The Long Term Planning Commission

Based on the City’s Charter amended in 2011, a Long Term Planning Commission will be established every five years beginning in 2014. Per the Charter, the Mayor appoints, with the advice and consent of the City Council, a commission of twenty people that are generally representative of Cedar Rapids and the regional community. The Commission is charged with developing a long term plan with goals and objectives for the City. The plan is to be submitted to the City Council within six months.

2014 Long Term Planning Commission Members

Mayor Ron Corbett, Chair
Tom Aller
Lydia Brown
Samantha Dahlby
Kay Fisk
Tom Hardecopf
Salma Igram
David Lodge
Jeff McLaud
Todd McNall
Amanda McKnight Grafton
Scott Overland
Al Pierson
Randy Rings
Keith Rippy
Bill Stamats
Jackie Thompson-Oster
Ted Townsend
Bill Vernon
Allen Witt
To ensure consistency with the City's foundational policy document, EnvisionCR, the City Council developed its goals to align with the six elements of EnvisionCR.

The 2014 Long Term Plan builds upon these other efforts and helps to further connect these various documents. Specifically, this plan is structured using the following six elements of EnvisionCR:

- StrengthenCR
- GrowCR
- ConnectCR
- GreenCR
- InvestCR
- ProtectCR.

Although separate, all six elements are interrelated. For example, objectives in StrengthenCR related to infrastructure investments and safe communities may also help to achieve some of the goals in ProtectCR.

For more information and to download EnvisionCR please visit the City's comprehensive plan website at www.cityofcr.com/comprehensiveplan.com.
STRENGTHEN CR

City Council Goal: Make bold moves in community planning to retain the character of neighborhoods and corridors.

STRENGTHEN CR GOALS

1. Support existing and new neighborhood associations through the development of Neighborhood Action Plans.
2. Improve the quality and identity of neighborhoods and key corridors.
3. Adopt policies that create choices in housing types and prices throughout the city.
4. Create a city that is affordable and accessible to all members of the community.

OBJECTIVES

• Promote neighborhood engagement to support new neighborhood associations.
• Provide resources for partnerships among neighborhood associations, school districts, businesses, service organizations, and non-profits.
• Promote neighborhood beautification efforts.
• Invest in the health of the community.
• Prioritize quality infrastructure in existing neighborhoods.
• Target resources in existing neighborhoods to promote:
  - Infill and mixed-use development
  - Infrastructure investment
  - Safe and livable communities
  - Preservation of historic assets
• Allow for a variety of housing options and types.
• Create amenities for all age groups.
• Celebrate and support diversity.
GROWCR GOALS

1. Encourage mixed-use and infill development.
2. Manage growth.
3. Connect growing areas to existing neighborhoods.
4. Communicate and collaborate with regional partners.

OBJECTIVES

- Focus on existing neighborhoods.
- Promote infill in areas with infrastructure/services.
- Explore regulatory incentives for infill development:
  - Smaller home and lot sizes
  - Flexibility in the mix of land uses
  - Adaptive re-use of existing buildings
- Maximize the impact of financial incentives for infill development.
- Promote commercial and office uses along the Highway 100 corridor.
- Review the impacts of development projects, such as:
  - Environmental
  - Transportation system
  - Services and infrastructure
- Prohibit developments with poor street connectivity.
- Coordinate City and School District plans and investments.

City Council Goal: Make bold moves in future planning to encourage sustainable connections of growth areas to existing neighborhoods.
City Council Goal: Buffer and connect existing parks, trails, and streams to build a natural network in addition to regional collaborations and individual efforts to improve stormwater management, water quality, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation.

GREEN CR GOALS
1. Be stewards for the environment, promoting economic and social growth while restoring the relationship between the city and the natural environment.
2. Have the best parks, recreation, and trails system in the region.
3. Lead in energy conservation and innovation.

OBJECTIVES
- National leader in best practices related to:
  - Water quality and quantity
  - Waterway maintenance
  - Green infrastructure within the right-of-way
  - Stormwater management
- Educate members of the community on:
  - Stormwater management
  - Native landscaping
  - Tree planting and care
  - Green building practices
- Protect wildlife habitats from development pressures.
- Identify opportunities for dedicating parklands within new developments.
- Encourage the renovation, relocation, and/or reuse of existing buildings.
- Incentivize green building practices.
1. Provide choices for all transportation users: inter- and intra-city.
2. Build a complete network of connected streets.
3. Establish a network of complete streets.
4. Improve the function and appearance of our key corridors.
5. Support the development of an effective, regional, multi-modal transportation system.

City Council Goal: Create a culture that enhances transportation options for pedestrians and cyclists through complete streets, trails, and public transportation.

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure the development of an effective and connected multi-modal transportation system, including the implementation of the Complete Streets Policy:
  - Prioritize maintenance of the road network over expansion
  - Prioritize non-motorized modes of transportation, such as walking and cycling
  - Address gaps and accessibility issues in the sidewalk system and focus on gaps near schools
  - Promote the use of bicycles for commuting
- Ensure a comprehensive and user-friendly transit system:
  - Increase transit ridership through business incentives and promotional events
  - Investigate options, such as satellite hubs, to improve transit service to community attractions
  - Explore alternative ways to communicate changes to transit service, such as bus stop greeters
  - Utilize technology, such as web applications, to improve communication and transit users' experience
  - Expand transit service hours to enhance economic opportunities and ADA accessibility
  - Work with regional partners on the creation of a regional transit authority
- Utilize Corridor Action Plans to enhance wayfinding and promote redevelopment.
- Address safety issues within the transportation system:
  - Incorporate safety features, such as lighting, in the design of trails
  - Evaluate safety in the prioritization of transportation projects
  - Investigate public private partnerships related to trail maintenance
**INVESTCR GOALS**

1. Expand economic development efforts to support businesses and workforce growth, market Cedar Rapids, and engage regional partners.
2. Cultivate a skilled workforce by providing cutting-edge training and recruiting talented workers.
3. Reinvest in the city’s business corridors and districts.
4. Grow a sustainable, diverse economy by supporting existing businesses, fostering entrepreneurship, and targeting industry specific growth.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Build a skilled workforce.
- Implement the Economic Development Strategic Plan to encourage:
  - Partnerships with higher educational institutions
  - Cutting edge training opportunities
  - Coordinate with school districts and other government agencies to leverage resources.
- Provide additional economic development incentives for infill projects within core neighborhoods.
- Continue to incentivize industrial development in areas planned for industrial uses.
- Expand the facade program to include key corridors.
- Construct the flood control system to encourage business growth and redevelopment within core neighborhoods.
- Create vibrant places that encourage millennials and others to locate in Cedar Rapids.
- Accelerate the timeline for the development of a business advisory board.
PROTECT CR

PROTECT CR GOALS

1. Protect Cedar Rapids from flooding and other hazards.
2. Manage growth and development to balance costs and serviceability to neighborhoods.
3. Maintain and provide quality services to the community.

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure the City is resilient and prepared for disasters:
  - Coordinate with other local jurisdictions and property owners on watershed management
  - Promote water conservation measures and develop a drought response plan
  - Educate citizens on the City’s emergency response plan
  - Educate and promote the development of home and work emergency plans
- Prioritize resources to maintain aging infrastructure.
- Communicate infrastructure improvements with residents and businesses.
- Explore public-private partnerships in the provision of recreational opportunities.
- Ensure adequate resources for existing and new public services and facilities.
- Encourage ongoing communication between members of the community and the Police Department.
- Ensure ADA accessibility in all City facilities.
- Ensure safe neighborhoods through the implementation of SafeCR and a variety of public safety initiatives.
- Commit to public safety efforts by supporting community-based policing to:
  - Engage the community
  - Enhance quality of life
  - Ensure the safety of all neighborhoods

City Council Goal: Provide quality services to increase neighborhood safety and keep moving forward with the flood control system.