

CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE
RESOLUTION NO. 25-09-10-27

RESOLUTION ADDING AN ADDENDUM TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, Long Prairie’s zoning code and comprehensive plan provide the framework for land use and development decisions. The current comprehensive plan, “*Expanding Our Horizons – Long Prairie Comprehensive Plan Update 2035*”, was adopted in 2015 and outlines a 20-year vision for the city. This plan established Long Prairie’s long-term goals and policies across key areas like land use, housing, public facilities, transportation, economic development, tourism, and environmental protection. It serves as the basis for the zoning code (Chapter 16 of the City Code), ensuring that zoning ordinances align with the city’s desired growth path, and:

WHEREAS, Key components and objectives of the existing plan include:

- **Land Use Management:** Designating residential, commercial, industrial, and public land uses to guide orderly development and prevent land use conflicts. The plan includes a future land use map and policies to manage growth, annexation, and land preservation.
- **Housing and Neighborhoods:** Strategies to provide a variety of housing types and price ranges, maintain neighborhood quality, and accommodate future population needs. The 2015 plan set housing goals for affordable options, senior housing, and upkeep of existing housing stock.
- **Public Facilities and Infrastructure:** Plans for maintaining and expanding infrastructure (water, sewer, roads) and city facilities in line with growth. For example, ensuring sewer and water capacity for new development and coordinating improvements with growth areas.
- **Transportation:** Goals to improve road safety, connectivity, and maintenance. The existing plan addressed street improvements, support for walkability and trail development, and coordination with state and county transportation plans.
- **Economic Development:** Policies to support downtown revitalization, attract businesses, expand the tax base, and promote tourism. The plan set a vision for a thriving local economy and identified opportunity sites for commercial or industrial expansion.

- **Parks and Environmental Resources:** Plans to enhance parks, recreation, and open space, and to protect natural resources. The 2015 plan included goals for park expansion as the city grows, preservation of the Long Prairie River corridor, and environmental stewardship in land use decisions.
- **Implementation:** An action plan outlining short-term and long-term steps. The existing plan’s implementation chapter gave a list of action items such as updating zoning maps, pursuing funding for infrastructure, and coordinating with the township on annexation agreements, and:

WHEREAS, this 2015 comprehensive plan has guided Long Prairie’s development over the last decade. The zoning code was kept consistent with the plan, for instance, any rezoning or conditional use permit today must be compatible with the plan’s future land use map and goals. Overall, the existing plan’s main objective is to promote a “prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable” Long Prairie, providing a legal foundation for land use controls and ensuring that growth occurs in the public’s interest. However, by 2024 the City recognized the need to update its plan to address emerging issues and to keep the vision relevant. Rather than discarding the well-established 2015 plan, the City is choosing to amend the plan to include new parameters. This supplemental plan developed in partnership with Region Five Development Commission, keeps the existing plan in place but incorporates new ideas and correct any gaps in the current plan without losing the valuable groundwork already laid, and:

WHEREAS, the proposed addendum, completed in 2025, builds on community input gathered thru surveys and meetings and introduces updated priorities, and help guide, along with the existing plan, Long Prairies next 10 to 15 years of growth, and:

- WHEREAS, the new focus drafted by Region 5 plan is organized around six broad themes – Built, Social, Individual, Cultural, Political, and Environmental – to ensure a holistic approach. Under each theme, specific topics are addressed:
 - *Built:* Emphasis on Broadband expansion, modern transportation needs, community facilities, housing availability, and brownfield redevelopment. This reflects new priorities like improving internet connectivity and addressing vacant/underused industrial sites, which were not prominent in the 2015 plan.

- *Social*: Focus on community services, such as improving access to childcare, public safety, and health services. The new plan recognizes changing social needs and aims to strengthen services that support families and a safe community.
- *Individual*: Focus on food security and individual well-being. This is an addition – ensuring residents have access to healthy food and basic needs – aligning with broader community health initiatives.
- *Cultural*: Emphasis on creating a welcoming community and opportunities for innovation. The plan includes strategies to celebrate cultural diversity (important in Long Prairie’s increasingly diverse population) and to support innovative local entrepreneurship.
- *Political*: This theme addresses governance and zoning. Notably, the draft highlights updates needed in the *Political – Zoning* section to ensure the city’s land use regulations promote the new vision. It effectively links the comprehensive plan with zoning code updates, underlining that zoning decisions should reflect the plan’s goals (e.g., encouraging desired land uses).
- *Environmental*: Enhanced focus on energy efficiency, stormwater management, soil and water quality, waste management, and parks/recreation. The proposed plan places sustainability front and center – for example, encouraging renewable energy use, better stormwater controls, and expanding parks – in part due to funding and guidance from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency during plan development.
- **Community Engagement**: Developed with assistance from R5DC, the plan was informed by local input. Community members met at a kickoff meeting in January 2024 and subsequently planned team meetings. A public survey garnered 186 responses, identifying community issues and aspirations. The emphasis on public input aligns with best practices, making the plan a reflection of community voices.
- **Strategic Vision and Goals**: The proposed plan articulates a fresh Vision Statement for Long Prairie: “*Long Prairie will be a community where all residents feel welcome and have access to an excellent quality of life...*” and so on. From this vision, it sets updated goals and strategies. Many goals reinforce or build upon the 2015 plan’s objectives but with a contemporary twist – for example, adding goals for digital infrastructure

(broadband), inclusive community programming, and resilience against environmental challenges. These additions ensure the city's policy direction keeps pace with changing times (technology, inclusivity, climate resilience, etc.).

- **Energy and Environment Emphasis:** A distinguishing feature of the Region 5 plan is its energy and environment focus, supported by MPCA's Community Resilience funding. It introduces goals for sustainability that were not as prominent before – like promoting energy-efficient buildings, planning for solar or other renewable energy, and detailed stormwater and flood management policies. For instance, the plan might recommend updating building codes for energy efficiency or mapping flood-prone areas for better land use decisions. This new environmental chapter strengthens the city's commitment to green practices, and:

WHEREAS, in summary, the proposed addendum aligns with the broad vision of the existing plan (prosperous, inclusive growth) while introducing important new priorities and corrections. It is forward-looking on technology and sustainability and responds to community needs that have emerged in the last 8–10 years. The addendum's goals largely complement the 2015 plan's goals: where the old plan focused on foundational needs (land use, basic infrastructure, etc.), the new plan adds layers of social and environmental initiatives. Together, they give Long Prairie a more comprehensive roadmap for the future. Changes or additions in the proposed plan related to the old plan include new topic areas (broadband, food security), updated community vision, stronger environmental policies, and identification of some gaps in current policy (like the need for a formal future land use update and better implementation metrics). These changes are designed to enhance, not replace, the city's established planning framework. Importantly, the decision was made to adopt this as an addendum, thereby retaining the existing plan in force.

NOW, THEREFORE, Long Prairie followed this process. On May 27, 2025, the Long Prairie Planning & Zoning Commission held a public hearing to consider the proposed plan addendum and its incorporation into the City's zoning code framework. After reviewing public input and discussing the content, and at a follow-up meeting on June 24, 2025, the Planning Commission formally recommended adoption of the Region 5 Comprehensive Plan Update as an addendum to the existing comprehensive plan. This recommendation is a key milestone; it indicates the Commission's support and triggers Council action. Because this is being approved as an addendum, a second Public

Hearing was held on August 26th, 2025, by the Planning Commission to gather further input on this being an addendum, rather than a stand along Comprehensive Plan update.

Some details of this step and ongoing action:

- **Public Hearings:** Two notices of public hearings were published and posted in accordance with statutes at least 10 days prior to the meetings and the meetings were legally posted. Residents and stakeholders had an opportunity to comment. No major opposition to the plan addendum was recorded, and the Commission saw the value in moving forward at both hearings.
- **Commission Deliberation:** The Planning Commission consists of members tasked with ensuring planning consistency. They discussed how the addendum fits with the City's goals and any issues in the draft. They took additional time to review the draft after the Public Hearing, and at their June 24th meeting, as well as the follow-up meeting on August 26th, 2025 the Planning Commission *recommended that the City Council adopt this plan as an addendum, given that the existing 2015 plan remains in effect and provides the necessary backbone and that this new document adds value on important topics.* In other words, the Commission agreed that the combination of the old plan plus the new supplement would serve the city better than the old plan alone.
- **As Follow-Up:** The Planning Commission is directed to continue work to update the plan over the next year, to update areas in the Plan that still need to be amended in the original plan, and not addressed in the amendment, and to debate, address, and amend the Plan as is needed, to hold the requisite meetings, and use the resources necessary, to complete this task.

ADOPTED by the City on this 10th day of September, 2025. CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE,

MINNESOTA.



James Kreemer, Mayor



Candace Bruder, City Administrator