommends improving the safety, convenience and accessibility of pedestrian and non-motorized travel while balancing the needs to move automobile traffic. A wide variety of improvements could include new crosswalks and crossing signals, sidewalk connections, and roadside landscaping to help calm traffic and provide a more walkable environment. Though these techniques may be incorporated throughout Shakopee, they are especially applicable in school zones. The improvement illustrated here is conceptual and intended to paint a picture of how the plan's goals for mobility could look. Such interventions will require detailed engineering studies to determine the most appropriate design solutions. It is important to note that many thoroughfares, such as 17th Avenue (pictured here) are maintained by Scott County, and will require close collaboration between the city and county to identify preferred solutions.







A VISION FOR THE WEST END

The West End has been the focus of recent planning in Shakopee with the orderly annexation agreement with Jackson Township. While construction is underway for the primarily single-family residential neighborhood east of the bluff, Envision Shakopee sets the stage to the west for a mixed-use employment center providing space for advanced manufacturing, office, and potential a satellite campus development. Additionally, closest to the bluff, higher-density residential development will provide housing options for existing and future Shakopee residents in proximity to workplaces. A system of trail greenways will provide access to the preserved bluff and provide mobility options for movement between activities at the foot and top of the bluff. Nearby retail and dining amenities could support residential and employment alike. Future development will accommodate the planned interchange improvement at Hwy-169 and Hwy-41. Signature architecture oriented toward the interchange and highway will provide a welcoming gateway and positive first impression for those arriving from the west.







A VISION FOR MARSCHALL ROAD

The Minnesota Department of Transportation along with Hennepin and Scott counties have initiated the Hwy-169 Mobility Study to explore the technical feasibility of establishing bus rapid transit (BRT) to connect Shakopee with I-394 MnPASS near St. Louis Park. The Marshall Road Transit Center is a logical terminus for the potential BRT. High capacity transit service to other destinations in the twin service could support and facilitate denser, transit-oriented patterns of development in the station area.

Envision Shakopee proposes a long-term vision for development around the Marshall Road Transit Center if such service is established. Currently, the station area is auto-oriented suburbia. However, surface parking lots could be retrofitted with a mix of residential, commercial, and retail amenities to create a more walkable and less auto-reliant center. Existing buildings can be redeveloped or repurposed to meet future, long term trends.







REALIZING THE VISION

IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

Envision Shakopee provides a long-range vision for the community, while also serving as a guide for how the community can turn that vision into reality over time. The plan establishes high-level community priorities, a broad set of recommended goals, strategies and tactics to address those priorities, and some big ideas to inspire the community to action. Implementation of priority initiatives will require concentrated efforts among a variety of interested parties, from city government and elected officials, to private entities, community organizations, and other government agencies over the course of many years. This plan is a starting point.

Shakopee has experienced a great deal of change over the past few decades, which has brought challenges related to growth, concerns about the community's identity and what the future holds. This plan is designed to guide Shakopee toward harnessing change and guiding it to maximize opportunities for all of our citizens. With strategic investments and partnerships, thoughtful policy development, on-going community engagement and deliberate decision-making, Shakopee can position itself as a community of choice in the years to come.



Economic Competitiveness

- 1. Retain and expand Shakopee's industrial base
- 2. Attract new industrial users
- 3. Support the diversity of Shakopee's business mix
- 4. Leverage downtown for economic development
- 5. Improve Shakopee's brand in the region as a fun, livable and business-friendly community
- 6. Remove barriers to economic development



Housing

- 1. Expand and diversify housing types
- 2. Preserve and utilize existing assets for housing
- 3. Utilize greenfield sites for strategic growth

Quality of Life

- 1. Adopt land use policies and practices that improve quality of life
- 2. Prioritize public health and safety

Neighborhoods & Sense of Place

- 1. Celebrate Shakopee's history, culture and community identity
- 2. Build on Shakopee's unique assets
- 3. Foster a sense of neighborliness
- 4. Ensure neighborhoods are safe, healthy, welcoming and supportive places to live, work, learn and play







Land Use

- Align land use and development mechanisms with Envision Shakopee goals
- 2. Emphasize community character in design
- 3. Grow strategically
- 4. Prioritize redevelopment opportunities
- 5. Target increased density in areas that are connected to amenities and transit
- 6. Promote infill development

Transportation

- 1. Balance the needs of all transportation users
- 2. Elevate transportation partnerships
- 3. Develop city and neighborhood transportation plans
- 4. Develop a safety plan

Infrastructure

- Provide a high quality public water supply in a cost-effective, efficient and effective manner
- 2. Dependably and affordably convey sanitary sewage into the regional treatment system
- 3. Ensure the public + private surface water management system
- 4. Ensure private utilities are meeting the needs of the city while minimizing adverse impacts

Parks, Trails & Open Space

- 1. Plan high-quality parks & facilities
- 2. Provide passive parks and open space
- 3. Support and strengthen trail systems
- 4. Embrace the riverfront
- 5. Enrich programming
- 6. Manage and govern as a community effort

Natural Resources

- Protect, preserve and enhance Shakopee's water resources
- 2. Protect and preserve Shakopee's open space and other natural resources
- 3. Encourage and require high-quality, environmentally-sensitive development
- 4. Strengthen beneficial connections between the natural world and built environment
- 5. Cultivate a culture of environmental awareness, stewardship and respect

Resilience

- 1. Develop and encourage public and private renewable energy production systems
- 2. Promote and integrate resource-efficient systems into public and private facilities
- 3. Integrate sustainable design and management practices into public spaces
- 4. Develop community systems and policies for hazard prevention and mitigation
- 5. Encourage and support the development of a strong local food system

City Administration

- 1. Align city organization and management to advance the goals of Envision Shakopee
- 2. Create a supportive workplace culture
- 3. Improve human resources
- 4. Support elected and appointed officials

Communication

- 1. Provide efficient and effective internal communications as a government organization
- 2. Provide consistent and responsive external communications to the public
- 3. Provide authentic opportunities for community engagement

Finance

- Provide quality stewardship of the city's financial resources
- 2. Ensure financial transparency
- B. Ensure long-term sustainability
- Establish Systems for Ongoing Effectiveness & Efficiency in Facilities & Operations

