

Chapter 11 - Implementation

The Implementation Chapter is intended to carry out the goals and objectives set forth in the Comprehensive Plan. To be most effective, the Comprehensive Plan needs to address short-term and long-term planning needs followed by implementation steps. The focus of this Chapter is to outline those steps.

It is important to recognize that the Comprehensive Plan is a living and breathing document. Unforeseen changes in the market, new developments or industry standards may impact the plan. Recognizing the potential for change will require the City to periodically evaluate the plan to ensure that the City's goals and policies are being met. The City will carry this out as an implementation strategy.

To ensure the Plan is meeting future needs, it will be implemented in a number of ways. The most common practice is through municipal controls and programs, such as zoning and capital improvements. Within the City's Zoning Ordinance, zoning districts (see figure 11.1) have been established, including minimum lot size requirements and control densities. State law requires consistency between a community's zoning ordinance and its comprehensive plan. One of Hopkins' first implementation strategies will be to thoroughly review the Comprehensive Plan and the zoning ordinance for consistency. A summary of the City's current zoning districts can be found in Appendix B. The City has also established a Capital Improvement Program that is updated annually.

The Comprehensive Plan involves more than just enforcing municipal controls and implementing capital improvements. A successful plan is carried out on a day-to-day basis. Each chapter in this Plan has set a foundation for carrying out a series of action steps or strategies. To measure the success of the action steps and strategies, an action step matrix is included. The intent of the matrix is to track specific action steps, responsible parties, time frames and potential costs associated with each step. Not all the action steps are anticipated to be carried out within the timeframe of this update. The matrix serves as a reminder of tasks at hand for staff, elected officials and various boards.

The action steps highlighted in the following table are developed based on the goals and policies identified in the plan and the broader community strategies identified.

Action Step Definitions

Time Frame

Short Term = Completing within 1 – 3 years

Mid Term = Completing within 3 – 5 years

Long Term = Completing within 5 – 10 years

Cost

\$ - Low Cost (\$0 - \$20,000)

\$\$ - Medium Cost (\$20,000 - \$100,000)

\$\$\$ - High Cost (> \$100,000)

Figure 11.1 - Hopkins Zoning Map

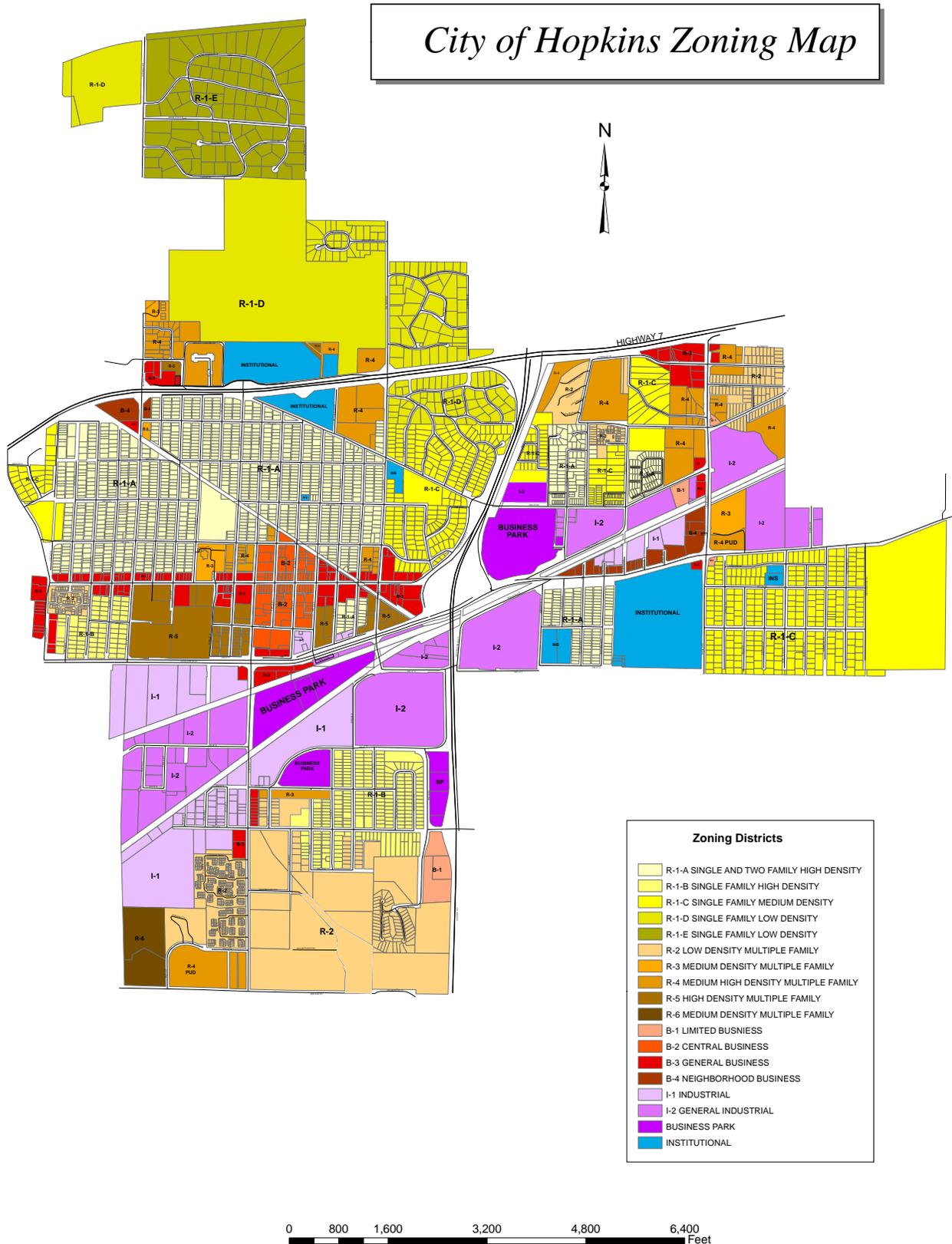


Table 11.1 - Implementation Table

Chapter	Action Step	Description	Responsible Party	Time Frame	Cost
Land Use	Review & update zoning and subdivision ordinance.	State law requires consistency between a community's zoning ordinance and its comprehensive plan. Ordinances need to be thoroughly reviewed to ensure consistency.	City	Short Term	\$
	Ensure compatible land use patterns.	The City will continue to monitor and balance land uses within Hopkins and adjacent jurisdictions. The City will need to continue to coordinate future land use patterns with future Light Rail Transit (LRT) initiatives.	City	On going	\$
	Expand design standards.	The City will ensure that new development and the redevelopment of sites apply a high-level of exterior aesthetics that complement and support surrounding uses. This includes incorporating design standards already in place for Mainstreet. The City will also explore expanding design standards for Shady Oak Road and mixed-use developments.	City	On going	\$ - \$\$
	Study the implications on land uses patterns adjacent to major transportation corridors.	The City will carefully study the implications on land uses for pending reconstruction, widening and realignment of Shady Oak Road. The City will also study the land uses for Blake Road for future redevelopment with the LRT station.	City & County	Short Term - Mid Term	\$ - \$\$
Downtown	Monitor downtown parking.	The City should continue to monitor and assess the downtown parking plan. The parking plan should be utilized whenever development or redevelopment occurs, and its recommendations should be continually pursued.	City	On going	\$ - \$\$

Housing	Monitor housing programs and efforts.	The City will regularly monitor and assess the effectiveness of existing housing programs (i.e., Truth in Housing Program, Housing Improvements, Residential Rehabilitation Loan/Grant Program and First-Time Home Buyer Programs). The City will also monitor foreclosure activity and respond appropriately.	City	On going	\$ - \$\$
	Actively enforce housing codes.	The City will continue to enforce housing codes and assess the existing housing maintenance codes to ensure they are meeting the overall need of Hopkins. Existing maintenance codes should be revised and/or developed to achieve this initiative as necessary.	City, County & Region	On going	\$
Parks, Open Space & Trails	Conduct master planning for the landfill site.	Master planning efforts should occur to determine the sites availability for future public uses.	City, County & Region	Long Term	\$\$ - \$\$\$
	Conduct master planning for the Minnehaha Creek Preserve Area.	Master planning efforts should occur to determine how the Minnehaha Creek Preserve Area can be better utilized.	City, County & Region (including the Watershed District)	Short Term	\$ - \$\$
	Work to enhance a series of trails that connect to regional trails.	Continue to coordinate with the Three Rivers Park District to provide regional trail connections. The City will evaluate trails & bikeways as part of all major roadway projects such as Shady Oak Road, Blake Road and Excelsior Boulevard.	City, County & Region	On going	\$\$ - \$\$\$
	ADA accessible facilities.	Upgrade and improve all park buildings to ensure ADA accessibility.	City	Mid Term	\$ - \$\$\$
	Evaluate existing facilities.	The City will continue to evaluate its existing park facilities and explore opportunities for shared/flexible uses to accommodate emerging sports, such as soccer and lacrosse.	City	On going	\$ - \$\$
	Implement pedestrian friendly routes.	The City will evaluate areas for opportunities to improve lighting, sidewalks and other amenities to make areas more pedestrian friendly.	City	On-going	\$-\$\$