

Executive Summary





The City of Mt. Vernon's Comprehensive Plan 2019 will become the chief tool to enable the management of growth and the delivery of public services in a timely and efficient manner. As the City continues to grow, the challenge is to direct growth appropriately to retain the qualities that residents have come to cherish. In order to improve the quality of living in Mt. Vernon, it is crucial that the City take all appropriate and necessary planning measures.

Planning is a process of formulating goals and the policies or objectives necessary to achieve them. The City's Comprehensive Plan is a valuable tool to City government, its citizens and the private sector. It is an articulation of policy from the City Council which describes a vision for the future which allows the Council and the Planning Commission to coordinate their policies and actions to guide City development. The major purposes of this Comprehensive Plan are to:

- Establish a community vision
- Coordinate growth and development
- Ensure economic stability
- Protect valuable natural resources
- Guide private sector
- Improve the City's competitive ability to receive technical assistance and grants
- Provide the legal basis for City zoning and subdivision regulations

One of the major issues facing the City of Mt. Vernon today is finding a balance between growth and economic stability, while maintaining the City's small-town character and feel. With the introduction of the new interchange, the City will have a great number of opportunities for growth. It is crucial, then, that the City take the Goals and Objectives set forth in this document and use their advice in order to ensure smart and successful growth.

This Comprehensive Plan provides policy guidance for addressing future issues within the context of the framework of the Plan, including Quality of Life, Economic Development, Land Use, and Infrastructure.



These Goals and Objectives developed in each area are based on facts and findings in the Plan, as well as responses from Mt. Vernon residents to a community planning survey, and concerned citizens who served on individual sub-committees. The public sector played a crucial role in the planning process, not only in providing their input via surveys, but also in serving on the various sub-committees.