



New Brighton Comprehensive Plan

Vision Plan Goals

Have a diverse population

The City wishes to embrace people of all socio-economic, age, ethnic, race and religious backgrounds. In diversity lies the strength and richness of a healthy community.

Provide a diverse stock of well maintained housing

Since people's lives change as they age, so do their housing needs. The opportunity to live in New Brighton for a lifetime will require a diverse stock of housing that satisfies the lifestyle changes that will confront every resident. Housing diversity must also answer the question "Where will our children live?" If they would prefer to live in New Brighton there must be affordable housing of good quality to accommodate them.

Maintain a healthy business environment

While primarily a place to live, good jobs and a diversified tax base are important to the community's health. To have jobs in close proximity to homes also provides some residents the opportunity to both live and work in New Brighton and thereby minimize commute time and costs. Quality places to work and do business support quality places to live while providing residents with convenient shops and services.

Maintain/create connections which correlate with natural patterns and interconnect neighborhoods and adjacent cities

It is the City's intent that the natural patterns established by the drainage systems that connect Rice Creek to Jones Lake and Lake Johanna be reestablished.

Though separated from its eastern neighbors by I-35W, the vision plan intends to reconnect the east and west sides of the freeway via trails and create almost seamless linkages to New Brighton's other municipal neighbors. The intent is to help the City operate, function, and cooperate as part of the larger North Metro community.



The Minnesota Transfer Railroad is and will continue to be an important feature of the City of New Brighton. However, not all of the existing railroad system will need to be operable in the future, in particular that area lying north of the CP Railroad track. This rail line has relatively little service on it currently and unless rail dependent industrial development occurs on the Arsenal property or the line is used for commuter rail, there may be no need for it to function as a rail line in the future. It is the City's vision that the rail line ultimately be converted to a transit way and/or trail.

Create places for the community to gather and interact

If a city is to become a community it must consciously create places for people to gather and interact. If there is no place to interact, no place to gather, there is no sense of community or shared interest. Community gathering places are those where people come together to work, shop, and play; where they are seen and can be seen, where they interact and enjoy the sense that they are part of a social and civic place.

Create neighborhood activity centers

During the course of the process, and in particular, during Neighborhood Night, it became evident that parks are the City's primary neighborhood activity centers and those parts of the urban fabric that people most identify with. Neighborhood activity centers tend mostly to focus on the city's parks and are places to play, interact, and meet with neighbors. These are not, however, intended to be exclusively recreation facilities. These centers are intended to serve all members of the community no matter their socio-economic or housing status. These are places that serve the needs of all residents, helping them be active and healthy members of the community rather than disenfranchised by it.

Create a sense of place and the "feeling" of community

City Center. Not much evidence remains of the rich history that was New Brighton. Originally, however, what is now the confluence of two major freeways was historic downtown New Brighton which served a much larger geographic area than the City of New Brighton. Front Street was main street and the City has been able to rebuild some of its original downtown character by creating a main street character along Old Highway 8. A major element of the City's vision is the expansion of the old downtown or what this plan refers to as the "City Center", to areas north of I-694 and to reestablish this area as a center for an area much larger than the City of New Brighton.

Mainstreet. The City has already begun to develop a main street character along Old Highway 8 in the vicinity of the City Center. Main street is an important part of the City's vision and a concept that is intended to be extended all the way from Highway 96 on the north to County Road E on the south. This is a concept that is intended to create a pedestrian street environment that encourages people to walk and interact as well as drive. It is a concept that makes buildings and people the focus of the district, not automobiles; a concept that sets buildings nearer the street and parking at the rear or the side thereof. This represents the reestablishment of the historical development patterns that represented the beginnings of New Brighton and its downtown.



Gateways/Marking entries. While it is important to be a responsible and connected member of the larger community, gateways are the places where those entering the City first recognize that they have arrived in a new place, a unique place. It is the City's intent to create a sense of arrival, a sense of place that is uniquely New Brighton.

Heritage. The City has a strong desire to expose its historical roots and remember, but not relive, the heritage of this great place. It is the City's desire to create opportunities for people to remember the City's rich heritage, in particular that associated with the original stockyards and downtown.

Create and maintain streets that are safe, comfortable and attractive to all users

Streets are the connective tissue of New Brighton, and as such should be attractively designed to contribute to the positive image of the city. It is the city's intent to have streets that move vehicles slowly but efficiently through New Brighton, while providing safe and comfortable adjacent routes for pedestrians and bicyclists.



A Vision for New Brighton 2030

Forward: This vision was written from a future perspective. It describes how the City of New Brighton looks, feels and functions in the year 2030. The vision helps provide direction for the city and is a step in the process of updating New Brighton's Comprehensive Plan.

In the past years, New Brighton has built upon its strengths. Working from existing cultural, natural and historic patterns, the city has developed a unique, distinct image identifiable to both residents and visitors. This image is seen immediately upon entry into New Brighton, where gateways with welcome signage and attractive landscaping announce one's arrival into the city. Through a special landscape treatment at the edge of the freeway, even those passing by on I-35W and I-694 can identify the city.

Nowhere is New Brighton's image more apparent, however, than within the Old Highway 8 Corridor, north of I-694, which has been transformed into the city's "mainstreet." While it remains an important vehicle route, new walkways, street furnishings and landscaping make the street a comfortable place for pedestrians and bicyclists. Walking and biking within the corridor have been further encouraged by the redevelopment of several key sites. The formerly vacant intersection of Old Highway 8 and Highway 96 has been transformed into a mixed-use gateway, where goods and services are readily accessible to those working in the area or just passing through. The highlight of this gateway includes the senior cooperative housing of Applewood Pointe, offering spectacular views of Rush Lake, Beisswenger's Hardware, Rush Lake Office Center and a hotel.

Just a little further down the corridor, the Northwest Quadrant (of I-35W and I-694) has dramatically changed. The historic industrial uses are gone and instead the city center has expanded to fill the site. In this "urban village", there are opportunities for people to work, shop, live and play. Buildings containing a variety of goods and services hug the street, making it an exciting place to stroll. An open space system connects these businesses, such as the APi Group Headquarters and Transoma Medical, to several office buildings and higher-density housing. A transit hub is located here, providing easy access to destinations in New Brighton and the metro region. Pocket parks with interpretive signage tell the history of New Brighton, much of which took place on this site.

While much activity has focused on the Old Highway 8 corridor, exciting things have taken place in other parts of New Brighton. By reestablishing historic drainage patterns and protecting them with open space, many of New Brighton's lakes, streams and wetlands have been reconnected to form a prominent north-south corridor. A trail winds through this corridor, providing recreational opportunities as well as a major off-street transportation route for pedestrians and bicyclists. The trail provides amenities such as rest stops with drinking water and benches, interpretive signage, overlook points, and links to a regional network of pedestrian and bicycle ways.

New Brighton's residents have many transportation options. The pedestrian and bicycle system offers several major routes with regional connections, as well as neighborhood connections to parks, schools and other activity areas. Due to an improved and expanded schedule, public transit is a much more viable option for many residents. Those who choose to drive do so on traffic-calmed streets.

New Brighton's shopping and service areas have improved as well. While these areas still provide basic goods and services, they now have much more to offer. Buildings have been brought to the street to create a lively place to stroll. New businesses such as coffeehouses and delis provide both outside and



inside seating, and attractive benches and street furnishings make the sidewalk a friendlier, more social place. The city's retail areas have become gathering nodes for the community.

New Brighton's parks have been transformed. While they still provide active and passive recreation opportunities, several parks have become much more than places to play. They have become places for gathering and neighborhood interaction, places where people of all social and economic status can find activities which improve their mental, social and physical well being. The park shelters are neighborhood activity centers that expand the typical role of a park system. The centers provide meeting and storage space for a wide array of groups and individuals of all ages. Participation in neighborhood and community events is up, thanks to the programs and facilities provided by neighborhood activity centers.

Quality housing is still a strong component of the city. Concerned homeowners and housing rehabilitation programs have ensured that older homes have been well maintained. New housing of various types and densities has been constructed throughout the city, increasing the range of life-cycle housing options. New Brighton's apartments, townhouses and single-family homes offer housing choices for residents of all ages and income levels.

In the past years, New Brighton has enhanced its image as an excellent place to live, work and play. All age groups feel safe and welcome here, and with its wide variety of activities, services, and facilities, the city has something for everyone. Residents enjoy the choices in housing and transportation, the community gathering nodes and the expanded City Center, as well as excellent parks and schools. New Brighton's commitment to a vision has made it possible to become the unique, desirable place it is today.