



What is a Comprehensive Plan?

- Comprehensive planning is a process by which the community assesses what it has, expresses what it wants, decides how to achieve its wants and, finally, implements what it decides.
- The product of the city's current comprehensive planning effort (called ***Reimagine Dripping Springs***) will be the ***Dripping Springs Comprehensive Plan 2045***.
- The comprehensive plan will guide the future physical development of the city. It will function as a blueprint to determine the community's priorities for land use and other major development projects in the area. It generally consists of documents, maps, and graphics prepared by City Staff and its hired consultants, which set forth visions, goals, and recommendations for the future of Dripping Springs.
- The City hired DTJ Design and their team of subconsultants to provide guidance on decisions like economics, housing, mobility, natural and cultural resources, public services, infrastructure, and recreation.

Why is a comprehensive plan important?

- Dripping Springs is facing unprecedented development pressure. It is imperative that a policy document is formulated to guide decision-making and administrative actions to direct the city towards the community's goals. This comprehensive plan will also provide the city with steps to responsibly resolve the current development moratorium.
- Comprehensive planning allows for tying together all the separate decisions made by various city officials.
 - The comprehensive planning process is a way to base individual project decisions on well-researched and well-conceived criteria, rather than on piecemeal and fragmented information generated by day-to-day crises.
 - Reacting to crises rather than planning to avoid them results in an inefficient use of local funds. Comprehensive planning places individual projects in a short- and long-range perspective, which enhances effective decision-making.
- Comprehensive plans are a vital tool in helping communities address impending growth and change. The Comprehensive Plan creates a path forward based on goals set by the community.
 - If a community wants to remain small and rural, a comprehensive plan can create the framework that allows city officials to enforce this desire by influencing policy. If a community desires a predetermined amount of growth, a comprehensive plan ensures growth is sustainable and responsible.

How does a comprehensive plan help the community?

- Thoughtful comprehensive planning will result in more efficient construction, meaning less time spent encountering construction zones and related community disruptions.
- Effective use of the city's budget makes more funding available for community elements that increase quality-of-life for residents.
- A comprehensive plan lays the foundation for zoning codes, the legal tool for implementing the vision of the future contained in the comprehensive plan itself.
 - The process of drafting and approving a comprehensive plan is **NOT** the process of rewriting or changing the zoning code, though it may inform a zoning code rewrite.
- Comprehensive planning can help a town and city spend its scarce budgetary resources effectively. For example, a decision about when to pave a road is made after considering the laying of a water or sewer line along the same road. Planning prevents the road and curbs from being installed prematurely, only to be dug up later to install a utility line.
- A current, updated comprehensive plan may be required for the city to apply for grant funding.

How long is the comprehensive planning process?

- Dripping Springs' comprehensive planning process will last about 1 year. Final plan adoption is targeted for Spring 2023.
- To maintain its effectiveness, the plan will be updated periodically to reflect changing goals and conditions. Comprehensive plans are typically updated every 5 years and revised every 10 years.

How can we be involved?

- Comprehensive planning is a process that should require the active participation of community residents--the city council, planning and zoning commissioners, city administrators, advisory committees, neighborhood leaders, business people, and anyone else interested in improving the city.
- Through the planning process, local citizens must share in the formulation of policy statements, which serve as guides for decision making by city leaders.
- Take our surveys and sign up to be notified of future community engagement opportunities, including: an upcoming Community Survey and other public outreach events.
- *ReimagineDrippingSprings.com*: Residents can visit the project website for news, updates, and upcoming public engagement opportunities. Or call the city's Planning Department at 512-858-4725 for any questions.