

ST. CHARLES COUNTY MASTER PLAN

ENVISION 2020



July 2008

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ENVISION 2020

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ST. CHARLES COUNTY, MISSOURI

MISSION STATEMENT

ST. CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE TO ITS CITIZENS THROUGH PRINCIPLES OF CHARACTER, PROFESSIONALISM, AND CONSCIENCE.

To accomplish our mission, we shall:

- Develop strategies and goals based upon the principles of long-term planning to strengthen residential neighborhoods, increase economic opportunities, provide for adequate public services and utilities, and plan for and establish a viable transportation system.
- Provide data, facts, trends, and information to assist St. Charles County citizens making informed decisions relating to the future direction of their community.
- Promote intergovernmental cooperation among local governmental bodies within St. Charles County, the State of Missouri, and the federal government to advance objectives improving the well being of county citizens.
- Provide for fiscal accountability in county government by utilizing fiscally conservative and responsible practices in the administration of county finances.
- Utilize professional and responsive service techniques in meeting the needs of county residents and businesses.
- Provide county citizenry with opportunities to express their comments and concerns relating to county policies, programs, and facilities.

FORWARD

During the summer of 2007, St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann formally appointed a sixteen member Master Plan Steering Committee to update the county's master plan as required by the County Charter. The membership of this steering committee consisted of eleven county citizens, two members of the County Council, two staff members of the County Executive's Office, and the Director of Community Development.

At the first meeting of the Master Plan Steering Committee in September 2007, a process for the plan update was created. In addition, the background data relating to county development and the major accomplishments from the 2015 Master Plan were reviewed.

At subsequent meetings the steering committee formulated vision statements relating to specific plan elements and identified community issues. In addition, goals and strategies to accomplish the visions were drafted.

The Master Plan Steering Committee met on November 7, 2007, and approved a preliminary draft of the planning document, minus the land use element. Two public forums were held on November 14th and 15th to provide an opportunity for county residents to comment on the draft Master Plan that had been developed.

In January 2008, the Committee initiated the process for drafting the future land use section of the plan. This process included a number of opportunities for public participation. Two of the components of this process included Focus Groups and a Land Use Workshop which were designed for invited participants. Public Forums and a Public Hearing were also scheduled to provide opportunities for the public at-large to participate in this process.

Six Focus Groups met in January and February 2008. Briefly, each Focus Group consisted of members of similar interests or backgrounds. The groups were Municipal and County Planners, Land Developers/Homebuilders/Realtors, Large Acreage Land Owners, Farmers, Commercial/Industrial/Economic Development, and Community Residents. Each of these focus groups mapped their concept for future county development patterns. Forty people took part in this step.

The next step in this process, The Land Use Workshop, was held on February 27, 2008. The Land Use Workshop consisted of the focus groups and other invited community participants. At this meeting 53 participants were divided into eight multi-perspective groups to develop additional concept plans. The result of this workshop identified two concepts that had popular support.

With these two public participation steps completed, the county planning staff prepared draft land use plans, based upon the concepts developed at the community workshop that reflected land use needs for 2020 and the draft plans, visions and goals. A public forum to review the staff's initial drafts was conducted on March 18, 2008. Approximately 25 people attended this forum. Subsequent to the public forum, the staff detailed the land use maps and prepared a draft version of the land use section for the Master Plan.

The Steering Committee on April 2, 2008, reviewed the preliminary draft of the land use plan section of the plan including the land use plans and directed that a final version of the entire Master Plan be drafted. The entire Master Plan document was reviewed by the Steering Committee On April 22, 2008. The document was approved and forwarded to the County Council.

The Council conducted a public hearing on June 9, 2008 and passed Ordinance No. 08-081 adopting the Master Plan Envision 2020 on July 2, 2008.

Throughout this process there has been a concerted attempt to allow a variety of ways for the public to be involved in the preparation of this plan. This process has also included the development of a web site whereby the various presentation materials, the draft documents, and maps were posted with opportunities for the public to submit comments.

While this document has been put in final form, planning is a dynamic and continuous process. The County's growth and development must be continually monitored. Coordination with other agencies that have impacts on our growth and development needs to be ongoing. Additional planning of some areas of the county will potentially result in amendments to this document. In order to provide additional oversight to the planning needs of the County, the County Executive has requested that the Master Plan Steering Committee meet on an annual basis to review the plan.

CONTENTS

Section	Page
1 Demographics	1.1
2 Economy	2.6
3 Community Facilities & Services	3.11
4 Transportation	4.22
5 Natural Resources	5.26
6 Land Use	6.30
7 Housing	7.34
8 Future Land Use Plan	8.40
9 Land Use Table & Map	9.70
Map Future Land Use	9.75
10 Thoroughfare Plan	10.77
Map Thoroughfare Plan	10.79
11 Appendix A Background Information	
Demographics	11.81
Map D1 Population Changes 1980 - 2000.....	11.85
Map D2 Population Distribution Sub-Areas.....	11.93
Economy	11.99
Map E1 2005 Estimated Median Household Income by Zip Code	11.103
Map E2 Developed & Vacant Industrial Zoned	11.109
Community Facilities & Services	11.114
Map C1 Water Service Areas	11.115
Map C2 Current & Proposed Water Supply Service	11.119
Map C3 Sanitary Sewer Service Areas	11.121
Map C3.1 Septic Systems	11.125
Map C4 Current & Proposed Waste Water Service.....	11.127
Map C5 Telephone Service Areas	11.129
Map C6 Electric Service Areas.....	11.133
Map C7 Natural Gas Services Areas	11.135
Map C8 Ambulance, Fire & Police Buildings	11.137
Map C9 Parks and Recreation.....	11.143
Map C10 St. Charles County Greenway System	11.149

CONTENTS

Section	Page
11 Appendix A Background Information	
Transportation	11.155
Map T1 St. Charles County Functional Classification	11.161
Map T2 SCC Travel Demand Model: Existing Conditions 2003.....	11.163
Map T3 SCC Travel Demand Model: Committed Year 2008.....	11.165
Map T4 SCC Travel Demand Model: Design Year 2023.....	11.169
Map T5 Transportation Improvement Plan.....	11.173
Map T6 2007 New Project Applications	11.179
Map T7 Thoroughfare Plan.....	11.181
Map T8 Transport Facilities and Routes.....	11.185
Natural Resources	11.187
Map N1 Floodplains & Floodways.....	11.189
Map N2 Minerals	11.191
Map N3 Prime Agricultural Areas	11.195
Map N4 Major Soil Groups	11.197
Map N5 Major Geologic Groups	11.199
Map N6 Wetlands	11.205
Map N7 Vegetative Cover	11.207
Map N8 Major Drainage Areas.....	11.209
Map N9 Ground Slopes	11.211
Map N10 Soil Erosion Potential	11.213
Map N11 Soils Conducive For Septic Tanks.....	11.215
Map N12 Development Constraints.....	11.217
Land Use	11.219
Map L1 Current Land Use	11.221
Housing	11.226