

Purpose of this Plan

The purpose of comprehensive planning, quite simply, is to improve the community. Local units of government such as the Village of Dunlap must serve many functions and address several different issues to become vibrant, attractive places and help residents attain a high quality of life. Planning is necessary to achieve these outcomes. Thus, comprehensive plans are developed to address a variety of community topics and concerns and put forth recommendations for community improvements.

Comprehensive plans typically address future land use by identifying desired changes in land development of all land subject to the planning jurisdiction of a community. In Illinois, that area has been defined as all land within one mile and a half of the corporate limits. Illinois law gives communities with a comprehensive plan specific regulatory controls within that area. This allows the community to make land use decisions outside their corporate boundaries.

This plan for Dunlap will address the Village as it exists today and the mile-and-a-half planning area that surrounds it. See **Figure 15** in the Land Use section for an illustration of the land area included in this plan.

While future land use is an important topic for a community to address, it is just one topic. A comprehensive plan addresses a variety of issues, and it should address the issues that are of greatest concerns to an individual community. Therefore, a “one size fits all” approach to comprehensive planning does not work; a useful, well-developed comprehensive plan addresses a community’s most pressing issues to reflect the unique situation of that community.

The comprehensive planning process is a means a community can utilize to develop a vision that answers the question, “How can our community become an even better place to live, work, and visit?” A comprehensive plan document gives a snapshot of a community and acts as a guide or blueprint to achieve residents’ vision for the future.

The comprehensive plan acts as a guide and looks 20 years into the future. However, the plan is not a static document and should be reviewed and updated every 5-10 years. The comprehensive plan is not an ordinance; however, changes to the Village’s zoning or subdivision ordinances may be a result of the planning process.