

What is your biggest hope for the future of Dripping Springs?

"To be an inclusive community that offers something for everyone and where businesses and people are passionate about living/working."

- Dripping Springs Resident





2 VISIONING & GOALS

VISION

OVERVIEW

Drippings Springs' recent sustained growth (refer to Appendices for Population and Demographics) has brought with it heretofore unforeseen issues in the City. These include traffic, housing affordability, lack of services, inadequate infrastructure, and more importantly, a loss or erosion of identity.

It is clear that Drippings Springs values its unique culture, history, natural resources, and traditions. The citizens of Drippings Springs are proud of their community, and their level of commitment and dedication is unsurpassed. This Chapter articulates the key messages and community values shared by citizens during comprehensive community outreach and engagement efforts. Several important themes emerged as a result of this community outreach process.

Moreover, Drippings Springs and its citizens are aware of the issues, which allows for a clear vision for the future of the City. Drippings Springs' core philosophy was and is to create a community where residents, workers, and visitors thrive by being environmentally responsible, protecting community character, and providing access to housing, jobs, natural resources, and recreational opportunities. A refreshed vision provides the basis for an updated planning framework going forward, which helps inform new priorities and establish new goals, strategies and actions all aimed at current and future generations in Drippings Springs.

The Design Team worked closely with the community to come up with a new vision statement for Drippings Springs that would encapsulate the myriad of ideas expressed about the future of the City.

Combining input from the community and the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC), a Vision Statement to guide the community for the next 10 years was established. The following statement would become the north star for the Comprehensive Plan.

VISION STATEMENT

As the gateway to the Hill Country, Drippings Springs is committed to enhancing the community's unique identity by protecting its natural resources, rich history, and dark skies, while providing sustainable infrastructure to support our growing community. Through thoughtful planning and sustainable growth, we strive to maintain the character and quality of life that define our small-town spirit, ensuring that Drippings Springs remains a vibrant, resilient, and welcoming place for generations to come.

COMMUNITY VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Vision Statement is derived from a Community's Core Values. Community values, or in planning terms, "Guiding Principles", are the non-negotiable core standards that the community's residents wish to maintain. Values must be acknowledged, honored, and constantly defended to ensure that change and development occur in accordance with them.

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan process identified a wide range of community values that guided the Plan process. A full discussion description of the public input process can be found in appendices. In Summary, community input overwhelming pointed to 7 community values/guiding principles:

- **Preservation / Nature / Environment**
- **Rural / Country / Small Town**
- **Community / Friendly / Family-oriented**
- **Charming / Quaint / Local**
- **Historic / Cultural**
- **Dark Sky / Quiet**
- **Growing / Economic Opportunity / Balance**



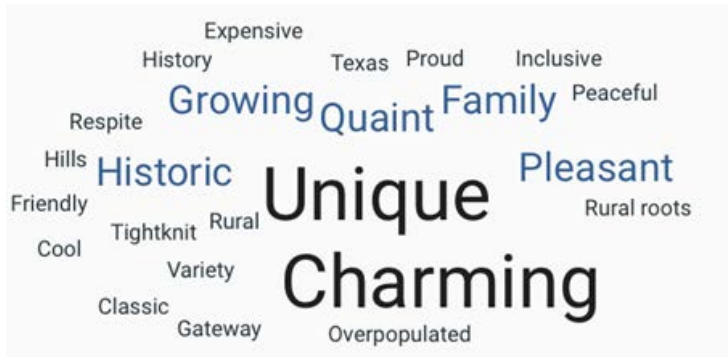


Figure 5. Community Engagement Word Cloud 1



Figure 6. Community Engagement Word Cloud 2

While a full discussion of the community input process can be found in the appendices, it is important to note that the consensus reached by the community regarding their community values was significant in its consistency. Further, the community values were wholly articulated by the community (i.e the responses were not prompted in any way – the survey’s first two question were to describe what Dripping Springs meant to them in their own words and what their favorite feature was).

The Kick-Off Survey (#1) launched on Founder’s Day 2022. It was made up of broad questions about the City to establish the values and priorities of the community – of both long-time and newer residents. The results of the kickoff survey and a subsequent second survey were significant: Kickoff Survey - 422 responses; Second Survey - 1043 Responses.

The following graphics are the results of a poll during the first Public Meeting.

Another highlight of the public engagement process was the September 2022 Public Meeting, in which participants were split into 5 groups and were asked to list 5 characteristics or features of Dripping Springs that they hope will remain true in 2045. Each group crafted a vision statement that captures the spirit of those characteristics:

Group 1: "A thriving community that values thoughtful growth and preserves our outdoor spaces."

Group 2: "Our vision for our small hometown is for our community to be designed with connectivity... walking trails and bike lanes / sidewalks throughout the city to value nature, open space, and an ability for all citizens to be able to reach one another and remain close knit although Dripping Springs is growing larger."

Group 3: "Dripping Springs will maintain its Hill Country charm and character while being involved & proactive with coming growth."

Group 4: "Dripping Springs will be a Hill Country destination that has grown but maintained its identity through preservation of heritage, open spaces and community values."

Group 5: "Dripping Spring will maintain its history and charm while supporting sustainable growth. The new & old mixing gracefully together. Make growth fit the Hill Country and not the Hill Country fit the growth."

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Echoing the sentiments from the surveys, the biggest theme was maintaining Hill Country character and charm while supporting thoughtful and sustainable growth. Further, the design team discovered that Hill Country character largely focused on the open space and community values rather than an aesthetic.

PLAN ELEMENTS AND GOALS

In subsequent meetings with targeted stakeholders, it became clear that the sum of the “identity” of Drippings Springs was more important than its individual parts. In other words, it is the combination of its rural, historical, and environmentally-rich setting that is important, NOT one aspect.

The result of the process created 5 Plan Elements with a Specific Goal for each of those Elements. The 5 Plan Elements and their respective goals became the most critical aspects that the Comprehensive Plan had to address.



INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES

Goal: Ensure utilities, infrastructure, and facilities are properly maintained and upgraded to serve community needs.

COMMUNITY CHARACTER

Goal: Manage growth and development while prioritizing the preservation of the Hill Country character and the community’s sense of place.

CONNECTIVITY & CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT

Goal: Provide an efficient and safe regional network of streets and highways.

HOUSING

Goal: Ensure and improve the quality of life for current and future residents by maintaining strong neighborhoods and providing housing options that meet the needs of community members.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & FUNDING

Goal: Encourage a balanced growth and foster a resilient and robust economy.