



A Vision for Blanco's Future

A comprehensive Community vision for Blanco, Texas
Guiding our Community

2025 to 2035

Community Outreach March 2025

Step by Step Guide to Creating a Comprehensive Master Plan

A Shared Vision for Blanco

1 Establish a Planning Committee

The first step is to form a planning committee comprising representatives from various sectors of the community, including residents, business owners, elected officials, and community leaders. This committee will oversee the planning process, make key decisions, and ensure that the plan reflects the diverse perspectives and needs of the community.

2 Community Assessment & Engaging the Community

Community engagement is a critical aspect of creating a successful comprehensive plan. It is essential to involve residents, businesses, and other stakeholders throughout the planning process to ensure that the plan reflects their needs and aspirations. The community assessment gathers data on various aspects of the town, demographics, land use, housing, transportation, economic conditions, environmental resources, and community facilities. A Community S.W.O.T analysis should be conducted identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

3 Develop A Shared Community Vision

Based on the community assessment, the planning committee should work with the community to develop a shared vision for the future of the town. This vision should articulate the community's desired goals and aspirations.

4 Formulate Goals and Objectives

Once the community vision is established, the planning committee working group should translate it into specific goals and objectives. These goals and objectives should be measurable, achievable, and time-bound, providing a framework for ensuring the plan's implementation and progress.

5 Develop Strategies and Actions

For each goal and objective, the planning committee should develop strategies and actions to achieve them. These strategies and actions should be specific, realistic, and feasible, considering the town's resources and constraints.

6 Prepare the Plan Document

The final step is to compile all the information gathered and decisions made into a comprehensive plan document. This document should be well-organized, clearly written, and visually appealing. It should also include maps, charts, and other graphics to illustrate the plan's key components and strategies.

7 Adopt & Implement the Plan

Once the plan document is prepared, it will be presented to the city council for adoption. Once adopted, the plan becomes the official policy document guiding Blanco's growth and development. The planning committee should then work with city staff and other stakeholders to implement the plan's strategies and actions.

March 2025 Update

Blanco was recently awarded a General Land Office grant to provide funding for the 2025 Comprehensive Master Plan.

NOW WE CAN GET TO WORK!!

Key Components of the Comprehensive Plan

1 Land Use

This component focuses on how land is utilized within the town. It includes policies and regulations related to zoning, density, and development patterns. By strategically allocating land for different uses such as residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational, the plan ensures that development occurs in a way that is compatible with the town's character and goals.

2 Housing

This component addresses the availability, affordability, and diversity of housing options within the town. It considers the needs of different population groups, including families, seniors, and low-income residents. The plan may include strategies to promote workforce housing development, preserve existing housing stock, and encourage a mix of housing types.

3 Transportation

This component focuses on the movement of people and goods within and through the town. It addresses various modes of transportation, including roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, cart paths, and walkability. The plan may include strategies to improve traffic flow and enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety.

4 Economic Development

This component focuses on creating a vibrant and sustainable local economy. It identifies strategies to attract and retain businesses, promote entrepreneurship, and create job opportunities. The plan may also address issues related to tourism, workforce development, and business retention.

5 Parks, Environment, and Community Life

This component focuses on preserving the town's natural resources and promoting environmental education. It may include strategies to protect water quality, and conserve open spaces, and enhance utilization of parks.

6 Community Facilities

This component addresses the provision of essential services and amenities, such as schools, parks, libraries, community pools or recreation centers. The plan ensures that these facilities are adequate to meet the needs of the current and future population. It may also include strategies to improve the accessibility and quality of these facilities.



Key Components

An Overview



Land Use

This component focuses on how land is utilized within the town. It includes policies and regulations related to zoning, density, and development patterns. By strategically allocating land for different uses such as residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational, the plan ensures that development occurs in a way that is compatible with the town's character and goals.

Land Use Policies and Regulations

Understanding the Framework for Land Utilization

1 Definition of Land Use

Land use refers to how land is allocated and utilized within Blanco. It encompasses various activities and functions assigned to different areas, helping to define the landscape and community structure.

2 Importance of Strategic Land Allocation

Strategic land allocation is crucial for ensuring that development meets the needs of the community while preserving the town's character. It enables the effective management of resources and supports sustainable growth.

3 Types of Land Use Categories

Land use can be broadly categorized into several types, including residential (housing), commercial (businesses), industrial (manufacturing), and recreational (parks and open spaces). Each category serves a unique purpose and contributes to the Blanco's functionality and quality of life.

4 Compatibility with Town's Character and Goals

Ensuring that land use aligns with Blanco's character and goals is vital. This compatibility promotes a cohesive community image and enhances the quality of life for residents by creating shared community spaces that reflect local values and aspirations and promote community gathering places.



Housing Considerations

This component addresses the availability, affordability, and diversity of housing options within the town. It considers the needs of different population groups, including families, seniors, and low-income residents. The plan may include strategies to promote affordable housing development, preserve existing housing stock, and encourage a mix of housing types.

Housing

1 Availability of Housing Options

This refers to the range of housing types available within the town, ensuring that there are sufficient options for residents. Various types of housing, such as single-family homes, apartments, and townhouses, are included to cater to different needs and preferences.

2 Affordability Concerns

Addressing affordability is crucial for enabling all residents, particularly low-income families, to access quality housing. Strategies may involve housing programs and financial assistance for first-time homebuyers to alleviate cost burdens.

3 Diversity of Housing Types

Promoting a diverse mix of housing types helps meet the needs of various population groups, including families, seniors, and individuals. This diversity can enhance community cohesion and provide options for all life stages.

4 Strategies to Promote Affordable Housing

The plan may include initiatives to encourage the development of lower cost housing, such as zoning changes that allow for higher-density housing or incentives for developers to include affordable units in their projects.

5 Preservation of Existing Housing Stock

Preserving current housing options is essential to prevent displacement of residents. This may involve maintaining older homes and providing resources for repairs and upgrades to ensure housing remains safe and livable.

6 Support for Low-Income Residents

Special attention must be given to low-income residents who may face barriers to housing access. Programs that provide financial education and assistance can help these individuals navigate the housing market effectively and are encouraged.



Transportation

This component focuses on the movement of people and goods within and through the town. It addresses various modes of transportation, including highways, roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, hiking paths, and walkability. The plan may include strategies to improve traffic flow, enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety, and quality of connectivity and community life.

Transportation

Exploring the Movement of People and Goods



Diverse Modes of Transportation

The town's transportation includes various modes such as roads for vehicles, sidewalks for pedestrians, and bike lanes for cyclists, ensuring accessibility for all.



Importance of Walkability

Walkability is a key component in planning, promoting health, reducing traffic congestion, and enhancing community interaction by making it easier for residents to walk to local destinations and community gathering spaces.



Traffic Flow Improvement Strategies

Strategies to improve traffic flow can include optimizing traffic signals, implementing traffic calming strategies, and enhancing public transport options to reduce the number of vehicles on the road.



Enhancing Pedestrian Safety

Measures to enhance pedestrian safety may involve installing crosswalks, traffic calming measures, and improved lighting to ensure safe passage for those on foot.



Bicycle Safety Initiatives

Bicycle safety initiatives focus on creating dedicated bike lanes, increasing awareness of cyclist rights, and providing education on safe riding practices to protect cyclists on the road.



Economic Development

This component focuses on creating a vibrant and sustainable local economy. It identifies strategies to attract and retain businesses, promote entrepreneurship, and create job opportunities for young families. The plan may also address issues related to tourism, workforce development, business incubators and business retention.

Economic Development Strategies

Strategies for a Thriving Local Economy

Job Creation

Focus on creating employment opportunities for residents to boost economic stability and encourage Blanco youth to stay in the community .



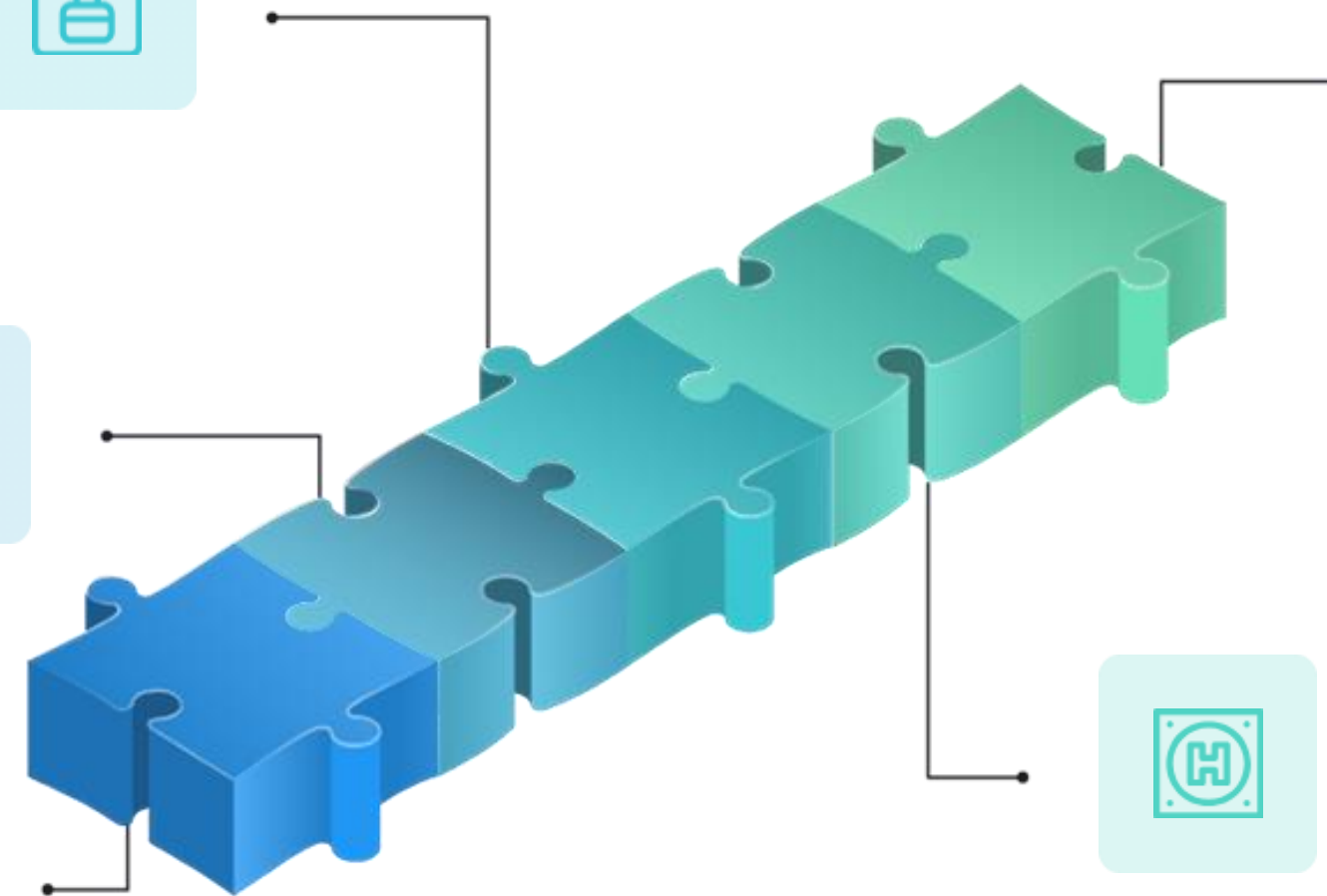
Entrepreneurship Support

Foster local startups through funding, mentorship, and resources to promote business growth.



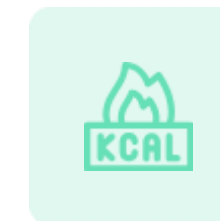
Business Attraction

Implement strategies to attract new businesses to Blanco, enhancing local commerce.



Workforce Development

Ensure a skilled workforce through training programs that align with local business needs.



Tourism Development

Promote Blanco as a tourist destination to generate revenue and support local businesses.





Community Services and Facilities

Community facilities play a crucial role in providing essential services such as schools, parks, libraries, and recreation centers. These services are vital for the development and well-being of the community, catering to both educational and recreational needs.

Community Facilities

Addressing the Needs of Our Community

1 Essential Services

Community facilities play a crucial role in providing essential services such as schools, parks, libraries, city pools and recreation centers. These services are vital for the development and well-being of the community, catering to both educational and recreational needs.

2 Parks and Recreation

Parks and community recreation centers offer residents spaces for leisure, physical activity, and community engagement. They are key to promoting a healthy lifestyle and fostering social connections among residents.

3 Libraries

Libraries serve as important cultural and educational hubs in the community, providing access to information, resources, and programs that support lifelong learning and literacy.

4 Future Planning

The plan for community facilities must account for the needs of the current and future population. This includes anticipating growth and ensuring that facilities can accommodate an increasing number of residents.

5 Strategies for Improvement

This component includes strategies to enhance the accessibility and quality of community facilities, ensuring they are well-maintained and available to all residents, regardless of their circumstances.

6 Accessibility

Improving accessibility means making community facilities welcoming to everyone, including people with disabilities, the elderly, and families with young children. This is essential for inclusive community development.

7 Quality of Facilities

Ensuring the quality of community facilities involves regular maintenance and upgrades, which can enhance user experience and encourage greater community participation in available programs.

Formulate Goals and Objectives

Creating a Structured Path for Community Development



Establishing a Community Vision

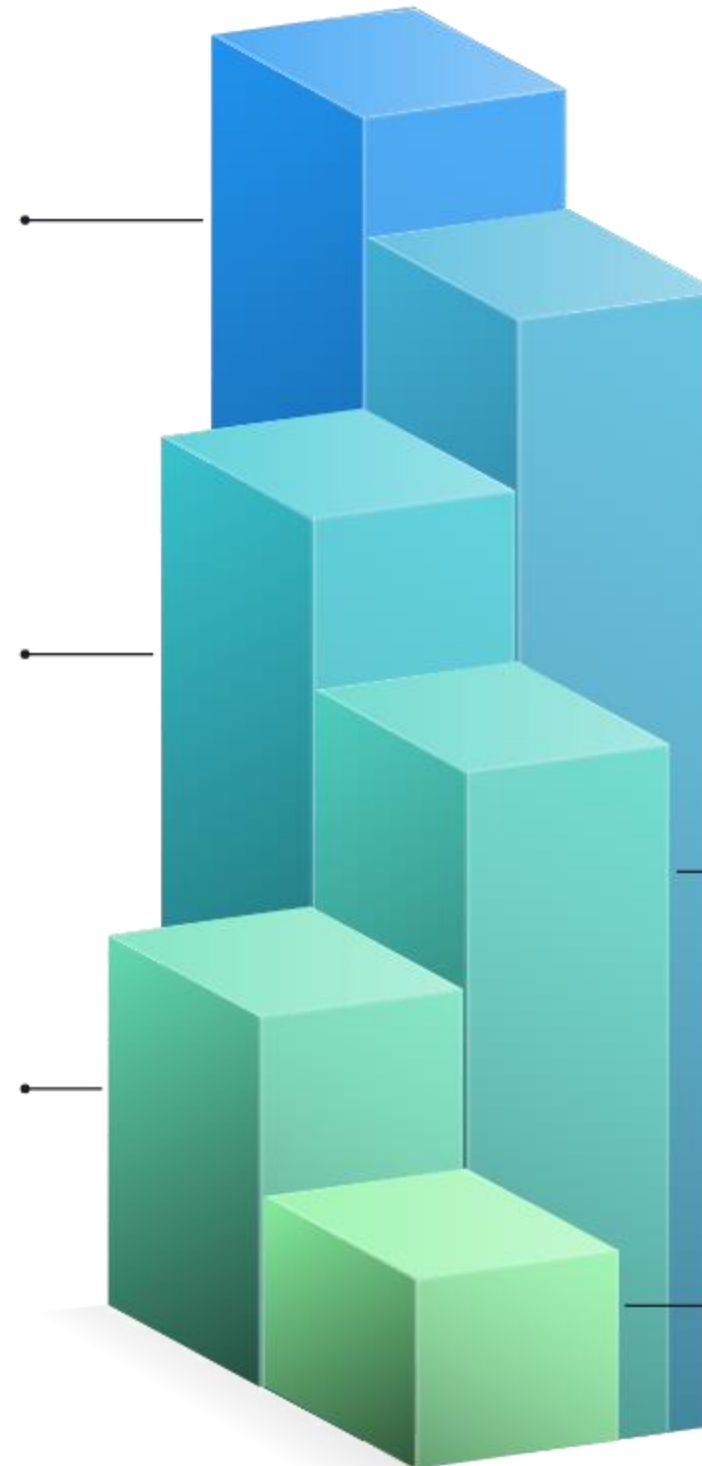
The first step in the planning process is to establish a clear community vision. This vision serves as a guiding principle for setting goals and objectives that align with community values and aspirations.

Setting Measurable Objectives

Objectives should be measurable, allowing the committee to track progress and assess success. This involves defining clear metrics that can be used to evaluate outcomes over time.

Time-Bound Planning

Each objective should have a specific timeline for completion. Time-bound objectives help maintain focus and urgency, ensuring that the plan execution remains on track.



Translating Vision into Goals

Once the vision is clear, the planning committee must translate it into specific, actionable goals. These goals should reflect the aspirations of the community and provide a direction for future actions.

Ensuring Achievability

Goals and objectives must be achievable within the Blanco's capacity and resources. This requires an honest assessment of what can realistically be accomplished in the given timeframe.

Framework for Evaluation

The formulated goals and objectives create a framework for evaluating the implementation of the community plan. This framework allows stakeholders to measure progress and make informed adjustments, as necessary.

Adopting and Implementing the Plan

- Key Steps for Successful Implementation of the Growth Plan

1 Present the Plan to the City Council

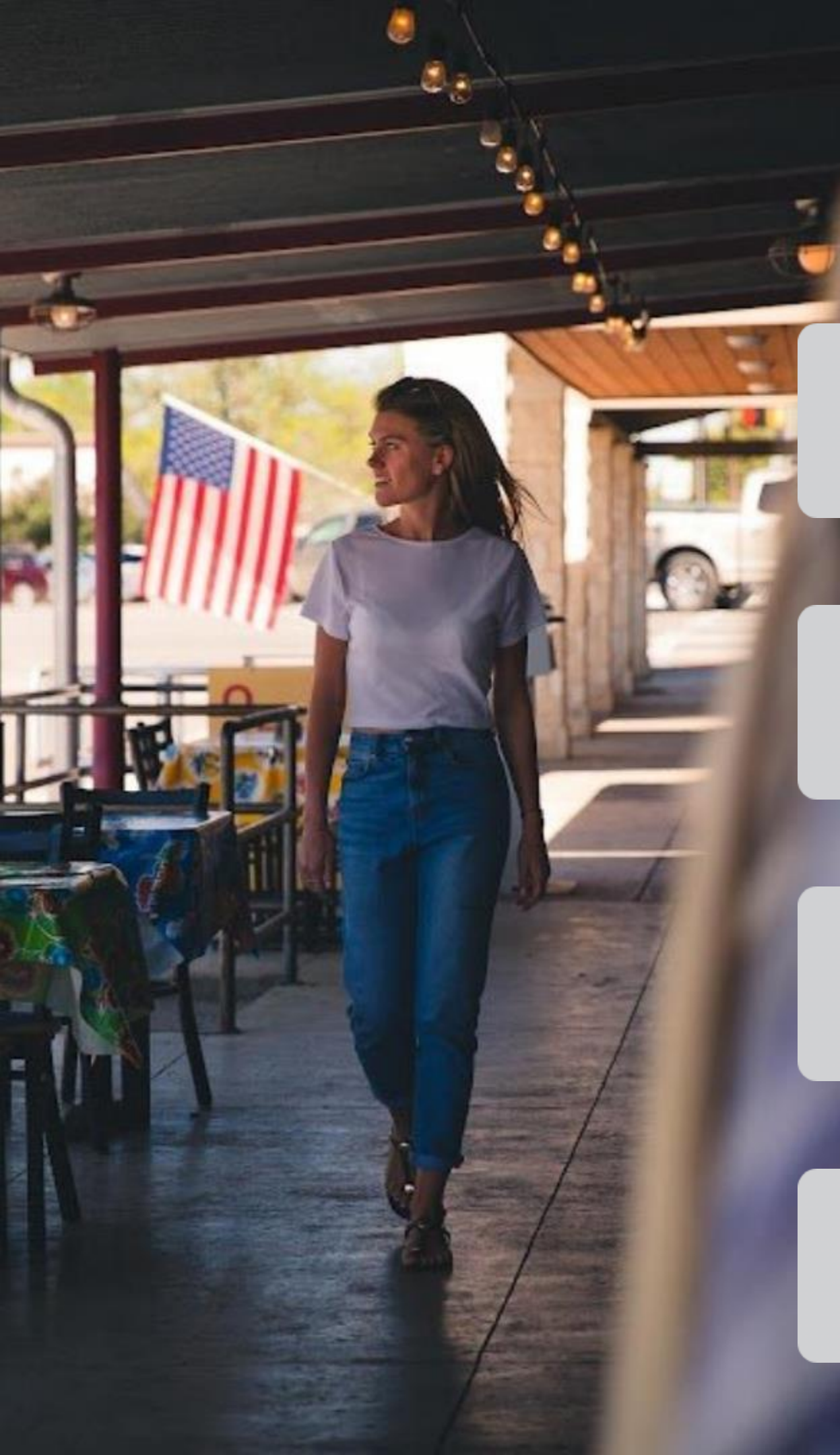
The first step in the adoption process involves presenting the detailed plan document to the city council. This presentation is crucial as it provides an opportunity to highlight the benefits and strategic importance of the plan for Blanco's future.

2 Official Policy Document

Once the city council adopts the plan, it becomes the official policy document. This document will serve as a foundational guideline for Blanco's growth and development, ensuring that all future initiatives align with the established vision and objectives.

3 Assuring Continuity in Execution and Implementation

Following the adoption, the planning committee will engage with city staff and other key stakeholders such as a Blanco Economic Development Organization. This collaborative effort is essential to effectively implement the strategies and actions outlined in the plan, fostering a united approach towards achieving the Blanco's long-term goals.



Community Engagement Process

Steps to Effective Community Involvement



Establish a Planning Committee

Form a diverse committee to ensure all community voices are represented.



Conduct a Community Assessment

Assess current conditions and identify the needs of the community.



Engagement Strategies

Utilize focus groups, public meetings, surveys, and online platforms for



Develop a Community Vision

Collaboratively create a vision that reflects the aspirations of the town.

We Are Here!



Community Outreach and Vision Building

Community Engagement

Community engagement is pivotal for the success of a comprehensive plan.

Involving residents, businesses, and stakeholders ensures the plan aligns with their needs and aspirations, fostering a sense of ownership among community members.

Focus Groups

Focus groups allow for in-depth discussions and feedback from specific community segments such as seniors, youth, or business owners. This method helps planners understand unique perspectives and tailor solutions accordingly.

Seeking Volunteers to Assist with Focus Group Meetings

Public Meetings and Workshops

Public meetings and workshops serve as platforms for community members to learn about the planning process, share ideas, and provide feedback. These interactive sessions promote transparency and collaboration between planners and the community.

Seeking Volunteers to Assist with Facilitating Public Meetings

Surveys and Questionnaires

Surveys and questionnaires are effective tools for collecting quantitative data on community preferences, priorities, and concerns. They enable planners to gather broad feedback efficiently and identify common themes.

Seeking Volunteers for Survey Sub-committee

Online Engagement Platforms

Online engagement platforms facilitate ongoing communication and collaboration among community members. These tools enable residents to share ideas, provide feedback, and stay informed, ensuring that engagement continues beyond physical meetings.

Seeking Volunteers to assist with online media

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Volunteers, if you are interested in being involved please contact the City of Blanco at citysec@cityofblancotx.gov

Initial Visionary Questions

Blanco Community Organizations & Stakeholder Groups

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blanco Chamber of Commerce• Blanco Lions Club• Friends of Blanco State Park• Blanco Good Samaritan Center• Keep Blanco Beautiful• Blanco County Rotary Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blanco County Emergency Services ESD• Blanco Women's Club• Peyton Colony Association• Blanco Independent School District• (BISD) Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky• Hill Country Alliance• Blanco County 4-H Club• Blanco Wheels and Feet• Blanco Rodeo Association• Blanco Historical Preservation Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gem of the Hills Community Center• Blanco Library• Blanco FFA• Blanco Ministerial Alliance• Blanco Underground Water District
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We are seeking Committee volunteers to act as “Ambassadors” to reach out to these groups and assist in polling their members on four or five visionary questions

Please identify any groups you may be associated with or have access to, feel free to team up with others

Help Shape the Future of Blanco Texas

Join us in creating a long-term shared
community vision and a future for Blanco.

Your insights and participation will shape the
future of Blanco.

Blanco Needs Your Help and Vision

If you can be involved
contact City of Blanco at
citysec@cityofblancotx.gov

THANK YOU !!

