

# Chapter 1

## 1.1 Objectives and Policies

## 1.2 Community Background

## 1.3 Forecasted Growth

### 1.1 Objective and Policies

#### **Objective and Policies of Comprehensive Planning**

The Comprehensive Plan is a plan that was developed to provide direction for future decisions of the city. Policies, standards and programs are contained in the plan to guide the future focus of the community. The city's focus will be on protecting natural resources and ensuring sufficient public infrastructure. The city will utilize the Capital Improvement Program to implement the focus of the community.

#### *Regional Planning Designation*

Circle Pines has been identified as a “developed community” which is defined by the Metropolitan Council as a community that has more than 85% of the land within the borders identified in 2000 as developed. In the City of Circle Pines there are only a few small lots scattered in the community for possible development.

### 1.2 Community Background

#### **Historical Development**

Circle Pines is located in the southeast part of Anoka County where residents enjoy the scenic and restful surroundings of a residential community located 15 miles north of the Twin Cities.

The people who settled in Circle Pines in the late 1940's desired a “cooperative lifestyle”. A cooperative is a group of people joined together to provide for their own needs rather than buying what is needed from private enterprise.

The idea was that people who lived in Circle Pines, would have a stake in the businesses that served the community.

The symbol for cooperatives is two pine trees with a circle around it. Thus, the name Circle Pines was born. After only three years, the cooperative lifestyle was abandoned, in part because of problems in securing financing and rifts among the leaders.

On April 8, 1950, the area, former territory in Blaine and Centerville townships, was incorporated as a village. In 1974, Circle Pines received city status.

### **General Environmental Features**

The city's environmental features include two major resources, Golden Lake and the Rice Creek corridor. Golden Lake shoreline is completely developed and provides an important resource to the city. The Rice Creek Corridor is a vast area of open space; 230 acres of the corridor is within the city. Rice Creek runs out of Baldwin Lake, on the east side, into Circle Pines and out into Blaine on the southwestern side of the city. The open space is a very beautiful and important environmental factor of the city. Other important environmental features are the many parks and open spaces within the city, which provide citizens with a sense of country while still being in the suburbs.

### **Intergovernmental Coordination**

The city of Circle Pines shares borders with Lexington, Blaine, Lino Lakes and Shoreview. Circle Pines shares many services with its neighbors to create efficiency and a community sense within the Centennial area. The city shares police services with Lexington and Centerville, fire and rescue services with Centerville and Lino Lakes. Having the ability to share services gives the whole northern suburb area a sense of community. The city has a Joint Powers Agreement with other cities along I-35W called North Metro I-35W Corridor Coalition. This coalition focuses its efforts and directs its resources on the improvement and needs of the transportation system in the I-35W corridor.

### **Housing**

86% of the housing in Circle Pines was built before 1990. This means Circle Pines has reached an age where ongoing maintenance and improvements is important to its continued viability. Because Circle Pines only has a minimal number of undeveloped lots, the city concentrates its efforts on redevelopment and renovation. Since 1990, only 14% of the housing stock has been built. The city utilizes the HousingResource Center to facilitate the cities housing resources for residents. The HousingResource Center also provides information to residents regarding state and county funds and resources that would be available to residents.

### **Schools**

Circle Pines has one elementary school within its borders, Golden Lake Elementary, which serves grades K-5. Golden Lake Elementary School is located in a residential area near Golden Lake. Across the street from Circle Pines in the city of Blaine are Centennial Elementary (which serves grades K-5) and Centennial Senior High (which serves grades 9-12).

### **Public Services**

The city, through its utility operation (Centennial Utilities), provides natural gas, water, sewer and storm sewer to its residents and other customers. A five-member public utilities commission administers the utilities. The municipal gas system provides natural gas distribution and service to the residents of Circle

Pines and portions of Lino Lakes and Blaine. Centennial Utilities buys gas in the producing regions of the United States and Canada. The sewer, water, storm sewer and street maintenance are provided to residents throughout the city. Sewage treatment is handled through Metropolitan Council Wastewater Services.

The city also provides public safety services such as Fire/Rescue and Police Services. Some of the examples of the special police services the city offers are park and trail patrol, a community service officer, and a lockout service. The Fire/Rescue and Police Department offer a safety camp for fourth graders in the community.

### **Circle Pines Vision Statement**

The vision includes seven key elements:

#### *Interdependent neighborhoods for a vibrant community*

We are firmly committed to doing what we can to provide the opportunity for all residents to experience a greater sense of “community”. Our use of the word interdependent is meant to create an image of neighborhoods where neighbors feel safe, know each other and are genuinely willing to reach out and offer help to one another.

#### *Inviting outdoor places created as stewards of our natural resources*

Our parks, trails and outdoor spaces are highly valued assets of our community. We intend to leverage this strength by protecting our natural areas in ways that are both inviting and environmentally sound. We take our responsibility as stewards of these resources very seriously.

#### *Investment and encouragement for vital housing stock*

We care that all residents of our city have the opportunity to feel a sense of pride in ownership and we will invest in and encourage the continuation of the existing, life-cycle housing supply that meets the needs of all of our residents and creates a community where people want to live.

#### *Vibrant business community*

Successful businesses are important to our community because they provide goods and services, as well as job opportunities, for our citizens. We want our businesses to be profitable, well-served by the city services they receive for their tax dollars, and active members of the community.

#### *Functional, well designed and inviting infrastructure*

Attractive and well-designed streets, trails and parks, lighting and signage can add value to homeowners and are critical to an attractive community. They also encourage our citizens and visitors to easily and safely walk and bike throughout our community.

#### *A city campus that promotes community*

Our city hall, U.S. Post Office and Anoka County Library buildings, as well as the adjacent park and gardens, provide an attractive, efficient place for residents to access valuable public services. With the Library possibly moving out in a couple years, we need to consider how best to adapt the “campus” to continue meeting community needs into the future.

*Enhanced city image and earning a higher level of trust*

Our community has a rich history, an abundance of beautiful natural surroundings, and a stable, progressive city government. We want to better communicate that Circle Pines is a truly special place to live, and earn a higher level of trust in government by providing valuable public services in a friendly, cost-effective and innovative manner.

### 1.3 Growth Forecasts

|                   | 1990         | 2000         | 2006         | 2010         | 2020         | 2030         |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Population</b> | <b>4,704</b> | <b>4,663</b> | <b>5,153</b> | <b>5,400</b> | <b>5,300</b> | <b>5,400</b> |
| <b>Households</b> | <b>1,562</b> | <b>1,697</b> | <b>2,045</b> | <b>2,050</b> | <b>2,100</b> | <b>2,200</b> |
| <b>Employment</b> | <b>168</b>   | <b>2,057</b> | <b>2,162</b> | <b>2,250</b> | <b>2,400</b> | <b>2,450</b> |

*Source: Metropolitan Council*