

# 1 | Envisioning Leroy Township

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## 1.1 Vision statement

The residents of Leroy Township desire a sense of community with small-town values, while preserving the community’s rural atmosphere and providing an alternative to other jurisdictions in Lake County. By updating this Comprehensive Plan, the Township will help to implement strategies to manage development of the community while supporting required Township services and activities and amenities that contribute to a rural way of life.

## 1.2 Purpose



A comprehensive plan is a goal-oriented document that provides the framework for land use decisions and other actions affecting the physical, economic, and social aspects of the community. It distinguishes the needs of the community, as well as ways in which the community wishes to develop in the future.

Comprehensive plans serve as a base from which a community can make informed decisions. These plans are characteristically long-range, generalized, and far-reaching. The adoption of a comprehensive plan often becomes the foundation for the creation of more targeted plans, such as transportation corridor studies and housing analyses.

The Leroy Township Comprehensive Plan is intended to guide the community toward a desirable future as a place to live, work, play, and invest. It is developed through an open, participatory process and is driven by the following questions:

1. Who are we?
2. Where are we now?
3. Where are we going?
4. Where do we want to be?
5. How do we get there?

The Comprehensive Plan identifies a vision and broadly addresses the fundamental elements of which Leroy Township is comprised. The Comprehensive Plan does not propose specific lot-by-lot locations for land uses or facilities, and it does not address detailed regulations. The Comprehensive Plan is not a zoning resolution or a subdivision regulation. However, such regulations are utilized as tools for plan creation and implementation. The Comprehensive Plan is intended to provide the legal and rational framework for regulation, investment, and government action.

### **1.3 Comprehensive planning process**

The process of creating a comprehensive plan is commonly guided by a 9-step rational model, which includes the following stages:

1. Identify issues and options.
2. State goals and objectives. Identify priorities.
3. Collect and interpret data.
4. Prepare plans.
5. Draft programs for plan implementation.
6. Evaluate potential impacts of plans and program implementation, and modify the plans accordingly.
7. Review and adopt plans.
8. Review and adopt implementation programs.
9. Administer plan-implementing programs, monitor their impacts, and amend plans in response to feedback.

In conjunction with the 9-step model, an essential and valued element of the planning process is public participation. It is crucial that those who live and work in Leroy Township have a role in charting its future. Citizens' comments were encouraged through the 2015 Leroy Township Comprehensive Plan survey. Results have been taken into great consideration and are referenced throughout the Comprehensive Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan is a flexible planning tool that allows for modification when deemed necessary. While the plan presents goals and policies to be pursued, future events, broad changes in community values, or the availability of financing may cause Township leaders and residents to focus on goals unspecified by the plan. It is of good civic stewardship to ensure that all revisions conform to the spirit of the plan and sound planning principles, and consider the best interest of the community as a whole. It is important to review and update plans on a regular basis. Good planning practice recommends major review and revision of a comprehensive plan every five to seven years.

### **1.4 Plan organization**

Each element contains the following sections: a narrative description of current conditions, possible courses of action for the town, and formal goals and objectives. To permit flexibility in implementing the plan, specific implementation steps are usually not included with individual goals and objectives.