

DICKINSON PARKS & RECREATION

MASTER PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dickinson Parks and Recreation (DPRD) has forged a pivotal partnership with the City of Dickinson to craft the Dickinson 2035 "Roadmap to the Future" Comprehensive Plan. This collaborative effort signifies a community-driven approach, shaping a visionary document that not only delineates goals, objectives, strategies, and policies but also serves as the compass guiding decision-making processes. By uniting all public entities within Dickinson under this singular plan, it harmonizes disparate decision-making boards, fostering cohesive development.

As the City of Dickinson embarks on revising the 2035 "Roadmap to the Future," it responds to the evolving landscape marked by significant shifts in indicators, notably the conclusion of the oil boom that characterized the early 2010s. This period has now transitioned into one of revenue and population stabilization, prompting the need for a recalibration of strategies. Recognizing the importance of inclusive representation, the executive director of DPRD has been called upon to contribute to the committee tasked with shaping the new City of Dickinson master plan, slated for completion by the fall of 2024. Simultaneously, DPRD will undertake the task of updating its internal master plan, with a parallel completion timeline.

Body

The Dickinson Parks and Recreation Master Plan serves as a detailed blueprint, encapsulating the specific objectives outlined in the broader City of Dickinson 2035 "Roadmap to the Future." This plan undergoes rigorous review by staff and subsequent approval by the Board of Park Commissioners every five years. Anchored in the core values, mission, and vision statements of DPRD, this master plan meticulously evaluates the district's infrastructure, including facility locations and trail connectivity. Moreover, it meticulously assesses each undeveloped and developed property, delineating projects, goals, and funding sources. With population stabilization as the backdrop, the updated plan is poised to prioritize the maintenance of existing facilities over new constructions, in line with insights gleaned from the community survey conducted in the summer of 2023.

Furthermore, the Master Plan serves as the cornerstone of the district's strategic initiatives, influencing the development of subsequent plans such as the strategic plan updated in early 2023 and the inaugural program plan formulated in late 2023.

In essence, the symbiotic relationship between the Dickinson 2035 "Roadmap to the Future" and the Dickinson Parks and Recreation Master Plan underscores their collective role in shaping the vision and actions of DPRD, with an unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life within the community.

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Community Vision and Goals

A community vision statement is an expression of the community's values and interests that provides an over-arching framework for the comprehensive plan. After extensive public involvement a community vision statement was formulated. This community vision statement is supported by vision statements that were developed for each planning topic. The following statement is the result of the community visioning effort.

Future growth and development will be effectively managed to:

- Preserve existing qualities
- Provide desired amenities
- Minimize impacts of growth
- Become an All-American City

Upon establishing the community vision statement, the public was engaged in the process of formulating comprehensive plan goals, objectives and policies that would move the community nearer to its vision for the future. The vision statements and goals for each planning topic are presented in this executive summary. The accompanying objectives and policies are provided in each applicable comprehensive plan chapter.

Land Use Vision Statement

Promote orderly growth that enhances the quality of place and community appearance, meets housing, employment, civic and recreational needs and minimizes the financial burden on the city, residents and businesses.

Land Use Goals

1. Effectively manage the location, timing and fiscal impacts of future development.
2. Promote and require high quality development in the city.
3. Increase the availability of locations for retail commercial development.
4. Improve community appearance along major roadways, including I-94, that are entrances to the community.
5. Allow crew camps to meet the demand for temporary worker housing.
6. Have downtown Dickinson be a vibrant part of the community and contribute to its quality of place by being the primary center for professional business services, civic services and entertainment.
7. Provide financial and regulatory incentives for development that successfully achieve the objectives and policies of the comprehensive plan.

Transportation Vision Statement

Maintain safe, barrier-free travel with a minimum amount of congestion and trucking conflicts.

Transportation Goals

1. Minimize future traffic congestion along major city roadways.
2. Reduce the volume of truck traffic in the city.
3. Improve overall traffic safety in the city.
4. Plan for a sustainable multi-modal transportation system for the city.

Economic Development Vision Statement

Promote a sustainable economic future for the city by maintaining a diversified local economy, enhancing the quality of place and establishing a highly qualified workforce.

Economic Development Goals

1. The City of Dickinson shall remain the business hub or center for the southwest region of North Dakota.
2. Continue to enhance the quality of place to make the City of Dickinson a desired location for new entrepreneurs to live and create local jobs.
3. Downtown Dickinson will retain its role as the professional service center for the community.
4. Meet existing and future business needs for a highly qualified workforce.
5. Increase the standard of living for workers in the city.
6. Create a local economy resilient to economic fluctuations of the energy sector.

Infrastructure Vision Statement

The City of Dickinson will maintain and invest in its infrastructure to provide high quality service to existing residents and businesses and provide the means to efficiently serve future growth.

Infrastructure Goals

1. Assure city utility systems can meet capacity and environmental quality demands.
2. Efficiently maintain the quality of the city's wastewater, potable water and drainage facilities.
3. Effectively plan infrastructure improvements in coordination with future land use planning.
4. Encourage water conservation and use of alternative water sources.

Housing Vision Statement

Create neighborhoods that provide diverse housing choices, offer attractive places to live, work, play and attend school, and create a place for residents to call home.

Housing Goals

1. Create additional and improved affordable housing opportunities for residents.
2. Preserve neighborhood character and establish a sense of place.
3. Provide residents a safe place to raise a family.
4. Provide appropriate housing choices and locations for temporary and transient workers.

City Services Vision Statement

The City of Dickinson will provide high quality and cost effective services to existing residents and businesses and provide the means to efficiently serve future growth.

City Services Goals

1. Assure city public safety services protect the life, safety and general welfare of all city residents and businesses.
2. Enhance the quality of place by properly maintaining all public facilities.
3. Promote intra-governmental and inter-governmental coordination to increase the cost effectiveness of providing city services.

Recreation and Cultural Amenities Vision Statement

Preserve and enhance city parks, trails, indoor recreational facilities and cultural facilities to ensure they are accessible to all residents, safe places to recreate and are attractive, well maintained public spaces that enhance the community's quality of place.

Recreation and Cultural Amenities Goals

1. Provide high quality parks and recreational facilities to meet the needs of existing and future residents.
2. Create a connected network of trails and other pedestrian and bicycle facilities to link parks, neighborhoods and activity centers in the city.
3. Maintain a high quality of life by preserving existing historical and cultural resources in the city and encouraging public art.

Natural Resources Vision Statement

Preserve and protect Dickinson and Stark County's natural resources, including wildlife, to ensure future generations have access to high-quality land, water and air resources.

Natural Resources Goals

1. Preserve and protect natural resource corridors for open space and recreational uses.
2. Avoid waste and hazardous materials from entering the ecosystem.
3. Minimize the environmental impacts associated with energy-related extraction activities.

Implementation Vision Statement

The City of Dickinson 2035 Comprehensive Plan will be broadly supported by the community and will be used on a regular basis by elected and appointed officials, City staff and the public to guide and facilitate decision-making.

Implementation Goals

1. Use the Comprehensive Plan goals, objectives and policies as a guide for decision making.
2. Provide and obtain funding to implement comprehensive plan policies.
3. Establish a five-year Capital Improvement Plan to program community investments and infrastructure and transportation improvements to accommodate future growth.
4. Maintain a high level of coordination between neighboring municipalities, Stark County and regional, state and federal agencies.
5. Establish a monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of Comprehensive Plan policies and proactively identify the emergence of changing circumstances or new opportunities.