





Chapter 3

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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-friendly. This chapter provides an introduction to each guiding principle, providing a framework for the Individual policies and actions that are identified within individual chapters with an icon.



Look for the icon above in the following chapters of the comprehensive plan to note where the guiding principle of resilience is addressed

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.



Look for the icon above in the following chapters of the comprehensive plan to note where the guiding principle of equity is addressed

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.



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.



Look for the icon above in the following chapters of the comprehensive plan to note where the guiding principle of health is addressed



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.



Look for the icon above in the following chapters of the comprehensive plan to note where the guiding principle of age-friendliness is addressed

CASE STUDY: HEALTH CARE COLLABORATION

One of the opportunities for partnership in the area of health is with the community's health providers, including HealthEast, Allina, and Health Partners. Each health system is required to complete a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for the areas they serve. These needs assessments analyze the health of the communities, solicit community input, identify priorities, and establish goals, objectives, and strategies to address the priority needs. The following are the priority needs identified by each health system for their respective implementation plans:

- » HealthEast St. Johns Hospital (2016-2018)
 - Obesity
 - Unmet Mental Health Needs
 - Access to Services and Resources
- » Allina Health - United Hospital (2017-2019)
 - Mental health and well-being (focus on stigma reduction and access to services)
 - Overweight/obesity
 - Access to healthy foods
- » Health Partners (to be added in subsequent drafts)

Challenges

Challenges to achieving the values of resilience, equity, health, and age-friendliness in Maplewood occur at the individual, neighborhood, and community scale. The following have been identified as challenges that are addressed in the goals, policies, and actions of the Comprehensive Plan:

- » Institutional biases created through history, systematic racism
- » Educational attainment rates within the community
- » Income disparities
- » Affordable housing and a lack of housing variety
- » Language and cultural differences
- » Geography

Opportunities for collaboration

Addressing the guiding principles will involve collaboration with a broad range of public and private entities. The following is an initial list of potential partners for these initiatives. The City should make an ongoing effort to identify additional opportunities:

- » State agencies
- » Neighboring communities
- » Maplewood Mall
- » School districts
- » Health care
- » Watershed districts
- » Metropolitan Council
- » Metro Transit
- » Non-profits

The statistics shown in Figure 3-1: Factors that Determine Health, demonstrate how health in the community is influenced by factors related to resilience, equity, and age.



Figure 3-1. Factors that Determine Health Source: Ramsey County Public Health