The Comprehensive Plan
-Purpose-

The Comprehensive Plan serves as a guide for the promotion of high quality and livable built environments that will promote and enhance the City of Hamilton's image by using land use planning to integrate transportation, public facilities, housing, education, economic development, and the environment.
A high quality comprehensive plan reflects the needs and desires of the community it serves. The following community involvement methods were utilized in the planning process:

- Polls: Distributed to Hamilton Residents by mail
- Surveys: Taken at the County Fair, River Days Festival and the Business Expo
- Commissions: Established to help guide the plan’s development
The development of the comprehensive plan’s content was guided by specialized committees whose work focused on topics that are very important to Hamilton’s future success:

- Land Use, Transportation and Economic Development Committee
- Parks Committee
- Housing and Neighborhoods Committee
- Riverfront/Downtown Committee
The Comprehensive Plan
-Executive Committee-

• The creation of the preliminary draft of the comprehensive plan update was overseen by the executive committee and based on the original 2020 Comprehensive Plan.
• This committee made recommendations on the content of the plan and helped guide its development.
• The executive committee has helped to bring the plan to the point where it can be presented to the public for review—the final step in completing the comprehensive plan update.
The Comprehensive Plan
-Plan Structure-

For each subject addressed in the plan a list of Objectives, Strategies and Actions is given:

• Objectives: Overall goals for the future
• Strategies: Possible methods for achieving goals
• Actions: What the City must do to reach its goals
The Comprehensive Plan
-Plan Structure-

The update of the City of Hamilton’s Comprehensive Plan merges concepts with the newly adopted (OKI) Regional Council of Governments’ *Strategic Regional Policy Plan*. This regional policy plan, adopted in early 2005, lays the framework for a regional convergence of coordinated, comprehensive planning by all 190-member jurisdictions of OKI.
Different Sections of the Comprehensive Plan Update
“Land is one of the most important resources in the OKI region. The effective and efficient use of land is key to ensuring the quality of life and long-term health and vitality of our communities. Land experiences tremendous changes in response to human activities. The term “land use” usually refers to the way in which, and the purposes for which, humans employ the land and its resources.” (OKI, Strategic Regional Policy Plan p.94)
The Land Use Section seeks to guide growth and development in ways that maximizes the distribution of public services that people desire and need without wasting resources.
Land Use Section

• The Land Use Section includes the Future Land Use Map. This map helps guide the community in determining the most appropriate future use of land in the City of Hamilton.
City of Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio

Future Land Use

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“By 2015, actions at the local and regional levels will promote the availability of multimodal transportation choices that link the region’s cities and villages, employment centers and residential areas, urban cores and suburbs, and that provide mobility for all the region’s residents.” (OKI, Strategic Regional Policy Plan p.25)
The Plan seeks to coordinate multiple modes of travel within Hamilton’s transportation system. These transportation methods include motor vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles and mass transit.
The Transportation Section includes the Future Transportation Map. This map helps guide the community in determining the most appropriate future infrastructure developments in the City of Hamilton.
City of Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio
Future Transportation Map

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Neighborhood Planning should work to increase community strength and promote higher density development in appropriate areas. Low-density development leads to a loss of cohesive communities, sense of place, and social capital.” (OKI, Strategic Regional Policy Plan p.108)
The Plan seeks to create viable neighborhoods that enhance the health, stability and diversity of residents while encouraging sustainable and quality development.
“Economic development is a process that leads to business development, expansion, and/or reinvestment within the OKI Region. The process results in expanded job opportunities for citizens, and an increased tax base for the government to provide necessary public facilities and services.” (OKI, Strategic Regional Policy Plan p.72)
The Plan seeks to accommodate growth in ways that make economic sense, enhance the community’s well being, and preserve the environment, while allowing the City to compete regionally and globally.
Environment and Parks Sections

“The long-term viability of the OKI region is dependent on the health and quality of our dynamic and interdependent natural resources and open spaces. Every building erected, public utility placed, and every road constructed could potentially have an impact on the individual resources and broader natural systems.” (OKI, Strategic Regional Policy Plan p.50)
The Plan seeks to provide and maintain open space amenities, parks, and recreational facilities in an orderly, timely, and financially efficient manner that supports public policy and meets the citizen’s needs.
"A high-quality public environment can have a significant impact on the economic life of urban centres big or small, and is therefore an essential part of any successful regeneration strategy. As towns increasingly compete with one another to attract investment, the presence of good parks, squares, gardens and other public spaces becomes a vital business and marketing tool: companies are attracted to locations that offer well-designed, well-managed public places and these in turn attract customers, employees and services.” (CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment)
The Plan seeks to promote the development of livable, long lasting built environments that will promote and enhance the City of Hamilton's image by emphasizing the value of high quality design.
“Strong and healthy downtowns are the centerpieces of any region. Generally, a downtown has recreational centers, arts, and cultural centers, as well as retail, [residential], and business activities. They become hubs for business,[residential], cultural, social, and recreational activities, making a downtown the most attractive center in a city. Downtowns are generally the focus for economic development.” (OKI, Strategic Regional Policy Plan p.74)
The Plan seeks to promote and enhance the Great Miami River waterfront and Downtown Hamilton, areas which provide the city’s greatest chance to capitalize on the national trend in renewed interest in urban living.
“Strategic Regional Issue #21: Economic vitality depends on an educated, skilled workforce.” (OKI, Strategic Regional Policy Plan p.78)
The Plan seeks to preserve and enhance the variety of educational opportunities in the city of Hamilton with high quality primary, secondary and post-secondary facilities.
Participation Stations

For more information on any of these subjects, and to provide your input, please visit the corresponding information station and be sure to get a copy of the Passport to Community Involvement.