



# INTRODUCTION

*Hudson is a special place. Peaceful tree-lined neighborhoods, Western Reserve architecture, scenic expanses and natural features, and a vibrant downtown converge to form a unique place in the midst of the Cleveland and Akron regions. More than just its physical environment, Hudson is also a community of active, informed, and engaged residents who are proud of their city's past and excited about its future.*

*Hudson's distinctive identity and character are the byproduct of a variety of efforts. Since the merger of the City of Hudson Village and Hudson Township in 1994, the City has been a proactive leader in using land use planning and development policies to protect and enhance local character while also containing infrastructure costs and accommodating appropriate new development. To that end, the City adopted its first Comprehensive Plan in 1995, and updated it in 2004.*

*This 2015 Comprehensive Plan updates these prior planning efforts. It sets forth long-range recommendations for future development, as well as the maintenance and enhancement of the existing image and character of the community.*

## PURPOSE

The Comprehensive Plan is the City's official policy document for growth and development. It is broad in scope and informs citywide development standards regarding land use, infrastructure, transportation, parks and recreation, and community services and facilities. The City Charter requires a review and update of the Comprehensive Plan at least once every ten years. At its core, the Plan is Hudson's "roadmap" to the future, identifying long-term community priorities and the tools necessary for achieving them.

The Comprehensive Plan also includes a Downtown Phase II Plan. The Downtown Phase II Plan establishes a clear vision for the underutilized area to the west and northwest of Downtown and provides recommendations necessary to implement the vision.

The Comprehensive Plan is a representation of what the City desires, but it does not compel the City to do anything. It is up to the Hudson City Council to act on any recommendation in the plan. Many of the recommendations are aspirational and may be implemented when feasible.

## BIG IDEAS

What is the Comprehensive Plan seeking to achieve? While the Comprehensive Plan provides policy guidance and recommendations for a variety of topics, an extensive outreach process identified several issues that were exceptionally important to the community. These "big ideas" form the core of the Comprehensive Plan and will help to make Hudson an even better place to live and work:

- Balancing preservation of Hudson's unique identity and historic character with targeted, incremental improvements that can make the community more livable and economically competitive;
- Supporting Downtown as the heart of the community and activity hub;
- Transforming the Downtown Phase II area into an integrated and walkable extension of the existing Downtown, comprised of office and residential uses;
- Improving city-wide pedestrian and bike connectivity;
- Diversifying the housing stock and preserving existing neighborhoods;
- Improving Hudson's business climate;
- Reducing traffic congestion and improving roadway efficiency; and
- Supporting Hudson's schools and youth.

## ORGANIZATION

The Comprehensive Plan is organized into ten chapters.

- **Chapter 1 – Introduction** states the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan, its big ideas, and the organization of the document;
- **Chapter 2 – Community Outreach** summarizes all of the in-person and on-line outreach that was conducted over the course of one year;
- **Chapter 3 – Community Profile** details a variety of important background information, such as the City's history, development controls, existing land uses, and demographics;
- **Chapter 4 – A Vision for Hudson** establishes the community vision that guides the Comprehensive Plan document and paints a picture of what Hudson will look like in 2025;
- **Chapter 5 – Land Use & Development Plan** illustrates and describes in general terms the type and location of future land uses within Hudson. This section also addresses growth management, and provides detailed recommendations and policies targeted at the improvement of Hudson's residential, commercial, and employment areas;

- **Chapter 6 – Downtown Phase II Plan** establishes a vision for the Downtown Phase II area, including site concepts, possible costs, and implementation recommendations;
- **Chapter 7 – Transportation & Mobility Plan** provides recommendations for the City's roads, trails, sidewalks, and more, and identifies opportunities to increase community connectivity;
- **Chapter 8 – Parks, Open Space, & Environmental Features Plan** provides recommendations intended to enhance the park and trail system, and protect and enhance Hudson's natural areas and environmental features;
- **Chapter 9 – Community Facilities & Services Plan** identifies future needs for community facilities and offering long-range recommendations for future facility locations and improvements to ensure that residents are adequately served by service providers; and
- **Chapter 10 – Implementation Plan** presents specific actions, as well as potential funding sources, that the City should pursue as it seeks to implement the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan.