The qualities and characteristics desired for the City of Woodbury by the year 2040 are expressed in the vision statement. The Comprehensive Plan is the blueprint to achieve that future vision. Creating and applying a vision requires citizens to reflect on the future and reach agreement on shared desires. In times of change or conflict, the vision statement can become a compass, pointing the way to a common direction and values.

The following vision creates a picture of the Woodbury community desired in 2040. The Comprehensive Plan’s guiding principles provide additional details about the specific elements identified as vital to the community.
VISION SUMMARY

A model of carefully managed growth, Woodbury will be known for its vibrant residential neighborhoods, thriving business community, diverse employment opportunities and exceptional municipal services. Woodbury will demonstrate sustainability through preservation of its resources and responsible environmental stewardship.

VISION FOR WOODBURY

The Comprehensive Plan guides the use of land and the actions of city government to provide a sustainable quality of life, making careful and effective use of available natural, human and economic resources, and ensuring that resources exist to maintain and enhance the quality of life for future residents.

Woodbury’s vision is of a community where diverse opportunities for housing, employment, education, recreation, commerce, transportation, volunteer organizations, participatory government and cultural activities are woven together into a unique identity in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Woodbury is a place where residents of all ages, incomes, cultures and creeds are welcome in the community and have the opportunity to thrive.

Woodbury is a safe and healthy place to live, work and play. These characteristics affect all aspects of community life and allow people to stay in Woodbury as they age. Health and safety influence the design of development and its relationship with the natural environment.

Woodbury believes in measured and carefully planned growth that enables the City to welcome new residents and businesses and to improve the quality, capacity and affordability of municipal services and infrastructure. Woodbury manages growth to ensure aesthetic standards and property values and to maintain or enhance the quality, integrity and value of existing neighborhoods and business districts.

Woodbury is home to people in all stages of life, from first homes to dwellings that allow graceful aging. Woodbury neighborhoods vary from rural estates, to traditional single-family neighborhoods, to places with a mix of housing styles and activities. Woodbury residents can shop at a neighborhood center or an array of regional retail destinations.

Expanding employment opportunities create more choices for residents to both live and work in Woodbury. Improvements in technology and transportation systems provide options for where and how Woodbury residents work.

Woodbury treasures the many natural amenities that exist within our community. Our parks, trails and open spaces connect our residents to nature, encourage sustainability, foster an active, healthy lifestyle, and promote community interaction.

Woodbury is connected with a system of trails, sidewalks, transit and roadways. Woodbury promotes regional planning and investments in both roadways and transit that allow residents to travel to destinations outside of the community and encourage others to visit Woodbury.

Woodbury strives to protect its natural resources to enhance the quality of life. Open space and greenway corridors are integrated into the infrastructure of the community.

Woodbury is a place of life-long learning. The availability, quality and variety of educational opportunities are integral to life in Woodbury.
VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This Comprehensive Plan establishes and sustains the identity and sense of place described in Woodbury’s vision for the future. Residents, local businesses and other stakeholders are encouraged to engage in community life. Public forums are offered in which community input is sought, diversity of opinion is welcomed, and a respectful and constructive dialogue is ensured. Woodbury is committed to providing excellence in city government and our processes are open and transparent, with a full and fair opportunity for any community member to be reasonably heard. The City strives to provide opportunities for community interaction while engaging partners in applying this principle.

Each guiding principle speaks to a specific component of the community, and as such they are not presented in any particular order of importance. When viewed together, the guiding principles illustrate the vision for Woodbury now and into the future.

A. PROVIDE FOR PLANNED AND ORDERLY GROWTH

The Comprehensive Plan continues to consciously manage the timing, location and characteristics of growth. Woodbury’s commitment to orderly growth ensures that the City welcomes new residents and businesses while sustaining the quality and affordability of municipal services and infrastructure demanded by the community. This Comprehensive Plan looks to the year 2040 and a city that is nearly fully developed. In adding the final pieces to the puzzle, it is essential that Woodbury carefully considers how growth completes the community. The Comprehensive Plan promotes development standards that ensure aesthetic beauty, increase property values, provide effective infrastructure and enhance the natural environment within the community.

B. ENSURE A SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY

The well-being of Woodbury’s residents is a fundamental objective of the Comprehensive Plan. Providing a place that is safe and healthy involves more than police and fire services. Safe and connected neighborhood environments form the building blocks of Woodbury. The development pattern encourages people to know their neighbors and focuses on community life. The street system allows vehicles to operate safely, while supporting trails, sidewalks, bike lanes and other integrated systems encourage people to move without an automobile. Municipal infrastructure systems provide clean water and protect the water supply. The City is prepared to respond to emergencies and other conditions that threaten the safety and health of the community.
C. Advocate for Parks and Natural Resources

Woodbury is committed to preserving and expanding community open space, natural areas and an interconnecting trail system that support a varied and accessible parks and recreation system. Facilities are to be designed, coordinated and maintained to offer a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities for people of all ages and to balance enduring qualities with the ability to adapt as the needs of the population change. The City will devote appropriate resources to the on-going maintenance of Woodbury’s robust parks and natural resource systems. These noteworthy community assets connect residents to nature, encourage an active and healthy lifestyle and promote community interaction. They are evidence of the City’s commitment to environmental stewardship and resiliency. The City works collaboratively with other stakeholders to continue and expand these practices as Woodbury grows and ages.

D. Plan for an Effective Transportation System

Woodbury is dedicated to providing diverse and effective multi-modal transportation systems that ensure the accessibility and connectivity of community amenities. As the City evolves and transportation needs change, Woodbury must ensure that the transportation system serves all community stakeholders. Growth will increase demand on the existing and future roadway system, and it will not be possible or desirable to accommodate this demand solely by building larger roads. While the City will accommodate the demand for safe, well-maintained roadways, it also recognizes that creative solutions are necessary that balance safe and efficient transportation with other aspects of quality of life in Woodbury, such as aesthetics, stormwater management and adjacent land uses. The City believes alternative forms of transportation such as busing, biking and walking are essential to the quality of life in Woodbury. As such, the City will continue its commitment to pedestrian accessibility and actively participate in efforts to expand regional transit systems that serve Woodbury and the eastern metropolitan area.
E. Meet Community Housing Needs

The City of Woodbury will encourage the development of a diversity of housing to accommodate people of all ages, income levels and family status. The City will identify areas for residential growth in a range of types, styles and affordability while maintaining high quality building standards and amenities.

F. Encourage Business Growth and Retention

Woodbury will be stronger if its residents have ample opportunities to both live and work in the community. As such, the City shall continue its efforts to attract, retain, and expand a diversified business sector which will provide a variety of jobs and strengthen the community’s tax base. Woodbury must have the infrastructure and supporting services to support these efforts.

G. Promote Excellence in Education

Excellence in education is part of the core values, quality of life and identity of Woodbury. City government will work collaboratively with public school districts, private schools and other stakeholders to provide quality and safe learning environments and to make the best use of public financial resources. The City strives to encourage a variety of options for educating children and to provide opportunities for learning at all stages of life.
H. Manage Financial Resources

Achieving the vision for Woodbury requires the financial resources to create and maintain municipal infrastructure, facilities and services. A growing local economy produces needed financial resources and helps keep the cost of local government affordable. The City must carefully plan for future changes. Slower growth affects the property tax base. Aging infrastructure requires more funding for maintenance and replacement. Changes in the composition of the local population may alter service demands that affect the ability to pay for governmental services. The City faces these challenges with innovation and collaboration with community, governmental and other institutional partners.

I. Plan for Reinvestment and Redevelopment

As Woodbury ages, existing neighborhoods and commercial districts may need additional attention. Reinvestment and maintenance of both property and the infrastructure that serves it are required to ensure that Woodbury’s positive identity endures over time. In order to effectively facilitate reinvestment and redevelopment, Woodbury must capitalize on its long-term commitment to quality design and development.

J. Practice Environmental Stewardship

Woodbury is firmly committed to the preservation, responsible use and enhancement of its environment, and recognizes that environmental health, economics and human well-being are interconnected and interdependent. To preserve our environment for future generations, the City will foster environmental stewardship through focused conservation, social responsibility and best management practices. While our local environment faces new challenges the City will need to make appropriate investments in preservation, adaptation, mitigation and maintenance.