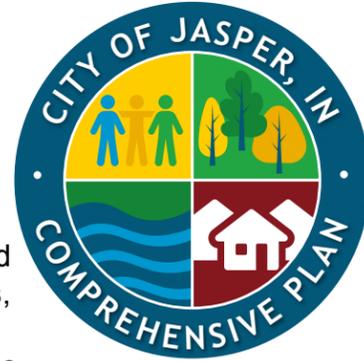


CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

About the Project

The City of Jasper has embarked on a 14-month comprehensive planning process that will update its 2019 Comprehensive Plan.

The Plan will guide decision-making for the City over the next 10 years and will serve as a basis for modifications to land use and planning regulations, public and private investment decisions, prioritization for the allocation of City resources, and incorporate smart growth principles to encourage the efficient use of resources. Public involvement and input are critical components of the planning process. Throughout the process, citizens and community partners will be asked to join with the City to identify priorities and establish a list of goals and action steps for implementation. This input will inform the development of an actionable implementation section that will outline and prioritize strategies for achieving the Plan's new goals and objectives.



JASPER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN THINK-TANK WORKSHOP

The Jasper Comprehensive Plan Think-Tank Workshop was conducted over two highly participatory workshop sessions on October 31 and November 1, 2025. Approximately 70 individuals participated in the Think-Tank.

The scenario-planning workshop facilitated the understanding of future trends and drivers that may impact Jasper looking out to 2040. The scenario narratives and descriptions were developed by the participants and the axes reflect the drivers and themes generated at the Think-Tank.

To get involved and to stay up to date on the Jasper comprehensive planning project, visit the project portal at:

tinyurl.com/Jasper-Comp



CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE PROCESS



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SCENARIOS OF THE FUTURE: SUMMARY SNAPSHOT | JASPER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

SCENARIO A: TRADITION IN PROGRESS This scenario forecasts a future where Jasper adapts to changing times by leaning into a traditional approach to community development. There is a focus on strategic investments that help to maintain the community's sense of economic stability and familiar values while at the same time connecting Jasper to the regional area. The City continues to serve as a regional hub and seeks to build strong relationships with regional partners to attract the younger generation back to the area to raise a family. As the population ages, Jasper focuses on strategic investments in emerging technologies to fill the gaps of a shrinking workforce. Industry automation and remote work become more prevalent. A focus on traditional values does not feel inclusive to newcomers and Jasper's diversity declines.

SCENARIO SNAPSHOT – FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- Population is aging and missing the 20-40 year old demographic.
- Traditional development patterns continue.
- Importance is placed on familiar values and maintaining Jasper's strong sense of legacy.
- Economic stability is weakened as workforce ages and there is no backfill of talent.
- Heavy focus on investment in STEAM education, technologies and automation to fill talent gaps.
- Jasper's strong regional leadership position is weakened over time as investment and resource availability decline.

SCENARIO B: THE FUTURE IS NOW This scenario forecasts a future where Jasper pushes forward on encouraging growth and planning for the future. Strong regional partnerships develop with strategic investments in emerging technologies, diversified industries, and housing diversity. The community is welcoming of new voices and perspectives. Jasper takes full advantage of migration shifts and influx of population from other areas of the country to grow its workforce to support its local businesses and industries. Connectivity is prioritized, both externally and internally, with sidewalks and trails that enable walkability throughout the City. Housing stock is expanded to support new growth, and the community actively engages diverse voices to build support for a variety of needs, including childcare.

Downtown development continues and expands to nearby areas; a burgeoning nightlife succeeds in attracting and retaining the 20-40 year old demographic.

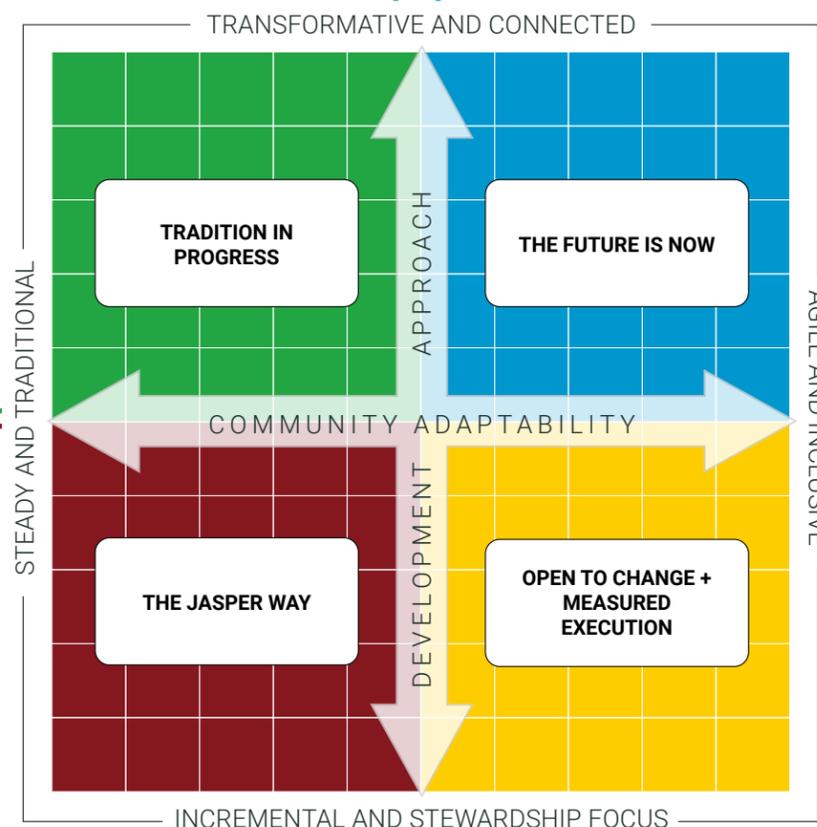
SCENARIO SNAPSHOT – FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- Strong regional partnerships form and connectivity increases, both internally and externally.
- STEAM education and career pathways for students expand, including life-long learning options.
- Housing diversity expands to include more multi-use, condos, multi-family options.
- Diversity increases – ages, socioeconomics, and ethnicity.
- Activities for youth increase as well as Jasper's after 6pm nightlife in the Downtown area.
- City growth is supported by infrastructure development.

SCENARIO D: THE JASPER WAY This scenario forecasts a future where Jasper doubles down on preserving and promoting its traditional strengths and community values. Sense of place is strong and the City and community take steps to maintain Jasper's strong legacy and identity. Priority is placed on maintaining stability with single-family homes in residential areas. Local parks and trails are well maintained and the City is very clean. Quality of life is high, but the inward focus on maintaining the status quo does not attract newcomers to the area. Population plateaus and businesses turn to automation and remote workers to replace workers as they age out. Measured growth does not provide for needed amenities to support young families and they are forced to look to other communities to live. Over time, the community population declines and the City falls into decline.

SCENARIO SNAPSHOT – FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- Residential development remains single-family homes.
- Quality of life remains high, but inward focus on maintaining familiar values and existing community character does not attract newcomers.
- Education standards are high, but lack of options strains vocational tracks and does not support industry well.
- Businesses turn to automation and remote workers to replace declining workforce needs as workers age out.
- Suppressed growth causes population decline and small businesses struggle to stay afloat.
- Slow progress on connectivity and infrastructure development cause areas of Jasper to decline.



SCENARIO C: OPEN TO CHANGE + MEASURED EXECUTION

This scenario forecasts a future where Jasper is committed to incremental and measured growth that safeguards community character and 'tried and true' development patterns. At the same time, this scenario presents a community that is inclusive of diverse voices as it seeks the ability to adapt to a rapidly changing world. Jasper embraces innovation and learning as it looks for creative approaches to address emerging community needs. Jasper welcomes new workforce groups to help support its successful industries and businesses. A consistent emphasis on preserving existing community character does not support new ideas or perspectives, and a growing tension arises. Over time, newer demographics and younger workers are discouraged by lack of amenities and desired services, and this population relocates elsewhere.

SCENARIO SNAPSHOT – FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

- Development is incremental and measured with a reliance on 'tried and true' patterns.
- Public investment goes towards helping existing industries.
- The focus is on preserving community character and stewardship of existing strengths.
- Educational opportunities and options expand to meet community needs.
- The community embraces diversity and inclusion which attracts newcomers.
- There is a tension between the desire for slow growth and the needs of new demographics and younger residents.

