

All About: Plan-it Allen!

A Plan for Land & Living in Allen County/Fort Wayne

1. What is Plan-it Allen?

Led by Allen County and the City of Fort Wayne, Plan-it Allen! is the citizen-powered process to develop a new Comprehensive Plan – the first-ever joint effort in our community's history.

2. What is a Comprehensive Plan?

- A Comprehensive Plan is a land-use and development plan. It lays out the “vision” for the future growth and development of the community, what the community will be like and look like in the future. It then serves as a guide for community decision making, and provides policy and program direction to help realize the community's vision.
- A Comprehensive Plan is a document, or series of documents, prepared under the leadership of a Plan Commission or Plan Commissions, with input from citizens and community leaders. The plan sets forth policies for the future development of the entire community. It is based on inventory, analysis and evaluation of issues such as land use, population, economy, community facilities, housing, natural resources, utilities and transportation.
- Indiana State law says that the primary goal of a Comprehensive Plan is the “promotion of public health, safety, morals, convenience, order, or the general welfare, and for the sake of efficiency and economy in the process of development.” [Indiana Code 36-7-4-501]

3. What Plan-it Allen! is not.

Plan-it Allen! is not a plan for government consolidation, a program plan, a financial plan or a business plan.

4. What are some of the major benefits of a Comprehensive Plan?

- A clear community vision created through community consensus, one that captures the values, goals and objectives of the community.
- An up-to-date policy guide for encouraging quality physical and economic development.
- A competitive community prepared for the changes the future will bring.
- Preservation of our community character.
- An enhanced quality of life.
- Efficient, coordinated use of public resources.
- Advancement of actions that will be in the long-term best interests of the community.
- Application of innovative planning, development and growth concepts.

5. What should a Comprehensive Plan do?

A typical Comprehensive Plan attempts to forecast community needs, define a 20-year community vision and establish policies to achieve our goals. It should be reviewed and updated every five years.

6. What should be included in a Comprehensive Plan?

In Indiana, a Comprehensive Plan is required to include three elements: 1) A statement of objectives for future development; 2) Statement(s) of policy for land use development; and 3) Statement(s) of policy for the development of public ways, public places, public lands, public structures and public utilities.

7. How can I get involved?

- Come to all the Plan-it Allen! public events and contribute your ideas.
- Invite a Plan-it Allen! speaker to your group or organization. Call Jane Yoh at 427-2175.
- Talk with your friends and neighbors about how to make our community the best it can be.
- Learn more about Plan-it Allen! on the Web: www.planyourcommunity.org.