

**OELWEIN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Goals, Strategies, and Action Items

**Community Vision and Character**

*Goal 1: Continue to improve the health, safety, and wellbeing of all Oelwein residents.*

Strategy	Action Items	Priority	Notes
Enhance safety throughout the City of Oelwein.	Promote civic resilience through community engagement tactics.	3	
	Assess areas of interest for improved lighting, infrastructure, and connectivity to improve the safety	1	
Improve access to healthcare services and promote a healthy lifestyle.	Conduct mobility and walkability studies to analyze areas to focus efforts for improved access to services.	1	
	Enhance parks, trails, and green spaces for recreational opportunities.	2	

*Goal 2: Encourage participation in community-based opportunities.*

Strategy	Action Items	Priority	Notes
Foster a strong sense of community culture.	Promote festivals, community events, and recreational opportunities.	2	
	Support cultural and arts initiatives that celebrate Oelwein's heritage and resilience.	2	
Increase community-wide communication opportunities.	Encourage accessibility of communication practices between residents and City staff and elected officials.	1	
	Establish a community information or "bulletin board" on the City website to provide pertinent information to residents in an accessible platform.	1	

**Community Facilities**

*Goal 1: Maintain reliable and high quality services, utilities, and facilities to encourage growth and reinvestment.*

Strategy	Action Items	Priority	Notes
Explore development incentives that prioritize infill development/redevelopment and utilize existing public infrastructure.	Identify areas where infill or redevelopment are feasible.	1	
	Prioritize design standards and development incentives that utilize infill and redevelopment areas.	2	
Explore alternative parking space requirements that reduce the need for large parking lots.	Conduct parking analysis for downtown and high-traffic areas.	2	
	Review and revise parking regulations to adhere to EPA and ADA standards.	2	

*Goal 2: Enhance communication procedures for residents to continue improving the public services and quality of life for all residents.*

Strategy	Action Items	Priority	Notes
Adopt a maintenance and	Identify regular maintenance and replacement needs.	1	

replacement schedule into City Code.	Develop maintenance and replacement schedule of facilities, services, and infrastructure.	1	
Establish regular community outreach processes regarding public facilities and	Identify facilities and services that warrant regular feedback.	1	
	Develop community communication strategy to gather feedback.	1	
<b>Housing</b>			
<i>Goal 1: Strengthen housing opportunities and community character by encouraging the maintenance and improvement of the existing housing stock and properties throughout the community.</i>			
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Produce and maintain community facilities, utilities, and infrastructure that are attractive to developers, current	Adopt development standards that cohere the community and enhance the built environment.	1	
	Engage residents in community development plans to align new development with the needs of residents.	1	
Continue to improve the housing stock of Oelwein through local housing program.	Continue to implement the Rental Inspections program.	1	
	Identify ways to expand the impact of the Rental Inspections program both internally and through funding opportunities.	1	
<i>Goal 2: Support a range of housing options to retain and continue to attract people at various life stages including young professionals, families, and retirees.</i>			
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Explore opportunities for mixed-income developments to promote socioeconomic diversity.	Collaborate with local housing authorities, developers, and nonprofit organizations to increase the availability of affordable housing.	2	
	Advocate for state and federal funding programs to support affordable housing initiatives.	2	
Continue to maintain a comprehensive assessment of the local housing market to identify gaps in affordable	Plan for housing studies at regular intervals to remain consistent with housing needs and trends.	2	
	Identify funding opportunities to conduct housing studies.	2	
<b>Transportation</b>			
<i>Goal 1: Support a comprehensive transportation system that provides accessibility to traditional and alternative modes of transportation effectively throughout Oelwein.</i>			
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Encourage non-vehicular transportation options and overall connectivity.	Identify priority nodes for corridor restoration to improve walkability throughout Oelwein.	1	
	Develop a trails and greenways plan to incorporate pedestrian transportation options between parks, essential services, and points of interest throughout Oelwein.	1	
Coordinate transportation plans with other city and regional plans.	Review internal and external plans regarding transportation and identify opportunities for coordination.	2	
	Coordinate local and regional needs for infrastructure, funding, and maintenance.	2	
<i>Goal 2: Identify and address primary transportation infrastructure needs to reduce barriers across the City of Oelwein.</i>			
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Prioritize maintenance	Identify solutions to the deterioration of the St. Charles Street Bridge and Viaduct.	1	

and improvement of transportation infrastructure.	Identify funding opportunities to implement solutions identified for the St. Charles Street Bridge and Viaduct.	1	
Prioritize safety in multimodal transportation development.	Review traffic incident data and identify crash mitigation strategies.	2	
	Identify signage needs and implement cohesive signage for vehicular and non-vehicular traffic	2	
<b>Parks and Recreation</b>			
<i>Goal 1: Provide a robust recreation system to all residents and visitors.</i>			
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Diversify recreational facilities to expand opportunities for numerous activities.	Develop a comprehensive inventory of current and desired recreational facilities and activities.	2	
	Establish a means to fund current and additional recreational opportunities for residents and	2	
Prioritize distribution of adequate green space in future development.	Identify areas deficient in recreational space.	1	
	Create development standards to include adequate green space in future land use plans.	1	
<i>Goal 2: Develop and support a comprehensive system of safe, aesthetically pleasing, and useful open spaces and trails that serve the entire community.</i>			
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Establish and continue partnerships with Fayette County, the State of Iowa, adjacent cities, school districts, churches	Identify opportunities for and encourage involvement in regional trail development.	2	
	Coordinate Oelwein's transportation and recreation plans with those of the region to optimize projects and development.	2	
Improve accessibility of recreation facilities and programs for residents and visitors.	Evaluate physical and financial accessibility to recreational services for residents and visitors of all socioeconomic situations.	1	
	Engage community members to help guide recreational planning and development.	2	
<b>Economic Development</b>			
<i>Goal 1: Encourage diverse economic opportunities for business development and commerce to support job opportunities and amenities for Oelwein residents and the region.</i>			
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Support the development of public and private partnerships that aid existing and potential businesses.	Support the Oelwein Area Chamber of Commerce and provide resources for businesses to engage with the Chamber via the City website and various public spaces.	2	
	Develop City-sponsored events to increase awareness of local businesses.	3	
Provide guidance for future economic growth.	Engage with the Oelwein community to understand economic needs of businesses and residents.	1	
	Create a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) plan to help guide future economic growth.	1	
<i>Goal 2: Support strategic economic growth within the Downtown area and provide additional retailers, businesses and services for the community.</i>			
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	Ensure that all land uses are connected by safe and efficient vehicular and non-vehicular transportation infrastructure.	2	

Focus on revitalization and accessibility of Downtown Oelwein.	Incentivize beautification methods in Downtown Oelwein (such as plantings, murals, and façade improvements) that create an enjoyable space for residents and visitors to walk.	2	
Create walkable, people-centered places that are enjoyable to inhabit and that enable people to walk between businesses.	Use wayfinding signage throughout the community to direct traffic to local businesses.	2	
	Analyze parking regulations to optimize parking availability for customers and employees, minimize unused parking, and promote walkable areas.	2	
<b>Agriculture and Natural Resources</b>			
<i>Goal 1: Manage, enhance and preserve land and water resources by preserving the natural environment through development mitigation strategies in pertinent natural areas including wetlands and floodplains.</i>			
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Support healthy watersheds.	Incentivize robust plantings in new development areas.	3	
	Preserve the natural character of the watershed through green space acquisition, floodplain regulations, and drainage corridor and buffer protection.	2	
Enhance existing natural areas.	Identify unique natural areas for restoration projects.	2	
	Apply for funding opportunities for natural restoration projects.	2	
<i>Goal 2: Support protection and enhancement of natural features native to Oelwein and the region.</i>			
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Conserve and restore natural features such as trees and natural waterways.	Identify reasonable means of natural features conservation and restoration during development processes.	1	
	Establish development regulations that conserve and/or restore of natural features to that comparable to pre-development.	2	
Support community gardens, farmers markets and other similar community based food projects.	Conduct community needs assessment for local food systems.	1	
	Identify resources such as space, time, and partnerships to establish a robust local food system.	2	
<b>Resiliency</b>			
<i>Goal 1: Encourage sustainable practices throughout the community including development and infrastructure methods.</i>			
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Promote environmental sustainability.	Encourage energy efficiency in buildings, lighting, and infrastructure.	2	
	Support the development practices that allow for the capture and use of clean energy.	2	
Support economic sustainability.	Establish cost/benefit analysis procedures to determine the most economically sustainable means of public expenditures.	1	
	Utilize CEDS, Oelwein Comprehensive Plan, Long Range Transportation Plan, and other local plans to help prioritize future activities and maximize funding strategies for projects.	2	

**Goal 2: Participate in development and implementation of local emergency plans including the Fayette County Hazard Mitigation Plan.**

Strategy	Action Items	Priority	Notes
Engage in maintaining and advertising the Fayette County Hazard Mitigation Plan.	Continually monitor local changes that may affect the Fayette County Hazard Mitigation Plan.	2	
	Promote education and awareness regarding hazards and risks in the community.	2	
Encourage neighborhood involvement to increase safety through active participation of residents.	Create safe and inviting spaces for residents to inhabit in their leisure time.	2	
	Establish a community communication network that promotes information sharing, especially in emergency situations.	1	

**Intergovernmental Collaboration**

**Goal 1: Coordinate with Fayette County, neighboring counties, and neighboring municipalities to optimize regional planning efforts.**

Strategy	Action Items	Priority	Notes
Coordinate with Warren County and surrounding municipalities to develop mutually beneficial land use	Identify areas of overlapping or adjacent jurisdiction.	2	
	Form relationships with necessary partners to develop procedures for coordinating future growth plans.	2	
Coordinate with local partners to develop a cohesive, convenient transportation system.	Participate in intergovernmental councils and committees.	2	
	Identify overlapping needs and work to make Oelwein's plans considerate and beneficial to the region.	2	

**Goal 2: Partner with local, state, and federal agencies to enhance the culture and resources of Oelwein.**

Strategy	Action Items	Priority	Notes
Support the Oelwein Community School District in their growth and community engagement activities.	Engage with the Oelwein Community School District regarding development plans and community activities.	2	
	Promote community activities on the City website and various public spaces.	3	
Partner with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to advance planning efforts for natural resources, green space and trail development.	Seek representatives from Fayette County Conservation, Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District, and other state agencies to help guide planning efforts and implementation.	2	
	Promote local conservation efforts on the City website and various public spaces.	3	