

4

Goals and Objectives



Wadena

Comprehensive Plan & Transportation Plan

4.1 OVERVIEW

A crucial component to the development and success of a comprehensive plan is the establishment of goals, objectives, and policies. These three elements provide guidance to elected officials, city staff, and the community for the future vision of Wadena. These goals strive to create a future for the community that meets a desired vision and works towards solving issues identified through this process.

Goals and objectives were broken into six categories: land use, housing, historical and cultural resources, community facilities, nature and the environment, and economic development. These goals were developed in partnership with the Transportation plan to ensure that the two plans work towards a cohesive vision.

Goal: Broad statement of desired accomplishment or direction, representing big ideas and visions for the community.

Objective: Specific statement of actions helping to accomplish the goals, often measurable and over time.

Policy: Proposed or adopted course of action to approach various issues.

4.2 LAND USE GOALS:

Goal	<i>Growth in Wadena will be undertaken in such a manner as to create a full range of living, working, shopping, recreational and cultural opportunities for all residents.</i>					
Objective	To increase the density in core areas of the City of Wadena					
Policy	Promote the use of unused or underutilized properties within the core of the city (infill).		Direct new employment to areas around existing retail opportunities, employment centers, and municipal facilities.		Develop specific lot sizes and/or density requirements to be applied to various developable areas within municipal limits	
Objective	To promote planned developments of residential, commercial and industrial growth within designated areas of the City.					
Policy	Designate new areas for residential, commercial and industrial land uses to be located.	The location of new land uses shall be consistent with other goals of this plan.	Industrial areas will be located in areas as to minimize impacts upon residential uses as well as be located to utilize existing infrastructure.	Promote the incorporation of neighborhood retail and commercial opportunities into new subdivisions, and support integration of commercial uses at existing neighborhood nodes, where applicable.	Direct developers to incorporate areas for parks, open space, and/or new municipal facilities, such as schools, into their subdivision plats	The City of Wadena will not accept cash-in-lieu payments as an alternative for integrating required features.

Goal	<i>Developments within the City of Wadena will be located in and designed as areas that best contribute to the overall livability, health, and safety of citizens.</i>				
Objective	To direct land uses to areas which are consistent, orderly, complimentary with natural features, compatible with adjacent land uses, and are of appropriate utilization and intensity.				
Policy	Direct development away from critical and sensitive environmental areas.	The City of Wadena will take into consideration upon reviewing any new subdivision the relationship of traffic, adjoining land uses before approving any development.	Encourage developments to avoid scattered strip or spot development.	Consider the orderly annexation of new lands as more developable area is needed.	The City of Wadena will utilize or cause to be utilized greenways, natural features, or less intensive use transitions to buffer non-compatible lane uses from one another.

4.3 HOUSING GOAL:

Goal	<i>Housing within the City of Wadena will contribute to the character of the community while providing affordable and diverse living options for current residents as well as accommodate for future populations.</i>			
Objective	To maintain the character and condition of existing housing and residential neighborhoods			
Policy	Support consistency in lot sizes for single family residential neighborhoods.	Review the design of new structures being placed in existing neighborhoods to ensure the continuity of design styles.	Institute a series of design guidelines for new developments and subdivisions.	Monitor the condition and appearance of local housing stock through continuous code enforcement measures.
Objective	To encourage an adequate supply of housing to meet the needs of the residents in the community.			
Policy	Facilitate the development of new lands for residential housing to accommodate for population growth when additional need manifests.	Encourage new development on vacant property or in areas that would ensure the orderly progression of public facilities.	Avoid permitting subdivisions not adjacent to developed areas.	Consider the need for additional residential housing before allowing further subdivision of land.
Objective	To promote lower cost housing and encourage the development of subsidized housing for low and moderate income families and individuals.			
Policy	Promote a diversity of housing types either owner or renter occupied.	Promote affordable housing alternatives either at market or below market rate.	Facilitate the development of housing to meet the needs of low and moderate income families.	Consider the use of community development funds from various sources to provide desirable multi-family apartment sites in close proximity to the downtown service area, when need is determined.

4.4 HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES GOAL:

<p>Goal</p>	<p><i>Sites and/or structures within the City of Wadena of a historically significant nature should be identified, preserved, and maintained as such.</i></p>			
<p>Objective</p>	<p>To identify, preserve, and maintain sites or structures that the City of Wadena, State of Minnesota, or the Department of the Interior consider historic, complementary to a historic district, or are culturally relevant to the City of Wadena.</p>			
<p>Policy</p>	<p>Develop a list of all such sites including all necessary historical information and classification.</p>	<p>Further designate sites or structures that can and/or should be redeveloped either in historic or non-historic manner.</p>	<p>Provide possible developers with guidance about the opportunities for redevelopment of vacant historic properties.</p>	<p>Provide developers with assistance, monetary or otherwise, in the rehabilitation of buildings within core areas of the city.</p>

4.5 COMMUNITY FACILITY GOALS:

Goal	<i>Public facilities within the City of Wadena will be organized in a way to maintain dependable, affordable, and reliable service to all residents while providing for future connection to surrounding areas.</i>							
Objective	To extend City services such as sanitary sewer, city water, and the electrical grid in an orderly manner as development occurs.							
Policy	Institute orderly development agreements to new subdivisions outside of the Wadena municipal limits to ensure future connection to municipal facilities.	Require all new developments within the city limits to install and connect to sanitary sewer, city water, and city electric systems.	Develop cost sharing ratios for the upsizing of facilities being installed in new subdivisions to provide for future growth.	Prioritize the upgrading of all undersized facilities within core areas of Wadena to meet State of Minnesota codes as well as to provide for future connections.	Annually evaluate the current capacity of water and sewage treatment facilities as it pertains to current and projected growth.	Require all streets and utilities to be in place before housing construction takes place in new subdivisions.	Adopt a program which would allow for the completion of all street and utility work to platted subdivisions within a specified time frame.	
Objective	To ensure a "State of Good Repair" of all community facilities.							
Policy	Create and maintain an inventory of all facilities including attributes like installation date, condition, pipe material (in the case of sanitary sewer and city water), capacity, location, etc.				Identify a priority list of replacement needs based off of the "Inventory of Facilities" previously proposed.			
Objective	To provide adequate police and fire protection to the community.							
Policy	Evaluate the impact of proposed new developments on police and fire response times.				Maintain current and/or accepted police and fire service standards to its residents.			
Objective	To effectively manage storm water in a manner that best reduces damage to the built environment but also seeks to protect and enhance water resources.							
Policy	Create a local "Best Management Practices" document to detail the options given to developers to manage storm water	Promote the installation of on-site storm water management other than ponding.	Consider Low Impact Development models, in regards to storm water, for the design of new subdivisions, where applicable.	Require the installation of infiltration gardens as part of developments with large impermeable surfaces.	Support the installation of infiltration gardens on public land as well as on private properties.	Require that all development be located a reasonable distance away from water features including but not limited to wetlands, flood plains, streams, or lakes in order to create a buffer zone to protect each from the negative effects of the other.		

4.6 NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT GOAL:

Goal	<i>Natural resources and the environmental landscape found throughout the City of Wadena and the surrounding area are a vital part of the culture and character of the community creating a healthy and happy place for residents live.</i>					
Objective	To preserve the natural environment along with critical and sensitive environmental areas.					
Policy	Promote the preservation of existing wooded areas.	Chose development styles that best negate the impacts of development on areas where prime natural vegetation is present.	Inventory critical and sensitive environmental areas that would be negatively impacted by development.	The City will place trash receptacles along major pedestrian thoroughfares and require businesses have adequate trash facilities as well.	Monitor commercial and industrial developments that may generate litter and through penalty cause littering to cease.	Promote the protection of agricultural land from development when necessary.
Objective	To increase the greenways, open spaces, and vegetation within Wadena and its surrounding areas.					
Policy	Require landscape features to be installed in all new commercial areas or as redevelopment occurs in existing commercial areas.	Plant or cause to be planted, street trees in new residential areas.	Adequately maintain the existing tree stock.	Consider street planters and hanging baskets to be installed in the Central Business District.	Explore ways to further promote the installation of vegetation on existing public and private properties.	Create a guide that details local natural vegetation that is best suited to be planted throughout the city.
Objective	To promote public and private sector development or redevelopment which utilizes energy efficient technology in building and site design					
Policy	Provide a list and examples of best practices in regards to the placement, construction and layout of new development.	Adopt the most recent versions of applicable building codes especially as it pertains to the energy efficiency of structures.	Investigate further means to install or retrofit energy efficient technologies in municipally owned structures.	Explore programs that help citizens install or retrofit energy efficient technologies in their in their businesses or homes.		

4.7 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL:

Goal	<i>The economy of Wadena will be diverse in its composition, provide continuous employment opportunities to the current workforce, attract new talent to the region, and provide reasonable access to a broad range of goods and services to community residents.</i>			
Objective	To attract new businesses to the area.			
Policy	Market vacant buildings and development/redevelopment opportunities within the city.	Conduct a needs analysis depicting gaps in goods and services being offered in the area.	Designate land with varying lot sizes, intensities, and serviced by adequate facilities to fulfill present and future commercial and industrial expansion.	
Objective	To promote local business creation and ownership.			
Policy	Provide resources to residents on grant opportunities for business creation or ownership.	Consult with business owners on a regular basis about their current or future needs as it relates to the city.	Promote the sale of locally made goods through supporting events like farmer's markets, craft shows, or art festivals.	Utilize local vendors or businesses where possible.
Objective	To promote a skilled and educated workforce.			
Policy	Work with local educational institutions to provide workforce training to unskilled or under-skilled workforces in Wadena.	Promote the attraction of a diversity of jobs to cater to a wide array of skillsets.		