

February 27, 2003 Visioning Session Comprehensive Plan, Village of Hampshire

Participants – *Planning Advisory Committee, Village Board, Planning Commission and Zoning Board*

Assets and Strengths

a) Amenities:

- Great community parks and forest preserves
- The size of schools provide more one-on-one teacher/student attention
- Open spaces and rural beauty are assets that need to be preserved
- Chick 'n' Dip is a unique amenity that adds to Hampshire's small town atmosphere
- Senior services are proportionately well equipped for a village of Hampshire's size
- Equestrian park serves a niche group and attracts people from great lengths
- Forest Preserve with equestrian park provides an unique opportunity for residents

b) Geography:

- Agricultural lands are a valuable resource
- Hampshire has room for growth, unlike other local communities
- Location provides convenient access to I-90, highways, and urban centers without having the urban density of other local communities
- Downtown is still a viable location for businesses
- The diversity in housing and business types provides residents with lifestyle choices
- Downtown parking on State street further promotes a small town atmosphere

c) Community:

- Hampshire enjoys a caring community with a rich history
- Great team spirit for school sports
- Independent from cookie cutter suburbs
- Good planning has given Hampshire a proactive approach to controlled growth
- Citizens possess great pride and enjoy working together
- Open spirit towards those new to the community
- Small size of schools provides students with greater attention
- Great place to raise a family
- A diverse business base has grown from a largely agricultural base
- Residents are willing to support local businesses even in a time of discount big box stores
- Everyone in the Village can have their voice heard
- EMT volunteerism provides an invaluable service to the community
- High parental involvement in school activities
- Church attendance demonstrates the high level of commitment residents possess for their faith
- Family oriented community
- Hampshire's youth tend to stay in the community as they grow up
- Families have lived in Hampshire for generations
- Home prices and tax rates provide affordable living costs

- Service organizations are active in the community
- Senior services are noteworthy for a community of Hampshire's size
- Corridors of fencing do not exist due to the number of double frontage lots

d) **Environment**

- Relaxed community atmosphere
- Feeling of safety for residents who walk at night
- Peacefulness of small town life, quiet, fresh air, etc.
- Open spaces and rural beauty are assets that need to be preserved
- Low volume of traffic makes transportation easy

Problems & Needs

a) **Functional/Services**

- No Public Transportation, including a Metra station
- Lack of teen activities
- Addition to police and fire protection when new development arrives
- Identification and acquisition of new water sources
- Update impact fees for school district financing and locate schools within neighborhoods
- Desperately need a new Village Hall
- Provide affordable housing for young residents and seniors
- North/south roadway connector needed on east side of Hampshire
- Balancing the needs of new residents with the needs of long time residents

b) **Recreation/Amenities**

- Lack of teen activities
- Bike trails and multi-purpose trails
- Acquiring amenities of park such as paths, skate parks, and ball fields
- Joint programs between the Park and School districts
- Construction of a golf course
- Interconnecting parks and open space

c) **Aesthetics/Environment**

- Keeping out Big Box stores in order keep the small town environment
- Keeping the Downtown a viable business center
- Control the intensity of traffic while development increases
- Preserve and protect open space and agricultural land
- Providing large enough setbacks for housing along major roads
- Protecting open space and creating buffers for waterways
- Producing codes that are anti-monotony oriented
- Providing large enough front yard setbacks for larger homes
- Continue the compatibility in housing styles

d) **Economic Development**

- Need an available employment base to attract and sustain businesses
- Want specialty stores that attract a different market than big box stores
- Keep out big box stores in order to assist local small businesses
- Sustain the vitality of the downtown area
- Balance development with school district funds
- Provide moderate income housing for younger persons and seniors

Opportunities

- Hampshire can set the pace for future development
- Create a vision to guide development through the Comprehensive Plan
- Provide better fire and police for commercial expansion near I-90
- Find niche businesses to compete with big box stores and keep the downtown lively
- Using the I-90 interchange for economic development potential
- Sustain the retention of young people by providing affordable housing
- Develop land use and development policies that maintain the aesthetic qualities of Hampshire
- Promote the idea of locating a Metra station in Hampshire
- Blend the needs of new and existing residents
- Propose bike and multi-purpose trails
- Interconnect parks and open space corridors

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March 12, 2003 Visioning Session Comprehensive Plan, Village of Hampshire

Participants – *Planning Advisory Committee and Community Members*

Assets and Strengths

a) Amenities

- Village sidewalks offer social opportunities
- Forest Preserve open space
- Great community parks and recreation opportunities
- Village offers good retail mix
- Open space aesthetics
- Equestrian opportunities available
- The size of schools provide more one-on-one teacher/student attention

b) Geography

- Tollway commercial area generates substantial revenue for community
- Potential for commercial growth is strong
- The diversity in housing types provides residents with lifestyle choices
- Doesn't have suburban feel
- Convenient access to I-90 and other retail centers
- Convenient downtown commercial

c) Community

- There is a lot of community involvement in the schools
- Hampshire schools have dedicated teachers
- Schools on overburdened due to new development
- Residents are friendly and outgoing
- There is a strong sense of community
- Everyone in the Village has a voice in planning process
- Unique community rather than typical suburban feel
- Residents support each other, the schools and local business
- Village staff & volunteers make a difference
- Great girl's basketball program
- School mascot
- Many residents work in Hampshire
- Very low crime rate
- Religious diversity and collaboration

d) Environment

- Rolling countryside provides rural aesthetic character
- Open spaces and rural beauty are assets that need to be preserved

- Low volume of traffic keeps transportation simple and safe
- Quiet & calm rural life
- Intimate feel of the community
- Small town/Main Street character
- Natural resources offer natural aesthetic diversity
- Feeling of safety for residents
- Low light pollution allows great night sky viewing
- Low density development has many benefits
- Agricultural lifestyle
- Diverse wildlife

Problems & Needs

a) Functional/Services

- Library is too small
- Dwindling water supply
- Treatment plant not keeping up with development
- Village infrastructure deteriorating
- Roads are deteriorating throughout Hampshire
- School growth needs becoming an issue
- High School needs a campus type development
- Need comprehensive school planning
- Water bills too high
- Funding of improvements not readily obvious
- Development impacts on infrastructure
- No Public Transportation, including a Metra station
- Stark's corner traffic becoming a problem

b) Recreation/Amenities

- Lack of large open space devoted to parks and recreation
- Trail system(s)
- Equestrian trails
- Need new Park District facilities, including a community center
- Need more and better Park District programming
- Lacking senior recreation opportunities/ senior center

c) Aesthetics/Environment

- Railroad divides the community
- Village needs aesthetic facelift

d) Economic Development

- More and greater diversity in Village retail

- Need more & better dining opportunities
- Need more strip shopping in appropriate locations
- Need more industrial/office in appropriate locations
- Property taxes need to be minimized to homeowners

Opportunities

- Develop a senior center and more senior opportunities
- Promote the idea of locating a Metra station in Hampshire
- Make Hampshire unique from other area communities
- Enhance the downtown to create a village that doesn't need to compete with strip commercial
- Work with Siegle's in developing downtown initiatives