

City of Eau Claire Planning Update

by Darryl Tufte, Director of Community Development
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Our City of Eau Claire Comprehensive Plan serves as the basis for the city's subdivision regulations, official mapping, and amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map... this according to **Darryl Tufte**, City of Eau Claire Director of Community Planning. Tufte went on to say that the Plan also establishes our policies and priorities regarding future development in the areas of:

- Land Use
- Transportation
- Parks System
- Physical Character
- Economic Development
- Public Utilities
- Community Facilities
- Housing
- Historic Preservation
- Downtown
- Intergovernmental Coordination

Even though state law was first enacted in 2000 requiring all municipalities to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan, Eau Claire had adopted its first such plan in 1953. At that time the primary focus was on land use. Currently, the City reviews its plan every five years, but reports on it to the City Council and community every year.

Tufte went on to discuss the many ways that the Comprehensive Plan is used in conducting the affairs of the city and surrounding municipalities.

Tufte then explained what he characterized as a historic agreement, between the City and six adjacent townships. He indicated that the City and towns had been used to fighting and lawsuits, and that the relationships were fraught with distrust. However, this agreement is now serving as the basis for managing land use, water and sewer, and other growth related matters on a much more civil, rational and consistent basis.

Finally, Tufte provided an example of the more detailed planning that takes place... neighborhood planning. He presented the Clairemont Avenue Educational and Medical District Plan. This Plan encompasses the west end of Clairemont Avenue, involves major employers such as UWEC, Sacred Heart and Marshfield Clinic, and addresses issues such as traffic patterns, parking and other land use matters.

For more information on the City of Eau Claire Comprehensive Plan, go to www.eauclairewi.gov/government/comprehensive-plan.
