



Envision Oak Park Work Group Series: Workshop #2 Participant Instructions

Side A: Workshop #2 Assignment

Welcome back to the Envision Oak Park Work Group Series!

Before we get into the instructions for workshop #2, we want to thank you for making workshop #1 a success! Now it's time for workshop #2, where you'll have a chance to review the results of your work and provide more detailed input for goals and objectives.

Intended Outcome of Workshop #2: Plan Element Goals and Objectives

Workshop #2 will focus on developing more detailed goals and objectives to attain your vision. These goals and objectives may be built on very specific ideas that were discussed in workshop #1, or be new ideas not yet discussed. **Each work group will be asked to outline a series of 5-7 goals related to their plan element, with 4-7 specific objectives aimed at achieving each goal.**

NOTE: See the next page for a description and examples of goals and objectives.

Background Materials

The following materials will be available to help your work group in this task:

- Attached you will find the **draft Vision Statement and Statement of Importance** for your plan element. This is for your review prior to workshop #2. (**NOTE: At this point in the process, it is critical to ensure that the draft Vision Statement and Statement of Importance capture the important themes discussed among your work group. However, specific wording may change as individual elements are incorporated into a cohesive Comprehensive Plan document.**)
- **Please bring your Community Reference Book** to the workshop and use as a resource in discussing more specific goals and objectives.
- Each work group will be provided a **Village-wide base map** to document where site-specific goals or objectives may apply. You can use your Community Reference Book to jot down initial thoughts to bring to the workshop.

IMPORTANT:

Your Homework Assignment for Workshop #2

During the workshop, you will be asked to provide reaction to the work generated as a result of workshop #1, and input regarding specific goals and objectives that will help attain the vision for your plan element. To foster conversation during the workshop, please bring the following three prepared materials with you:

- 1. Comments regarding the draft Vision Statement and Statement of Importance.**
- 2. 3-5 overarching goals related to your plan element, and**
- 3. For each overarching goal, 2-3 specific objectives or actions that will help make the goal attainable.**

NOTE: Bring your materials written out or typed on a sheet of paper. Your facilitator will be collecting the papers to ensure that your thoughts get integrated into the development of goals and objectives.



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Side B: Goals and Objectives Description and Examples

Comprehensive Plans typically present recommendations in a way that leads the reader from very general ideas to very specific recommendations. This starts with a broad vision, then is followed by goals and objectives for various types of improvements, then culminates with specific recommendations and implementation strategies.

- **Goals** describe desired end situations toward which planning efforts should be directed. They are broad and long-range.
- **Objectives** describe more specific actions that should be undertaken by the Village to make progress toward the overall goals. They provide more precise and measurable guidelines for planning action.

Example

Since pedestrian mobility was identified as a key issue in Oak Park, we'll use it as an example of how it can be reflected in a goal and series of objectives. *NOTE: The following examples are intended to be generic and may not capture the broad set of issues and priorities discussed to date. Each work group should rely on the dialogue to develop specific and context-appropriate goals and objectives that reflect work group dialogue and site-specific issues or needs.*

Under the general topic of Transportation and Infrastructure, let's assume the work group identifies the following overarching **goals**:

1. Enhance the availability of parking in strategic locations throughout the Village.
2. Clarify parking policies throughout the Village.
3. Minimize the negative impacts of the major transportation corridors through Oak Park.
4. Enhance local transit access between different portions of the Village.
5. Maximize the safety and effectiveness of the pedestrian network.
6. Make all parts of the Village accessible to people with disabilities.
7. Utilize infrastructure investment as a way to make Oak Park competitive for jobs and business development.

Within each goal, a series of specific **objectives** or actions can be identified. For example, using *goal #5: Maximize the safety and effectiveness of the pedestrian network*, the work group may identify the following **objectives**:

Goal 5: Maximize the safety and effectiveness of the pedestrian network.

Objectives

1. Conduct a Village-wide survey to inventory locations where sidewalks don't exist or are in poor condition.
2. Modify zoning regulations to require adequate pedestrian infrastructure between development and areas of high pedestrian traffic (i.e. public sidewalks, transit stops, etc.)
3. Modify Public Works standards to include crosswalk design standards that ensure highly-visible pedestrian zones and exceed ADA requirements for accessibility.
4. Install adequate pedestrian lighting along all sidewalk segments in the public right-of-way or on properties hosting public uses or activities.
5. Encourage the use of buffers, on-street parking, landscaping and other techniques to shield pedestrians from vehicular traffic.

WORKING DRAFT: For Working Group Review

Statements of Importance and Vision Statements

The Village of Oak Park is currently undertaking a process to update its Comprehensive Plan. This process and subsequent Plan, known as Envision Oak Park, includes extensive public engagement in order to create a Plan that is driven by Oak Park's unique challenges, opportunities, and desires. This includes a series of three Working Group Workshops in which resident experts have assisted in drafting recommendations for the Plan's eleven technical elements. These elements include:

- Land Use and Built Environment
- Arts and Culture
- Parks, Open Space, and Environmental Features
- Neighborhoods, Housing, and Diversity
- Education
- Community Health and Safety
- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Community Life and Engagement
- Economic Health and Vitality
- Environmental Sustainability
- Governmental Excellence

The first Working Group Workshop, held on April 23, 2013, focused on the development of a Statement of Importance and Vision Statement for each plan element.

- The ***Statement of Importance*** establishes the context for why each plan element is uniquely important to the quality of life in Oak Park.
- The ***Vision Statement*** articulates an ideal for each plan element. It is written as a retrospective, describing how things are in the year 2030.

These statements capture the “big-picture” issues, concerns and aspirations for each working group. They are intended to be brief and general. More specific recommendations will be created during Working Group Workshop #2, which will focus on the drafting of goals and objectives aimed at attaining each element's vision.

Parks, Open Space, and Environmental Features

Statement of Importance

Parks, open spaces, and environmental features offer critical links to Oak Park residents; links to nature in an otherwise urban context; links to the community's history and those who shaped it; links to an active and healthy lifestyle; and links to its identity as a place of harmony between the natural and built environments. Parks, open spaces, and environmental features are critical in defining the character of Oak Park, and they are also the most costly assets to lose since they can take so long to replace.

Parks and open spaces are fundamental building blocks of healthy neighborhoods. They provide places for social interaction among Oak Park's diverse community, as well as opportunities for active lifestyles that promote community health. They create a common element between neighborhoods of different character, and stitch together the village through a shared experience in different neighborhoods. This is in line with the vision of Olmsted, Jensen, Burnham and other designers who viewed parks and open spaces as the social and physical glue to a community's fabric.

Trees are an iconic symbol of Oak Park's history and perhaps the most important natural resource in Oak Park. They help define neighborhood character, enhance the vibrancy of commercial districts, and soften the impacts of major transportation corridors. They also provide habitats for local species, clean oxygen, mulch, shade, and assist in flood prevention.

Vision Statement

The Vision Statement describes Parks, Open Space, and Environmental Features as they exist in Oak Park in 2030.

Parks, open spaces, and environmental features are a distinctive element of Oak Park's neighborhoods, commercial districts, and public spaces. Parks and open spaces host a broad range of recreational and educational opportunities. They are used by residents of all ages and abilities for sports, activities, instruction, and general recreation. They are also a testing ground for innovative planning and design techniques aimed at making Oak Park a more sustainable community.

Partnerships among Oak Park, other local governments, and surrounding communities have maximized the benefits of community open spaces. Sustainable materials minimize the impacts of maintenance on the natural environment, and open spaces are used to manage stormwater runoff and minimize stress on the Village's combined sewer system. The Village uses public streets, complete with landscaping, trails, sidewalks, and signage, to connect open spaces throughout Oak Park. This system of open spaces has become more robust as new local parks have been built in order to provide greater local access to recreational and environmental benefits.

Oak Park's trees have flourished as a result of a comprehensive forestry management plan involving the Village and local school and park districts. As a result, mature trees occupy local streets, commercial districts, parks, campuses, and private lots. Each residential street is its own picturesque setting reflective of the character enjoyed by many previous generations, and commercial areas are visited by shoppers who enjoy the attractive environment.

Working Draft – for review and discussion purposes only