

Chapter Eight - Community Goals and Objectives

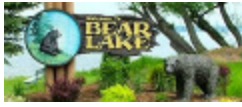
This chapter outlines and describes the collective vision for the future of the Bear Lake Community. This *Vision Statement* and the associated *Goals and Objectives* were developed through a broad-based, community planning process, involving both citizens and public officials. The *Vision Statement* incorporates phrases coined by the participants at several public planning meetings. The vision statement is the expressed future vision of the Bear Lake Community. The vision statement also conceptualizes the values upon which the goals and objectives are developed.

Vision Statement

In 2030, the ***Bear Lake Community*** is a healthy mix of active farms, beautiful natural areas and rural residences surrounding a vibrant village with small town charm and modern amenities. The people of the ***Bear Lake Community*** are friendly, cooperative, and work together to support community events, preserve and rehabilitate downtown buildings, develop new businesses, and manage the area's agricultural and natural resources. From the pristine natural areas of the surrounding landscape to the lively streets of downtown, the ***Bear Lake Community*** offers residents and visitors of all ages, access to modern schools, a broad spectrum of services, healthy waterways, park and recreation facilities, a vibrant downtown, engaging community events, and employment opportunities.

Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives outlined in this chapter address several issues highlighted throughout the community-wide planning process. The goals and objectives were established by the Joint Planning Commission after considerable discussion concerning: the current social, economic and land use trends; the previous goals and objectives outlined in the 2002 Bear Lake Township Comprehensive Plan and the 1999 Pleasanton Township Land Use Plan; and the extensive public planning process including, a community-wide survey and three large public meetings. The goals and objectives are organized under six primary topics: General Land Use and Development; Downtown and Economic Development; Housing and Neighborhoods; Recreation and Tourism; Public Facilities; and Natural Resources and the Environment.



General Land Use and Development

The primary focus of this topic is the geographic distribution and arrangement of land uses across the Bear Lake Community. Through planning and land use regulation, the community can limit land use conflicts, encourage harmonious development, and preserve a high quality of life. Census data reveals that the Bear Lake Community has and will continue to see very modest population growth. However, most of the residential development that has occurred has been concentrated in the Townships. Based on survey data and public comments, residents want to maintain the Bear Lake Community's rural character, small town appeal and preserve farmland and open space. At the same time, the community wants to preserve private property rights and provide development options for local land owners. Therefore the comprehensive plan promotes a pattern of land uses - current and future - that help to retain these characteristics.

Goal A.

A rural community, including active farms, natural features and scenic qualities in most areas outside the Village that considers private property rights

Objectives:

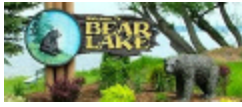
1. Farming in the two Townships (including truck farming)
2. High density development in appropriate areas and open space preservation
3. "Agri-tourism"
4. Natural buffers around inland lakes, streams, wetlands and other sensitive natural resources
5. A clear and Enforceable trash and blight Ordinance
6. Rural roadways
7. Planned Unit Development (PUD) approaches to future developments
8. Protection of the rural historical assets of the community
9. Appropriate sign regulations
10. Aesthetically appealing commercial areas outside the Village that blend in with the rural character
11. Adequate buffering or screening around commercial and residential areas

Goal B.

Joint planning and zoning that continually responds to community needs

Objectives:

1. A new joint zoning ordinance, adopted by the Village of Bear Lake, Bear Lake Township and Pleasanton Township
2. An accurate and up-to-date comprehensive plan
3. Greater awareness of land use issues facing the Bear Lake Community
4. Greater community awareness of tools and techniques that focus on land use planning
5. Citizens and key-stakeholders involved in planning and decision-making groups



Downtown and Economic Development

This topic concerns community-wide economic development with a special focus on the Village of Bear Lake. Through land use planning and regulation, capital improvements and infrastructure investments and cooperative civic action, the community can encourage downtown and economic development while guiding the quality and character of that development. Based on survey data and public discussions, community residents are strongly in favor of new economic development in the Village, with a focus on service and improved cultural opportunities.

Goal A.

Increased levels of economic activity and employment in and immediately adjacent to the Village of Bear Lake, emphasizing commercial development associated with human services, retail, tourist services, in-home businesses and resort development

Objectives:

1. Financial assistance from programs provided by state agencies for downtown development
2. New and existing businesses in downtown Bear Lake

Goal B.

Key public utilities necessary to support current and increased commercial activity and residential development in the Village of Bear Lake and areas adjacent to the Village

Objectives:

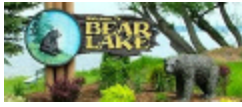
1. Participation of the Village of Bear Lake in a clear plan and management entity for a new waste-water and storm-water management system
2. A wastewater collection and disposal system (sewer) in or near the Village of Bear Lake
3. An improved storm-water management system (sewer) in or near the Village of Bear Lake
4. An improved public water supply system in or near the Village of Bear Lake
5. Funding mechanisms to help pay for new infrastructure and utilities

Goal C.

A more interesting, culturally active and aesthetically appealing downtown Bear Lake

Objectives:

1. Properly maintained and universally accessible sidewalks that provide a connection from residential areas to downtown Bear Lake
2. Additional local activities and events for participation by residents and visitors
3. Civic buildings located in downtown Bear Lake
4. Attractive civic amenities (e.g. crosswalks, light posts, trees and plantings and utilities) in downtown Bear Lake



Housing and Neighborhoods

This topic focuses on housing and neighborhood characteristics. Based on public discussion and survey data, community members are interested in having some additional residential development in and near the Village of Bear Lake. Citizens have also expressed concerns that existing neighborhoods and new neighborhoods be attractive, close to services and well integrated. On the other hand, there is some interest in limiting the amount and placement of new, low-density residential development.

Goal A.

Residential areas with strong neighborhood structure, access to services and strong property values

Objectives:

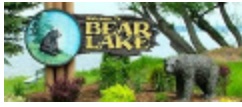
1. Limited incompatible and detrimental uses encroaching into residential areas
2. Limited residential development in flood plains, wetlands and important natural resource areas (“unique or special”)
3. Reasonable setbacks, minimum building sizes, appropriate lot configuration and quality construction for new development
4. Pedestrian, bicycle and automobile access to parks, schools, downtown and existing and future neighborhoods near the Village

Goal B.

A modest increase in overall population and residential housing

Objective:

1. New residential development in and near the Village of Bear Lake
2. Additional housing for the community seniors



Recreation and Tourism

This topic focuses on the related topics of recreation and tourism. Through planning and capital improvements and community organizing efforts, the community can develop new recreation facilities that enhance the overall quality of life for area residents and encourage families to stay in the area. In review of discussions with community residents and survey results, there has been a strong emphasis on providing for improved and new recreation facilities. In addition, there has been a strong emphasis on providing for more cultural activities in the community. Therefore, this plan should focus on recreation facilities and community events that can be expanded and promoted, along with the area's unique natural resources, to increase the quality of life for local and seasonal residents and to increase the visibility of the Bear Lake Community for tourism.

Goal A.

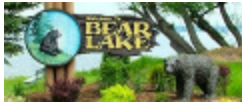
New recreational facilities and high-quality maintenance for existing facilities

Objectives:

1. An additional public park for general recreation with access to Bear Lake
2. Updated and adequately maintained park and recreation facilities
3. Biking and hiking trails that connect to areas around Bear Lake
4. A fully developed DNR boat launch (Big Bay)

Goal B.

Increased tourism throughout the Bear Lake Community



Public Facilities

This topic concerns the availability, sufficiency, location and placement of key infrastructure and services across the Bear Lake community. Through planning, land use regulations and capital improvements the community can focus on the placement of infrastructure and community services in appropriate areas that serve area residents and maintain the rural character and small town appeal of the Bear Lake community. As noted in the survey and public discussions, there is strong interest in the provision of services as it relates to economic development. Other infrastructure concerns include roads, bridges and sidewalks. Service concerns might also include public safety and fire suppression.

Goal A.

Well-maintained public and private roads assuring that no parcel is land locked

Goal B.

New culturally significant facilities

Goal C.

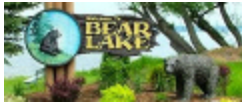
A variety of transportation choices

Goal D.

Adequate services for community seniors

Goal E.

A clean and adequately maintained public restroom in the downtown area



Natural Resources and the Environment

This topic covers the general concerns related to the preservation of environmental quality and opportunities for protecting and benefiting from the natural resources of the community. Recent survey results and public discussions with citizens have revealed a concern over water quality, both current and future (e.g. runoff, groundwater). There is also a big appreciation for lakes, open space, forests and other natural resources as well as the recreational opportunities associated with these resources.

Goal A.

A clean, safe and protected watershed, including groundwater and the lakes and rivers of the Bear Lake Community

Objectives:

1. Educational workshops and materials about preserving water quality
2. Protections from groundwater contamination (specifically in the wellhead protection area)
3. Protections for the area's wetlands

Goal B.

Clean, safe and protected natural features and open space

Objectives:

1. A thorough inventory of the unique natural habitats within the natural features of the Bear Lake Community
2. Partnerships with local agencies to preserve natural features and open spaces
3. The retention of natural vegetation
4. Effective land conservation tools that preserve natural features and open space
5. Protected wetlands, woodlands and other important wildlife habitat
6. Wildlife areas free of and/or unharmed by invasive species

Goal C.

A community free of harmful environmental contamination

Objectives:

1. Educational workshops and materials about preventing pollution
2. Prevention of pollution