

Element One:

Overall Community Goals

Northbrook's Comprehensive Plan process began with the development of an over arching governing set of goals. These goals are established to guide not only the Comprehensive Plan process but the implementation of the Plan over time. The overall goals set the foundation for the entire framework of the Comprehensive Plan.

The goals in this Plan represent the ideals of the Village and are to be used as a guide in local decision-making. They should not to be viewed as a mandate that limits the policy options available to the community in the future.

These goals guide the development of the future land use map, as well as the policies and implementation strategies in every element of the Plan. As the foundation of the Comprehensive Plan, these overall community goals will help direct future policy decisions, land use decisions and planning efforts for many years to come.

A total of twelve overall community goals were developed by the Village's Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) following a series of orientation sessions on community issues presented by Village staff. The twelve community goals are listed below, in no particular order:

- OG 1. Continue Collaborative Decision-Making Practices.** Northbrook will maintain and improve its communication measures and interactions with the residents, businesses and other local taxing bodies (schools, parks and library) to promote a collaborative decision-making process in those matters that have broad policy implications.
- OG 2. Continue Efforts to Improve the Downtown.** The Village's downtown will evolve into a unique gathering place and transportation hub that is the symbolic center of the community. Enhancing the downtown by means of public-private partnerships will be a high priority of the Village.
- OG 3. Promote Sustainable Development.** Citizens and decision makers for the Village will recognize their shared responsibility to be conscientious stewards of our natural, manmade and social resources so they will be available for future generations.
- OG 4. Maintain the Character of Our Neighborhoods.** Northbrook will continue to be a community comprised of attractive, safe and active residential neighborhoods. Recognizing that Northbrook is largely a "built-up" community, the Village will continue to monitor the effectiveness of its zoning, building and property maintenance standards.
- OG 5. Celebrate the Community's Diversity.** The Village of Northbrook will celebrate its cultural, religious and social diversity, maintain its diverse housing stock, and recognize the responsibility we have to improve the community for future generations.
- OG 6. Maintain the "Uniqueness" of Northbrook.** Northbrook will continue to be a high quality suburban community that continues to have its own unique sense of place and identity as reflected in our architecture, landscape, arts and culture. The Village's uniqueness distinguishes it from surrounding municipalities resulting in a place that residents and businesses alike are proud to call "home".
- OG 7. Continue to Invest in Critical Village Infrastructure.** The roads, water lines, sanitary sewer lines, storm drainage systems and other public infrastructure will be properly maintained, and a strategic approach to financing will be used in order to minimize the risk of having the investment create an undue financial burden to current or future taxpayers in the community.

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- OG 8. **Deliver Quality Public Services in a Cost-Effective Manner.** Northbrook will continue to be known for the outstanding public and private schools, parks, library and other public services that are critical to the quality of life and strong property values of the Village. The Village will strive to maintain high value and cost-effective municipal services.
- OG 9. **Maintain our Economic Diversity and Vitality.** The Village will continue to be a major employment and retail center for the northern suburbs of the Chicago region. We will strive to maintain a strong and diverse tax base by actively working with the business community to retain existing businesses and attract new businesses that are consistent with the character of the community.
- OG 10. **Encourage Redevelopment of Key Areas in the Village.** Northbrook will continue to grow modestly over time with changes occurring in selected redevelopment areas. This redevelopment will be in concert with the overall vision of the Comprehensive Plan which encourages a compatible, logical and efficient land use pattern that has adequate public facilities to support new growth.
- OG 11. **Promote Transportation Choices.** The Village will work towards establishing and maintaining a multi-modal transportation system that enables residents, employees and regional traffic to move safely and efficiently through and around the Village without undue levels of congestion while still maintaining the character of the community.
- OG 12. **Formulate Regional Solutions to Regional Issues.** Northbrook will continue to be a leader in promoting regional solutions to problems that affect the greater Northbrook area such as air and water pollution, affordable housing, storm drainage and major transportation system components by fostering regional coordination and partnerships.