

INTRODUCTION

This section of the Comprehensive Plan discusses the vision that the citizens of the Village of Volente have for their community and how the vision is to be translated into reality through goals, objectives and strategies. The Baseline Analysis element presents a snapshot of the Village as it exists today. This section conveys the vision of the ultimate physical and social settings that the citizens desire to find in the Village when all its lands have been developed and its population has reached its peak. The plans following this section discuss the specific means to achieve the vision.

VISION STATEMENT

In 2003, the Village adopted the following statement of its citizen shared vision of what Volente should become:

“We the citizens of the Village of Volente believe in

- Civic Pride**
- Environmental Awareness**
- Minimal Government**
- Diversity and Friendship**
- Privacy and Individuality.**

We are dedicated to remaining united and working together as friends, neighbors, and citizens for the protection and preservation of the natural beauty and uniqueness of our country village and family way of life.

We will endeavor to protect the quality of life for future generations and ourselves. We envision a cohesive lakeside village that promotes harmony and diversity of community, inclusive of all socio-economic strata and age groups. We will protect our environment and ensure responsible and appropriate land use. We will keep our village safe from injury, crime and pollution. We will preserve our right to remain private in our daily lives, but at the same time promote civic pride and sense of community.

We believe in minimal government regulation and taxation. As empowered citizens we will constructively participate in, question, and oversee our elected government. We understand the community will face challenges and a sufficient level of government will be provided to protect this vision and our core values.”

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

Throughout the comprehensive planning process, the Village has extensively solicited its citizens for their views and opinions on the future of Volente. The planning process has involved a significant number of community volunteers who represent the broad socio economic spectrum that characterizes the Village, through planning committees, an appointed Steering Committee, and numerous public townhall meetings. This two-way dialogue between the Village, and its citizens was further strengthened and more clearly focused through a community-wide citizen survey. The

result of the community-wide dialogue clearly indicated the citizens views concerning the future of Volente and the quality of life desired. The following General Conclusions are summaries of the primary issues that have resulted from the dialogue with the community.

CRITICAL ISSUES

The dialogue with the citizens of Volente helped to identify Critical Issues that the community feels will remain of vital concern as the village grows in the future. Those issues include:

- Maintaining a rural atmosphere.
- Managing local traffic.
- Protecting the environment.
- Minimizing local government.
- Minimizing taxes.
- Protecting the uniqueness of the Village.
- Preserving the family way of life.

COMMUNITY-WIDE SURVEY

In order to solicit the views and opinions of the larger body of the community who might not otherwise participate in the comprehensive planning process or attend townhall meetings, the Village conducted a community-wide survey of public opinion on a wide range of issues and topics. The survey was mailed to [insert number] persons, representing all property owners in Volente and [insert description of recipients]. The Village received [insert #] written responses, representing an astonishing [insert%] percent response. The citizen's responses to the survey were translated into goals, strategies and objectives by an appointed Steering Committee. The results of the survey were discussed with the public in a series of townhall meetings. A summary of the survey is included in Appendix A. The Steering Committee used the results of the community-wide survey to formulate the goals, strategies and objectives of the seven individual plans of the Comprehensive Plan.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

The Comprehensive Plan goals, objectives and strategies were developed using the results of the community-wide survey, from discussions among the Steering Committee members, from input from elected officials, and from other interested individuals.

Goals are general statements concerning an aspect of the Village's desired ultimate physical, social and/or economic environment. Goals are compatible with the Vision Statement and set the tone for development decisions in terms of the community's desired quality of life.

Objectives express the major kinds of actions that are necessary to achieve the stated goals without assigning responsibility to any specific action.

Strategies are detailed steps to implement the desired objectives and may assign responsibilities.

Policies clarify the specific position of the Village regarding a specific objective and encourage specific courses of action for the community to undertake to achieve the applicable stated objective. Policies are associated with Comprehensive Plan recommendations and are identified in each individual masterplan.

Goals, objectives and strategies have been developed for the following areas:

- Thoroughfares and Transportation;
- Environmental Quality;
- Parks and Open Spaces;
- Community Image;
- Public Services and Facilities;
- Public Water Utilities; and
- Future Land use

THOROUGHFARES AND TRANSPORTATION

Goal: Provide an acceptable level of mobility and accessibility for the residents of the Village of Volente that is safe, with the least detrimental effects.

Objectives and Strategies

(a) Provide safe thoroughfares

- (1) participate in CAMPO planning process;
- (2) cooperate with TxDOT in assessing safety improvements to FM 2769, including traffic control devices, improved lines of sights, proper posted speed limits, improved intersections, safe crossing areas and details, and middle turn lanes;
- (3) encourage TxDOT to perform traffic counts;
- (4) establish by ordinance minimum roadway and right-of-way safe design standards;
- (5) establish by ordinance minimum pavement and access design standards for emergency vehicle access;
- (6) establish safe corridors to be used to route local hike and bike trails to keep such traffic off local streets and thoroughfares;
- (7) require by ordinance sidewalks in high traffic areas to provide safe pedestrian and bike access;
- (8) designate safe crossing areas along FM 2769 and Lime Creek Road.

(b) Minimize congestion

- (1) establish by ordinance standards for traffic impact studies to be performed for proposed developments;
- (2) establish by ordinance criteria for judging the extent of traffic impacts and the means for mitigating traffic impacts;
- (3) establish by ordinance criteria for minimizing delays at intersections;

- (4) work with TxDOT to make improvements to FM 279 to maintain travel times less than 3.00 minutes per mile;
- (5) establish by ordinance criteria to minimize delays and congestion on Village streets and thoroughfares;
- (6) work with TxDOT to improve intersections such that wait times are less than 40 seconds for more than 50% of the waiting vehicles;
- (7) establish by ordinance criteria to minimize wait times along the intersections of the Village's streets and thoroughfares;
- (8) encourage by education commuter programs (e.g. ride share, mass/rapid transit, flexible work hours, etc.); and
- (9) Discourage freight traffic.

(c) Minimize impacts to environmental quality

- (1) establish by ordinance criteria for treating pollutants in runoff from paved surfaces that meets or exceeds LCRA and City of Austin (COA) water quality standards;
- (2) participate in regional efforts to reduce pollution emissions;
- (3) designate allowable transportation corridors for routing new roadways.

(d) Encourage alternative modes of transportation and commuting systems

- (1) participate in the Capitol Metro system;
- (2) encourage by education participation in commuter programs;
- (3) require by ordinance bike lanes on main thoroughfares;
- (4) designate corridors for hike and bike trails and establish by ordinance criteria for dedication and construction of such trails.

(e) Balance thoroughfare capacity growth with community image

- (1) participate in the CAMPO planning process;
- (2) cooperate with TxDOT in its planning process;
- (3) restrict by ordinance the over construction of roadway capacity;
- (4) assign by ordinance the impervious cover of existing thoroughfares against the impervious cover allowances for new development;
- (5) restrict the allowable corridors within which thoroughfares and streets may be constructed;
- (6) discourage by ordinance the widening of existing streets and thoroughfares that damage neighborhoods and critical environmental features;
- (7) require by ordinance that private streets be designed and constructed to the same standards as for public streets.

(f) Minimize the resources burden to own and maintain public streets to exercise fiscal responsibility

- (1) restrict by ordinance the dedication of additional public streets and rights-of-way;
- (2) require by ordinance the optimizing of design of public road pavements that will result in a service life of at least 20 years;

- (3) consider the use of a road maintenance tax;
- (4) establish a road maintenance and capital improvements program;
- (5) require the dedication of sufficient right-of-way along FM 2769 and Lime Creek Road for future roadway improvements so to minimize future roadway costs and land acquisition costs.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Goal: Provide an environment of clean air, clean water, and clean land for the citizens of Volente and provide a safe, sustainable habitat for wildlife, while attempting to maintain the Volente Vision of minimal government, regulation and spending.

(a) Clean Air: Protect human health and the environment through ordinances and/or public education aimed at attaining and maintaining health-based air quality standards and reducing the risk from toxic air pollutants.

Restrict by ordinance and/or zoning businesses or other activities which use, sell or emit pollutants which have the potential to impact the air quality in Volente or the surrounding region. For example:

- (1) Require the use of low-emission asphaltic products and prohibit use of cut-back asphalt especially between April 26th and September 15th of any year (per TCEQ guidelines);
- (2) Require the use of low VOC architectural and industrial maintenance coatings;
- (3) Require the use of low VOC stripping compounds;
- (4) Require restrictions on burning common household trash;
- (5) Participate in the Austin/Round Rock MSA Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP) to improve regional air quality, especially with respect to the federal 8-hour standard for ground-level ozone;
- (6) Restrict sale and use of ozone-depleting substances;
- (7) Encourage Leander School District to retrofit and replace aging school buses with new cleaner technology buses and fuels to reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust and to improve air quality;
- (8) Develop a list of restricted businesses uses (see the Environmental Quality element of the Comprehensive Plan) with respect to their potential for contributing to air pollution;
- (9) Encourage the Pedernales Electric Coop, and other energy providers to provide options for public participation in alternative, clean air electric power energy sources (e.g. hydropower, wind);

- (10) Encourage Capital Metro to provide increased service to Volente to facilitate the use of rapid transit and park-and-ride facilities;
- (11) Encourage the use of energy efficient appliances, including electric lawnmowers;
- (12) Recommend that developmental ordinances require all commercial parking lots, roadways and driveways be paved in order to reduce air pollution from dust.

(b) Clean Water: Protect the drinking water by protecting watersheds and aquifers, and their aquatic ecosystems to protect human health, to support economic and recreational activities, and to provide healthy habitat for fish, plants and wildlife.

- (1) Restrict by ordinance activities which have the potential to adversely affect the local groundwater and surface water quality through improper discharges, run off or other mechanisms. For example:
 - (A) Adopt and ensure compliance with the LCRA Non-Point Source (NPS) pollution control ordinance for Lake Travis which requires removal of 70 to 90% of total suspended solids, total phosphorus, and oil and grease, depending on proximity to the shore and natural slope;
 - (B) Adopt by ordinance standards which limit the impervious cover for new single-family residential developments to 20% maximum and for new multi-family residential and non-residential developments to 35% maximum;
 - (C) Control bank erosion so as to not increase the amount of erosion and sedimentation into the receiving water bodies;
 - (D) Encourage single-family residential developments to adopt vegetative buffers for treatment of runoff and other overland flows;
 - (E) Ensure BMP's adopted for stormwater and NPS discharges are practical, not unsightly, and take advantage of new technologies where appropriate;
 - (F) Encourage the use of more efficient sediment control devices such as compost berms in lieu of silt fences, to control stormwater runoff;
 - (G) Require the use of vegetated ditches to slow water flow;
 - (H) Adopt by ordinance LCRA standards for design, construction and operation of septic systems;
 - (I) Require existing septic systems to be inspected periodically (other than only at the time of construction or property sale) to ensure adequate functionality;

- (J) Cooperate with the LCRA to monitor Lake Travis water quality in the immediate village shoreline to maintain a swimmable , fishable, and drinkable (when treated by conventional standards) Lake Travis; and to ensure that nutrient levels in Lake Travis support a healthy, diverse community of plants, fish, insects, and other organisms; and levels of nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, are not so high that they trigger unwanted plant growth, such as algae blooms;
 - (K) Encourage the phasing out of commercial and domestic septic systems as public wastewater system is made available;
 - (L) Restrict by ordinance the disposal of wastes into ground water, including but not limited to discontinuing practices such as the use of used oil for dust control, or disposal of pesticides, herbicides in a manner other than their intended use;
 - (M) Restrict by ordinance littering and the accumulation of waste as a public nuisance, including but not limited to accumulations of waste tires;
 - (N) Encourage local trash disposal service companies to provide recycling services, and household hazardous waste collection days to Volente;
 - (O) Encourage through public education the sale and use of recycled products;
 - (P) Encourage through public education source reduction and waste minimization activities.
- (1) Protect by ordinance the quantity of local groundwater available to the citizens of Volente, by restricting new wells within the Glen Rose aquifer (upper zone of the Trinity aquifer), and work with State of Texas groundwater conservation districts to develop a groundwater management plan for the area
 - (2) Encourage the use of rainwater collection systems on public buildings.
 - (3) Require the protection of critical environmental features.
 - (4) Enact cut and fill restrictions and maximum natural slope restrictions.
 - (5) Encourage, through public education, the sale and use of native plant species.
 - (6) Encourage, by public education, the protection of migratory birds.
 - (7) Establish standards which will ensure the preservation of local trees, including procedures for managing oak wilt.
 - (8) Investigate the possibilities of establishing village owned wildlife conservation lands

- (9) Protect Golden Cheeked Warblers, Black-Capped Vireos, salamanders, and other endangered species that may be in the village boundaries by public education, by preserving natural riparian corridors, habitats and buffers, among other features; and
- (10) Establish village membership and participation in the National Wildlife Refuge System and the Federal Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program as applicable.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Goal: Preserve in an unimpaired state the natural and cultural resources and values of the open spaces, green spaces, greenbelts, buffer zones and significant cultural sites of the village for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of the citizens of Volente, and to further a sense of community.

Definition of open space: Any area used or intended to be used for recreation and/or conservation purposes for an unspecified period of time.

(a) Conserve open space in its natural settings.

- (1) Establish by ordinance and zoning the following amounts of open space:

Recommendations for Volente Village: Based on 20% parkland for open space (averages of other communities, taken from their comprehensive plans), based on a population of 1200 people, this standard translates to 1 acre of parkland per 181 people. This is based on National Recreation and Parks Association standards (www.nrpa.org). Based on these standards, at least 33 acres of open space and 6.63 acres of parkland are recommended.

- (2) Establish by ordinance standards for dedication of open spaces associated with development:
 - (A) Allowable locations: depend on development or commercial plan submitted for approval;
 - (B) Maximum natural slope: preserve slopes of 25% or steeper and locate open spaces on slopes no steeper than 10% if possible;
 - (C) Preservation of vegetation and trees: leave in natural state and preserve as many trees as possible;
 - (D) Allowable uses: all uses referred to in the goal should be allowed;
 - (E) Minimum size: depends on development plan;
 - (F) Contiguous configuration: also depends on development plan on a case-by-case basis.
- (3) Encourage by public education the consideration of open spaces as a community asset. This may be done with the use of speakers at council and other meetings, articles in "Volente View", "Hill Country News", a booth at public functions, and use of model facilities such as The Crossings as an example.

- (4) Establish by ordinance the preservation of native vegetation and trees.
- (b) Protect and conserve historic resources.
- (1) Protection and conservation of historic resources is important to any community, as stated in the 2004 Community Survey. Travis County Historical Association is a resource to assist with this. Anderson Mill Garden Club has historical resource data for the area.
 - (2) A community park for historical heritage education can be combined with a general community park. Assistance may be available from BCCP, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and the Volente Yayas (civic service group).
 - (3) A historical committee may be appointed by the council to help with identification of historic resources in the village, and to make decisions concerning management and maintenance of these resources.
- (c) Protect and conserve sensitive environmental features and wildlife habitat.
- (1) Encourage by public education dedications and preservations of conservation lands. BCCP is a resource for assistance with this.
 - (2) Encourage public access to conservation lands, with assistance from BCCP.
 - (3) Establish a nature park and nature trail(s) in cooperation with LCRA, Texas Parks and Wildlife, BCCP. TPWD has numerous grant and assistance programs available: Small Community Grants (for cities under 20,000 populations, matching funds are required), Outreach Program, Local Park Planning Assistance Program, among others.
 - (4) Define by ordinance the critical environmental features (CEF) that are to be protected and set aside for non-development. An Environmental Assessment Committee may be appointed by the council to assist in this determination.
 - (5) Establish by ordinance criteria for utilization of CEFs and open spaces as natural buffers to help meet water quality standards (see Environmental Quality element of the Comprehensive Plan).
- (d) Provide outdoor parks and open spaces having multi-purpose functions.
- (1) Establish by ordinance and zoning the following types and amounts of multi-purpose public open spaces and parks. The goal suggested by this committee is at least 6 acres for a community park/nature park, etc.
 - (2) Establish by zoning and ordinance the requirements for dedication and allowable uses of multi-purpose open spaces for public use.
 - (3) Establish by zoning corridor(s) of public open spaces and hike and bike trails.
 - (4) Provide educational elements to public open spaces.
 - (5) Encourage by public education and by provision of outdoor parks and open spaces outdoor recreation and physical activity.

COMMUNITY IMAGE

(a) DETERMINE AND REGULATE BY MASTER PLANNING, ORDINANCES AND ZONING HOW AND WHERE DEVELOPMENT OCCURS IN THE VILLAGE.

- (1) Develop a master planning process which incorporates periodic updates and revisions to reflect changing conditions as the Village grows;
- (2) Develop guidelines for development agreements and for Municipal Utility District formation agreements and for Municipal Utility District formation agreements;
- (3) Establish a Future Land Use Map and Zoning Map and develop guidelines for periodic updates and revisions (see Future Land Use Plan); and
- (4) Establish a Planning and Zoning Commission.

(b) IMPROVE AND PROTECT THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE CITIZENS OF VOLENTE.

- (1) Maintain and protect a discreet sense and identity of the Village of Volente.
 - (A) Provide community center space to serve the meeting and assembly needs of the community.
 - (B) Develop an official Village WEB site; and
 - (C) Develop a Village logo and seal, and official website.
- (2) Establish by ordinance, blocks, streets and buildings within the Village that support the objective of a diverse and livable community.
 - (A) Regulate any ancillary buildings used as rental units on residential properties to be in conformity with the maximum allowable density provisions;
 - (B) Reserve by ordinance corridors of sight to maintain uninhibited views of Lake Travis and the surrounding hills; and
 - (C) Encourage streets to interconnect the community to disperse traffic and provide a variety of vehicular routes to any destination within the Village to facilitate access for emergency services.
- (3) Establish non-residential property uses that complement and sustain the community.
 - (A) Locate allowed essential community services in designated non-residential areas only;
 - (B) Discourage strip malls, strip shopping centers and “big-box” retail stores;
 - (C) Discourage drive-through facilities; and
 - (D) Regulate the size and number of buildings in non-residential areas to avoid traffic congestion and to be compatible with the existing community.
- (4) Encourage building, building façade, and architectural treatments which compliment the visual aesthetics of the existing community.

- (A) Encourage the “Hill Country” style of architecture in particular, as well as a diversity of styles, designs and materials in general;
 - (B) Restrict the maximum height of non-residential buildings to one story;
 - (C) Regulate defining the skyline and ridge tops with rooftops;
 - (D) Establish outdoor fencing, wall and screening regulations and encourage the use of natural elements and vegetative landscaping;
 - (E) Establish building codes equivalent to or stricter than the City of Austin’s, for both residential and non-residential construction, to ensure the health and safety of occupants and the preservation of natural beauty; and
 - (F) Restrict cuts and fills from steep natural graded areas and construction in order to control erosion, drainage and runoff.
- (5) Encourage landscaping standards which compliment the visual aesthetics of the existing community and which contribute to the environmental quality of the community.
- (A) Encourage use of native plant species;
 - (B) Discourage use of non-native, invasive plant species;
 - (C) Encourage use of drought-resistant plant species;
 - (D) Discourage use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers;
 - (E) Encourage the preservation of all oak trees that are not located in the “footprint” of future structures;
 - (F) Require landscaped buffer strips between residential and non-residential uses with vegetative screening criteria; and
 - (G) Provide standards for the protection of oak trees against oak wilt.
- (6) Establish by ordinance sign and advertisement standards that protect the visual aesthetics of the community. Establish sign maintenance, repair and removal guidelines to ensure community safety.
- (7) Establish outdoor lighting regulations to preserve the integrity of nighttime darkness and provide for public safety.
- (A) Regulate lighting to minimize light pollution, glare and light overspill onto neighboring residential properties;
 - (B) Restrict widespread use of street lighting, except what is needed for minimum safety standards; and
 - (C) Establish standards for materials and methods of non-residential outdoor lighting installations that included the most current technologies for energy conservation.
- (8) Regulate by ordinance the siting of wireless communication facilities to minimize their aesthetic impact on the existing community in order to protect the unique natural beauty and small-town character of Volente while meeting the need of its citizens to enjoy the benefits of a wireless communications services community.

- (A) Establish standards for location;
 - (B) Encourage the location of wireless communication equipment on existing structures, thereby minimizing the impact on aesthetics and public safety, and to reduce the need for additional antenna-supporting structures; and
 - (C). Encourage coordination between suppliers of wireless communication services in the Village.
- (9) Restrict public nuisances and dangers so that they do not detract from the quality of life of the existing community as well as the natural beauty and wildlife of the Village.
- (A) Restrict the levels and hours of outdoor noise, including noise from construction, commercial/industrial equipment, yard equipment, vehicles, entertainment sound systems and public gatherings;
 - (B) Restrict the accumulation of litter and trash;
 - (C) Restrict the abandonment of vehicles;
 - (D) Restrict the abandonment of unsafe buildings;
 - (E) Restrict the hours of non-residential use operations, including trash pickup hours and delivery hours;
 - (F) Regulate the use, storage and sale of flammable or explosive liquids and materials;
 - (G) Restrict the use of firearms and any other deadly weapons within the city limits;
 - (H) Restrict the creation of excessive earthborn vibrations; and
 - (I) Regulate the health and safety of public assemblies, parades, fairs, festivals, etc.
- (10) Regulate by ordinance non-residential parking and loading to secure safety and to lessen congestion on public streets.
- (A) Provide parking lot and driveway paving standards for non-residential uses;
 - (B) Provide parking area lighting standards needed for minimum safety requirements of pedestrian and vehicular safety;
 - (C) Provide access standards for safety, emergency and fire-fighting purposes;
 - (D) Establish ADA-compliant parking standards;
 - (E) Establish maintenance standards, especially with respect to releases of pollutants into the waterways;
 - (F) Establish standards for parking access from public streets;
 - (G) Establish parking ratios based upon uses to regulate the maximum and minimum allowable numbers of parking spaces; and
 - (H) Allow non-residential parking around the peripheries of buildings to discourage large consolidated parking lots.
- (11) Regulate home occupations and home-based businesses to minimize annoyance and inconvenience to neighboring property owners within the residential area and to allow reasonable and comfortable enjoyment of adjacent and nearby properties by their owners and occupants.

PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Goal: Provide public services to the extent necessary to protect the citizens vision for the Village of Volente, bearing in mind that the Community desires minimal taxes and minimal services.

- (a) Create an administrative services department to administrate, communicate and coordinate all Village governmental functions.
- (b) Continue to rely upon the services of Travis County for police protection and for judicial services, the Volente Volunteer Fire Department for fire protection services, the Travis County Emergency Services District #14 for emergency medical services, and the Lower Colorado River Authority for permitting and inspection of septic systems.
- (c) Utilize the services of consultants with specialized expertise (e.g. legal, planning, engineering, and auditing) rather than hire in-house expertise.
- (d) Provide reference and training materials for the Community through multi-media awareness.
- (e) Periodically re-survey the citizens of Volente to solicit their views on the levels of public services that are desired and their willingness to fund such services.

PUBLIC WATER UTILITIES

Goal: Ensure that the citizens of Volente have an uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water and have a reliable, environmentally-safe means to treat and dispose of wastes.

- (a) Refrain from providing public water utility services, unless it is practical and necessary, both financially and administratively;
- (b) Enact ordinances and regulations which ensure an uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water, whether from a surface water source or from a groundwater source.
- (c) Enact ordinances and regulations which allow the Village to regulate the design, construction, operations, and rates for water utility services provided by other governmental or non-profit entities.
- (d) Protect sources of drinking water from contamination.
- (e) Enact ordinances and regulations which ensure all septic system design, construction and operation comply with the Lower Colorado River Authority's standards.

FUTURE LAND USE

Goal: Through land use and zoning controls, protect the vision that the citizens of Volente have for their community.

- (a) Enact regulations and zoning which provide for the majority of the Village to be low density, residential development.
- (b) Enact regulations and zoning which restrict the magnitude and locations of non-residential development such that adverse impacts upon residential neighborhoods are minimized.
- (c) Protect the integrity of residential neighborhoods by using "step-down" use buffering between the residential neighborhoods and the non-residential districts.

- (d) Incorporate the land use recommendations of the master plan elements of the Comprehensive Plan.