



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





1. Executive Summary

A. Introduction

This Sidney Comprehensive Plan Update establishes a policy framework for guiding expansion of the City and future development over the next 10 to 15 years. This update entails a comprehensive review of the Sidney Comprehensive Plan, adopted by Sidney in 2002. The Plan recommends an urban services boundary that defines utility service areas within which future development should take place. The Plan continues to support a build-out population of 35,000. Ensuring that future development is an asset to the community and fits in with existing development is stressed. Providing for a balanced economy and more housing opportunities also is stressed. Meeting the transportation needs of the City is highlighted by several roadway recommendations. The Executive Summary addresses the following areas:

- Vision and Mission Statements
- Major Objectives
- Implementation

B. Vision and Mission Statements

The policy basis for the City's Comprehensive Plan is captured by the following key statements. The statements are based upon the ideas generated by the public at the first set of community forums and subsequently reviewed during the update process by the Update Steering Committee to ensure continued applicability. Those ideas were used by the Steering Committee to draft mission statements, which were summarized into an overall vision statement.

1. Vision Statement

The following Vision Statement was prepared as a means of capturing the collective intent and vision of the 11 mission statements:

A vibrant, attractive community encouraging the values of livability, balanced growth, revitalization and conservation, within a safe, healthy and sustainable environment.

2. Mission Statements

The Comprehensive Plan is structured by a series of chapters. A mission statement was prepared for each as the beginning point for developing individual policies and implementation strategies. The mission statements were written using almost 500 ideas generated by the public at Community Forum #1, which was held at two locations plus a special meeting with Sidney High School seniors. These mission statements were confirmed by the Comprehensive Plan Update Steering Committee during the 2009 Plan review. The following are the mission statements:

a) Community Facilities

The community facilities mission is to improve community facilities, especially parks, youth and senior centers, schools and cultural arts.

b) Community Services

The community services mission is to improve community services with regard to safety, education, recreation and public health.

c) Downtown

The downtown mission is to revitalize the downtown with an emphasis on history, activities, commerce and the physical environment.

d) Economic Development

The economic development mission is to retain and attract commercial, retail and industrial businesses, and diversify the job base to increase opportunity and attract quality jobs.



e) Housing

The housing mission is to provide quality affordable housing opportunities for all residents.

f) Natural Resources

The natural resources mission is to conserve natural resources (land, air, water, and a balance of wildlife presence) with concern for wildlife, reducing pollution and increasing use of the river corridor.

g) Land Use

The land use mission is to balance growth at a moderate rate consistent with the natural and built environment, with an emphasis on balance of infill and new development to create a livable and attractive community.

h) Transportation

The transportation mission is a transportation system that is safe, relieves congestion, enhances traffic flow and supports transportation alternatives.

i) Urban Design

The urban design mission is to beautify the City and preserve historic structures.

j) Utilities

The utilities mission is to provide water, sewer and stormwater services that meet current needs and future growth.

k) Local City Schools

The City school mission is to work closely with the local school systems to ensure that adequate school facilities are provided for the student population as the City grows in the future.

C. Major Initiatives

1. Overview

The Comprehensive Plan recommends a number of initiatives to guide corporate expansion and future physical development in Sidney. These initiatives are represented in the individual plans as well as objectives within each element. These major initiatives were confirmed by the Comprehensive Plan Update Steering Committee during the 2009 Plan review. This section provides a brief summary of the major initiatives.

2. Major Objectives

The following is a list of the major objectives recommended in the Comprehensive Plan:

- a) Expand the park system, improve recreation facilities and expand park programming.
- b) Expand safety services, particularly police and fire protection as the City grows.
- c) Encourage revitalization of downtown, strengthen the local economy and attract tourists.
- d) Increase amount and quality of retail, retain and attract quality businesses, diversify the labor force and encourage tourism.
- e) Expand the housing stock and encourage quality new construction.
- f) Promote balanced growth concurrent with utility expansion and plan for residential, commercial and industrial development.
- g) Protect wildlife, reduce pollution and improve the Great Miami River corridor.
- h) Improve traffic flow, reduce truck traffic downtown, expand public transportation and increase parking downtown.



- i) Beautify the City and preserve historic resources.
- j) Maintain clean water, reduce inflow/infiltration, continue long term utility planning and ensure developers pay a fair share of utility improvements.

D. Implementation

1. Overview

A series of strategies are presented in the Comprehensive Plan to provide detailed guidance for each objective. These strategies are the heart of the Plan and indicate actions, responsible parties, timeframe and estimated costs where available. These strategies were confirmed by the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee during the 2009 Plan review. The following is a summary of the major strategies.

2. Major Strategies

The following is a list of the major strategies recommended in the Comprehensive Plan:

- a) Continue to use the parks, recreation and open space master plan.
- b) Determine the site, design, timing and funding of a north end fire station.
- c) Continue to encourage Downtown Sidney's role, and encourage additional specialty shops and housing downtown.
- d) Create a business competitiveness initiative, continue tourism marketing, formalize business recruitment, and encourage entrepreneurial development.
- e) Encourage housing rehabilitation, target key neighborhoods, promote affordable housing incentives and pursue additional state grants.
- f) Continually review the urban services boundary and plan utilities accordingly and assist developers where beneficial to extend utilities.
- g) Encourage infill development downtown, industrial development west of I-75, commercial development along SR 47 and Vandemark Road, office development along I-75 near SR 29 and CR25A, and residential development east of I-75 in the City's north end.
- h) Minimize development impacts on the environment, improve traffic flow, maintain safety, focus economic incentives on light industry and research and development and preserve more public land along the Great Miami River.
- i) Extend several key roads and improve key congested intersections, provide alternate truck routes, expand transit services, develop a downtown wayfinding system, improve roadway infrastructure and expand biking as an alternative transportation mode.
- j) Continue to expand streetscape improvements downtown, recognize beautification projects, expand landscaping requirements, continue to beautify SR 47 between I-75 and downtown and adopt incentives to encourage historic preservation.
- k) Protect water sources, plan for long term system improvements, provide key improvements when financing is assured and continue to require developer contributions.

