

You're Invited: Plan Our Future

In 1999, the State adopted landmark legislation affecting the way Wisconsin communities plan for and regulate community growth. The package of law changes, often called the “Smart Growth” law, requires local governments to prepare comprehensive plans in order to make informed decisions about community development. The City of Manitowoc is now beginning the process to update its Comprehensive Plan in accordance with the “Smart Growth” law.

The City of Manitowoc is hosting a Vision Workshop on March 4th to get direct input into the City’s comprehensive planning process in an interactive forum. The City recently began the planning process that will lead to the development of an updated Comprehensive Plan. What is a Comprehensive Plan? The Comprehensive Plan is intended to guide the type, location and appearance of growth, development, and preservation of the City for the next 20 to 25 years. The Comprehensive Plan indicates local goals, objective and policies for future growth including nine required elements: *Issues and Opportunities; Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources; Land Use; Transportation; Housing; Economic Development; Utilities and Community Facilities; Intergovernmental Cooperation; and Implementation.* Once adopted, a Comprehensive Plan can lead to consistent day-to-day decision making on land development and redevelopment issues balancing community goals with private interests in land use and managing growth/redevelopment so that it does not occur in a haphazard pattern and so that it preserves the character and resources of the area.

Your input and Community Participation is needed.

The City is hosting a community workshop on **Tuesday, March 4th from 6pm – 8:30pm at Washington Junior High School cafeteria (2101 Division Street, enter off of South 23rd Street)**. All residents are encouraged to attend this fun, interactive session. The session will include presentations, individual and group exercises, and group discussions. The primary goal of the workshop is to provide an opportunity for residents to express their vision for Manitowoc’s future. Your vision matters. Participants will be asked to express their ideas on how the community should grow over the next 20 years and what issues need to be addressed in the planning process – including housing, economic development, transportation, sustainability, and parks and open spaces.

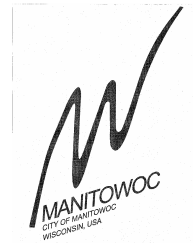
The Vision Workshop is a great opportunity for residents to learn about the planning process, share their thoughts about issues and opportunities for the future of the City, and work with their neighbors and local elected officials to better understand ways to address these concerns. This is a highly interactive session that should generate enthusiasm for working together as a community to shape our future.

Vandewalle & Associates, a consulting firm based in Madison, is working with the City on the Comprehensive Plan update and will be leading the Vision Workshop.

In addition to this important Community Workshop on Tuesday, March 4th at 6pm, there will be a number of other important opportunities throughout the upcoming year for the public to provide input into this process. This includes a survey mailed to each

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household in the City in early Spring, an open house focused on possible future community growth scenarios in fall, and an open house to review the draft Comprehensive Plan in spring 2009. The Plan adoption process, scheduled for 2009, will also include a public hearing before the City Council.

For additional information about the City of Manitowoc's Comprehensive Plan and the Vision Workshop visit www.manitowoc.org or contact Paul Braun, Deputy City Planner at 686-6930 or pbraun@manitowoc.org

Tuesday, March 4th from 6pm – 8:30pm
at Washington Junior High School cafeteria
(2101 Division Street, enter off of South 23rd Street)

Manitowoc Mayor Kevin Crawford may be reached at 920-686-6980.