



Project Overview

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan is a statement of what the community of Byron wants to become. It is a set of goals and policies designed to achieve a community wide “vision” that is based upon a series of community defined “guiding principles.”

The plan is based on a composition of concepts, patterns and relationships that deal with integrating the social aspects of a community with its physical development. Unlike the zoning ordinance, the comprehensive plan is futuristic in that it guides decisions that have yet to be made. The word “comprehensive” in itself provides meaning to the plan: it deals with the whole community and not just the parts.

The Comprehensive Plan is the blueprint for the future of Byron. It guides the use of every parcel of land (public and private) in Byron.

Land use is only the foundation of the Comprehensive Plan. Land use creates implications for city investments in infrastructure, facilities and services.

Streets provide the capacity for land to develop and for movement within Byron. Planning seeks to ensure that Byron has a street system with the design and capacity to support future development. The character of streets and the volume of traffic also affects adjacent land uses and the ability to move people. The Comprehensive Plan must balance the transportation and land use aspects of the street system. Consideration of “complete streets” can maximize the value and impact of streets on the community.

Development requires service by municipal sanitary sewer and water systems. Development can only occur within the capacity of the city’s sewer system. The City seeks to provide a safe water supply at pressures needed to provide adequate fire protection.

Parks are an important part of the quality of life in Byron. Planning must consider the type and location of parks needed to meet the future needs of the community. A system of trails and sidewalks should allow people to move throughout the community on foot and bicycle, thus promoting an active living and healthy lifestyle.

The pattern of development and the characteristics of the population influence the nature of public services.

All of these factors create financial implications. Land use creates the value used for property taxation - the primary source of revenue for the City. Many revenues used to build public improvements comes directly from new development.

These factors make the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan critically important for Byron.

Contents of the Plan

Byron's Comprehensive Plan will include many components. Woven throughout the plan will be principles focused on active and healthy living, complete streets, sustainability and energy conservation among others. Key plan components might include:

- ▶ Introduction and purpose of a comprehensive plan
- ▶ Vision and guiding principles
- ▶ Community background and history
- ▶ Land use
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Economic development
- ▶ Natural resource management and environmental protection
- ▶ Parks, trails and open space
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Sanitary sewer
- ▶ Water supply
- ▶ Stormwater management
- ▶ Implementation strategies or action steps (including an evaluation of existing zoning)

Time Frame

This update of the Comprehensive Plan looks to the year 2030. Considering a future over 20 years away forces the community to broadly consider issues and opportunities facing Byron. Issues are easier to face before they become a problem. Opportunities can be capitalized upon early on.

A comprehensive plan is not only about encouraging the right actions, but also preventing the wrong ones. A residential subdivision in the wrong place may block the expansion of a needed industrial area or the right-of-way for a critical road corridor. Looking into the future helps to prevent unintended consequences.

Active Living Grant

This comprehensive plan is funded by a grant from Olmsted County Public Health Services. The goal of this grant is to implement demonstration projects that create sustainable environmental changes to increase biking and walking in Olmsted County communities under its local Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) initiative.