

# 2040 Comprehensive Plan

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why are we updating the Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan?**

Each city in the 7-county metropolitan area is required to update its Comprehensive Plan every 10 years. The current round of plan updates must be complete by the end of 2018. Updating the Comprehensive Plan is our chance to focus on Saint Paul's land, streets, parks, and the infrastructure that supports them. It is also an opportunity to incorporate new information, new trends, and new people into the process for setting Saint Paul's policy direction.

### **What impact does the Comprehensive Plan have?**

The Comprehensive Plan is the "blueprint" to guide development over the next 10-20 years. It includes policy direction for transportation, parks and recreation, housing, land use, historic preservation, and water resources. It is used to: 1) direct City funding; 2) guide and support pursuit of outside funding; 3) direct City policy decisions; 4) guide private investment; 5) provide policy guidance for zoning and related land use decisions; and 5) aid outside organizations who wish to invest in Saint Paul or collaborate with the City.

### **What is the timeline for the Comprehensive Plan update?**

Generally, 2016 will be the year of gathering public input regarding issues and priorities for the plan, 2017 will be dedicated to drafting and reviewing the plan, and 2018 will be when the final draft is reviewed and approved through City commissions and the Metropolitan Council.

### **How can I give input? How will we use the input?**

Visit [stpaul.gov/SaintPaul4all](http://stpaul.gov/SaintPaul4all) to sign up for email notifications, view Open Saint Paul online questions, and learn more about the project. Three kickoff events were held in May 2016. Outreach opportunities will occur throughout the city in 2016. Your input will be used to inform the Comprehensive Plan's issues, priorities, and policy direction.

### **Who are we getting input from? How will we reach everyone?**

The staff team has planned a variety of outreach events in pursuit of receiving representative, useful input from all corners of Saint Paul. This includes:

- Open houses;
- Meetings with local district councils, other organizations, and interest groups;
- Online engagement; and
- Staff attendance at existing community events such as festivals and Safe Summer Nights.

The intent is to provide multiple means for people to express their priorities – including individuals and demographic groups who are not typically involved in government processes. Geographic reach is also being taken into account.

### **What is the difference between the Comprehensive Plan and a neighborhood or district plan?**

District and small area plans are adopted as addenda to the Comprehensive Plan. However, the current update of the Comprehensive Plan is addressing only the six major thematic chapters: land use, transportation, housing, parks and open space, historic preservation and water resources, and it will address city-wide issues. District plans and small area plans focus on issues and details of heightened

local concern – often a fleshing out of Comprehensive Plan policies. They are not being reviewed or updated as part of the current effort.

**How does the plan work with adjacent jurisdictions?**

The plan will be provided to adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions (like other cities and the school district) for formal review prior to final approval. Also, staff will work with adjacent jurisdictions on specific issues needing coordination, as they arise.

**How can I read the plan?**

The existing plan is available for viewing, chapter by chapter, at [www.stpaul.gov/departments/planning-economic-development/planning/citywide-plans](http://www.stpaul.gov/departments/planning-economic-development/planning/citywide-plans). The updated plan drafts will be available to review as they are created in 2017 at [stpaul.gov/SaintPaul4all](http://stpaul.gov/SaintPaul4all).