
Chapter 9. Implementation

Plan Implementation

Through the comprehensive planning process, the City of Mechanicsville has developed a vision for the future of the community. On its own, the vision contained in the Comprehensive Plan has no legal authority; it is merely an agreed upon road map for the future of the community. The Comprehensive Plan serves as a call to action for the City of Mechanicsville and its partners within the community to take the community’s vision and make it a reality.

Comprehensive Plan Review

As part of the implementation process, the City of Mechanicsville should review and evaluate the Comprehensive Plan on an annual basis. In its evaluation the City should review the recommendations included in the plan, decide if they are still relevant based on current conditions, and make adjustments as necessary. The City should also evaluate progress on recommended actions and consider more substantial review of the plan after five years.

Recommendations

To achieve its vision, the community must actively work to put the recommendations of the comprehensive plan into action. To do this, the Comprehensive Plan establishes an implementation plan for 2040. The recommendations from each plan chapter have been organized into a table that identifies the name of the action to be taken, the project partners, and a general timeline for completion. Projects are organized by chapter and topic.

Partners

The Mechanicsville Comprehensive Plan establishes a vision for the entire community. With a community wide focus, partnerships are critical for implementation. For all recommended actions it is assumed that the City Council and city staff will have at least some involvement in implementation. The implementation table lists entities like city departments, advisory committees, and outside organizations that the City can work with to help it achieve the community’s goals. A list of partners with their full names is provided after the table.

Timelines

Project timelines have been classified as short term (less than one year), medium-term (one to five years), long-term (more than five years), or ongoing. Projects with an ongoing timeline are those projects that require continuous action and do not have a specific end date.

Project Timelines: S=Short-term (less than one year) | M=Medium-term (one to five years) | L=Long-term (more than five years) | O=Ongoing (requires continuous action)

2040 Recommendations	Partners	Time
Chapter 3. Community Character		
Identify and enhance the elements that give the community its sense of place and unique identity.	Hometown Pride (KIB)	S
Leverage the city's unique traditions, landscape, historic elements, and contributions from artists for economic development, community marketing, and resident attraction and retention.	Hometown Pride (KIB). Community Historic Society	O
Utilize and update existing historic structures in a manner that maintains their outward character, but is adapted to current economic conditions and local needs.	Private builders, property owners, realtors	M
Support continuing improvement programs for park and recreation areas	Keep Iowa Beautiful	S
Encourage extracurricular educational programs that help engage the youth with the city in the form of beautification projects, art installations, gardening, and engagement that promotes an active citizenry.	North Cedar Community School District, Keep Iowa Beautiful	M
Look for opportunities to expand the City's collection of public art.	University of Iowa Design School	M
Establish a community organization that is dedicated to communicating and recording Mechanicsville's history.	City of Mechanicsville library	S
Establish a welcoming committee that helps integrate new residents into the social fabric of the community after they move in.	City staff	O
Encourage city residents to participate in community beautification through community clean-up events, gardening clubs, friend groups, and other volunteer opportunities.	City staff, Keep Iowa Beautiful	O
Emphasize and celebrate individual and group contributions to the everyday maintenance of the city.	City staff	O
Work with community organizations to provide festivals and events that bring the community together.	Hometown Pride, Lions Club, American Legion	O
Chapter 4. Economic Development		
Assist local businesses in finding development sites for expansion.	City Staff	O
Support construction and maintenance of infrastructure that supports economic development including housing, transportation, and utility systems.	Private Builders, RPA 10	O
Support construction of homes needed to house workers.	Private builders, Iowa Economic Development Authority	O

Attract new residents and retain existing residents by continuing to improve quality of life in the community.	Iowa Economic Development Authority	O
Encourage revitalization and redevelopment of downtown buildings.	City Staff, Existing Property owners, Iowa Economic Development Authority, Private Developers	L
Seek out educational opportunities that serve to aid the development of local entrepreneurs.	Kirkwood Community College	O
Help connect local entrepreneurs with financial resources.	Small Business Development Center	O
Create new partnerships with other local governments to create events and clubs that serve citizens of Mechanicsville as well as those who live in nearby towns.	City of Stanwood, City of Clarence, City of Mt. Vernon	M
Add signage to direct people to Downtown Mechanicsville.	City staff	S
Continue to promote community through the city's website and Facebook page.	City staff	O
Use the city's location along US Highway 30 as an opportunity for future business development.	City staff, Private Developers	L
Identify areas for commercial development in the City's future land use map.	P&Z Committee, City staff	M
Chapter 5. Housing		
Encourage a housing stock that offers a variety of options for all stages of life.	City staff, ECIA, Private Developers	M
Identify strategies to help cultivate public/private partnerships to help incentivize development in Mechanicsville.	City staff, Private Developers	O
Support the creation of new housing needed to help the community maintain its population.	City staff, ECIA, Private Developers	O
Support housing redevelopment in existing vacant or underutilized structures such as upper floors of downtown buildings.	Downtown Mechanicsville Land owners, City Staff	M
Develop an inventory of vacant and underutilized properties.	City staff	S
Encourage maintenance and rehabilitation of existing homes in Mechanicsville.	City staff, General Public	M
Support community volunteer efforts to assist those in need with home maintenance tasks.	City Staff, General Public	M
Identify areas for future housing development in the City's future land use map.	City staff, City Council, P&Z Committee, General Public	O
Encourage infill housing development on existing vacant lots in the city's existing neighborhoods.	City staff, City Council, P&Z Committee, Property Owners	L
Support the development of quality, affordable owner and rental housing.	City staff, City Council, P&Z Committee, Private Developers	L
Support the development of housing for the elderly.	City staff, City Council, P&Z Committee, Property	O

	Owners	
Start a positive dialogue with agricultural property to discuss why housing is an important issue to the City of Mechanicsville's ability to grow and prosper.	City staff, City Council, P&Z Committee, Property Owners	M
Chapter 6. Public Infrastructure and Facilities		
Begin/update the City's Capital Improvement Program on an annual basis.	City staff, City Council, P&Z Committee, General Public	O
Invest in infrastructure projects that yield private sector investments that can sustain the long-term costs of infrastructure.	City staff, City Council,	L
Perform routine maintenance and support ongoing improvements that will extend the life of infrastructure systems.	City staff, City Council,	O
Encourage development and redevelopment that take advantage of existing infrastructure and assets.	City staff, City Council,	L
Plan for, build, and improve infrastructure systems to meet anticipated growth and development needs.	City staff, City Council,	O
Monitor public safety facilities, equipment, and procedures to ensure that adequate service is provided.	City staff, City Council,	O
Encourage cooperation and resource sharing among local public safety agencies.	Cedar County Emergency Management, City of Mechanicsville PD, City of Mechanicsville Fire Dept, City Staff	L
Coordinate with local police and fire departments to ensure that new developments can be served by existing facilities and equipment.	Cedar County Emergency Management, City of Mechanicsville PD, City of Mechanicsville Fire Dept, City Staff	O
Coordinate with local school and Cedar County education institutions to provide adequate educational facilities and improve educational opportunities for students.	North Cedar Community School District	O
Identify opportunities and partnerships with organizations such as the Mechanicsville Public Library to serve adult learners.	Mechanicsville Public Library	S
Communicate with local schools to ensure that a proposed development can be served by existing educational facilities.	Mechanicsville Public Library	O
Chapter 7. Transportation		
Continue to work with outside agencies such as Cedar County, the Iowa Department of Transportation, and Regional Planning Affiliation 10 to maintain regional highway connections.	Cedar County, Iowa Department of Transportation, Regional Planning Affiliation 10	O
Participate in the Highway 30 Coalition to collaborate with other municipalities on future developments regarding Highway 30.	Highway 30 Coalition, Iowa Department of Transportation	S
Continue to look for opportunities to fund transportation infrastructure projects through state and federal programs.	Iowa Department of Transportations, Iowa	O

	Economic Development Authority	
Continue to actively participate in the Cedar County Hazard Mitigation Planning process; identify and mitigate safety issues relating to the city's transportation infrastructure.	Cedar County EMA, City Staff	O
Evaluate the City's Street system and plan future street maintenance projects through a Capital Improvement Program (CIP).	City Staff, City Council	L
Coordinate with River Bend Transit to improve public service in the Mechanicsville area	River Bend Transit	M
Create a more complete bicycle and pedestrian network through the development of trails, on-street bicycle routes, and sidewalks.	City Staff, City Council, ECIA	L
Improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians by adding improvements to on-street bicycle routes and improving street crossings.	City Staff, City Council, ECIA	M
Sidewalk maintenance to help keep sidewalks safe and accessible for the entire community.	City Staff, City Council	M
Continue to work with Union Pacific and emergency management officials to ensure a balance between railroad safety community safety and quality of life.	Cedar County EMA, Union Pacific	S
Chapter 8. Land use		
Review the Future Land Use Map every five years to ensure that it reflects current community priorities and development conditions.	City Staff, P/Z committee	O
Review and amend the Future Land Use Map if economic conditions change dramatically.	City Staff, P/Z committee	O
Following the adoption of the comprehensive plan, review and update the zoning ordinance to make sure that it reflects community priorities.	City Staff, P/Z committee	O
Provide adequate amounts of land for a variety of commercial uses based on current and future needs based on economic trends.	City Staff, P/Z committee	O
Review zoning ordinance to make sure that mixed land uses are included to create more economically productive areas.	City Staff, P/Z committee	L
Encourage continued reinvestment and redevelopment in Downtown Mechanicsville.	City Staff, P/Z committee, Property Owners	L
Promote the retention and expansion of existing, and attraction of new, industrial development opportunities in suitable locations.	City Staff, P/Z committee, Private Developers	O
Ensure that adjacent land uses are compatible with regard to such factors as smoke, noise, odor, traffic, activity, and appearance.	City Staff, ECIA	O
Plan for conservation areas that provide recreation opportunities and protect important environmental resources.	KIB, City Staff	M