

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Hailey Planning Department to Kick Off 2010 Comprehensive Plan Update

The City of Hailey Planning Department will kick off an update of the Hailey Comprehensive Plan in October with a series of neighborhood workshops.

The success of the update depends on the involvement of citizens, businesses, community groups and appointed and elected officials. In the past, public meetings have been held that were geared toward specific topics like housing, recreation, natural resources, growth and transportation. For the 2010 update the City still wants to hear what people have to say about these topics, but with a focus on what is important in their neighborhood. The City especially wants to hear from people who do not normally come, or have never been, to a city meeting. A diversity of thoughts and experiences are welcomed.

Individuals may participate in their Neighborhood Workshop scheduled for a Thursday in October and sign up to participate in a Community Focus Group. Individuals may also provide their thoughts on sections of the comp plan that are of interest to them. The current Comprehensive Plan can be found at www.haileycityhall.org/planning. To share ideas or ask questions contact the Planning Department 2010compplan@haileycityhall.org or 788-9815 x 13. People interested in the update process can visit the Hailey website for news on the update. People are encouraged to spread the word about the Neighborhood Workshops and other opportunities to be involved. Brochures explaining the process are available from the Planning Department.

The 2010 update will involve three parts:

Part 1 – Neighborhood Workshops

Neighborhood workshops will be held every Thursday in October. The workshops will facilitate a lively discussion among neighbors on 3 questions; what do you like about your neighborhood and Hailey? What would you change if you were “king for the day”? What do you want your neighborhood and Hailey to be like in 20 years?

Neighborhood Workshop	Date and Time	Location
West Hailey (west of Main St)	October 1 6:00pm to 7:30pm	Hailey City Hall
North Woodside (north of Baldy View) and East Hailey (all subdivisions east of Wood River Trail)	October 8 6:00pm to 7:30pm	Community Campus Room 301-302
Hailey Townsite and North Ridge	October 15 6:00pm to 7:30pm	Wood River Middle School
Central and South Woodside (all subdivisions south of Baldy View Dr)	October 22 6:00pm to 7:30pm	Woodside Elementary Library
All commercial areas	October 29 8:00am to 9:30am	Hailey City Hall

Part 2 – Community Focus Groups

Throughout the months of October, November and December input from citizens, businesses, city appointed commissions and community organizations will be contacted, and work sessions scheduled as necessary, to update the factual information contained in the Comprehensive plan and identify goals, policies and implementation steps that have been accomplished. The focus groups will also generate recommendations for revisions. This work will also incorporate the input gathered from the Neighborhood Workshops.

Part 3 – Planning Commission and City Council Public Hearings

Parts 1 and 2 will culminate in a draft document with proposed revisions to the Comprehensive Plan. A series of public hearings will be held by the Planning Commission to review and receive comment on the draft document. It is estimated that 6 to 8 public hearings will be required to sort through all 15 sections of the Comprehensive Plan. These public hearings will take place as part of the Commission's regular monthly meetings in January, February and March, 2010 with the goal of having recommendations to the City Council for review starting in April, 2010. Final adoption of the revisions is targeted for June 2010.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

The Hailey Comprehensive Plan guides changes within the City over 20-30 years. The purpose is to ensure that changes within the community retain, enhance, and create the kind of place valued by the people who live here. The Plan sets out the goals and objectives that are valued in the present and desired for the future.

The Plan does not sit on the shelf; it is used regularly by the Planning Commission and City Council to evaluate projects submitted to the city for approval and provides direction for well-informed land use planning and zoning and subdivision regulations.

Why Update the Hailey Comprehensive Plan?

A comprehensive plan is not a permanent document. In order for the comprehensive plan to be relevant to the community it must remain current. A plan should be updated every five to ten years. The Hailey Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2003. Now is a good time to touch base with each other and make any needed adjustments.

The Current Hailey Comprehensive Plan...

- Emphasizes the creation of community rather than the mere development of land.
- Encourages a population which has ethnic, cultural, generational, and economic diversity; and community in which families can thrive, has attractive homes and neighborhoods, safe streets, clean air and water, open space, cultural amenities, and compact form.
- Calls for lessening dependency on the automobile, ensuring adequate infrastructure, facilitating a strong and viable education and social support system, and providing abundant open space and parks.
- Challenges the citizens of Hailey to find ways to preserve community history and character, manage and accommodate anticipated growth, and maintain a healthy and viable city center with sustainable economic growth for both business and individuals.

Components of a Comprehensive Plan Updated

Identify Issues. Current issues of concern to residents, workers, property owners, and businesses and the emerging issues that will be important in the future are identified by citizens, community organizations and community leaders.

Determine Goals. Once the community identifies issues, goals can be established. Goals are community visions and establish priorities for the community and help community leaders make future decisions. In the 2010 update the Planning Department will compare each of the goals stated in the current Comprehensive Plan with the input community members give at the neighborhood workshops and community focus group sessions to ensure the goals are still relevant and consistent.

Collect Data. Data is needed in order to evaluate current city conditions and to predict future conditions. Data about the environment, traffic, economic, social (such as population and income), and land use conditions (such as housing and zoning) and public services will be updated by the Planning Department. Outcomes of the data collection process include population projections, economic condition forecasts, and future housing needs.

Prepare the Plan. The Plan is prepared by the Planning Department using the information gathered during the data collection and goal assessment stages. The Comprehensive Plan begins by giving a brief background of the current and future conditions found in the data collection step. Following the background information are the community goals and the policies that will move those goals forward into the future. The goals and policies are organized by issue, such as transportation or housing.

Create Implementation Steps. Methods to implement the goals of the Plan are discussed by City staff. These methods, or steps, focus on issues such as cost and effectiveness. When more than one alternative is possible, each alternative is weighed given its potential positive and negative impacts on the community and city government. One alternative should be chosen that best meets the needs and desires of the community for meeting the goal.

Adopt a Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is officially adopted by the City Council after public hearings are conducted. The City Council may choose not to adopt the plan, which would require the draft to be refined. Once the plan is accepted by the City Council it becomes a legal statement of community policy in regards to future development.

Implement and Monitor the Plan. Using the implementations steps defined in the earlier stages, the city will carry out the goals in the comprehensive plan. The Planning Department monitors the outcomes of the plan and may propose future changes if the results are not desired.