

Vision Statement

Adopted in the interest of updating the Growth Policies Plan

This vision statement reflects the concerns, wishes and aspirations of the residents of Bloomington, Indiana. Imagine Bloomington engaged hundreds of residents, along with elected officials and members of City boards and commissions, to develop this vision for the future of Bloomington. This vision statement will provide both City government and the broader community with policy guidance and a common understanding of the values and themes that will shape Bloomington in the future.

We begin by recognizing Bloomington's strong foundation. We are culturally rich, cherish our progressive college town atmosphere and embrace diversity. We respect our past, while using innovation and collaboration to keep moving forward. Our wealth of natural and community resources allows us to maintain a highly desirable quality of life. Together, these are the defining features of a community with many strengths and a bright future.

This is our vision. Bloomington achieves excellence through collaboration, creativity, cultural vitality, inclusion and sustainability. We establish the following as core principles that will guide Bloomington's future.

- Fortify our strong commitment to equality, acceptance, openness and public engagement.
- Nurture our vibrant and historic downtown as the flourishing center of the community.
- Ensure all land development activity makes a positive and lasting community contribution.
- Recognize the many virtues of historic preservation, rehabilitation and reuse of our historic structures.
- Embrace all of our neighborhoods as active and vital community assets that need essential services, infrastructure, assistance, historic protection and access to small-scaled mixed-use centers.
- Celebrate our rich, eclectic blend of arts, culture and local businesses.
- Invest in diverse, high quality economic development that provides equitable job opportunities to our residents, supports an entrepreneurial small business climate, enhances the community's role as a regional hub, and is responsive towards larger concerns of sustainability.
- Enhance the community's role as a regional economic hub.
- Offer a wide variety of excellent educational opportunities for our residents at every stage of life.
- Deliver efficient, responsive and forward-thinking local government services.
- Nurture a resilient, environmentally responsible community by judiciously using our scarce resources, enhancing our natural assets, protecting our historic resources, and supporting a vital local food system.
- Offer a wide variety of quality housing options for all incomes, ages and abilities.
- Provide a safe, efficient, accessible and connected system of transportation that emphasizes public transit, walking, and biking to enhance options to reduce our overall dependence on the automobile.
- Meet basic needs and ensure self-sufficiency for all residents.
- Encourage healthy lifestyles by providing high quality public places, greenspaces, and parks and an array of recreational activities and events.
- Fortify our progress toward improving public safety and civility.