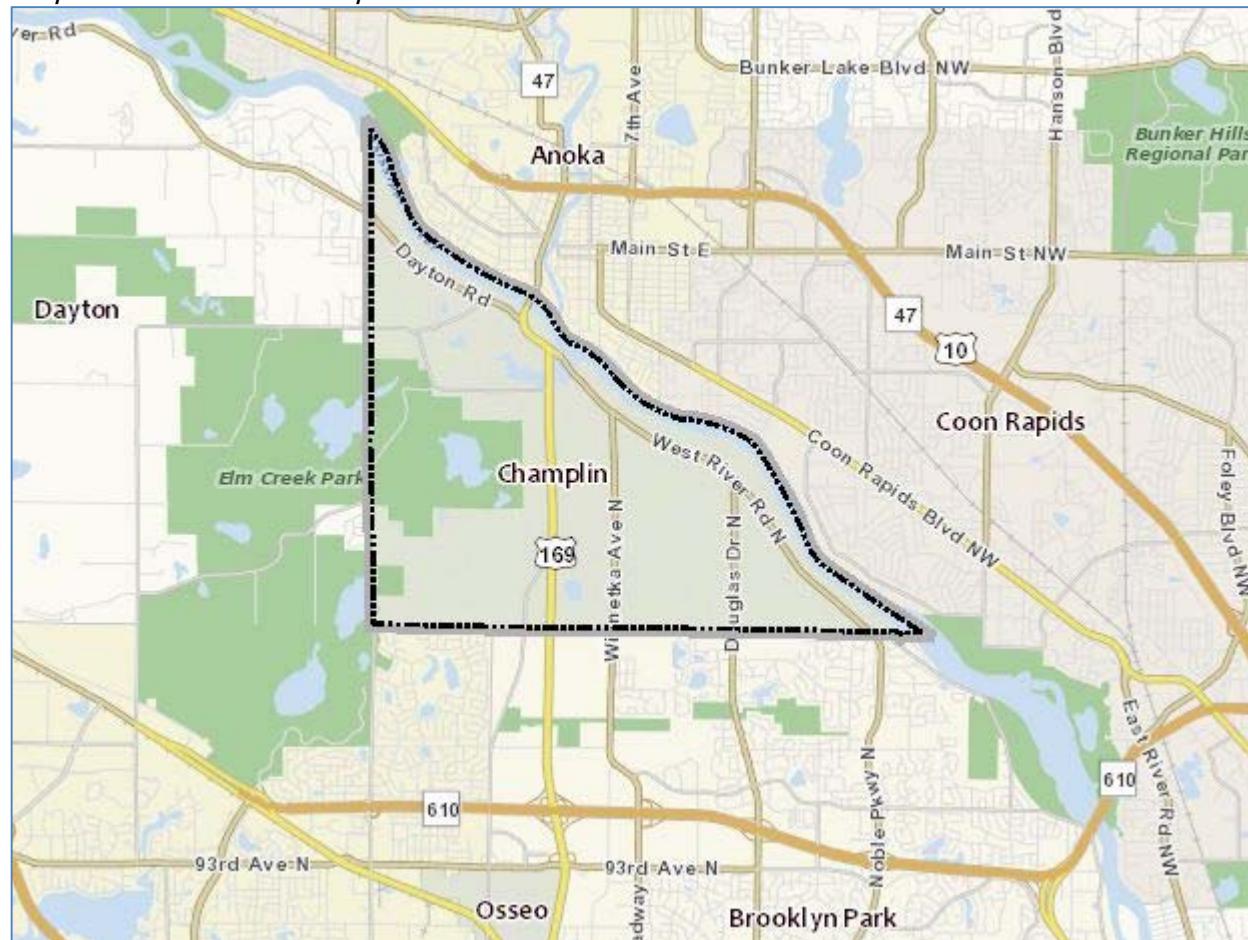


## 1.1 COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The City of Champlin is located in the northern section of Hennepin County (See Map 1). Champlin, containing approximately nine square miles with an estimated 2016 population of 23,343, is considered a third ring metropolitan suburb about 20 miles from the Minneapolis Central Business District. Champlin is bordered to the north by Anoka, to the west by Dayton, to the south by Maple Grove and Brooklyn Park and to the east by Coon Rapids. The City is located entirely within the Metropolitan Urban Services Area (MUSA).

Champlin is a community dominated by detached single family residential neighborhoods. Champlin is known as a suburban "bedroom community" as many residents find employment outside of the community. Champlin's residents appreciate the benefits of suburban living with a "small-town" atmosphere, as well as the convenience of its proximity to the more urbanized areas of the metropolitan area. Champlin also contains the Elm Creek Park Reserve and the Mississippi River, which provide important ecological and recreational benefits for the community and the region.

*Map 1.1: Location Map*



## 1.2 DEFINING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Comprehensive Plan is the document that sets the context for future growth and development in Champlin. Required by state statutes that specify its overall content and structure, the Comprehensive Plan consists of a series of interrelated chapters, or elements, analyzing the community's future land use, transportation, parks and recreation, and other infrastructure and environmental issues, needs, challenges, and opportunities. The Comprehensive Plan is important because it sets the overall policy context for future growth and development within Champlin.

The Comprehensive Plan will address growth pressures in the city, future public facilities and service needs, preservation of community character and natural resources, urban design and architectural standards, the fiscal impacts and responsibilities of new development, and other important issues affecting the quality of life and character of the city. This update of the Comprehensive Plan looks to the year 2040. Considering a future over 20 years away forces the community to broadly consider issues and opportunities facing Champlin.

## 1.3 WHY UPDATE THE PLAN?

The Minnesota Land Planning Act (circa 1976) made comprehensive planning mandatory for local communities in the Metropolitan Area. Under this law, all cities in the seven-county metropolitan area update their comprehensive plans a minimum of every ten years. The update cycle is tied to updates in regional plans by the Metropolitan Council.

In May 2014, the Metropolitan Council adopted **Thrive 2040**, which is a regionally based long range policy plan for regional systems, including transit, highways, and airports; wastewater services; housing; and parks and open space. Following release of Thrive 2040, the Metropolitan Council provided system statements for all local governments. Champlin received its System Statements in October 2015. System statements explain the implications of metropolitan system plans for each individual community in the metropolitan area. They are intended to help communities prepare or update their comprehensive plan, as required by the Metropolitan Land Planning Act.

Local comprehensive plans will be reviewed by the Council for conformance to metropolitan system plans, consistency with Council policies, and compatibility with adjacent and affected governmental units. Even without this statutory mandate, it is important for Champlin to periodically review and update its plans for the future. Over the next 20 years, it is likely that Champlin will become fully developed. The Comprehensive Plan will guide what happens on these critical

last pieces of land. As Champlin matures, more attention will be needed on maintaining existing development and encouraging revitalization.

#### **1.4 HISTORY OF THE PLAN**

In 1971, the City of Champlin was created as a result of consolidating the Village of Champlin and the Township of Champlin. Prior to consolidation, the two entities were independent, each with its own laws, codes and ordinances. Upon consolidation, the City commissioned numerous studies assisting with the coordination and management of the new City's public works systems.

In 1981, the City of Champlin prepared and adopted its first Comprehensive Plan. The Plan, divided into three sections Land Use, Public Facilities and Implementation, provided a guide to manage future growth. That first plan provided an overall vision of the future based on existing uses, values and trends projected toward common goals, achievable through a variety of prescribed programs, laws and fiscal strategies.

Over the years, as the community's goals, vision and needs have changed, so has the Plan. Most of these changes have been incremental. In 1996, however, after considerable community discussion, the Plan was rewritten. The new plan, prepared in response to growing market pressures, covered a range of issues including land use, transportation, surface water management, public water supply, sanitary sewer system, natural resources, parks and recreation, community facilities, community services and housing. Also, the plan provided a growth management strategy for the orderly expansion of public utilities. The plan guided development through 2015.

In 1996, the Metropolitan Land Planning Act was amended to require local municipalities to review their Comprehensive Plans ensuring their consistency with regional growth strategies as identified in the Metropolitan Council's Regional Blueprint and forecast growth to the year 2020. Therefore, in 2002, the Comprehensive Plan was updated and forecasts were made to 2020.

In 2008, the Comprehensive Plan was again updated, this time extending forecasts to 2030. The plan responded to the Metropolitan Council's 2030 Regional Development Framework and specific Systems Statements as provided. The plan and subsequent addendums has effectively guided the City's growth and policy initiatives for the past ten years.

#### **1.5 VISION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Successful long-range planning can occur only if a community has a vision of what it aspires to be. The vision reflects a consensus and shared belief that, through responsible management and balanced planning, the City can preserve

its natural resources and environment while encouraging and permitting diversified residential and non-residential development. A Comprehensive Plan vision statement differs from organizational mission statements and strategic plans in that it focuses on future development.

Below are subjects that are usually discussed in community vision statements:

- The common values of a community
- The qualities or resources that make a city unique or describe its identity
- The preferred future for each subject area of the city such as development, infrastructure, transportation system, natural environment, parks and open space

Over a series of City Council visioning work-sessions and taking input received via an on-line resident survey and a statistically valid resident phone survey the City Council developed a vision statement for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The vision statement uses terminology consistent with an overall community "branding" effort conducted in 2017.

#### 2040 Vision Statement

*Champlin will be a community where people live, work and play in a safe and attractive environment. We will celebrate our unique position as a small town that values and protects natural resources while fostering high-quality sustainable development, improving our transportation and utility infrastructure, and providing quality housing choices and recreational opportunities.*

#### **Guiding Principles**

Guiding principles reflect the expressed values and desires of Champlin and will be used to guide the development of the Comprehensive Plan. They are the framework for achieving the community vision. Guiding principles are structured by topic; however in many cases the principles are interrelated. The recommended guiding principles are listed below.

##### *Plan for Growth*

- Guide development and redevelopment to ensure community vitality, livability and sustainability
- Growth should be sensitive to the natural resources and the availability of parks and open spaces
- Balance residential, commercial and industrial land uses that maintain a connection to the existing development pattern
- Establish development standards consistent with community desires

### *Encourage a Diversity of Housing Options*

- Identify areas where housing growth will occur
- Educate ourselves and remain responsive to changing housing market demands
- Meet regional responsibilities for affordable housing

### *Protect and Enhance Open Space and the Natural Environment*

- Promote the use of "green" technology and sustainable development
- Protect and improve our water resources and woodlands
- Facilitate open space preservation
- Respect the natural environment while managing growth
- Explore opportunities to connect with the Mississippi River and the Champlin Mill Pond

### *Provide for Parks and Recreation Opportunities*

- Provide a variety of recreational opportunities for both children and adults
- Explore ways to build upon the existing park and trail system
- Provide resources to maintain and improve existing park facilities

### *Plan for an Effective Transportation System*

- Improve resident and business mobility
- Consider the mobility needs of all persons in the planning of the transportation system
- Meet local and regional transportation needs through leadership and collaboration
- Expand and increase development of pedestrian trails and sidewalks
- Implement strategies that increase neighborhood connection and promote walkability

Throughout the Comprehensive Plan, the vision and guiding principles are translated into more specific policies and specific measures. The vision is the common thread interconnecting elements into one consistent Plan for the City's development through the year 2040.