

# 3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

## PURPOSE

Guiding principles describe community values that are intended to be achieved through the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. Rather than being focused in a particular topical area, like housing or parks, guiding principles are interrelated across many areas and will likely be implemented through collaboration and actions of multiple departments and community partners. In the development of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, four themes emerged as guiding principles: resilience, equity, health, and age-friendliness.



## RESILIENCE

The City's quality of life depends on its ability to adapt, evolve, and grow in the midst of challenges and changes. While frequently focused on the environment and natural resources, resilience is broader, also incorporating economic vitality and social-well being. The City has and will continue to promote balanced, sustainable, and supportive practices in order to ensure the needs of the present are met without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. It also includes ensuring the City can withstand large-scale events that may be caused by the changing climate. The City recognizes that resources are finite and that there is a sensitive interface between the natural and built environments. In addition to continued work with the GreenStep Cities program, the City will continue to frame its planning and operations with resiliency in mind.



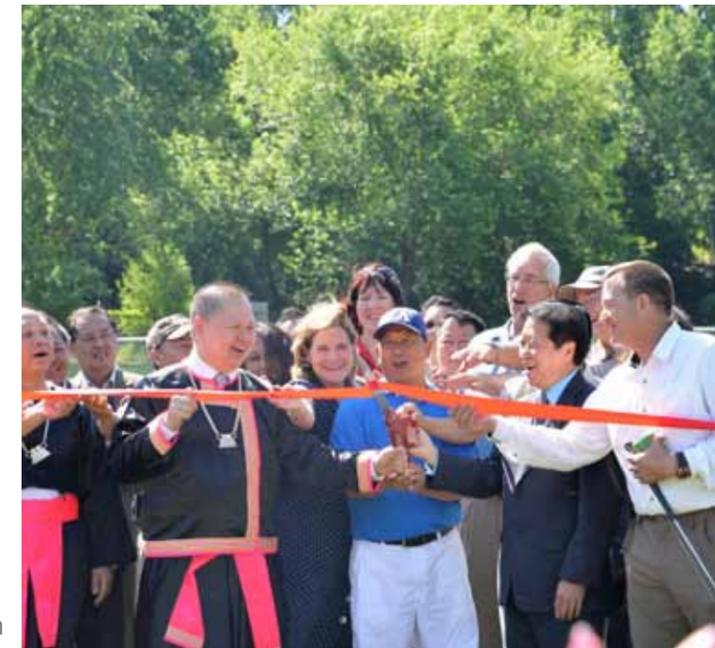
## AGE-FRIENDLINESS

Maplewood is a community where individuals and families of all ages are welcomed, included, and supported. This begins with providing a wide-range of safe, affordable housing that can serve the needs of those wishing to relocate to the community, as well as those who would like to remain as they age. The community then seeks to provide meaningful ways to participate and be active, through employment, volunteerism, programs, education, and recreation. Age-friendliness addresses accessibility, walkability, and safety in the public realm as well.



## HEALTH

The health of Maplewood is directly related to the physical and mental health of its residents and employees. While the community has a robust health care system, access to services is not the same for all individuals due to a variety of factors, including race, ethnicity, age, income, language, and abilities. In addition, it is important to remember that access to health care is not the leading cause of poor health. Studies have shown that the surrounding social, economic, and physical environment play a larger role in health outcomes than health care services. Thus, to improve health the City and its partners will not only need to address access to health services but issues like safe housing, healthy food access, active living, and community connections.



## EQUITY

In many communities, including Maplewood, there are barriers that prevent all residents from having the same opportunities to thrive. For instance, race, ethnicity, and age continue to be predictors of health, education, income, housing, and recreation. The Comprehensive Plan seeks to identify and address the obstacles and disparities that lead to inequities within our community. It is important to note that a focus on equity does not mean providing equal access to the same amount of resources. History, systematic racism, and other factors have created a landscape where some benefit far more than others. Equity is focused on making sure everyone has the resources they need to lead a healthy, productive life.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Do you have ideas, thoughts, or comments about the goals, actions, or direction of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan? Visit

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/Maplewood2040](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Maplewood2040) to give your feedback!