

CHAPTER 2 - VISION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 VISION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

During and following the public input process, a clear and specific vision statement capturing the goals and intentions of the project was developed, to accurately describe the desired outcome of the ITP.

Shared Use Trail Plan - Vision Statement

Imagine Yorkville has evolved its non-vehicular transportation system into a cohesive and connected network of trails, consisting of walkable and bikeable streets and ample greenways. This integrated system accommodates users of all ability levels and is safe and accessible for all users. The City's trail network provides a variety of recreational opportunities such as running, walking, and bicycling, and connects important recreational destinations, such as Yorkville parks, Kendall County Forest Preserves, the water park, local gyms and other facilities. Safety features such as landscaping and lighting provide a sense of security. Continued maintenance and high quality design of the trails maintain the infrastructure in useable condition, as well as create a pleasing environment for its users. The trails within Yorkville create opportunities for people to use other modes of transportation to reach shopping, places of employment, residential neighborhoods, schools and other key destinations. While implementation of the Vision will take many years, this future scenario is the ultimate vision of the *Shared Use Trail Plan*.

Downtown Streetscape Plan - Vision Statement

Imagine downtown Yorkville being a lively place where people can meet, eat, shop, and live—a place that celebrates its history and embraces its rich natural environment located on the Fox River. The sense of place and ambiance is unique and memorable. Signs leading to the downtown make it easy to find, welcoming visitors and residents to town. These attractive “gateways” frame each approach to downtown Yorkville, and the friendly atmosphere and unique character provides visitors with a lasting impression. There is truly a unique sense of place that provides a pedestrian-friendly environment enhanced by a great streetscape. The downtown consists of tree-lined streets, inviting sidewalks, attractive street lighting, colorful landscaping, well-maintained storefronts and public areas, appealing street furniture, and welcoming green spaces. Residents and visitors are attracted to downtown Yorkville because of its unique sense of place, aesthetically pleasing environment and natural features such as the Fox River.

Shared Use Trail - Goals and Objectives

The following goals for the Shared Use Trail Plan provide the context for the specific policies and recommendations discussed in the ITP. The goals support the long-term vision and serve as the foundation of the plan. The goals are broad and general statements of purpose, not intended to provide details, but show the plan's direction and provide overall guidance. The corresponding objectives provide more specific descriptions and methods to achieve each goal.

GOAL 1: IMPROVE THE EXISTING TRAIL NETWORK SYSTEM

Objective 1: Improve and expand the existing trail system, by completing and connecting to local trail networks and adding trail segments in high priority corridors.

GOAL 2: FACILITATE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Objective 1: Provide multiple opportunities for residents of Yorkville and the surrounding area to provide input and ideas regarding the Integrated Transportation Plan. This objective was accomplished by establishing a Task Force and conducting a series of meetings with stakeholders, including local, county and state officials, business owners, land developers, property owners, and citizens.

GOAL 3: PROVIDE CONNECTIVITY

Objective 1: Complete a network of trails that accommodate bicycle and pedestrian modes of travel, especially to key destinations such as employment centers, residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, recreational facilities, civic establishments, future transit stops, and commercial centers.

Objective 2: Focus on local connections and implementing trail connections where gaps or uncompleted trail corridors currently exist.

Objective 3: Create “loops” north and south of the Fox River of various lengths (short, medium, and long) that are high priority and connect to existing trail systems.

Objective 4: Coordinate regional trail connections with adjacent and nearby municipalities.

GOAL 4: ENSURE SAFETY AND SECURITY

Objective 1: Improve overall safety and security of existing and future shared use trail facilities for all users.

Objective 2: Seek funding and grants for

improvements to walkways and bike routes surrounding schools.

Objective 3: Implement appropriate signage, lighting, pavement markings and comply with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

Objective 4: Provide recommendations for implementing traffic calming techniques and minimizing conflict zones.

GOAL 5: DESIGN STANDARDS

Objective 1: Provide or reference established standards and guidelines for the shared use trail, to accommodate safe non-vehicular travel (such as bicycling and walking).

Objective 2: Provide or reference established guidelines and specifications for developing bicycle and pedestrian-friendly streets.

Objective 3: Incorporate theme and design standards, to integrate the community character within the trail system and focus on aesthetic quality.

GOAL 6: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Objective 1: Protect and enhance the Fox River watershed, by utilizing environmentally-friendly techniques, such as Best Management Practices (BMP's).

Objective 2: Emphasize the use of drought-tolerant and native trees, wildflowers and grasses along the shared use trail.

Objective 3: Highlight the Fox River as a major component of the shared use trail system.

GOAL 7: FUNDING

Objective 1: Explore and identify available federal and state funding to construct and maintain future pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Objective 2: Establish a method for all future road improvements to include bicycle or walking accommodations and/or contribute funds to the shared use trail system.

Objective 3: Explore other revenue sources, such as including the shared use trail system in the annual capital expense budget, and requiring new developments to contribute funds.

GOAL 8: CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS

Objective 1: Utilize Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS), in order to blend the Shared Use Trail Plan with the character of Yorkville's existing neighborhoods and the surrounding region.



Downtown Streetscape Plan - Goals and Objectives

GOAL 1: DOWNTOWN AS A DESTINATION

Objective 1: Contribute to the revitalization of Yorkville's downtown and create a destination that becomes the centerpiece of the community by improving accessibility via walking and bicycling.

Objective 2: Improve access and visibility to the Fox River, and integrate multiple recreational opportunities along the Fox River corridor.

Objective 3: Maximize riverfront connectivity opportunities such as the Bicentennial Riverfront Park, river walk, whitewater recreation facility, fishing and other recreational amenities.

GOAL 2: FACILITATE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Objective 1: Provide multiple opportunities for residents of Yorkville and the surrounding area to provide input and ideas regarding the Integrated Transportation Plan. Accomplish this objective by establishing a Task Force and conducting a series of meetings with stakeholders, including local, county and state officials, business owners, land developers, property owners, and citizens.

GOAL 3: IMPROVE ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

Objective 1: Improve pedestrian access to and between key elements, such as the existing downtown storefronts, Bicentennial Riverfront Park, future plazas, key overlooks, and the Fox River.

Objective 2: Focus on providing trails and walkways connecting the downtown core area to residential areas throughout Yorkville.

GOAL 4: ESTABLISH THEME AND CHARACTER

Objective 1: Establish a unique and identifiable theme for the downtown that ties into its historical character.

Objective 2: Create ideas and conceptual sketches for "gateway" features, to establish a sense of arrival into the downtown.

Objective 3: Identify theme features that can be replicated within the trail system (i.e. directional signage), to tie the downtown to the surrounding community.

GOAL 5: DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Objective 1: Develop general streetscape design standards and guidelines, establishing a model for pedestrian environments to be consistent with the course of future development in the downtown.

Objective 2: Create design standards, to require inclusion of pedestrian-friendly features in the downtown area.

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