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Implementation

This chapter describes the process for adopting and amending the Plan, tools and procedures by which the plan will be implemented, and a set of actions to be pursued in the next 10 years to help the Village realize the vision, goals and strategies in this Plan.

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Village Roles & Responsibilities

Responsibility for implementing this plan lies primarily with Village Board and Planning Commission.

Village Board

Village Board sets priorities, controls budgets and tax rates, and often has the final say on key aspects of public and private development projects. The value and legitimacy of this plan is directly related to the degree to which Board members are aware of the plan and expect Village actions to be consistent with this plan. Each council member should have a copy of this plan and should be familiar with the major goals and objectives described herein. Village Board should expect and require that staff recommendations and actions both reference and remain consistent with this plan.

Planning Commission

Land use and development recommendations are a core component of this plan, and the Planning Commission has a major role in guiding those decisions. Plan Commission members must each have of a copy of this plan and must be familiar with its content, especially **Chapter 3: Land Use**. It is generally the responsibility of Planning Commission to determine whether proposed projects are consistent with this plan, and to make decisions and recommendations that are consistent with this plan. In cases where actions that are inconsistent with this plan are deemed to be in the best interest of the Village, the Planning Commission should initiate efforts to amend the plan to better reflect Village interests. This will help to reinforce the legitimacy of the plan as an important tool in Village functions.

Education and Advocacy

Implementation of this plan also depends, to a great degree, on the actions and decisions of entities other than Village government. The Action Plan (*see Section 4.3*) indicates responsible parties that the Village of Rapids City does not control or direct.

These include, and are not limited to:

- Riverdale School District
- City of East Moline
- Village of Hampton
- Village of Port Byron
- Rock Island County
- Bi-State Regional Plan Commission
- Illinois Department of Transportation
- Army Corps of Engineers

It is necessary to persuade these entities to be active partners in the implementation of the goals, objectives and strategies of this plan. The following Village activities can support this effort:

- Share this plan with each organization, including a memo highlighting sections of the plan that anticipate collaboration between the Village and the organization.
- Take the lead role in establishing a collaboration
- Know and communicate the intent of relevant objectives and strategies - partner organizations need to understand and buy in to the rationale before they will act.

Utilizing Existing Tools

Many of the strategies identified in this plan presume the use of existing Village ordinances and programs. The Village's key implementation tools include:

Operational Tools

- Annual Budget Process
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Regulatory Tools

- Land Use Regulations
- Building and Housing Codes

Funding tools

- Tax Abatement
- Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) District (if created)
- State and Federal Grant Programs

Plan Monitoring, Amending and Updating

Although this Plan is intended to guide decisions and actions by the Village over the next 10 to 20 years, it is impossible to accurately predict future conditions in the Village. Amendments may be appropriate from time to time, particularly if emerging issues or trends render aspects of the plan irrelevant or inappropriate. The Village may be faced with an opportunity, such as a development proposal, that does not fit the plan but is widely viewed to be appropriate for the Village. Should the Village wish to approve such an opportunity, it should first amend the plan so that the decision is consistent with the plan. Such amendments should be carefully considered and should not become the standard response to proposals that do not fit the plan. Frequent amendments to meet individual development proposals threaten the integrity of the plan and the planning process and should be avoided.

Any changes to the plan text or maps constitute amendments to the plan and should follow a standard process as described in the following section. Amendments may be proposed by either the Village Board or the Plan Commission, though a land owner or developer may also petition Plan Commission to introduce an amendment on their behalf.

Amendments may be made at any time using this process, however in most cases the Village should not amend the plan more than once per year. A common and recommended approach is to establish a consistent annual schedule for consideration of amendments. This process can begin with a joint meeting of the Plan Commission and Village Board (January), followed by Plan Commission recommendation (February), then public notice procedures leading to a public hearing and vote on adoption by Village Board (March or April).

The 20-year planning horizon of this plan defines the time period used to consider potential growth and change, but the plan itself should be fully updated well before 2034. Unlike an amendment, the plan update is a major re-write of the plan document and supporting maps. The purpose of the update is to incorporate new data and to ensure, through a process of new data evaluation and new public dialogue, that the plan remains relevant to current conditions and decisions. An update every ten years is recommended, though the availability of new Census or mapping data and/or a series of significant changes in the community may justify an update after less than ten years.

Plan Amendment Process

In the years between major plan updates it may be necessary or desirable to amend this plan. A straightforward amendment, such as a strategy or future land use map revision for which there is broad support, can be completed in about six to eight weeks through the following process.

Step One

A change is proposed by Village Board, Plan Commission, or staff and is placed on the Plan Commission agenda for preliminary consideration. Private individuals (landowners, developers, others) can request an amendment through the Village Clerk, who will forward the request to Plan Commission for consideration. Plan Commission decides if and how to proceed, and may direct staff to prepare or revise the proposed amendment.

Step Two

When Plan Commission has formally recommended an amendment, a Village Board public hearing is scheduled and at least two weeks public notice is published. Notice of the proposed amendment should also be transmitted as appropriate to other entities that may be affected by or interested in the change.

Step Three

Village Board hears formal comments on the proposed amendment, considers any edits to the amendment, then considers adoption of the amendment.

Step Four

Staff completes the plan amendment as approved, including an entry in the plan's amendment log. A revised PDF copy of the plan is posted to the Village web site and replacement or supplement pages are issued to Village staff and officials who hold hard copies of the plan.

Action Plan

The following pages feature a compilation of actions identified in **Chapter 2** and **Chapter 3** to help the Village achieve its various goals and objectives.

Deadlines

The “deadlines” identified to achieve these actions are not firm - rather they are indications of when the Village may choose to pursue an action based on its importance or difficulty. Where multiple deadlines are noted, this indicates an ongoing or repetitive activity.

Responsible Parties

Most of these actions require leadership and effort by multiple people and organizations. These tables indicate those parties considered necessary to implementation.

Funding Sources

Most of these actions come with some cost. It is presumed that most could be supported by tax revenue from the Village’s general fund. Where other sources of potential funding may exist, such as grant programs, these are noted.

Housing Actions	Objective this Action Supports	Target Completion Year			Responsible Parties	Potential Funding Sources
		2014-2016	2017-2020	2021-2034		
1	Establish an award program to recognize exceptional exterior building and landscaping improvements. Existing village ordinances regulate property maintenance; however, in order to encourage on-going exterior improvements, the Village will consider creation of a simple program that rewards excellent examples of such improvements each year.	H1.2	X			Village Staff, Planning Commission, & Village Board
2	Support local government and agency efforts to obtain grant program funds to assist first time home buying or home rehabilitation for low and moderate-income households.	H1.1	X			Village Staff, Planning Commission, & Village Board

Mobility & Transportation Actions	Objective this Action Supports	Target Completion Year			Responsible Parties	Potential Funding Sources	
		2014-2016	2017-2020	2021-2034			
1	Create and maintain an Official Map. This will ensure preferred routes and connection points for major streets and recreational trails in growth areas have been mapped and the appropriate right-of-way dedication is established when land is divided.	T1.1	X			Bi-State RPC, Planning Commission, & Village Board	
2	Actively participate in state-led highway improvement projects within the Village to advocate for context sensitive design. Streetscaping improvements should be designed with local input and should be unique to Rapids City.	T2.1	X	X	X	Bi-State RPC, Planning Commission, & Village Board	Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP)
3	Create a Sidewalk Reimbursement Program and ensure funding annually. This is a voluntary program in which Owners of residential use properties and the Village share the cost to replace (or add) sidewalks within the Village limits.	T1.2, H1.3		X		Planning Commission, & City Council	
4	Work with MetroLINK to expand bus service to meet the needs of its residents. Annually review if service needs are being met by residents.	T2.2	X	X	X	MetroLINK, Planning Commission, & Village Board	
5	Sponsor and/or hold events that encourage use of the Great River Trail. This should be done in coordination with local and regional organizations.	T2.2	X	X	X	Bi-State RPC, Adjacent Municipalities, Village Staff, & Village Board	
6	Work with Illinois and Iowa Departments of Transportation to install a supplemental signs on Interstate 80, denoting Village of Rapids City off of Exit 1. The Village could consider working with Port Byron to get these signs put in place, as they are not listed off of Exit 1 as well.	T2.1	X			Port Byron (potentially), Village Staff, & Village Board	

Economic Prosperity Actions	Objective this Action Supports	Target Completion Year			Responsible Parties	Potential Funding Sources	
		2014-2016	2017-2020	2021-2034			
1	Market the community for a hotel/motel near the Interstate 80 corridor. The Village's proximity and access to the interstate, Mississippi River, the Great River Road and Great River Bike Trail make it highly marketable for short-term stay opportunities.	E2.1	X			Planning Commission, & Village Board	
2	Consider creating a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District. With this development tool, financially strapped local governments can make the improvements they need, like new roads and sewers, and provide incentives to attract new businesses or help existing businesses stay and expand. All this without tapping into general municipal revenues or raising taxes.	E1.2 & E3.1	X			Planning Commission, & Village Board	
3	Consider working with adjacent communities (e.g. Port Byron) to create a multi-jurisdiction Chamber of Commerce. This local association can advocate for existing businesses and recruit future businesses. A part-time director position should be created.	E1.1 & E2.1		X		Planning Commission, & City Council	
4	Contact local businesses at least once every two years. This shows appreciation and identifies any changes or challenges with which the Village may be able to assist.	E1.1	X	X	X	Village Staff	
5	Develop a dock to support water taxi service (i.e. Channel Cat) to/from the Quad Cities.	E2.1			X	MetroLINK, Planning Commission, & Village Board	

Agricultural & Natural Resources Actions	Objective this Action Supports	Target Completion Year			Responsible Parties	Potential Funding Sources	
		2014-2016	2017-2020	2021-2034			
1	Develop an interconnected greenway system of parks and open spaces. Work towards conserving lands denoted on the Future Land Use Map and establish trails within these lands. To complete the greenway system, establish safe routes that connect each greenway "hub" (see page 2-11).	R1.1			X	Illinois DNR, Village Staff, Planning Commission, & Village Board	Park and Recreational Facility Construction (PARC), Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD), and Recreational Trails (RTP) Programs

Community Facilities & Services Actions	Objective this Action Supports	Target Completion Year			Responsible Parties	Potential Funding Sources
		2014-2016	2017-2020	2021-2034		
1 Upgrade public parking lots to meet ADA requirements.	FS1.1	X			Village Board	
2 Create a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. This plan is used to guide Village officials plan for park and recreation improvements for existing and future parks. This will help leverage potential funding opportunities.	FS2.1		X		Village Staff, Planning Commission, & Village Board	
3 Conduct regular review of sewer capacities to serve future growth and development, and consider building a Village treatment facility. If building a facility, consider building a joint facility with the Village of Port Byron to reduce upfront costs.	FS3.1	X	X	X	Village Staff, Planning Commission, & Village Board	
4 Add drain tiles behind roadway where water run-off issues persist due to high water table and springs.	FS3.1	X			Planning Commission, & Village Board	
5 Maintain and annually update a Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). A CIP can help to coordinate and prioritize long-term public needs.	FS4.1	X	X	X	Planning Commission, & Village Board	

Community Character Actions	Objective this Action Supports	Target Completion Year			Responsible Parties	Potential Funding Sources
		2014-2016	2017-2020	2021-2034		
1 Create a streetscaping plan for 2nd Avenue (Illinois Route 84). The Village would like to improve the aesthetic appearance of this major corridor following a specific design theme. This plan will guide future improvements either completed by the Village, or part of a larger State road improvement/reconstruction project.	CC1.2		X		Planning Commission, & Village Board	
2 Enforce the Illinois Route 84 Overlay District Development Guidelines. The Section 1.6 of the Village's zoning code provides requirements regarding design of properties along Illinois Route 84. Verify the overlay district is present on the zoning map and is enforced.	CC1.2	X	X	X	Village Staff & Planning Commission	Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP)
3 Continue to sponsor annual community-wide clean-up day.	CC1.1	X	X	X	Village Staff	

Hazards Actions	Objective this Action Supports	Target Completion Year			Responsible Parties	Potential Funding Sources
		2014- 2016	2017- 2020	2021- 2034		
1	Actively participate in state and national awareness activities. Examples include National Weather Service's Flood Awareness Week, Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Preparedness Month, Illinois' Severe Weather Awareness Week.	HZ1.1	X	X	X	Village Staff
2	Implement NFIP Community Rating System (CRS) credited activities and explore application to CRS designation. This system improves residents awareness of flood risks and better protects against flood losses. Also as NFIP flood insurance policies are renewed, they will receive reductions in their premiums.	HZ1.2		X		Village Staff & Village Board
3	Develop interagency agreements for aid during and after a disaster and actively participate in the Illinois Mutual Aid Assistance Compact. This compact provides mutual cooperation in emergency-related exercises, testing, or other training activities using equipment and personnel simulating performance of any aspect of the giving and receiving of aid by party states during emergencies.	All		X		FEMA, Army Corps of Engineer, Rock Island County Board of Supervisors, Village Board, & Village Staff
4	Work with the Rock Island County Emergency Management Agency to continue to update and disseminate free disaster preparedness materials for individuals and businesses.	HZ1.1	X	X	X	Rock Island County Board of Supervisors, Village Board, & Village Staff
5	Implement mitigation strategies outlined in the Rock Island County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (e.g. advertise the Community Center as a warming/cooling center). Also actively participate in any update to the County's Plan.	HZ1.1	X	X	X	Village Staff & Village Board

Collaboration & Partnerships Actions		Objective this Action Supports	Target Completion Year			Responsible Parties	Potential Funding Sources
			2014-2016	2017-2020	2021-2034		
1	Communicate with other jurisdictions whenever service contracts or major capital improvements are up for consideration, to identify cost savings opportunities through partnerships and shared service arrangements.	CP1.2	X	X	X	Village Staff & Village Board	

Land Use Actions		Objective this Action Supports	Target Completion Year			Responsible Parties	Potential Funding Sources
			2014-2016	2017-2020	2021-2034		
1	Amend or rewrite the Village's Zoning Code. Chapter 4 suggests several improvements to the existing zoning code to establish consistency with this Plan.	L1.1	X			Planning Commission & Village Board	
2	Create cooperative boundary agreements with adjacent municipalities. This is especially important with the Village of Port Byron, as they share a border with Rapids City.	L1.3		X		Village Staff & Village Board	