



WHAT IS THE BURLINGTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?



Population changes and economic conditions impact how communities grow (or not grow). Many communities create a Comprehensive Plan that takes these forces into account and helps plan in an orderly manner for growth that may occur. A Comprehensive Plan does not mandate growth or any development, but it provides a guide for how development should occur, if it does happen. The Comprehensive Plan may change over time to reflect changes in opinion, but it is important for a community to have a plan, or a guide, as a starting point. The table below is intended to clarify the role of the Burlington Comprehensive Plan in shaping future development in and around Burlington.

<u>It includes...</u>	<u>It is NOT...</u>
A guide or vision for how future development should proceed, in various areas in and around Burlington.	A formal proposal for any development (residential, commercial, etc.) OR a mandate for growth for any property or area
A guide for future land uses	A plan for how specific parcels must develop in the future. It is also NOT an annexation plan
A guide for future park and open space areas	A specific proposal to develop a park on a given parcel or area
A plan for the improvements to transportation (including roads and streets, including improvements for people walking and biking) over time	An official document authorizing the construction or improvement of any road or other transportation facility (sidewalk, trail, etc.)
A general plan for the expansion of utility systems to provide for the City’s growth and evolution	A detailed utility plan or infrastructure study
A general plan for economic development in Burlington	A formal economic development policy (such as a tax incentive)
Advisory in nature - The City Council, along with the Planning Commission and other groups, will use the Comprehensive Plan as a guide for decision making going forward.	Binding - The Comprehensive Plan is not requiring the City (legally) to pursue any of the improvements or concepts in the document. The Comprehensive Plan is intended to remain a flexible document to guide decisions in the future.
A long term plan or vision for the Burlington community	A plan for what will happen immediately, in the various areas in and around Burlington