



# WHY PLAN?



Norwalk

**THE NORWALK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
MAY 2011 – APRIL 2012**

# WHY PLAN?

It is important for community residents and leaders to understand why planning is important. Planning is an organized way to anticipate and shape changes for the benefit of Norwalk. A well planned community is attractive to look at, has reasonable taxes and adequate public services, and is a good place to live and work.

This presentation attempts to explain the Plan Norwalk process, who is leading the effort and how to get involved.

# THE PROJECT TEAM

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# THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

- × James Thayer
- × Stephanie Riva
- × Jim Huse
- × Deb Mineart
- × Frank Curtis

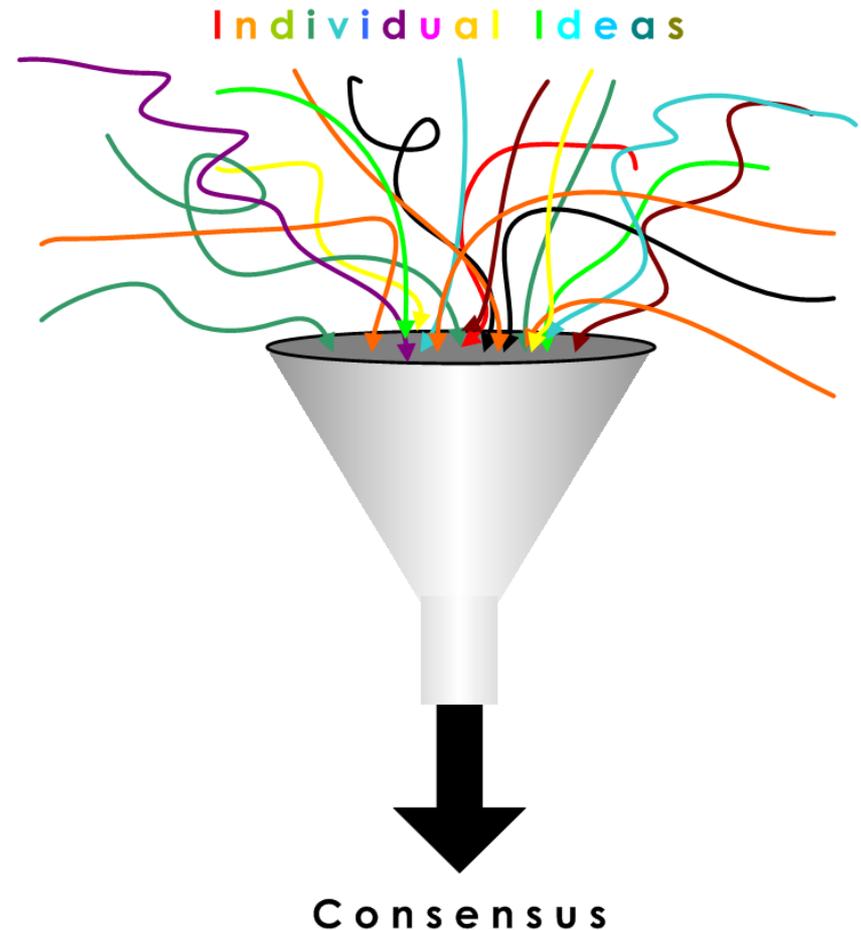
The steering committee represents a cross section of the community and will advise the project team throughout the Plan Norwalk process.

# WHAT IS PLANNING?

Planning attempts to form a **consensus** on important issues that affect the **development of a community.**

*“I like that and I can live with that.”*

Planning is an **inter-disciplinary** study.



# WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

- A **blueprint** that **defines** how a community can **anticipate future growth**.
- A **representation** of what a **community** wants to be in the **future**.
  - Planning for the next generation.
  - *“By the people, for the people.”*
- A **document** that **identifies goals, objectives, guidelines, policies, and strategies** for **growth and development** of the community.

# HIERARCHY OF TERMS



# HIERARCHY OF TERMS SAMPLE

Vision Statement	We want Norwalk to be a healthful community and a great place to raise a family.
Goal	Encourage multi-modal transportation options.
Strategy	Develop 8-foot recreation trail on the east side of Hwy 4 from the NE corner of the Hwy 4 and Hwy 11 intersection to City Park.

# ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

- × Iowa Smart Planning Principles – the state planning law we have to follow in Iowa.
  - + Collaboration
  - + Efficiency, Transparency and Consistency
  - + Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy
  - + Occupational Diversity
  - + Revitalization

# ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

- × Iowa Smart Planning Principles
  - + Housing Diversity
  - + Community Character
  - + Natural Resources & Agricultural Protection
  - + Sustainable Design, and
  - + Transportation Diversity.

# PHASES IN PLAN NORWALK

- × Project Kick-off
  - + Finalize scope and schedule of project.
- × Norwalk Profile
  - + Compile information about existing conditions in Norwalk.
- × Norwalk Vision
  - + Community involvement activities and answering the question: “What do we want Norwalk to be in the future?”

# PHASES IN PLAN NORWALK

- × Norwalk Tomorrow
  - + Identifying future land use and development patterns.
- × Implementation
  - + Developing an action plan and the final Comprehensive Plan.
- × Annexation
  - + A phasing plan for community growth and development.

# WHY PLAN?

- × To promote citizen participation and community decision making
- × To manage community growth
- × To control the future fiscal obligations of the city
- × To foster economic development
- × To shape the appearance of your community

# WHY PLAN?

- × To collaborate with surrounding communities
- × To achieve consensus on community priorities, and
- × To form the legal basis for plan implementation—zoning, design guidelines, and capital improvements programming.

# QUESTIONS

Contact Mike Johnson, City Planner  
or  
Steve Miller, Project Manager