

Boardman Strategic Plan Recommendations

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Introduction

The City of Boardman is embarking on an approximately two-year process to plan for the community's long-term growth and prosperity. The City is exploring where and how to grow in order to plan for jobs, housing, parks, and other essential community ingredients that ensure Boardman remains a vital and vibrant community for residents and workers. The City is concurrently working on a variety of different planning efforts to address these issues and identify community needs, including:

- Preparing an Economic Opportunities Analysis aimed at invigorating the economy;
- Drafting a Parks Master Plan that emphasizes creating parks for all;
- Formulating a housing analysis to increase affordable housing options and contribute to the creation of healthy communities;
- Developing a Transportation System Plan aimed at connecting communities through safe and accessible transportation; and
- Updating the City's Development Code to consistently and effectively manage development across the City in accordance with these changes.

As an initial step in these efforts, the City is preparing a Strategic Plan that will include overarching goals and objectives that will help guide these and other City plans and policies. The City has been undertaking a variety of activities to engage a broad cross-section of the community in this effort. Those activities are further described in a companion Community Engagement Summary.

This document summarizes strategic planning goals and creates a foundation for the development of more detailed strategies and initiatives to achieve them. Other planning efforts will result in more detailed goals, policies, and strategies, some of which can in turn be woven into the Strategic Plan. The goals are not necessarily listed in priority order.

Goal 1. Expand shopping and service opportunities

Boardman community members, including youth members consistently expressed a desire for more things to do in Boardman, including shopping, food, and entertainment options. Having a fuller range of shopping opportunities, restaurants, and other places to meet day-to-day needs will benefit the community in a variety of ways. It will retain resources locally, help give young people a reason to stay in the community for the longer term, reduce the need for people to travel longer

[illegible]

- Atracciones culturales y divertidas para hacer en familia o en categorías de acuerdo a las edades.

[Cultural and fun attractions to do with the family or in age-specific categories.]

-Community Respondent
[Translated from Spanish]

- Continue to assess the relative need for specific types of housing.
- Ensure there is an adequate supply of land on which to develop housing.
- Make sure that the City's development rules and regulations allow for a full range of housing and minimize barriers to producing it.
- Work with housing developers to determine how the City can best support their efforts.

- Community Respondent*

- Emphasize Boardman’s sense of community connectedness and small-town feel in efforts to attract new businesses and residents.

More strategies related to this goal are expected to emerge from the Parks Master Plan, Transportation System Plan, and other planning efforts.

Goal 4. Provide adequate public facilities and services

When asked about community challenges, many community members cite infrastructure and traffic as key issues that must be addressed by the City. Residents are concerned about both current problems and the potential for these issues to worsen in the future. This is true of both adults and young people in Boardman. Building and maintaining transportation facilities that safely accommodate all types of travelers, including younger and older people with fewer options, is an important community goal. Cost-effectively providing water, sewer, and other infrastructure facilities and services also is essential to residents’ well-being and the community’s economic health. Examples of strategies to address these goals could include:

- Continue to plan for transportation facilities, including transit services, that meet current and long-term needs.
- Ensure that the city’s water, sewer and other infrastructure facilities can adequately and cost-effectively accommodate community needs.
- Develop and apply fees and other funding strategies in an equitable and fair manner.
- Leverage resources from regional, state, and federal funding sources where possible and consistent with local needs and priorities.

I want most roads in Boardman to have sidewalks and streetlights...to promote safety and comfort for those who walk around at night.

-High School Respondent

More strategies related to this goal are expected to emerge from the City’s Transportation System Plan project and other planning efforts.

Goal 5. Build on natural resources and other assets

In addition to the community’s sense of connectedness and small-town feel, community members note that the City’s proximity to the Columbia River is one of the things that makes Boardman special. Boardman’s Marina Park, the adjacent marina, and the Columbia River Heritage Trail are key assets in providing access to views of the river, as well as swimming, boating and paddling for residents and visitors. Attracting visitors also can help support the City’s economy and create new or expanding opportunities for local business owners. Other possibilities such as developing Park Blocks under the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) powerlines also represent important opportunities to meet future park and recreational needs. Examples of strategies to address these goals could include:

- Continue to maintain and improve Marina Park and other sites and facilities that provide views of and access to the Columbia River.
- Improve connections to the river from other areas in Boardman.
- Support local businesses that create opportunities for river access and also support the local economy.
- Pursue opportunities to create a linear park and trails within the BPA powerline right-of-way.

I love living on the Columbia!

-Community Respondent

In addition to enhancing access to the Columbia River, it will be important to create park and recreation facilities and opportunities in other areas of the City as well so that all residents have access to places to play and gather. Additional strategies related to this goal are expected to emerge from the City's Parks Master Plan effort.