

## Chapter 11

# Summary and Guidelines for Review

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# Using the Comprehensive Plan 11.1

McDonald County's Comprehensive Plan has been compiled by the Planning Commission without the assistance of professional planners. We have studied the past and present conditions of this county in order to determine its strengths and needs. We have also attempted to project the possibilities of the future and the effects continued growth may have on this county. We have attempted to give utmost priority to quality of life issues for the citizens of McDonald County.

These efforts will have been useless should this Comprehensive Plan sit forgotten on a shelf. For the current Planning Commission, the Comprehensive Plan is a beginning – to be developed and implemented through the years for the benefit of McDonald County. Comprehensive plans are not written in stone for all time. They are living documents, designed to be strong enough to hold a chosen course over an extended period of new growth and development, and at the same time, flexible enough to accommodate a wide spectrum of both anticipated and unforeseen future conditions.

In the process of preparing this Comprehensive Plan, a number of additional plans and projects have been identified for the Planning Commission to pursue. Some of these are: an implementation plan, county wide subdivision regulations, a road rubric to identify road improvements, and more. Reviews will be needed to keep efforts on track and to identify new challenges, changes in trends, and effectiveness of planning efforts. This chapter outlines procedures to accomplish the implementations and updates of the comprehensive plan.

In order to ensure the Comprehensive Plan will be an effective planning tool, two things must occur:

**The various policies should be implemented through the adoption of ordinances and other means, and**

**The plan should be updated and amended over time to maintain relevancy to current conditions**

## Implementation 11.2

Implementation is the critical link between planning and positive action. After more than a year of compiling the Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Commission is dedicating efforts in the coming year to develop implementation strategies to put this plan in action. Some priorities may be implemented through the adoption of ordinances, others through combined efforts with other organizations, and leadership on the part of the Planning Commission. The County Commission and Planning Commission will coordinate with cities, federal and state agencies, and service providers (e.g., utility, school and fire districts) and civic organizations to manage growth, address shared issues and goals, and provide more efficient public services.

An implementation sheet has been designed to use for the chapters of the Comprehensive Plan and will take the following form:

**McDonald County Comprehensive Plan: Implementation Chapter**

Action	Implementation Activities	Participating Groups	Time frame

## Update and Amendment 11.3

**Annual Assessment** – An annual report should be prepared that identifies the accomplishments of the previous year with respect to implementing the plan. The report should address what actions were undertaken, their outcomes, and what actions could not be accomplished and the reason they could not. This assessment would be appropriate to present in April, prior to the election of officers for the Planning Commission.

At the meeting following the annual assessment, the Planning Commission should look to the coming year and prioritize actions to be undertaken. Seeing how well last year's goals were met will be helpful in determining the next year's objectives. This will permit the "fine tuning" of the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. Annual changes normally consist of clarifying intent, correcting errors, and/or policy revisions related to a specific subject area. The Planning Commission must consider the **cumulative** impacts of all proposed changes. Should any changes be desired in the Comprehensive Plan, state law requires a public hearing on the proposed changes and the approval of the McDonald County Commission.

The annual review process is generally not the appropriate time for conducting a broad evaluation or update of the Comprehensive Plan. Plan implementation cannot be fully accomplished in the short-term. Time will be needed to appraise the Plan's effectiveness.

**Major Reassessment** – A major reassessment of the plan should occur at the end of **5 years** in order to maintain relevancy to current conditions. However, since the Comprehensive Plan is long-range by design and strives to provide consistency, all changes should require careful review.

This is the appropriate time to review, and, if needed, revise the Comprehensive Plan and any development regulations. This periodic review will ensure that the Comprehensive Plan continues to meet local needs and conditions. This is also the appropriate time to look to the future trends and needs, projecting if possible 20 years into the future. This will enable the plan to continue to have long-range effectiveness. Opportunities for the public to review and participate in Comprehensive Plan amendments and updates are a key part of this process.