

WELCOME TO THE
JASPER, INDIANA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
PROJECT



Steering Committee Meeting
February 25, 2026

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
11:30 – 1:00





AGENDA ITEMS

1. Recap: Where We Are In the Process
2. Pillar Insights
3. Mapping Exercise
4. Discussion Boards
5. Next Steps and Meeting Wrap-Up





City of Jasper, Indiana Comprehensive Plan Update Process

PHASE 1

**Initial Planning
Assessments and Project
Management**

- Project plan and kickoff
- Online project portal and branding
- Engagement & Communication Plans
- Community Profile Report
- Monthly Steering Committee Meetings
- Weekly City Staff Meetings

Project Portal, Community Profile Report & Steering Committee

PHASE 2

**Community Visioning and
Engagement**

- Community Survey
- Key stakeholder interviews
- Community Visioning Sessions
- Data visualization on portal
- Jasper Think-Tank
- Think-Tank Report
- Presentation of Community Vision to Common Council

Think-Tank Workshop, Report & Community Visioning

PHASE 3

**Plan Development and
Engagement**

- Roundtable Work Session
- Future Summit
- Future Summit Report
- Analysis & Case Studies
- Task Force Meetings
- Discussion Boards
- Prioritization Survey
- Storymap & Land Use Map
- Implementation Matrix
- Public Open House

Future Summit, Task Forces, Maps & Open House

PHASE 4

**Final Plan &
Presentation**

- Review of draft plan; revisions incorporated
- Final presentations of Jasper Comprehensive Plan

Final Plan & Presentations

AUGUST 2025

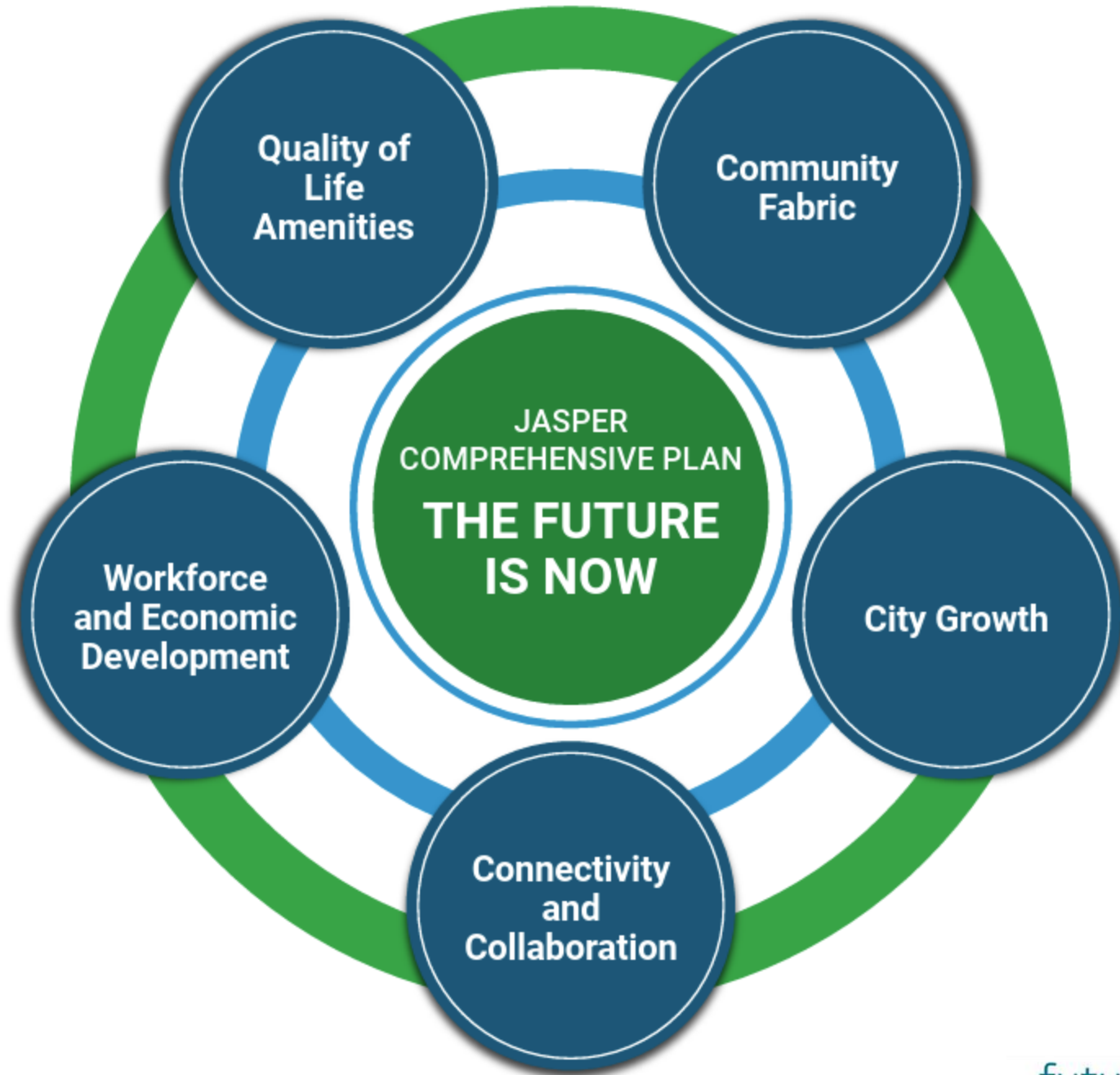
JULY 2026



Strategic Pillars and Goals



Strategic Pillars





BUILDING THE PILLARS



Visioning Process

- Community Survey
- Think Tank
- Future Summit

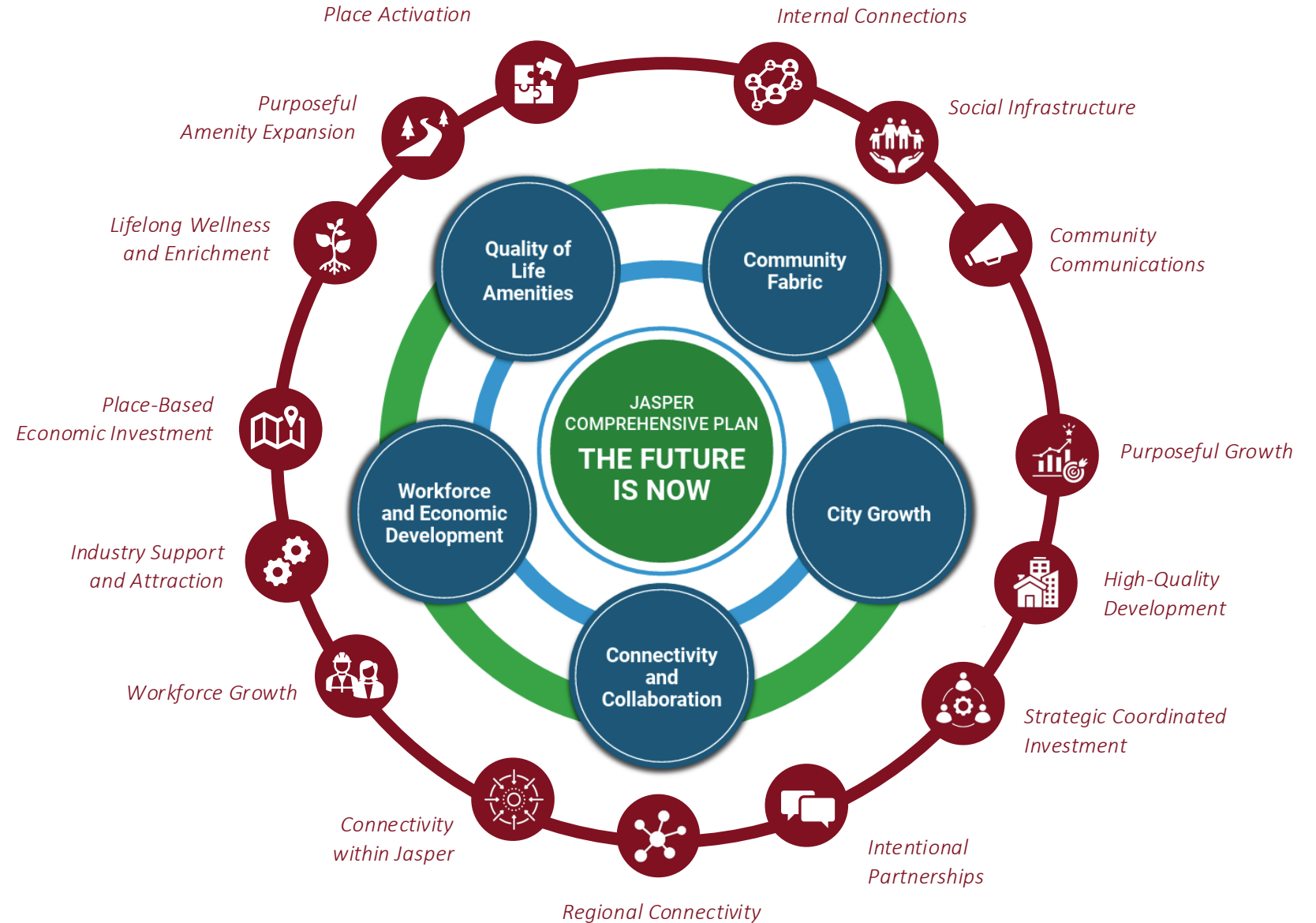
Plan Development and Technical Planning Work

- Task Force Meetings
- Task Force Debrief
- Technical Expertise

We're starting to develop the Implementation Matrix of the Comp Plan's Actions.



STRATEGIC PILLARS AND GOAL FRAMEWORK



Pillar	Community Fabric	City Growth	Connectivity and Collaboration	Workforce and Economic Development	Quality of Life Amenities
Objective	Strengthening a vibrant community.	Creating a community rooted in charm, embracing opportunity.	Strategic positioning for Jasper.	Investing in places and people.	Advancing community well-being.
Vision & Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A community that values neighbors and newcomers Easier for new people to embed themselves in the community Creating spaces and opportunities for the community to engage with one another Welcoming, engaged, and supportive community Expanded communications to increase connections for residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More amenities and infrastructure gaps desired by young families and young professionals are filled Builds on existing strengths of small-town charm, great access to nature, schools, and safety Wider variety of housing choices and affordability so young people can afford to live in Jasper Fosters a community attracting newcomers and retains young adults and families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positioned as a leader for Dubois County A regional connector of the area Reinforcing Jasper as the economic center of the area Cooperating and coordinating between Jasper and nearby communities to achieve shared goals Stronger physical, economic, and social ties to the surrounding communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legacy industries are prepared for tomorrow Leveraging manufacturing to attract and grow production synergetic industries Strengthening the economy by leveraging technology, innovation, and trends to grow and attract businesses Investing in infrastructure and services to attract and grow emerging industries Stronger collaboration between education and workforce training programs, maximizing worker skillsets and readiness Vibrant downtown small business climate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded green space and recreation amenities Maintaining low crime, high standards of safety, and clean streets High performing schools Expanding cultural amenities and events Preserving and enhancing the quality of life for all members of the community – youth and young adults Prioritizing community health and wellbeing Connecting neighborhoods through trails and sidewalks
Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster internal connections Build social infrastructure Enhance community communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purposeful growth High-quality development Strategic, coordinated investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connectivity within Jasper Regional connectivity Intentional partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place-based economic investment Industry support and attraction Workforce growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place activation Purposeful amenity expansion Lifelong wellness and enrichment
Goals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Deepen and broaden welcoming initiatives that are inclusive and reach new and existing residents. Enhance and activate existing spaces and opportunities, and develop new ones as needed, to foster meaningful community engagement. Build local communication systems and foster powerful messaging for Jasper that improves internal connections to ensure everyone knows what's happening and feels invited. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen long-term population retention and growth by ensuring land-use planning reflects and strengthens core community values. Reinforce community identity by ensuring quality across both the existing built environment and all future development. Invest in coordinated growth to sustain a livable, well-functioning community. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase connectivity throughout Jasper by improving the city's pedestrian and transportation networks. Partner to expand transportation, utility, and workforce networks across the region. Strengthen regional partnerships to support Jasper and the surrounding communities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Create high-quality commercial and industrial clusters in targeted areas throughout the city. Support Jasper's current industries and targeted growth sectors. Grow Jasper's workforce and cultivate skill development. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the vibrancy of public spaces through expanded cultural amenities and events. Optimize and expand amenities in ways that support sustainable, well-managed future growth. Expand opportunities for health, recreation, and learning through accessible, well-designed programs and facilities.



Mapping Exercise





Today's outputs will help us build out the Future Land Use Map and actions in the Comp Plan.

Pillar Mapping Exercise

Within each pillar, identify the areas in Jasper important to the pillar's goals.

- Consider key areas for improvement and new areas for investment.
- Add goal stickers to mark key areas. Feel free to add notes and comments with post-its to record your thoughts and ideas.
- Discuss trade-offs.
- Think creatively and actionably.

Identify a Task Force Member to represent the group for the report out!

Build on the map created at December's Future Summit by adding pillar insights.



Next Steps





Pillar Debrief Meeting

February 25 from 4:00-5:30pm, City Hall, Basement Room





What to Expect

All Pillar Task Forces meet to discuss how their work intersects, any potential trade-offs involved, and the opportunities that lie ahead

- Mapping Exercise/Roundtable Discussion
- Pillar Report Out



<https://lab2.future-iq.com/jasper-comp-plan/discussion-boards/>

DISCUSSION BOARDS

Welcome! This page is a space for residents and stakeholders to share ideas, ask questions, and provide constructive input on the update to the City's Comprehensive Plan. We value open dialogue and encourage participation from all perspectives.

The discussion boards on these pages directly correlate to the Strategic Pillar topic areas of the comprehensive master planning process. Please review in-depth background information on the complexities of each Strategic Pillar topic and community members' thoughts and feedback on the topic.



[View Strategic Pillars »](#)



Join the conversation!



Reply

Joseph E. Cozza says:
February 11, 2026 at 7:46 am

We are improving our trails, maintaining roads, creating a downtown, parks are improving, and quality of life is fine. My concern here would be at what cost do we have to make this happen as a taxpayer. a little is fine. Find ways to get funded thru partnerships.
Making a connection to I69 is needed for future growth. Do it without the Mid state corridor. I like the Mill street to 47th street thought process for trucks and connection pint to shopping via another entrance. We have Fiber already a very good value.

Reply

Mark Nowotarski says:
February 14, 2026 at 5:52 pm

Jasper has added great amenities and there are plans to add amenities like the wellness perspective the collaboration with other communities within Dubois County continues efforts to connectivity with and to these towns like Huntingburg and Ferdinand. Again, as pillars, we can improve roads and connectivity without the drain of the proposed high

Reply



Reply

Joseph E. Cozza says:
February 11, 2026 at 7:33 am

This is a major point to getting younger generations to want to come here. One of Jasper's key challenges for the future is attracting more younger adults and families to the community to fill a 'missing demographic' of people in their twenties, thirties and forties. Town houses, restaurants, daycare. These things are needed to accomplish younger generations. They don't necessarily want to own a house and have the constant maintenance that goes with it. They want to be out and about. The survey pointed out a lot of positives and needs. Thanks.

Reply

Josh Gunselman, City of Jasper - Director Community Development & Engagement says:
February 13, 2026 at 12:39 pm

Thanks for joining in, Joe! You are definitely right. There are growing segments who want less to maintain and more free to experience all that there is to offer. Both younger and older demographics.

Reply

jeanne melchior says:
February 18, 2026 at 2:44 pm

Size matters. If a town grows too big, then it loses the qualities that make it attractive. Jasper is getting close to outgrowing its livability. As someone who has seen this happen up close in other places—including Bloomington, and Lexington Kentucky, I can

Reply

Kelsey Lindeman says:
February 9, 2026 at 2:30 pm

Please update/better maintain the current parks. My kids love when I take them to playgrounds, but the ones they love to go to are often not well maintained. There are certain parks I now avoid taking my kids to, because of their poorly maintained conditions. However, it is not fair to those who cannot access any park they choose and may only have the option to walk to their neighborhood park. I think everyone should have access to nice and well maintained playground areas and not be worried about finding trash in sand box areas their kids are playing in, and rusty playground equipment that has seen many better days.

Reply

Josh Gunselman, City of Jasper - Director Community Development & Engagement says:
February 13, 2026 at 12:52 pm

Kelsey- Thanks for the comment and concern. We agree. Can you email me directly so that I can get some more information from you for us to look into this for you? jgunselman AT jasperindiana.gov

re world is a population problem. If being surrounded by the natural rections. In addition, plenty of ation Club, Huntingburg Lake, od part of the success of all the here. But small towns only stay

<https://lab2.future-iq.com/jasper-comp-plan/discussion-boards/>



Next Steps/Upcoming Meetings

- **February – March 2026:** Discussion Boards on project portal
 - **February 25, 2026:** Strategic Pillar In-Person Task Force ([4:00-5:30pm, Basement of City Hall](#))
- **March – April 2026:** Technical work on creating the Draft Plan, release of the StoryMap/Prioritization Survey, and Steering Committee meetings
- **April 25, 2026:** Public Open House on Draft Plan
- **May – June 2026:** Refinements to Plan and Steering Committee meetings
- **July 2026:** Final Presentations and plan implementation training

Keep up to date on the planning process at the project portal:
<https://lab2.future-iq.com/jasper-comp-plan/>

