

A comprehensive plan **outlines long-term physical growth and development** for the next 20 to 30 years. Public input from community leaders and citizens is an important component of a comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan serves as a decision-making guide for elected officials, and it is used to direct and influence the many public and private decisions that shape the future of a community. The local government adopts a comprehensive plan to indicate how public officials and citizens wish the community to develop over the next two to three decades. A comprehensive plan forms the foundation for zoning and other ordinances and regulations.

**A typical comprehensive plan includes four main elements:**

**Goals and Objectives:** Goals are value-based statements that are not necessarily measurable, while objectives are more specific, measurable statements of desired ends. This part of the plan addresses, at a minimum, issues such as residential, commercial, and industrial development; parks, open space, and recreation; street and road improvements; and public schools and community facilities.

**Land Use Plan:** This component of the plan designates in map or policy form the proposed general distribution and extent of the land uses for residences, commerce, industry, recreation and open space, and public/semi-public facilities. Population and economic growth projections may be the basis for quantitative recommendations for each land use category.

**Transportation Plan:** This component depicts in map form the proposed functional classifications of all existing and proposed streets, roads, and highways for the areas encompassed by the land use plan. All other forms of pertinent transportation (such as public transit, sidewalks, bicycle routes, airports, and trains) should be addressed as appropriate. The transportation plan is a basis for a capital improvements plan.

**Community Facilities Plan:** This includes an inventory and analysis of public facilities including, but not limited to, water, sanitary sewer, drainage, parks and recreation, fire stations, police stations, libraries, schools, and other public buildings and facilities. Like the transportation plan, the community facilities plan is a basis for a capital improvements plan.

**Implementation:**

Typical implementation tools include zoning ordinances (map and text), housing and building regulations, subdivision regulations, a capital improvements plan, code adoption and enforcement, and design review. Implementing a comprehensive plan presumes that the initial political action that made its preparation possible will also make its success equally possible.

Slaughter & Willingham **will work with your community** to create an **effective, future-oriented plan unique to your needs.**

**Optional elements of a comprehensive plan include:**

- Annexation
- Coastal development
- Downtown plans
- Economic development
- Education
- Energy
- Fire protection
- Flood control
- Hazard mitigation
- Historic preservation
- Industrial growth
- Military resources
- Mineral resources
- Parking
- Parks and recreation
- Scenic highways
- Social services
- Waste management
- Water resources
- Workforce development