
Statement from the City of Damascus:

CITY OF DAMASCUS COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

by Steve Rhodes, City Manager, City of Damascus

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Now that the concept plan is complete, the ideas from the plan must be incorporated into a Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Code and Maps. Since the City of Damascus does not currently have a Comprehensive Plan, the City will create one based on the ideas contained in the Concept Plan.

What does a Comprehensive Plan do?

The Comprehensive Plan is used by a City to guide decisions on land use in the community. The Comprehensive Plan will describe:

- The city's mechanisms for decision-making and citizen involvement
- General locations of housing and jobs, and how we travel between them
- Forecasts of future population that are used to plan for the schools, roads, parks, housing and employment needs of the future
- The city's policies about urbanization, plans for providing utilities and economic growth
- Zoning or land use allowed on properties in the city
- Measures that should be used to protect streams and creeks
- New streets needed and what size should they be
- How sewer, water and storm drainage systems will be provided
- Parks and open spaces to be provided in the community
- Mechanisms to preserve the rural character of the community
- Land to be set aside for jobs and industry

The Comprehensive Plan will provide Damascus with a detailed look into the future and the community's needs and desires as to how to shape growth and how to preserve those things that should not change. The development of the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Code and related regulations will take approximately two years from the completion of this Concept Plan.

How does it relate to the Damascus/Boring Concept Plan?

The Concept Plan is the first step in creating a Comprehensive Plan for the City of Damascus.

The Concept Plan provides a rough sketch of what types of development are desired and where things should be located in Damascus. It describes how things may look and answers questions about the location of new roads, how many jobs the area will have, and more. But the Concept Plan doesn't answer all the questions, or come to conclusions with enough detail on many issues. Those items will have to be decided by the community members in Damascus in order to complete the Comprehensive Plan.

Next steps and how to stay involved

The Damascus/Boring Concept Plan process has given us a substantial head start on developing a Comprehensive Plan. But there is significant work remaining to take the Concept Plan and fill in details in a City-led public process involving business owners, residents and property owners. The

City Council will begin working on the Comprehensive Planning process in January 2006. The first steps will be to work with the City Manager and Planning Director to develop a schedule and strategy for how the work on the Comprehensive Plan will proceed.

The goal of the Council is to have a blueprint for the process developed by February so that it can be placed in the March newsletter, which will be published in the Damascus/Boring Observer. Included with the plan will be a citizen involvement strategy that outlines how the citizens in the community will be able to participate in the process and be kept informed about the progress on the Plan.

By staying involved and working together, we can develop the goals, policies and maps that help our community realize our dreams while building upon our values. Watch for newsletter articles and information on the City website (www.ci.damascus.or.us) explaining how you can become involved in the comprehensive planning process. It is anticipated that the City will form task forces to tackle various issue areas and may also form task forces for each neighborhood area identified in the Concept Plan.

For more information, contact Jim Wood, City of Damascus Planning Director, at 503-658-8545, ext. 102.
