

Goals, Objectives, & Recommendations

Nauvoo Comprehensive Plan 2009

Looking Forward While Respecting the Past

Between 2006 and 2008, the Nauvoo Comprehensive Plan Committee and other members of the community met and established community development goals, objectives, and relevant recommendations. These decisions were based on community profile data gathered for the community, municipal survey responses, and input from planning commission members, city staff, and city council members.

Goals are statements that describe, in general terms, a desired future condition. Objectives are statements that describe a specific future condition that is to be attained within a stated period of time. Recommendations are courses of action or rules of conduct to be used to achieve the goals and objectives of the plan.

Specifically, the committee determined that there are ten primary goals it seeks to fulfill in order to secure the healthy development and growth of the community. The goals relate to economic development, public infrastructure, housing, land use, transportation, public safety, parks and recreation, beautification, historic preservation, and tourism.

Economic Development

- Goal: Maintain and expand the economic well being of the community.
- Objective 1: Increase the diversity of retail goods and/or retail stores in Nauvoo.

Recommendations:

Several of the participants in the committee meetings believe that the community has suffered from business closures and that a diversification of retail stores added to the business districts in town would be a benefit to the community. The municipal survey indicated that some of the respondents agree. Although the development of "big-box" retailers in Nauvoo might not necessarily be realistic, pull factors do indicate that residents shop outside of the corporate limits for several major household expenditures, and the development of additional shopping venues may help to keep local residents from shopping outside the community. The items that residents most often shop out of town for include lumber, clothing, automobile services, furniture, miscellaneous household goods and agricultural products.

1. Work to attract other retail stores that would complement the businesses that already exist in the community to increase the overall number of local retail selections in the community. Nauvoo should create a marketing plan for the community that specifically addresses retail businesses and utilize this tool to assist in retail attraction.
2. Nauvoo should continue to review and use community pull factor information as it becomes available to determine which retail sectors are losing consumers to other communities. The most recent information obtained was tabulated in 2006. The city council, or other local organizations, should make it a point to obtain the new data and watch for trends that could be affecting the local economy.
3. Nauvoo should reach out to neighboring communities and work with local community and economic developers to encourage a regional approach to retail business development. Although there is often competition amongst nearby municipalities, they may have retail sectors that are also under-performing. Potential businesses might find the regional market more attractive than just one local market.

- Objective 2: Encourage downtown Nauvoo to be an active and thriving commercial center.

Recommendations:

Nauvoo has a historically significant architecturally diverse downtown business and retail district.

1. To help the area compete with other shopping districts, downtown Nauvoo should be developed as a niche shopping area that provides goods or services that consumers cannot find elsewhere.
2. Some businesses, like Hotel Nauvoo, already exist in the area and are focal points of the downtown. Similarly, downtown Nauvoo should continue to be the civic center of the community. Local government, the post office, emergency services and other related activities are all housed in the downtown area. Financial, legal, and real estate offices can also be found in this district. The concentration of these services is beneficial to Nauvoo residents and the development of similar businesses and services should be developed in the underused or vacant buildings in the same area.
3. Nauvoo should consider participation in the Illinois Main Street Program to assist in the revitalization of the downtown area. Not only can the Main Street Program work with owners to retain and expand local businesses, but it can also be a source of training and technical assistance. The Main Street Program has four main program areas. To begin, the Main Street Program can assist Nauvoo in developing a downtown management organization. Second, the program can help improve the appearance of the downtown buildings and streetscape by assisting in historic preservation. Next, the program can help market the district by focusing on its unique characteristics. Finally, the program can help improve the downtown area by recruiting businesses and finding new uses for underused space. If not interested in the Main Street Program, Nauvoo should encourage the development of a unified streetscape along main traffic routes to better fit with existing local historic appeal.
4. Nauvoo should encourage mixed-use developments in the downtown area. Many of the structures in the downtown area are large and demand costly upkeep. Unfortunately, due to high maintenance costs, many of the structures are not in very good condition. Finding other income producing uses for this empty or under-utilized space could ultimately assist in the overall revitalization of the downtown area. One example of mixed-use could be utilizing upper levels of buildings or other first floor units as residential space. With the close availability of various businesses and services, residential space downtown could be a good place for persons without vehicles to reside.
5. There are two distinct business districts in Nauvoo. In the community survey, these districts were labeled District A and District B. District A includes only businesses located on Mulholland Street between Bluff and Barnett Streets, otherwise known as from the State Bank to the Mini Mart. District B includes all other businesses in the city. Committee meeting discussions and the survey responses indicate that there are several different issues that people would like to see addressed in both business areas. Some of these issues include parking availability, hours of operation and storefront or business rehabilitation and/or beautification. Sidewalk continuity is more prevalent in District A, than District B. The development of sidewalks throughout the community and in District B would greatly enhance traffic flow and ease pedestrian access.
6. Improvements made to the area will be costly. Some of the improvements that committee members would like to see, such as building rehabilitation, would need to be made by property owners. The utilization of tax incentives as an impetus for revitalization should be a tool that the city considers when planning downtown Nauvoo.
7. The city should possibly consider implementing a special taxing district in order to raise municipal funds and make improvements to the designated area.

8. The city should actively work with the local downtown merchants to encourage planning that would enrich area businesses and target year-round consumerism.

- Objective 3: Create and expand business and industrial development in Nauvoo.

Recommendations:

Nauvoo's primary industry and major employer is historic preservation/tourism.

1. Nauvoo should encourage the development of a light industrial park by expanding local infrastructure and preparing the property for business and industrial development.
2. Nauvoo officials should work with existing local businesses to encourage the retainage and growth of these businesses.
3. Local economic developers should frequently communicate with business owners and be well apprised of their needs.
4. City officials should communicate with local LDS leaders to see if it would be feasible to utilize property located on Winchester Street for a use other than industrial. This property is owned by the LDS Church, but would be given to the city for other uses through a special agreement. Although currently zoned as industrial, its proximity to park and residential land would make it relatively unattractive for industrial purposes. If the LDS Church will not allow for this land use change, perhaps a property or location swap could be considered. Ideally, industrial property should be located away from residential areas and be along the major transportation routes throughout the town.
5. Nauvoo should consider the creation of a municipal economic development revolving loan fund that could be utilized for both business attraction and expansion. A successful revolving loan program would ultimately provide for a growing pool of funds from which additional loans could be made throughout the community. Nauvoo should also consider utilizing state and federal grant and loan programs to assist local businesses when applicable.

- Objective 4: Extend Nauvoo's Information Technology (IT) base.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should continue to develop and maintain a municipal website to reflect local businesses and services currently located within the community. In addition, maintaining a comprehensive updated website will provide information to persons seeking to visit or considering relocation to the community.
2. The city should coordinate its website with local organizations in order to maximize usage and the spread of information. One way the website could be used is to put bus routes on-line and encourage the use of these routes by tourism groups.
3. High-speed Internet access is currently available in Nauvoo in both Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), cable (through Media Com) and wireless formats. DSL utilizes local telephone lines. Not all of the communities in the region have this technology available for their residents and businesses. Maintaining up-to-date Internet systems in the community should be a priority for the city because many, if not all, businesses now rely heavily on the Internet for major portions of their operations.

- Objective 5: Develop and maintain adequate infrastructure to support the expansion/attraction of businesses.

Recommendations:

1. The Nauvoo Public Works Department and the City Council should formulate a capital improvement plan that adequately addresses potential future growth demands on current systems. This plan should also note where major improvements are needed and plan for the phased maintenance of local infrastructure to maximize fiscal feasibility. In addition to basic water and sewer demand, high growth areas should be reviewed to verify they have sufficient accessibility to all infrastructure including sidewalks, IT, and appropriate drainage.

- Objective 6: Provide additional entertainment and opportunities for all Nauvoo residents.

Recommendations:

1. The Nauvoo residential survey posed several questions relating to local recreational and entertainment opportunities. Many of the respondents indicated that there is a need for more recreational outlets in the community. Committee meeting discussions also resulted in the general opinion that there is a lack of entertainment in the community and that the development of these resources could be an avenue for economic development. Nauvoo should encourage the development of additional artistic and musical establishments in order to attract more persons to the community. Further, Nauvoo should consider expanding local festivals and events since these types of activities generally attract people to the community who are more likely to purchase goods and services during these occasions.

- Objective 7: Utilize Nauvoo's access to the Mississippi River.

Recommendations:

1. Although there is limited public or city access to the Mississippi River in Nauvoo, the community should encourage partnership with the LDS church to develop public riverfront point of entry. Currently, there is one public access point to the river within the corporate limits. There is also a grain terminal and storage facility along the river. Further property should be acquired to increase terminal capacity and additional access should be sought to encourage the development of marina type services including fuel availability, docking, food, storage, and other boating related activities.
2. Other recreational uses should also be expanded to maximize pedestrian traffic and draw additional crowds to the riverfront. City officials should work with the appropriate local state and federal authorities, including the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, to develop riverfront activities most compatible with the local environment.

- Objective 8: Promote the development of complementary industries to regional businesses.

Recommendations:

1. Local economic developers should encourage the development of complementary businesses as new development occurs regionally. For example, businesses related to a growth in wind farms across the river in Iowa may develop, as the local need for turbine mechanics and outfitters grows.

- Objective 9: Provide easy access to local and regional economic development information.

Recommendations:

1. The city should continue to foster partnerships with neighboring communities to address economic development issues on a regional level. Federal funding bodies, like the Economic Development Administration, are increasingly gearing their funding towards economic development solutions that focus on regional impacts instead of strictly local benefits. There are several economic development professionals in the area and the city should attempt to network with these individuals in order to get the maximum benefit of their expertise.

2. A local economic development committee should be established to enable the flow of information to and from the community. Information should be provided to the public in an easy and open manner, and when necessary, local economic and community development professionals should be brought in to educate the community on current economic development methods and tools.

- Objective 10: Encourage entrepreneurship in local education.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should assist local primary schools in the development of youth training and entrepreneurial programs and activities. Junior Achievement may be a curriculum that could be incorporated into Nauvoo elementary and middle schools. In addition, Nauvoo should consider contacting the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs to assist in establishing a youth-based entrepreneurial program for the community.

- Objective 11: Encourage the development of agribusiness in the Nauvoo area.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should work with local producers to encourage the development of specialty agribusiness in the community. When appropriate, the city should collaborate with regional organizations that specialize in value added and sustainable agricultural products that will keep the most amount of profit local and do the least amount of harm to the environment.

Public Infrastructure

- Goal: Provide quality public services in Nauvoo in a cost effective manner.

- Objective 1: Develop and maintain high quality water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer systems throughout Nauvoo.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should create and maintain a capital improvement plan that reviews the current status of local infrastructure and develop a plan to improve existing, and construct new, infrastructure.
2. The capital improvement plan should be reviewed annually and updated at a minimum of every five years.
3. The plan should consider improvements within the existing corporate boundaries and also the 1.5 mile surrounding area.
4. Nauvoo should maintain the production of high quality water in the community by continuing to make improvements, at the municipal water treatment plant and at the water storage facilities.
5. The city should make improvements to the water distribution system to ensure that the water mains are in good working order and have sufficient capacity to provide adequate pressure throughout the community. Good water pressure is not only appreciated by local residents for personal use, but also ensures that the local fire department has adequate pressure to meet fire protection needs.
6. The city should also work with property owners to develop consistent policies concerning ownership of water lines on private property and responsibility for repairs and replacements.
7. Nauvoo should continue to plan for the construction of major sanitary sewer treatment plant improvement projects. Infiltration and inflow into the treatment system should be minimized as this could increase load at the treatment plant.
8. The city should continue the separation of any combined storm and sanitary sewers in the community.

9. Nauvoo should develop policies and programs to control storm water runoff from both public and private properties within the community.
 10. New development should incorporate retention or detention areas when appropriate.
 11. Nauvoo should coordinate water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer improvements with other infrastructure and neighborhood improvements, such as roadway repairs.
 12. Where feasible, the city should connect all residences, businesses and institutions not currently served to public water and sewer.
 13. Nauvoo should also work with the Hancock County Health Department to ensure that all local private water and sewer systems are in compliance with appropriate regulations.
 14. Nauvoo should continue to seek state and federal funding assistance for water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer improvements to reduce the financial burden on property owners and users.
- Objective 2: Maintain a high quality road and sidewalk system in Nauvoo.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should develop a sidewalk improvement plan that would upgrade and construct new sidewalks throughout the community. While completing the road assessment, it was recorded that some areas in town do not have sidewalks or other types of physical separation between the street and the individual properties. This creates streetscapes that lack a finished visual appeal. Construction of sidewalks should strongly be considered in these areas.
 2. The city should further maintain and enhance a city and property owner partnership to replace, improve, or construct sidewalks in the community.
 3. The city should develop a multi-year plan for the ongoing repair and resurfacing of all public streets and roads in the community.
 4. Nauvoo should review the future transportation plan map and improve roads that are anticipated to have increased demand in the near future.
 5. Nauvoo should develop a program that requires all subsurface infrastructure be installed or repaired either before or simultaneously with roadway construction or renovation. This will minimize inconvenience to residents and overall costs.
 6. In addition, the city should develop and maintain regulations that require all new subdivisions and developments to have curbs, gutters, sidewalks and underground gas, electric and telecommunications utilities.
 7. The city should consider working with local organizations to establish litter pick-up days and promote the overall cleanliness of local streets.
- Objective 3: Maintain and improve Nauvoo's technological infrastructure.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should create and maintain a technological infrastructure plan for the city. Nauvoo should then investigate the potential benefits of broadband/IT and consider a push for a community-wide broadband/IT expansion initiative.

2. Nauvoo should develop and maintain a municipal website, including the provision of regularly updated information on city services and amenities. A municipal website is often the first point of contact a person might have with the community therefore, the site should be aesthetically pleasing, easy to use, and full of useful information.
 3. Nauvoo should develop and maintain, in concert with Hancock County, a county-wide Geographic Information System (GIS). An electronic system that collects geographically referenced data, GIS can be used for a variety of purposes. Communities can use GIS to map where things are, determine quantities, densities, and observe change over time. Because of the large number of various potential uses, GIS ownership and usage should be accomplished through the development of private and public partnership in the county, and Nauvoo should be an integral player in that development.
 4. The city should consider developing a community technology center, or a place where persons can access technology and broaden their skills. To some degree, the local library provides computer access. However, the library could use additional equipment and should develop classes that provide technology instruction.
- Objective 4: Provide comprehensive solid waste management to all Nauvoo residents.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should encourage all residents to recycle and implement a curbside recycling program.
2. If needed, the city should seek grant funding that will make the recycling process more feasible.
3. The city should work with the Hancock County government to encourage participation in regional clean-ups and recycling efforts.

Housing

•• Goal: Maintain and expand quality housing for all Nauvoo residents.

- Objective 1: Promote and develop diverse housing options within the City of Nauvoo.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should encourage the development of housing that meets the needs of the elderly population. Working with developers, the city should promote the construction of condominium type housing units for senior citizens that are accessible to persons with limited mobility. These units will require lower maintenance, be more affordable and overall, be more attractive to older residents.
2. The city should encourage the development of additional multiple-family residential dwelling units in areas that are consistent with the updated future land use map. The new units should be near community services and facilities for the convenience of residents. Currently, multiple-family housing in Nauvoo is primarily located near the business districts within close proximity to local businesses and services. Future growth of this type of housing should be consistent, taking into account proximity to business and services, and fill in as a buffer between single-family residential and commercial and industrial land uses.
3. Mixed-use development should be continued in the downtown area. Since the downtown offers many amenities, apartments of various sizes would be convenient for renters. In addition, constructing housing units in the second stories of downtown buildings where feasible would allow for the rehabilitation of the structures by providing additional monthly revenue to pay for the improvements.

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4. The city should provide financial and regulatory incentives to encourage and assist developers to construct new single and multi-family housing units in the community as needed.
 5. Nauvoo should review its local building regulations and remove any unnecessary governmental barriers that restrict housing supply or prevent in-fill development in established neighborhoods.
 6. Local developers should be encouraged to construct well-planned projects that include open space, woodlands and storm water retention and drainage. All construction should consider the natural environment and the rich ecology of the area.
 7. Nauvoo should ensure that housing of all types and prices is readily available in the community. The city should periodically review the housing stock available and take appropriate measures to ensure that housing is always sufficient.
- Objective 2: Enhance and maintain the quality of the existing housing stock and the overall appearance of residential neighborhoods within the City of Nauvoo.

Recommendations:

1. The City of Nauvoo should maintain the integrity of local neighborhoods by ensuring that sufficient building and housing codes and appropriate zoning regulations are in place.
2. A review of local ordinances should take place upon the approval of the comprehensive plan in order to align the ordinances with the goals and objectives that have been developed in the plan.
3. Nauvoo should consider additional regulatory programs, or strengthen current strategies, that seek to enforce the maintenance of private residential properties.
4. The city should continue and expand owner and renter-occupied housing rehabilitation programs in all parts of the community.
5. The city should continue to work with regional and state agencies to develop programs that are designed to eliminate sub-standard housing in Nauvoo.
6. Nauvoo should discourage the conversion of single-family housing to multiple-family or seasonally available rental units. A fair amount of this conversion has already taken place in the community.
7. Nauvoo should work to maintain the long-term integrity of residential neighborhoods and enforce existing overcrowding regulations.
8. Nauvoo should continue and expand acquisition and demolition programs in the community to rid neighborhoods of vacant and dilapidated residential properties. Vacant and dilapidated structures can be a safety concern and also may attract criminal activity. Redevelopment of blighted neighborhoods should be a primary development concern.
9. Nauvoo should encourage the implementation of well-planned new residential developments that are aesthetically pleasing and include open-space, woodlands, and storm water retention and drainage areas.
10. The city should take steps to ensure that new development complements existing structures and that historic properties are preserved as much as possible.
11. Nauvoo should encourage the formation of neighborhood associations that work together to organize local clean-up days, foster local stewardship and work closely with the city in maintaining high quality neighborhoods.
12. Nauvoo should work to maintain appropriate buffers between industrial uses and residential property within the community. By maintaining a transition between uses, from industrial to commercial to residential, most residential areas in the community will not be adjacent to major industry.

- Objective 3: Make homeownership more attainable for local residents.

Recommendations:

1. The City of Nauvoo should continue to work with regional and state agencies to continue efforts to make homeownership more affordable for the general public. Specifically, Nauvoo officials should work with local legislators and county officials to establish affordable property taxes and prevent the exodus of additional homeowners due to skyrocketing property taxes.
2. Nauvoo should make every effort to promote the construction of affordable housing in the community. Nauvoo should partner with area agencies to expand local outreach regarding home ownership and homebuyer assistance programs.

Land Use

- Goal: Promote appropriate land uses in Nauvoo to preserve and enhance the overall character of the community.
- Objective 1: Pursue land use and planning strategies that provide for the orderly growth of the community and the 1.5 mile planning area.

Recommendations:

1. The City of Nauvoo should pursue annexation of property that is contiguous to its corporate limits, especially where the city limits surround, or nearly surround, the property.
2. Nauvoo should also ensure that annexation agreements are in place before new developments, located beyond the corporate boundaries, are allowed to connect to city water and sewer systems.
3. The city should work closely with Hancock County planning officials to coordinate planning efforts within 1.5 miles of the corporate limits.
4. Wherever possible, the city should encourage the preservation of prime agricultural land in the 1.5 mile planning area by implementing growth management and land use controls that discourage unnecessary development on such land.
5. The city should make an effort to engage the county and appropriate townships in discussions about planning for future road expansions in the area that could positively impact development in and around the city.
6. Sprawl and leap frog development should be discouraged and development should be focused in areas where infrastructure currently exists. Development in areas where water, sewer, and other public infrastructure are not available, or where systems are already at capacity, could be a hardship on the community by making services more costly and less efficient.
7. Nauvoo should encourage development on vacant, undeveloped or under-utilized land within the current corporate limits where appropriate.
8. Nauvoo should support residential development that is reflective of the character of the surrounding residential properties.
9. Development should complement other adjacent land uses. Developers of new subdivisions should pay most, if not all, of the costs associated with infrastructure construction in new neighborhoods.
10. The city should consider the implementation of minimum landscape requirements for new developments in order to make neighborhoods aesthetically pleasing.

11. Nauvoo should encourage development that protects and enhances the community's natural resources such as critical waterways and other natural habitats.
 12. Nauvoo should review and update its current sign regulations in order to control visual clutter and make for more pleasing thoroughfares. Signage regulation should minimize any potential negative effect on public and private property.
 13. The city should continue to work with IDOT to implement and enforce safe speed limits and passing zones throughout the extent of the community.
 14. Nauvoo officials should encourage developers to complete one project before starting a new one in the community. This practice has lead to the partial development of lots with unfinished buildings sitting for inordinate amounts of time, in addition to lots that have otherwise gone without much needed maintenance.
- Objective 2: Encourage growth and development that is consistent with the comprehensive plan.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should consider all comments made at the public hearing when the comprehensive plan is discussed. Nauvoo should also consider any public comment made in reference to the future land use map.
2. After the adoption of the plan, Nauvoo should review the goals, objectives, policies and recommendations on an annual basis.
3. The city should review and update its zoning and subdivision regulations to ensure that these are reflective of the goals, objectives, policies and recommendations of the comprehensive plan and establish new land use regulations where necessary.

Transportation

- Goal: Facilitate a safe and efficient transportation system in the Nauvoo area that serves the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.
- Objective 1: Provide for an efficient transportation system in the Nauvoo area that serves the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should work to establish safe and efficient traffic patterns around school areas and work with state agencies to obtain funding to ease pedestrian usage and promote vehicular calming where necessary.
2. The city should work with all churches and other groups to minimize neighborhood traffic in and around the temple and other church related structures.
3. The city should work to discourage through-traffic in area residential neighborhoods. Overall, the community should make every effort to ensure that the transportation system in and around the community is safe and efficient.
4. To accommodate ease in traffic and local parking, the city should continue to work with bus companies and tourism groups to direct the flow of these vehicles away from cramped downtown areas and keep them out of local neighborhoods.
5. A review of the local bus route should be done and recommendations should be implemented to keep unwanted vehicles out of high traffic and otherwise sensitive areas.

6. The city should consider the implementation of a trolley or bus system that would bring visitors from the historic sites to the historic business district.
 7. If needed, the city should consider requiring additional parking in high traffic business areas not already served by the LDS Temple parking garage.
 8. To increase usage of the parking garage, the city should consider adding or improving signage indicating garage parking availability.
 9. When reviewing new development proposals, the planning commission should review the future land use map and the transportation map to consider whether the local road network is sufficient to handle increased traffic flow that may result from development.
 10. When appropriate, the city should consider upgrading city roads when their function changes within the community.
 11. Nauvoo should develop and maintain a five-year capital road improvement plan to better direct local resources to areas of the community that need to be upgraded the most.
 12. The city should continue to work with area legislators to continue funding local highway, bridge and lock-and-dam improvements.
 13. The city should continue to develop sidewalk and pedestrian and bicycle paths to connect with schools, parks, and other recreational areas. Well-designated pedestrian and bike paths would allow for safer travel by residents using these modes of transportation.
 14. The city should enhance the visual appearance of major thoroughfares in and around Nauvoo including Mulholland Street. Maintaining the aesthetic appeal of these routes will greatly enhance the appearance of the community.
- Objective 2: Encourage the development of a local public transit system.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should expand public transportation options for Nauvoo residents including intra-city transportation.
2. The city should be particularly sensitive to, and consider the needs of, local senior citizens and other special needs residents.
3. Nauvoo should establish a local committee to work with county initiatives in the development of public transportation in Hancock County.
4. Once created, the local transportation committee should develop a process that provides transportation information to the public and allows for easy feedback.
5. The city should encourage local legislators to support the funding and the development of transit in and around Nauvoo and Hancock County.

Public Safety

•• Goal: Create a safe environment for all Nauvoo residents.

- Objective 1: Promote and expand public safety efforts.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should encourage cooperative efforts between the city, county, and state in order to prepare for man-made and natural disasters and emergencies.
 2. The city should ensure that an emergency preparedness plan has been created for the community and is updated as often as needed.
 3. The city should continue to encourage the growth of emergency medical and rescue services where there are currently voids in such services, and encourage existing services to upgrade equipment.
 4. State and federal grants should be sought to assist in the financing of new equipment.
 5. Nauvoo should ensure that emergency services are provided with continued education and training opportunities related to emergency and disaster preparedness.
 6. Nauvoo should continue to upgrade water mains in residential and commercial areas where testing has indicated the water pressure is insufficient to provide adequate fire protection.
- Objective 2: Promote a comprehensive public safety program in Nauvoo.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should pursue comprehensive community policing policies, including continued corroboration with county and regional enforcement agencies.
2. The city should consider foot or bicycle police patrols in the community to supplement existing car patrols.

Parks & Recreation

•• Goal: Provide, protect and maintain a high-quality, accessible and economically efficient system of parks, recreation facilities, and open space that serves all Nauvoo residents and visitors.

- Objective 1: Review the local planning/management process and make updates as needed.

Recommendations:

1. The city should review the current park planning process and make changes where appropriate.
2. The creation of a master park plan should be completed as time allows and public input should be a critical part of this document. If possible, a local park district committee should be established and should meet on a regular basis.
3. A prioritized list of improvements should be developed on the park projects the committee would like to implement.

- Objective 2: Coordinate outdoor recreation efforts with major owners of local recreational property.

Recommendations:

1. The city and local park committee should work with major owners of recreation property, in order to maximize the use of all local acreage available for outdoor recreational purposes. Due to the large amount of property within the corporate limit that is owned by these entities, it will be of great benefit to include these organizations in park and recreation planning.

- Objective 3: Provide a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors.

Recommendations:

1. The city and local park committee should encourage the use of outdoor recreation possibilities for both passive and active recreational activities. Active recreation refers to a mix of uses in a neighborhood park that includes the following facilities or facility types: athletic fields, buildings or structures for recreational activities, concession, community garden, golf courses or tennis courts, children's play area, dog play area, or a bike path. Passive recreation refers to a mix of uses in a neighborhood park, undeveloped land or minimally improved lands that includes the following: landscaped area, natural area, ornamental garden, non-landscaped green space, stairway, decorative fountain, picnic area, water body, or trail without recreational staffing.
2. The city and local park committee should promote non-traditional activities in local parks that increase usage such as the development of frisbee golf, volleyball courts, walking/running/biking trails and local fishing tournaments.
3. The city should work with regional trail development groups to plan for the connectivity of path systems in the community and western Illinois area.
4. Where appropriate, local parks should obtain new or additional playground equipment and other youth entertainment amenities. To complement this development, the parks should improve or add picnic shelters, grills or fire pits, and seating where appropriate.

- Objective 4: Allow for easy access in and around local parks.

Recommendations:

1. The city and local park committee should consider adding or improving linkages between local parks and neighborhoods. To ease traffic flow inside and near local parks, adequate parking spaces should be provided.
2. All local park facilities should be reviewed to ensure that they meet the appropriate Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance requirements.
3. The parks should also be reviewed to ensure that adequate amenities such as water and restrooms are readily available when parks are open.
4. Habitat friendly lighting should be upgraded or installed in local parks to encourage use and improve local public safety.

- Objective 5: Enhance and improve recreational activities that are not related to the local park systems.

Recommendations:

1. The community survey indicated that many respondents feel that there should be an increase in alternative recreational opportunities in Nauvoo, particularly activities that are not seasonal. The city should encourage the development, or redevelopment, of a local bowling alley and should also promote the construction of an outdoor drive-in or indoor movie theater.
 2. The city should be particularly sensitive to the needs of teens, seniors, and other underserved groups and consider the development of a public meeting space or center that could be used solely for recreation and social gathering purposes. The location of this center should be in the downtown area and easily accessible to all local residents.
 3. Overall, Nauvoo should encourage private development that would increase the different types of recreational activities available within the community. An increase in the user rates of the local recreational business may make it feasible for these entities to thrive and expand.
 4. Nauvoo will need to consider local demographics and demographic projections that tend to expect an older local population when planning for the development of additional recreational opportunities. It may not be realistic to plan for large scale youth based recreation businesses if this portion of the population does not start to grow.
- Objective 6: Increase Nauvoo park and recreation marketing.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should market the park district property to maximize its use by local and area residents. Local parks already offer forest trails, an outdoor theater, picnic shelters, playgrounds and ball fields. Nauvoo and area residents may not be aware that the parks offer such a diverse range of activities.
2. Nauvoo should continue to develop and otherwise improve the ballpark property currently owned by the community.
3. The city should encourage residents and visitors to utilize local parks and create a local park map that would be available on-line and throughout the community.
4. The city should encourage the park district to promote additional facilities as well as non-traditional activities within the park system to increase participation rates by local residents. Some of the activities that could be considered include frisbee golf, fishing tournaments and outdoor volleyball.

Beautification

•• Goal: Maintain and improve the visual appearance of Nauvoo.

- Objective 1: Enhance the downtown area and town entryways with beautification projects.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should work to expand the "Adopt a Highway" Program around the community. Keeping the major thoroughfares free of litter will greatly help the appearance of the area.

2. The city should improve local signage at entrances to the community.
 3. Nauvoo should begin a tree planting initiative throughout the community and participate in Tree City USA.
 4. The city should consider hiring a municipal arborist on at least a part time basis. The health and viability of local trees will improve the aesthetic appeal for years to come.
 5. Nauvoo should investigate the possibility of running all utility lines underground throughout the community. The overhead lines can be visually distracting and also become problematic for trees along the utility easements.
 6. Nauvoo should also ensure that new development is constructed with mandates for underground utilities if possible.
 7. The city should investigate funding possibilities to upgrade lighting throughout town.
 8. Nauvoo should ensure that upgraded signage is given appropriate lighting.
 9. Decorative lighting should be used to improve local safety and aesthetics.
 10. The city should seek to maintain, enhance, or expand the activities of the Junior Women's Club, Master Gardener Program, Rotary Club, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.
 11. Nauvoo should encourage local business owners to clean and beautify areas immediately surrounding their businesses. Many of the local businesses do little outside of their structures.
 12. The city should consider organizing a downtown beautification group, or enlist the services of a pre-existing group, to work with local business to keep the downtown area clean and visually appealing.
- Objective 2: Develop a plan to deal with the problem of unsightly buildings and/or houses in Nauvoo to increase the physical attractiveness of the community.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should review the municipal nuisance code and make updates if needed.
2. The city should enforce the nuisance code more strictly and be particularly vigilant with repeat offenders.
3. In order to prevent local neighborhoods from slipping into blighted conditions, the city should develop a plan that documents properties that need to be demolished. In some instances, properties may be eligible for participation in the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Redevelopment Program that provides funding for investigation and cleanup.
4. Nauvoo needs to address problems with rental properties in the community. Some rental properties are not well maintained and may not meet local building codes. In order to bring all rental properties up to code, the city should develop a rental inspection program and ensure landlords comply with the appropriate local codes.

- Objective 3: Maintain and improve Nauvoo's open space.

Recommendations:

1. Nauvoo should maintain and improve the common areas located throughout the community.
 2. The city should plant additional trees and greenery in open spaces. Particular attention should be paid to the common areas central to the business districts in the city. Central areas are focal points of the community and should be treated as such.
 3. Nauvoo should review the large neighborhood areas and ensure that each area has a park readily available to it.
 4. If there is not a park readily accessible in each major neighborhood, the city should see if there is property available nearby that could be used for recreational purposes.
 5. The city should consider tearing down vacant and/or abandoned properties and using the lots for park and open space purposes.
 6. Nauvoo should develop a landscaping program at the different entrance points to the community and along major traffic corridors. The planting and upkeep of trees, flowers, and green space will improve the visual appeal of the area.
 7. The city should install medians with landscaping along corridors that have sufficient space for this development.
 8. The city should consider requiring an open space set aside requirement for new developments in the community. This open space could allow for connectivity for habitat corridors and prevent additional degradation of the local ecology. Critical habitats should be identified and property preserved as local natural areas.
 9. Where appropriate, the city should consider the conversion of underutilized municipally owned property into enhanced open spaces.
- Objective 4: Ensure local regulations and management plans promote the visual well being of the community.

Recommendations:

1. The city should evaluate local zoning regulations to ensure that future development reflects the desired characteristics of the community.
2. In addition, the city should review and update local improvement and maintenance plans for public right of ways and otherwise publicly owned spaces.

Historic Preservation

•• Goal: Preserve local historic and cultural attributes of Nauvoo for future generations.

• Objective 1: Preserve and protect Nauvoo's historic structures.

Recommendations:

1. Due to the historic significance of the community, Nauvoo should establish a historic preservation committee that assists the city council with making sure that local structures are properly protected.
2. If possible, the city should select persons with experience in historical properties for appointment to the newly established historical preservation committee.
3. Next, the city should consider the development of a historic preservation ordinance that would seek protection for locally significant structures.
4. The local historic preservation ordinance should define what is significant for the community and establish a legal framework whereby the community could protect historic properties. In adopting this ordinance, Nauvoo will be one step closer to becoming a Certified Local Government through the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The Certified Local Government Program, which was established by the national Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980, gives municipalities and counties the opportunity to participate as partners in state and federal preservation activities. Municipalities and counties that have local historic preservation programs may participate after they have been "certified." To become certified, a local government must have a historic preservation ordinance, establish a preservation review commission, have an active local survey program to identify historic resources, and provide for public participation. Ultimately, participation in this state program would assist the community in compiling a comprehensive plan to protect historic structures in Nauvoo.
5. Since there is a federally listed historic downtown area, the city should continue to work to develop and maintain an improvement plan for the area.
6. Working with the downtown area improvement plan, the city should install appropriate lighting and landscaping that would complement the historic nature of the area.
7. The city should encourage the creative reuse of the historic buildings downtown and work with private, non-profit, and the public sector to fill the empty or underused buildings.
8. Where appropriate, the city should seek National Register nominations for additional properties.
9. Nauvoo should continue to work with local, state and federal programs, such as the Historic Preservation Agency and the Illinois Main Street Program to qualify for technical and financial assistance in maintaining the historical integrity of the area.
10. Nauvoo should attempt to provide assistance to local property owners who show interest in historic preservation or guide them to organizations that may have more technical expertise.
11. Nauvoo should consider reviewing development proposals specifically to ensure that no adverse impacts from development affect historically significant areas in town.
12. The city should discourage the demolition of historic structures when feasible.

- Objective 2: Increase public awareness of historically significant structures, culture and genealogy in Nauvoo.

Recommendations:

1. Once historic structures have been identified, Nauvoo should create a map that can be used publicly to indicate where these properties are located.
2. A map of historic Nauvoo could be incorporated into other tourism related activities and placed on the new municipal website. Signage, compliant with city regulations, should clearly label historic properties and give detail as to their significance.
3. The city should establish or expand public outreach programs to promote the historic significance of the area and continue to make historical information available for local research.
4. Nauvoo should continue to grow and develop as a genealogical center for the region. One central location for data gathering of this type should be established and marketed throughout the region.

Tourism

- Goal: Increase the economic, social and environmental benefits of tourism in Nauvoo while minimizing any adverse impacts tourism might have on the community.
- Objective 1: Establish and promote Nauvoo as a tourism center within the region.

Recommendations:

1. The city should maintain an up-to-date, visually appealing municipal website to market tourism opportunities within Nauvoo and the general area. To network with other regional tourism groups, the city website should include links to other regional sites and information.
 2. Nauvoo should become more active in regional tourism development and ensure that local interests are strongly represented in statewide and regional tourism plans.
 3. The city should consider the development of a local tourism committee to work with the city council on tourism related projects. The first activity this committee should complete is a comprehensive review of local tourism efforts and the development of a local tourism plan. The local committee should act as a forum for consensus-based collaborative decision making in tourism management and development. Public and private sector involvement should be encouraged in all local planning efforts.
 4. Nauvoo should work with regional groups, including those in Iowa and Missouri, to develop joint ticket programs, tours and marketing. The proximity to other destinations should help to increase overnight stays and longer day trips. An increase in these types of visits will assist the local economy by increasing local tax revenues.
- Objective 2: Enhance visitor mobility and access to points of interest in and around the community.

Recommendations:

1. The city should work with all local tourism organizations to establish a shuttle service from parking areas to major destination points throughout the community. Examples of shuttle stops could include the local parking garage, historic bottoms, business districts, and the Mississippi riverfront.

2. The city should ensure that adequate rest room facilities are available throughout the community for public use. The construction of the new parking garage has enabled the historic business district to be served with these rest rooms, but other business areas in the community do not have this availability. Providing adequate signage for current facilities will increase visibility and public awareness.
 3. In order to minimize negative impacts of local tourism related traffic, the city should review local bus routes and make changes where appropriate.
 4. Additional bus parking could be provided in the eastern portion of town and traffic should be minimized through local residential neighborhoods. It will be important for bus route information to be widely distributed throughout town and for bus services to be advised of local bus traffic expectations.
- Objective 3: Develop new sources of funding for improving and expanding tourism related activities.

Recommendations:

1. The city and local tourism committee should work with the Western Illinois Regional Council, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and tourism related organizations to get up-to-date funding information as it becomes available. It will be critical that Nauvoo work to garner support in statewide and regional long-term tourism plans, as placement within these planning documents is often a state and federal funding requirement.
- Objective 4: Increase the types of tourist activities available within Nauvoo.

Recommendations:

1. The city should develop walking and biking trails within and around the community. Trail maps should include local points of interest.
 2. The overall recreation system should tie in to other regional plans to develop similar outdoor recreation possibilities.
 3. Nauvoo should work with the necessary organizations to establish a marina and boardwalk along the Mississippi River. The addition of marina services will increase boat traffic to the community and provide for another destination point within the city.
 4. The city should work with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to increase the activities available at the local state park. Further use of the lake within the park will assist in drawing persons to the site from both within and outside of the community.
- Objective 5: Enable Nauvoo to be a year-round tourism center.

Recommendations:

1. The city should work with all local tourism groups and businesses to increase the types and number of activities available in the community throughout the year. Currently, much of the local tourism takes place in the summer months, and many businesses struggle throughout the remainder of the year.