

# lexington

## THE PURPOSE OF COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

The Lexington Comprehensive Development Plan is designed to promote orderly growth and development for the City, provide policy guidelines, and enable citizens and elected officials to make informed decisions about the future of the City. The Plan acts as a tool to “Develop a road map or blueprint that guides the community through change as it occurs tomorrow and ten to twenty years from now.”

The Comprehensive Development Plan will provide a guideline for the location of any future developments within the planning jurisdiction of Lexington. The Lexington Comprehensive Plan is intended to encourage a strong economic base so the goals of the city are achieved.

“*The Lex-Plan 2013*” will assist the community in evaluating the impacts of development, including economic, social, fiscal, and service, and encourage appropriate land uses throughout the jurisdictional area of Lexington. The Plan assists the city in balancing the physical, social, economic, and aesthetic features as it responds to private sector interests. Planned growth will make Lexington more effective in serving residents, more efficient in using resources, and able to meet the standard of living and quality of life every individual desires.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission statement for Lexington is based upon various meetings and interactions throughout the planning process of updating the Comprehensive Plan. Such mission statement and a series of guiding principles lays the framework for the goals, objectives, and polices; and the development of the Future Land Use Plan.

*“Lexington is a diverse and family oriented community bound together by shared values and a commitment to excellence where citizens, businesses and civic leaders are partners in building a quality environment to live, learn, and work.”*



**The Comprehensive Planning Process**

Comprehensive planning begins with the data collection phase including demographic information from the 2010 Census, information obtained from city staff, public input, and field data collection. Data is collected that provide a snapshot of the past and present conditions of Lexington. Analysis of data provides the basis for developing forecasts for future land-use demands in the city.

The second phase of the planning process is the development of general goals and objectives or policies, based upon the issues facing the City, and prioritized by the community through public input. These are practical guidelines for improving existing conditions and guiding future growth. The Comprehensive Plan is a vision presented in text, graphics, and tables that represent the desires of the city for the future.

“*The Lex-Plan 2013*” represents a blueprint designed to identify, assess, and develop actions and policies in the areas of population, land use, transportation, housing, economic development, community facilities, and utilities. The Comprehensive Plan contains recommendations that, when implemented, will be of value to the City of Lexington and its residents.

Implementation is the final phase of the process. A broad range of development policies and programs are required to implement the Comprehensive Plan. “*The Lex-Plan 2013*” identifies the tools, programs, and methods necessary to fulfill the recommendations. Nevertheless, the implementation of the development policies contained within the Comprehensive Plan is dependent upon the adoption of the plan by the governing body, and the leadership exercised by the present and future elected and appointed officials of the city.

“*The Lex-Plan 2013*” was prepared under the direction of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. The steering committee was composed of members of City staff and the Planning Commission. Review and recommendations by the Lexington Planning Commission were completed prior to adoption of “*The Lex-Plan 2013*” by the Lexington City Council. The planning time period for achieving goals, objectives, programs, and developments identified in the Lexington Comprehensive Plan is up to 20 years. However, the city should review the plan annually or bi-annually and update the document completely every ten to fifteen years, or when a pressing need is identified. Updating the Comprehensive Plan will allow the city to incorporate ideas and developments that were not known at the time of the present comprehensive planning process.



# “The Lex-Plan 2013”

## COMPONENTS

### *Profile*

Previous trends and current status

### *Envision*

Community input and future plans

### *Achieve*

Goals of what to achieve

### *Implement*

Plans and policies

### Comprehensive Plan Components

Nebraska State Statutes require the inclusion of certain elements in a Comprehensive Plan.

A “Comprehensive Development Plan,” as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 19-903 (Reissue 1997), “shall consist of both graphic and textual material and shall be designed to accommodate anticipated long-range future growth.”

“*The Lex-Plan 2013*” provides an emphasis on land use and transportation and is comprised of the following components:

*Profile Lexington*  
*Envision Lexington*  
*Achieve Lexington*  
*Implement Lexington*

Analyzing past and existing demographic, housing, economic, and social trends permits the projection of likely conditions in the future. Projections and forecasts are useful tools in planning for the future; however, these tools are not always accurate and may change due to unforeseen factors. Past trends may also be skewed or inaccurate, creating a distorted picture of past conditions. Therefore, it is important for Lexington to closely monitor population, housing and economic conditions that may impact the city. Through periodic monitoring, the city can adapt and adjust to changes at the local level. Having the ability to adapt to socio-economic change allows the city to maintain an effective Comprehensive Plan for the future, to enhance the quality of life, and to raise the standard of living for all residents in Lexington and its jurisdiction.

“*The Lex-Plan 2013*” records where Lexington has been, where it is now, and where it will likely be in the future. This is an information and management tool for city leaders to use in their decision-making process when considering future developments. The Comprehensive Plan is not a static document; it should evolve as changes in the land-use, population, or local economy occur during the planning period. This information is the basis for Lexington’s evolution as it achieves its physical, social, and economic goals.