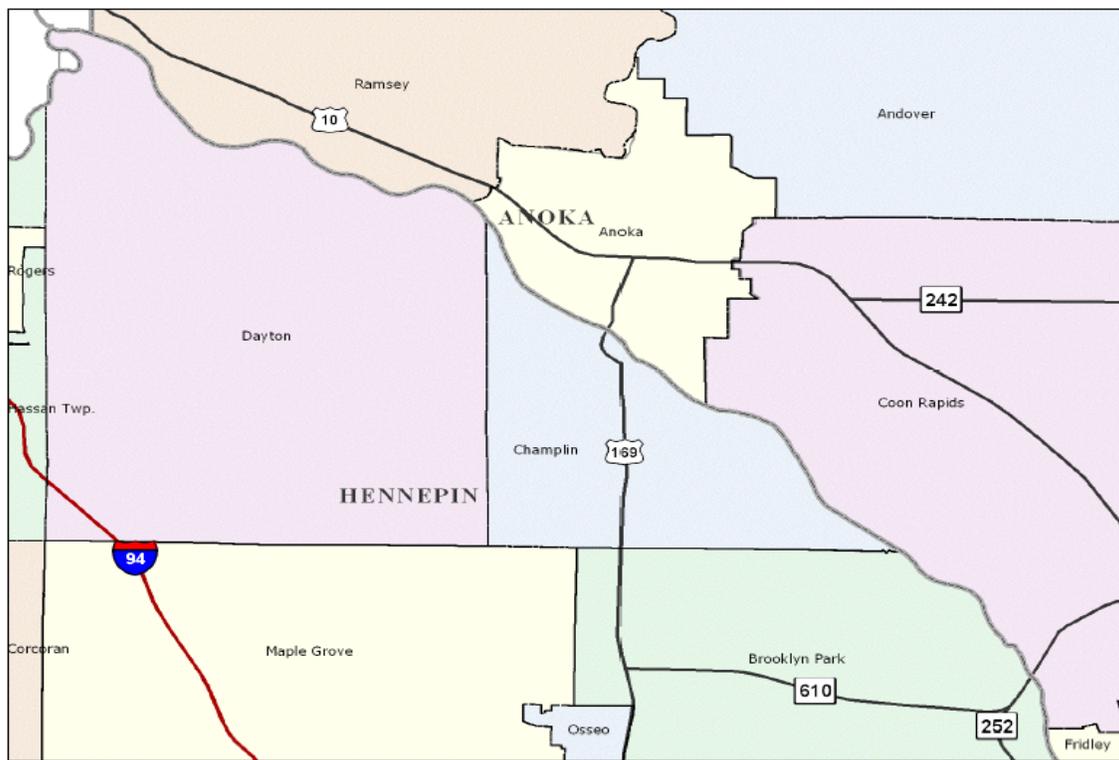


1.1 COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

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 2008 population of 24,570, 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. A large portion of Champlin’s residents are young families with children. 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: Location Map



1.2 GROWTH TRENDS

Since 1980, Champlin has seen significant increases in population, household and employment growth. The growth rate, however, has slowed dramatically in recent years due to the limited supply of developable residential land and a considerable slowdown in the housing market. While it is expected that Champlin will add around 1,500 housing units in the next 30 years, the population will not rise in proportion due to an aging of the population and a subsequent decline in the average household size. Table 1 represents population, household and employment information for the City of Champlin. Data from 1980 through 2000 is taken from the Census, 2010 through 2030 estimates were provided from Met Council as negotiated with City staff.

Table 1 - City Champlin Community Forecasts

	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Population	8,580	16,849	22,193	24,700	25,800	27,100
Households	2,749	5,423	7,425	8,500	9,200	10,000
People per Household	3.12	3.11	2.99	2.91	2.80	2.71
Employment	750	1,110	2,623	3,700	5,100	6,200

1.3 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 services 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 2030. Considering a future over 20

years away forces the community to broadly consider issues and opportunities facing Champlin.

1.4 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. 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.

1.5 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.

1.6 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 fiscal management and balanced planning, the City can preserve its natural resources and environment while encouraging and permitting diversified residential and non-residential development. In times of change, the vision serves as a compass, pointing the way to a common direction.

The vision statement below is a product of four sources: 1) results from the 2007 Champlin Resident Survey; 2) the City of Champlin Organization Mission Statement; and 3) previous Comprehensive Planning efforts; and 3) the City Council via a visioning work-session.

2030 VISION STATEMENT

Champlin will be a community where people live, work and play in a safe and attractive environment. We will value and protect natural resources while fostering high-quality development, improving our transportation and utility infrastructure, and providing quality life-cycle 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.

Plan for Growth

- Guide development and redevelopment to ensure community vitality and livability
- 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
- Development should be fiscally prudent financial management

Encourage a Diversity of Housing Options

- Promote a quality and affordable life-cycle housing stock
- 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

Promote Safety in the Community

- Foster community involvement and individual responsibility
- Ensure personal and business safety
- Enhance community security by collaborating with others

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 walk-ability

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 2030.