



99 SQ MILES

A VISION FOR ARLINGTON'S FUTURE
The Comprehensive Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
JANUARY 2015

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

The city's Comprehensive Plan is the key policy document that provides goals, strategies, and action steps for Arlington to grow and prosper as a 21st century city. The document provides an integrated approach to all aspects of Arlington's development with an emphasis on environmental, economic and social sustainability; enhancing land

use and transportation coordination; and developing attractive and prosperous neighborhoods for all residents of the city. It is of particular interest to elected officials who adopt and fund its implementation, appointed officials who use it to guide decisions, as well as city departments who are charged with its implementation.

ABOUT THE PLAN

This plan is a culmination of the efforts of elected officials, appointed stakeholders, city staff, residents, and businesses. Five Guiding Principles - building on our assets, embracing diversity, offering choices, improving connectivity, and engaging our citizens - have been integrated into the five broad goals and seventeen associated strategies developed to achieve the city's established vision. Over 100 specific action steps further detail how the City of Arlington can continue to be a beautiful, clean, safe, and fun place.

OUR VISION

To be a pre-eminent city, providing an exemplary, safe environment in which to live, learn, work and play.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

VALUE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

1. Strengthen our community by embracing our diversity, engaging our residents and empowering our neighborhoods.
2. Create places where people want to be.
3. Maintain and enhance neighborhood quality of life and appearance.
4. Continue to support investment in the city's education system.
5. Deliver city services in a fiscally responsible manner.
6. Provide a mix of quality housing for a diverse population.
7. Preserve the city's historic resources and community landmarks of recognized significance.

GET AROUND

1. Maintain a roadway system that provides efficient access to all parts of the city.
2. Provide a variety of transportation options.

GROW OUR BUSINESSES

1. Elevate Arlington's competitive positioning in the region to capture a larger share of high-wage, high-impact growth.
2. Rejuvenate and transform key economic centers into vibrant destinations.
3. Create amenities and assets that will secure Arlington's position as a major activity hub in North Texas.

PROTECT OUR RESOURCES

1. Preserve natural areas and public open spaces.
2. Conserve natural resources and energy.

DEVELOP OUR LAND

1. Promote land use patterns that reflect a mix of integrated community uses.
2. Encourage appropriate redevelopment and reinvestment that creates lasting value.
3. Increase the visual appeal within and around residential and commercial developments and along city corridors.



VALUE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS



Arlington is a city built upon diverse neighborhoods. Whether investing in infrastructure, working to expand housing choices, or welcoming and facilitating the emergence of neighborhood leaders, Arlington must focus on the individual and specific needs of its neighborhoods to strengthen that foundation for future generations.



GET AROUND

The City of Arlington is an expansive urban/suburban city that is situated centrally in an even more expansive metropolitan area. As such, the city must be conscious of how well people and goods can get into, out of, and through Arlington. By continuing to improve Arlington's connectivity both locally and regionally, the city can solidify its identity as a world-class destination that is easy to access for residents, businesses, and visitors.



GROW OUR BUSINESSES



North Texas is one of the most dynamic economies in the country. Arlington's position in the metropolitan area affords it a wealth of opportunities for business recruitment and expansion. For the most part, existing projects represent the manufacturing sector with some healthcare, retail, hospitality, and housing projects. Capturing a larger share of regional and national high-wage growth will require a deliberate and dynamic approach towards economic development.



PROTECT OUR RESOURCES

The need to be good stewards of the environment has long been a priority for the City of Arlington. Many programs and initiatives exist that are designed to protect and enhance the environmental resources that can be found in Arlington neighborhoods, yet there is more that can be done to protect and conserve the natural, scenic, and ecological resources in the city.



DEVELOP OUR LAND



While Arlington's population continues to grow, it has little land available for new development. If the city is to accommodate the projected growth, its land use must evolve. Guided by significant analysis of existing land use patterns, future development and redevelopment opportunities, and investigation of appropriate locations for targeting future growth, this Plan is intended to guide future growth the city envisions.

CATALYST PROJECTS

Catalyst Projects are well-defined short-term objectives that represent the Comprehensive Plan's five-year priorities, and are anticipated to have a substantial ongoing impact in Arlington by enhancing the city's image and strengthening its identity. They are intended to build on the city's positive aspects by creating a more accessible, functional, attractive, and enjoyable community. This Comprehensive Plan has identified seven Catalyst Projects that are anticipated to be complete by 2020.



Create a neighborhood program in Arlington that connects people and resources, creates opportunities, and provides support for neighborhood organizations and the community.

Develop Arlington's Downtown into a vibrant destination providing entertainment, employment, culture, and local goods and services for the immediate and surrounding community.



Build a full-service, destination hotel and expand the city's available conference space in the Entertainment District.

Develop a mixed-use office development that serves as a signature feature for residents and visitors that travel into the area.



Improve the aesthetics of Arlington's major corridors through strategic, targeted landscape treatment that is drought tolerant and low maintenance.

Provide a network of trails and open space throughout the city, creating a space for residents and visitors to enjoy the outdoors.



Create commercialization opportunities for technology and scientific innovations with the University of Texas at Arlington



For more information on the Comprehensive Plan, visit www.arlington-tx.gov/cdp/comp-plan or e-mail 99squaremiles@arlingtontx.gov.