

Goals, Objectives and Policies

The vision of Lexington can be translated into broad based goals and objectives that will be used to guide, direct, and base future decisions on growth and development in Lexington and its 2 mile extraterritorial jurisdiction. The goals will help show the broader view for the decision makers to evaluate and consider its decision based upon the growth of the entire city and not just one small land transaction of Lexington. The objectives in this update will create consistency in decision making to help make smooth transitions as the Lexington grows and redevelops. Goals, objectives, and policies also reiterate the residents of Lexington and their input of how they prefer to see the city grow.

The goals and objectives are further developed into policies with action plans. This chapter aims to provide the kind of “day-to-day” direction and monitoring that will be useful in implementing “*The Lex-Plan 2013*” and realizing its vision. Consensus on “what is good land use?” and “how to manage change in order to provide the greatest benefit to the city and its residents?” is formed. Lexington’s goals, objectives and policies attempt to address various issues, regarding the question of “how” to plan for Lexington’s future.

Categories of Goals, Objectives and Policies

“The Lex-Plan 2013” topics to be addressed:

- Community Image
- Land Use and Development
- Housing
- Public Facilities, Infrastructure, and Transportation
- Community and Economic Development
- Plan Maintenance and Implementation

“A broad-stroke comment or aspiration”

Goals are the desires and projected state of affairs which the community intends to achieve. Goals are the most general statement of future preferences and outcomes, and set a broad framework for objectives and policies. Goals should be established in a manner that is clearly understood and allows them to be accomplished. It is noted that the goals may need to be modified or changed from time to time to continue to reflect community preferences.

“What is the desired outcome?”

Objectives provide the intermediate steps that guide the community in its future decisions. Objectives provide direction and benchmarks that can be used to monitor progress. Objectives also help maintain support and interest in Plan implementation by providing tangible actions that provide perceptible results. By actually observing and participating Plan activities and their results, community residents are allowed to involve themselves in the evolution of their community, which enhances their support for the Plan and instills excitement for continued involvement.

“How to make it happen or what needs to be done”

Policies give more detail and describe the actions needed to achieve the desired goal of the community. Policies are part of the value system linking goals with action. Policies represent plans of action that guide decisions in order to achieve rational outcomes, and are concerned with defining and implementing the goals and objectives of “The Lex Plan 2013.” The adopted policies synthesize the information from the existing growth condition and responses from the public input process in order to develop solutions or actions that will achieve the various goals. Policies are a means to achieving the goals established by the community and they imply a clear commitment to the city’s future development.

The following represent general Community Goals for Lexington:

1. Strive to improve the quality of life and sense of community for all residents of Lexington.
2. Foster the value of family in Lexington. Encourage the development of local action to preserve and strengthen families, while emphasizing Lexington's cultural diversity.
3. Implement appropriate community and economic developments to achieve an increase in the population of Lexington by an estimated 1.2 percent per year for the next 20 years, or 2,603 people, requiring up to 821 net additional housing units, by 2033.
4. Provide all residents with access to a variety of safe, decent, sanitary housing types, including elderly households and persons with disabilities.
5. Stabilize and diversify the economic base in Lexington to create and expand employment opportunities and better the job situation for existing and incoming households.
6. Preserve and improve the physical appearance and character of Lexington, including the Downtown and the Highway 283, 21, and 30 corridors.
7. Update and maintain the community land use plan and zoning and subdivision regulations.
8. Maintain a community and economic development program with a process capable of providing both job stability and growth. Improved jobs for youth and young adults should be given top priority. Community development activities should include both development and redevelopment initiatives.
9. Maintain a modern utility system. Future public facilities, services and transportation systems will need to be both updated and expanded during the planning period.
10. Encourage an ongoing forum for citizen participation to build consensus for local action associated with improved economic and social conditions in Lexington.
11. Include the Community's citizens in the ongoing update of the Lexington Comprehensive Plan.