



## Chapter 2

# Eden Prairie Tomorrow

**T**he Vision Statement is written as a retrospective, reflecting on the Eden Prairie community 20 years in the future. It is a narrative that paints a picture of what the City can achieve following the adoption of *Aspire Eden Prairie 2040*. The narrative is intended to be ambitious and aspirational, depicting the community's collective desires, and serving as the foundation for *Aspire Eden Prairie 2040*'s goals, objectives, and recommendations.



## In the Year 2040...

Since the adoption of *Aspire Eden Prairie 2040*, the City of Eden Prairie continues to be known for its high-quality residential neighborhoods and premier location for business and employment. Eden Prairie's quality office space, innovative businesses, and exciting Town Center have established the City as a unique business hub in the Twin Cities region. In addition, the City's beautiful parks, natural areas and trails, as well as its high-performing schools have attracted many young families to the community. The City's diverse array of community events and recreation facilities also provide inclusive community interaction and an array of health and wellness opportunities.

Eden Prairie's neighborhoods are some of the most beautiful and desirable in the state. Residential areas are seamlessly connected with parks and natural areas, all of which are accessible by a complete trail system and public transit hubs. Through a strong commitment to preservation, the City's rich historic sites, including the Cummins Phipps Grill Historic Home and Camp Edenwood, have been protected as key places that not only help define the neighborhoods they are in but the whole of Eden Prairie. The adoption of the *Aspire Eden Prairie 2040* has also resulted in an increase in quality attainable housing integrated within Eden Prairie's neighborhoods, allowing residents of all races, incomes, ages, and abilities to have the opportunity to live within the city limits.

Higher-density housing, including senior housing, is located near and incorporated within commercial areas and public transit, bringing residents closer to shopping and services. Furthermore, the creation of an Inclusionary Housing Policy has incentivized additional attainable housing across the City, especially around the Town Center, commercial areas, public transit including the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SW LRT), and bus stops, allowing residents to easily access their daily needs and services.

Commercial areas have grown and are thriving both within and around the Major Center Area (MCA). Regional commercial areas around the US-212/I-494 interchange draw people from nearby communities and support adjacent commercial businesses as well as the Town Center. Since the implementation of *Aspire Eden Prairie 2040*, the Town Center has evolved into a compact, walkable, and active shopping district that is a destination for residents and visitors to dine, shop, recreate, gather, and enjoy the company of others. Singletree Lane and Eden Road, the Town Center's main streets, are enhanced with ornamental lighting, flowers, and signage that directs people to major nearby attractions, such as Purgatory Creek Park and the Eden Prairie Center. Wide sidewalks, landscaping, and tree-lined streets create an inviting space for people to stroll, shop, and socialize. After the completion of the SW LRT Green Line Extension, transit-oriented development around the SouthWest, Golden Triangle, Town Center, and City West stations has led to an influx of new mixed use buildings, allowing residents to live and work within walking distance from restaurants, shopping, and night life.



The City's industrial areas, through consistent communication and City support, along with private reinvestment and commitment, are thriving and generating jobs and bolstering the City's economy. Industrial businesses are well-served by City infrastructure, and many businesses have enhanced their facilities to be more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly using upgraded equipment and stormwater best management practices (BMPs). The Golden Triangle and City West areas are well-served by public transit, and a network of sidewalks and trails provide convenient access to employees in nearby offices and light industrial businesses.

Offices and business parks along lakes and streams provide an attractive working environment for employees. Many newly developed offices and business parks have focused on innovative technology and IT, which has been a major draw for young professionals. Over the past 20 years, the City has seen a trend in offices striving to be sustainable leaders by incorporating solar energy, green infrastructure, and energy-efficient equipment into their facilities. Parks provide outdoor recreation spaces to nearby offices to host events, and because many offices have installed secure bicycle parking and other associated facilities for their employees, many workers choose to utilize the City's extensive trail system to bike to work.

Eden Prairie's parks, trails, and natural features are some of the City's most cherished assets. The completed trail system links parks and open spaces with neighborhoods, schools, commercial areas, and the Town Center, allowing residents to explore parks and natural areas by bicycle or by foot, near and far. Many trails and parks have been enhanced with wayfinding, historical information and educational signage, and natural resources, which has sparked a new interest in non-motorized transportation throughout the community. A popular destination among residents and visitors is traveling along the Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail to enjoy picnicking along the river, bird-watching, and hiking along scenic trails. The Eden Prairie Community Center continues to be a hub for community gathering and athletic and fitness activities and is recognized by residents as a place for increasing wellness for people of all ages and abilities.

In the 20 years since the adoption of *Aspire Eden Prairie 2040*, the City continues to rank as one of the most desirable places to live and work in the country. It is a place where young professionals and families are excited to build their lives, and where established residents can thrive. It's an inclusive community whose diverse and quality housing, natural features, strong heritage and history, recreational amenities, entertainment, shopping, and restaurants provide all residents with a high quality of life. Eden Prairie has prioritized positive health outcomes and inclusivity by ensuring that all residents have access to transit and attainable housing and the opportunity to be physically active. The City's commitment to sustainability, public art, community health, equity, and diversity has fostered a strong and inclusive community where all residents, regardless of age, income, race, ethnicity, identity, or ability, not only feel welcome but may also pursue their aspirations and dreams.

# Goals, Objectives & Strategies

The City of Eden Prairie's Comprehensive Plan, through the established goals, objectives, and recommendations, provides a flexible policy guide for decision-making and community action. Driven by community and stakeholder input, this section details the Plan's goals and objectives, which provide the framework for planning recommendations, policies, projects, and actions. The goals and objectives support the community's vision for Eden Prairie's future and serve as a guide for evaluating specific projects and land use alternatives. Those listed below support to the overall success of the Comprehensive Plan. Additional goals, objectives, and strategies that refer to specific topic areas can be found within their correlated chapters.

## Comprehensive Plan

**Goal 1:** *Create a Comprehensive Plan update document that reflects both current criteria and projected needs but is flexible enough to allow for future change as determined to be appropriate by elected officials, citizens, and staff.*

### Objective 1a

Review the Comprehensive Plan regularly to ensure its usefulness as a practical guide for current and future development.

#### Strategies

1. Review all City codes, ordinances, and policies to ensure consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and any updates to the Plan.
2. Use the Plan on a daily basis.

**Goal 2:** *Continue to follow the City's adopted Financial Policy Guidelines set forth as the basic framework for the overall fiscal management of the City.*

### Objective 2a

Use the Plan to enable the City to maintain a sound fiscal policy that will support the value of investments within the City.

#### Strategies

1. Establish and maintain charges and fees for resident and development services at a fiscally sound and equitable level.
2. Maintain a municipal budget that details revenue and expenditures.
3. Pursue all appropriate capital and operational grant programs.
4. Review and update the Capital Improvement Plan on an annual basis.
5. Encourage and support businesses and industrial development that will provide a variety of employment opportunities and a diversified tax base that balances appropriate system impacts, such as transportation system demands.

**Goal 3:** *Maintain the City's current governmental structure.*

### Objective 3a

Utilize the council/manager form of government and the use of government and the use of advisory boards and commissions.

#### Strategies

1. Adopt and adhere to schedules for advisory Board and Commission meetings and review of development proposals.
2. Continue to involve residents, property owners, business owners, and interested parties in the process of development decisions.

# Sustainable Resilience

## Resilience & Sustainability

**Goal 1:** *Increase climate resiliency and promote environmental and economic sustainability.*

### Objective 1a

Provide incentives and opportunities increase sustainable practices and efforts in Eden Prairie.

#### Strategies

1. Continue to develop Eden Prairie's Energy Action Plan outreach strategies to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions in three focus areas: residential energy, large commercial & industrial energy users and public, nonprofit and service organizations
2. Pursue becoming a SolSmart Solar-Ready Community by amending the zoning ordinance to regulate the use of solar and by implementing best management practices (BMPs) to standardize the process for solar development.
3. Continue to explore opportunities to divert waste from landfills by adopting an updated Solid Waste Management Plan, reviewing recycling options at the Annual Clean-Up Day and acting as a resource to the community.
4. Further promote advancements in water saving technologies through Eden Prairie's Water Conservation Rebate programs to increase groundwater protection and availability of potable water.
5. Expand conversion of turf grass to native landscaping on City property and continue to provide residential incentives for native landscaping to decrease irrigation, mitigate soil erosion, and enhance environmental preservation.



## Energy Action Plan

The Energy Action Plan for Eden Prairie is a sustainability initiative developed by the City in partnership with the Eden Prairie School District, City Council, Xcel Energy, CenterPoint Energy, the Conservation Commission, the Human Rights and Diversity Commission, and various private businesses. The goal of the Action Plan is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent of the 2015 baseline by 2025 and 80 percent by 2050. To reach the goal the Plan prioritizes three areas for energy conservation, residential, large commercial and industrial buildings, and institutions. The goals for each area is outlined below:

- **Residential:** 75 percent of households participate in renewable energy or energy efficiency programs by 2025.
- **Large Commercial and Industrial Buildings:** By 2025, 50 percent of the largest commercial/industrial energy users participate in Xcel programs over a standard three-year measuring period.
- **Institutions:** Reduce energy use of Eden Prairie institutions by 20 percent by 2025. By 2025, Eden Prairie institutions will support renewable energy development equal to 10 percent of their energy use.

# Social Equity & Diversity



## Eden Prairie Manifesto

“That we, as representatives of Eden Prairie businesses, city government, educational and religious institutions, accept special roles and responsibilities in fostering diversity in our community. We are dedicated to upholding the rights of every individual in our community to freedom, dignity, and security regardless of religious affiliation, race, ethnic heritage, gender, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, or economic status.

Representing all sectors of Eden Prairie, we publicly declare our intentions:

- *To continue the development of a multicultural community which will not tolerate acts of harassment and intolerance;*
- *To establish, communicate, and encourage community standards that respect diversity; and*
- *To promote acceptance and respect for individuals in an atmosphere of caring for others.”*

**Goal 2:** *Foster environmental stewardship in Eden Prairie.*

## Objective 2a

Provide community education opportunities to residents and business owners.

### Strategies

Provide information on key programs with return-on-investment (ROI) estimates to the three focus areas of the City’s Energy Action Plan including energy audits, LED lighting programs, and heating and cooling rebates.

1. Offer residents and businesses opportunities to participate in renewable energy purchasing programs by partnering with solar industry organizations to deliver education assistance and financial guidance.
2. Become a solar ready city by adopting practices to streamline the approval process for solar installations, including implementing a solar ordinance and developing a building permit prerequisite checklist.
3. Continue to update exhibits at the Environmental Learning Center to promote water conservation, recycling, native landscaping, and drinking water education to local schools free of charge.
4. Develop a marketing campaign to educate and incentivize residents on implementing sustainable practices at home through programs like the Sustainable Eden Prairie Awards and Sustainable Eden Prairie Tours.
5. Provide residents opportunities to participate in volunteer experiences such as Adopt a Storm Drain, Adopt a Street, and Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP) to preserve and evaluate the environmental health of Eden Prairie.

**Goal 3:** Utilize renewable energy methods to generate power.

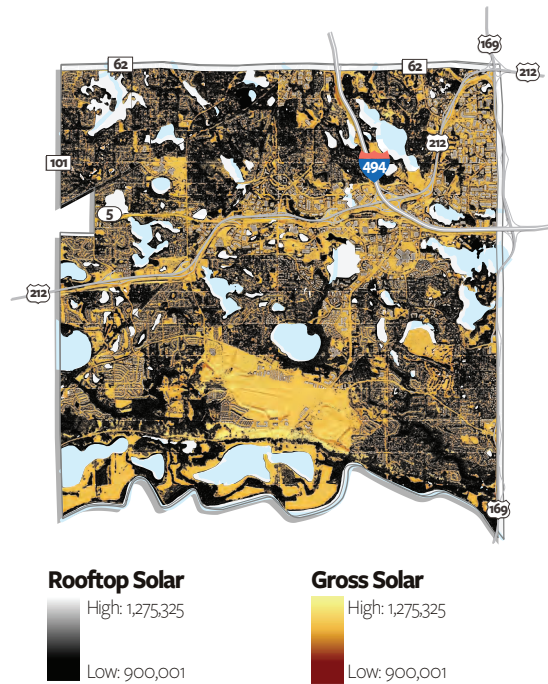
**Objective 3a**

Develop access to direct sunlight and expand the use of solar energy systems.

**Strategies**

1. Use the Gross Solar Potential Map to identify areas that would yield the highest amounts of power and place solar energy systems in respective locations.
2. Work with the U.S. Department of Energy’s SolSmart program, which provides local governments with no-cost technical assistance from national experts to help evaluate programs, expand the solar market, and identify high-prospect opportunities for improvement.
3. Partner with Minnesota GreenStep Cities to further the City’s sustainability goals pertaining to solar energy systems and work together to complete high-impact, best-practice actions.
4. Collaborate with Excel Energy to identify local priorities and develop an Energy Action Plan with implementation strategies that applies all resources available.
5. Offer bulk purchasing programs with discounted rates to incentivize large businesses, nonprofits, and property owners to expansively install solar panels.
6. Consider adjusting zoning regulations to allow for solar panels on residential or commercial rooftops.
7. Educate residents and businesses about the federal solar tax credit or investment tax credit (ITC) which deducts 30 percent of solar energy system installation costs from federal taxes.

Gross Potential (Mwh/yr)	Rooftop Potential (Mwh/yr)	Gross Generation Potential (Mwh/yr) <sup>2</sup>	Rooftop Generation Potential (Mwh/yr) <sup>2</sup>
41,831,172	4,016,906	4,183,117	401,690



# Community Health



## Healthy Food

In 2012 the City began the *Live Well, Eden Prairie* initiative to promote health and wellness across Eden Prairie. Part of this initiative is the Live Well food truck, a mobile extension of the Community Center's cafeteria. The food truck provides healthy, freshly cooked meals to the public in various public locations around the City including parks and schools. Some of the produce used in preparing the food is grown by local farmers as well. The City also maintains three city gardens at separate sites around Eden Prairie to allow residents to grow their own produce.

## Community Health & Livability

**Goal 1:** *Improve the overall community health and livability of Eden Prairie.*

### Objective 1a

Establish a connected, vibrant community that fosters healthy outcomes and enhances quality of life through updated, expanded, and connected infrastructure networks.

#### Strategies

1. Incentivize new restaurants and food suppliers that focus on quality nutrition to increase access to healthy foods and promote healthy eating habits throughout the City.
2. Establish partnerships to create formal walking and physical activity programs, promote public education, and promote mental healthcare.
3. Work with organizations to advocate for mental health awareness and promote mental health resources throughout the community.
4. Encourage residents to build relationships with their neighbors through local partnerships and city-sponsored campaigns and programs.
5. Encourage the provision of community gardens and "eyes-on-the-street" design and creation of public plaza areas to provide a sense of place.
6. Continue to promote the initiatives of local nonprofits to meet the needs of the Eden Prairie community.



## Equity & Diversity

**Goal 1:** *Create a welcoming and inclusive community through diversity and equity initiatives.*

### Objective 1a

Establish a sense of pride among residents as Eden Prairie community members.

#### *Strategies:*

1. Promote sense of community and evolve community events to provide opportunities for community engagement and to celebrate diverse cultures.
2. Establish and maintain partnerships with local organizations and schools to provide more opportunities that bring community members together.

### Objective 1b

Ensure equitable access City programs, services, and amenities for all community members.

#### *Strategies*

1. Encourage participation and equitably promote openings in City commissions to residents that may be underrepresented in terms of race, ethnicity, gender identity, income, age, and sexual orientation.
2. Ensure that programs and parks are equitably serving underrepresented residents through the provision of information and regulations that residents of various languages and abilities can understand.
3. Regularly maintain dialogue between city officials, residents, and business owners to ensure inclusive, participatory governance.

## Historic Preservation

**Goal 1:** *Instill in residents, visitors, and others the value of the City's history.*

### Objective 1a

Preserve heritage sites.

#### *Strategies*

1. Prioritize the retention of existing structures or places of historic or architectural value through code amendments that incentivize the protection of such structures, especially as part of the development review process, planned unit developments, platting and conditional use permit process.
2. Educate potential historic site owners of the value of preserving their property, not only for themselves but to the benefit of the entire Eden Prairie community.
3. Research funding opportunities to provide incentives to property owners for meeting the local, state, or national historic preservation standards.
4. Research funding opportunities to maintain existing historic sites owned by the City and its affiliates. Develop and implement a community education program on the existing and potential historical features in the community and the continued monitoring and adding of potential properties to the list.

EDEN  
PRAIRIE

#1  
BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN AMERICA  
MONITOR MAGAZINE 2010

Welcome

