



NORTH BRANCH

—Minnesota—

Kevin Schieber
Mayor

Robert Canada
Councilmember/Acting Mayor

Jeff Goulet
Councilmember

Jim Ibinger
Councilmember

Patrick Meacham
Councilmember

**CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
CITY HALL, 6408 ELM STREET, NORTH
BRANCH, MN 55056**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. WORKSESSION ITEMS
 - a. Receive and review Comprehensive Plan updates
5. ADJOURNMENT

INFO

Since we do not have time to discuss every point presented, it may seem that decisions are preconceived. However, background information is provided to the City Council on each Agenda item in advance from Staff and appointed Commissions; and decisions are based on this information and past experiences. In addition some items may also have been discussed preliminarily at Council Work Sessions. If you are aware of information that has not been discussed, please raise your hand to be recognized. Comments that are pertinent are appreciated. Items requiring excessive time may be continued to another meeting.



Prepared By: Matthew Hill, City Administrator

Presenter: Matthew Hill, City Administrator

Date: 07/10/2026

Board & Commission: City Council

Subject: Receive and review Comprehensive Plan updates

Workshop Overview

The City of North Branch is continuing the comprehensive plan review process, which focuses on a chapter-by-chapter assessment of key policy areas. This process ensures that the city's future development and policy framework align with current community goals. The intent of this effort is a periodic review rather than a complete replacement, as the next full version of the Comprehensive Plan is anticipated in 2028.

Purpose

This memorandum serves to update the City Council on the status of the Comprehensive Plan review. It highlights the collective progress and substantive input provided by the Steering Committee, Planning Commission, Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces (PTOS) Commission, and the Economic Development Authority (EDA).

Overview of the Comprehensive Plan Update Process

The review of the Comprehensive Plan is being conducted through a systematic, multi-stage framework intended to harmonize community priorities with long-term strategic objectives. This

initiative involves evaluating the 2018 document against current trends to establish refined goals that will direct future municipal growth.

Entity Contributions and Meetings

The development of the current draft has been driven by the specialized expertise of the following bodies:

- **Steering Committee:**
 - Acting as the primary lead for coordination, the Steering Committee has held planning sessions since the project's inception.
 - Their function involved setting high-level policy direction, ensuring regional alignment, and integrating findings from other commissions. They have effectively synthesized community input into specific updates across all chapters.

- **Planning Commission (Land Use Focus):**
 - This commission was responsible for the evaluation of Chapter 3: Land Use and Growth.
 - Efforts focused on reconciling future land use mapping and zoning standards with modern development patterns. Their role remains vital in conducting public hearings and maintaining the plan's regulatory integrity.

- **Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces (PTOS) Commission:**
 - The PTOS Commission oversaw the assessment of Chapter 8: Natural Environment, Parks, Trails, and Recreation.
 - Key discussions centered on enhancing trail connectivity to residential developments and accessibility.

- **Economic Development Authority (EDA):**
 - The EDA contributed directly to Chapter 5: Economic Development.
 - Their focus included revitalization strategies, the support of local small businesses, and industrial attraction. They have explored diverse methods to expand the tax base and optimize commercial corridors.

Community Engagement Summary

The foundation of these proposed updates rests upon extensive public feedback. Significant outreach initiatives included:

- A series of public open houses beginning in June 2025 to identify city-wide priorities.
- Distributed surveys and digital platforms for community-wide feedback.
- Specific considerations regarding housing needs, public safety, and transportation

Workshop Agenda: Comprehensive Plan Update

This workshop is dedicated to a chapter-by-chapter review of the Comprehensive Plan. Each chapter review is allocated 15 minutes for Council discussion and staff feedback. (flexible)

- 6:00 PM: Welcome and Objectives
- 6:15 PM: Chapter 2: Vision and Values
- 6:30 PM: Chapter 3: Land Use
- 6:45 PM: Chapter 4: Housing
- 7:00 PM: Chapter 5: Economic Development
- 7:15 PM: Chapter 6: Transportation
- 7:30 PM: Chapter 7: Utilities
- 7:45 PM: Chapter 8: Natural Environment, Parks, Trails, and Recreation
- 8:00 PM: Chapter 9: Public Safety (new addition proposal)

Next Steps

Following the City Council's review and staff feedback provided during this workshop, the compiled information will be prepared for an upcoming public hearing and approval for publication.

Voting Requirements:

Voting Options Simple Majority