

Tyler 21: A Vision for the Next Generation

Developing a vision statement is an essential early step in creating a community comprehensive plan. Vision statements focus attention on a community's values, sense of identity, and aspirations. The process of creating a vision statement brings community members together to identify what they want to preserve and what they want to change, to articulate their desires and hopes for the future, to develop a consensus on an ideal future and to commit themselves to working towards that ideal. The vision statement, accompanied by related principles or goals, becomes the guiding image for the community as it faces future challenges and complex choices.

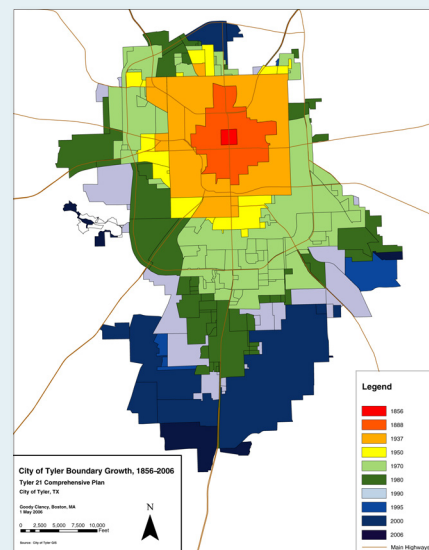
The Tyler 21 Vision and Principles emerged from an extensive public outreach program and series of community participation events. They are the distillation of many hours of community activity and the contributions of over a thousand Tyler residents who responded to a public opinion survey, participated in a day-long visioning retreat, attended neighborhood open houses, and provided their comments at display sites and through the web site. After this community process, the draft Vision and Principles then went to a Steering Committee, which reviewed the detailed results of activities and community comment. After minor revisions by the Steering Committee, the draft Vision and Principles were then sent to the City Council, which approved them on August 9, 2006. The Vision and Principles are the guiding framework for the elements of the Tyler 21 Comprehensive Plan.

VISION

In 2030, the City of Tyler will be nationally known for its commitment to community, a robust business environment, and the beauty of its public places.

Building on its historic heritage and enduring identity as a city of trees, roses, and azaleas, Tyler will welcome growth with a thoughtful approach that reflects the beauty of the East Texas landscape and creates *a sense of place and community in every part of the city*. Through excellence in city design, Tyler's public spaces, from humble sidewalks to entrance corridors, plazas and parks, will provide comfort, safety, utility and delight to all who use them. In this way, Tyler will enhance and extend into the future the precious legacy bestowed by previous generations—Tyler's Rose Garden, its tree-lined brick streets, and its historic districts.

Tyler will combine faith-based and small-town values with *safe, interconnected neighborhoods; a superb transportation system; a flourishing economy; and a vibrant downtown*. With an efficient, forward-thinking, and fiscally-responsible city government and strong public-private and regional partnerships, Tyler will set the highest standards for an outstanding quality of life.



principles

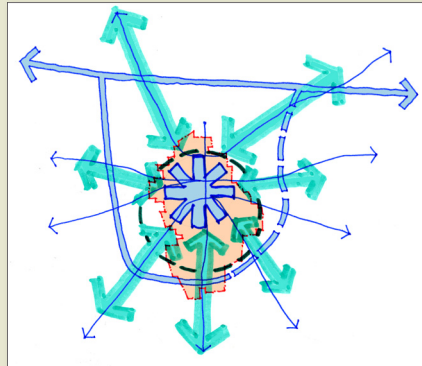
CONNECT PEOPLE TO ONE ANOTHER AND IN COMMUNITY:

- Preserve and protect Tyler's values of friendliness, family, faith and community connections, which will be the foundation for the success of Tyler 21.

PROMOTE BALANCED GROWTH:

- Promote growth and redevelopment in downtown and all sectors of the city.
- Revitalize North Tyler.
- Enhance links to I-20 and Loop 49.

Balanced growth will bring development to all parts of the city, including downtown and North Tyler.



PROVIDE NEIGHBORHOODS THAT ARE ATTRACTIVE CENTERS OF COMMUNITY:

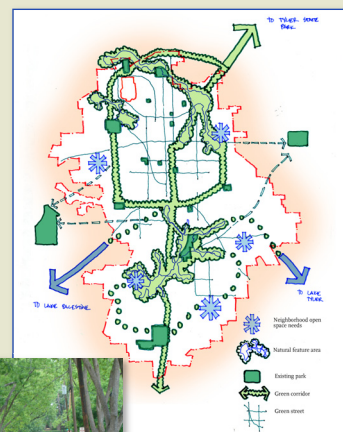
- Provide appealing, safe, affordable and stable places to live for people with a wide range of incomes.
- Provide a variety of housing types for families, singles, older persons and other kinds of households.
- Enhance and create neighborhoods containing walkable centers with a mix of housing and shopping to serve residents.

PROTECT AND ENHANCE OPEN SPACES, PARKS AND TREES IN A CONNECTED NETWORK FOR RECREATION AND A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT:

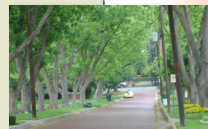
- Create a network of greenways, parks and open spaces linking city and county destinations, such as the lakes and the state park.
- Encourage development of new neighborhood parks.
- Encourage the planting of trees along streets and in public and private places.



Trees and other streetscape improvements can transform major streets.



A connected network of trails and parks will link the city, the lakes and the state park.



principles

PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS:

- Provide continuous bicycle and pedestrian routes and trails that connect city destinations.
- Adopt land use strategies that create higher-density, mixed-use clusters of “transit-ready” development that can support expansion of the public transportation system.
- Preserve potential new transportation corridors and work with regional partners to support efficient transportation throughout East Texas.

REINVIGORATE THE CITY CENTER TO BE THE DOWNTOWN OF EAST TEXAS:

- Develop a major downtown neighborhood of new and rehabilitated housing to provide the foundation for shopping, restaurants, culture, arts and entertainment in the evenings and on the weekend.
- Create a concentration of cultural and entertainment venues downtown.
- Program events throughout the year to attract visitors from around the region.



Downtown cultural activities, restaurants and entertainment will bring vitality in the evening and on weekends.



Tyler is beginning to expand its housing, restaurant and retail options.



principles

PRESERVE, ENHANCE AND COMMUNICATE TYLER'S HISTORIC HERITAGE:

- Conserve unique character through preservation of historic buildings throughout the city.
- Ensure that new development, while expressing its own time, is respectful of historic character.
- Create heritage trails and historic markers to identify diverse aspects of Tyler's history, such as African-American heritage, the rose industry, the oil and gas industry, and the railroad industry.



Preserving Tyler's historic heritage will be one key to keeping its unique character.

CULTIVATE AN ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY TO BUSINESS AND TYLER'S MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:

- Sustain policies that allow businesses to flourish.
- Continue to foster the city's role as the retail hub of a broad region.
- Maintain support for the medical centers, colleges and the university.



Tyler will continue to be friendly to large and small businesses.



MAINTAIN EXCELLENT MUNICIPAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES:

- Continue city government's focus on meeting the highest standards of responsiveness, service and efficiency.
- Provide excellent value for taxpayer dollars.

MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE OUR STRONG COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS:

- Building on a tradition of philanthropy and public-private partnerships, bring together the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to realize the Tyler 21 Next Generation vision.
- Expand participation throughout the Tyler community.
- Continue to reach out and enhance partnerships with school districts, neighboring cities and county government.