

Illustrating Our Vision

A scenic landscape featuring a deep blue lake in the foreground, framed by a variety of coniferous and deciduous trees. In the background, a massive, rugged mountain range with sharp peaks rises against a clear, light blue sky. The mountains are partially covered in snow and ice, with dense forests clinging to their slopes. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and tranquility.

Illustrating our Vision?

Defining how we want to grow to protect our environment and preserve are character is stressed in the Vision, CV-1, CV-2 and CV-3. Character is often defined as distinctive traits, qualities and attributes of a place. Many in the planning field use the term “sense of place” to describe character. The preservation of the community’s character is essential in both rural areas and our complete neighborhoods.

The Comprehensive Plan provides the direction on where and how we want to grow in order to preserve the natural environment we love and ability to live and work in our own community. To many new development mean the loss of character. However, there are examples where new development mitigates the negative impacts of growth, brings amenities, improves the quality of develop and reinforces the sense of character. The following section is the physical embodiment of environmental stewardship (CV-1), growth management (CV-2) and community character (CV-3).

Character districts are defined as complete communities in a specific geographic area, amongst whom there are present shared values, social interaction, and common natural, visual, cultural architectural and physical attributes. Although we are one community, every place has uniqueness, whether it is the ability to walk to a store or play with kids in the park. Character districts will be defined as either rural areas or complete neighborhoods (new, evolving or existing).

Character districts will illustrate the Comprehensive Plan by applying the three common values:

- Common Value 1 – Environmental Stewardship - will define the critical environmental lands and associated buffers within a character district based on Town, County, State and Federal regulations. These areas could form preservation areas, wildlife corridors, park, greenway and trail locations.
- Common Value 2 - Growth Management - For the rural character districts, areas of preservation, sensitive resource areas and existing and future rural development will be identified. For complete neighborhoods Character Districts, areas of transition and stability will be identified including mixed use and residential areas.
- Common Value 3 - Community Character – For areas of stability, current patterns will be generally replications as well as additional amenities and improvements identified to reinforce the areas character. For areas of transition, the character of future development will be defined that meets the communities vision and contributes to the character of the district.

The following section depicts Character District components of the Comprehensive Plan.

Where
Where Not
Change/
Stability
What