CHAPTER 5  GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This chapter of the Comprehensive Plan establishes statements of intent regarding the future of Thornbury Township. These intentions, expressed as goals and objectives, reflect the wishes of the residents and officials of the Township. The statements of intent are consolidated in this chapter to provide guidance in the decision making and policy setting process of land use, facilities and program planning. The order in which the goals and objectives are presented in this Chapter should not be construed as a prioritization or emphasis. Within the context of this document, a goal is a generalized topic that encompasses an area of concern to the Township. Objectives are measurable methods and procedures to accomplish a goal.

Goals and objectives are intended to satisfy the future growth needs of the community. The goals need to address the full range of planning issues now facing Thornbury Township. They are derived from the analysis of existing conditions and growth prospects in the Township and identification of growth management issues which are outlined in Chapter 7, Land Use Plan. The list of goals and objectives that follow are categorized according to the major planning concerns and issues that were identified in previous Township planning documents, as well as through more recent expression by Township officials.

The comprehensive planning process is dynamic and reflects the continuing changes in community needs and methods for accomplishing these needs. As the needs change, adjustments should be made to the goals and objectives, at a minimum during interim or complete updates to this Plan. Implementation of the goals is addressed in Chapter 13, where each objective is accompanied by a recommendation of action, a suggested priority time frame, and that part of the Township organization responsible.

Goal: Community Character – Preserve and enhance beneficial aspects of the Township community.

Objective 1 Evaluate beneficial or positive community characteristics and seek means to perpetuate same.

Objective 2 Identify negative characteristics of the Township and seek remedies to correct and improve.
Objective 3  Encourage growth management that sustains and expands positive community characteristics.

Objective 4  Identify and protect scenic vistas elements of significant community character within the Township.

Objective 5  Strengthen the sense of community by promoting individual and citizen activities on a local and Township level.

Objective 6  Establish standards and policies that would enhance the general character of the community and beautify the Township.

Goal: Natural Resources - Inventory, protect and enhance environmentally sensitive areas.

Objective 1.  Inventory and delineate natural features on accessible data bases.

Objective 2.  Review and modify development regulations which address the protection and/or enhancement of floodplains, wetlands, hydric soils, steep slopes, watercourses, rock outcroppings, woodlands and critical wildlife habitat. Consider amendments to require tree replacement.

Objective 3  Develop procedures and sources to monitor the conditions of natural resources.

Objective 4  Assess the effects of light and noise pollution on natural resources and the community and develop appropriate regulations.

Goal: Community Facilities and Services – Provide Township public facilities and services for current and future residents, businesses and institutions consistent with projected growth.
Objective 1  Inventory and assess current community facilities and services for effectiveness, location and cost. Coordinate with land use and transportation plans.

Objective 2  Develop an integrated community facilities and services operations and maintenance plan providing for future growth and related facility needs, including utilities, human services, health, safety, recycling, educational development and economic development.

Objective 3  Evaluate adequacy of Township meeting facilities in order to encourage public participation.

Objective 4  Identify areas suitable for facilities expansion, including acquisition methods and scheduling.

Objective 5  Develop programs for Township residents to participate in recycling and conserving energy, water and other resources. Coordinate with utility providers.

Objective 6  Monitor and evaluate regional services for residents and businesses.

Objective 7  Coordinate with state and regional emergency services providers, including police, fire, emergency health and disaster relief.

Goal:
Open Space Preservation – Preserve existing open space lands and develop procedures to expand as needed for recreational, cultural and scenic qualities.

Objective 1  Inventory lands in Township under various forms of protection.

Objective 2  Identify areas suitable for future acquisition for public open space.

Objective 3  Identify scenic corridors and view sheds and develop methods to preserve same.
Objective 4  Develop methods to protect lands as open space in the future, including the consideration of an overlay zoning district.

Objective 5  Evaluate development regulations for opportunities to cluster development and increase open space.

Objective 6  Update the “Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan” to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Objective 7  Develop a plan to link open space areas throughout the Township.

Goal:
Agricultural Preservation – Preserve aspects of agricultural uses that are compatible with the development pattern of the Township.

Objective 1  Inventory all agricultural land uses, including croplands, pasture land, nurseries, woodlands and specialty agricultural uses.

Objective 2  Develop methods to integrate and buffer agricultural uses in a developing community of non-agricultural uses.

Objective 3  Research and promote programs and funding to assist small farm operations.

Objective 4  Educate Township residents and businesses on role of agriculture, emphasizing means to increase compatibility.

Goal:
Transportation – Provide efficient and well maintained network of transportation routes for needs of residents and businesses.

Objective 1  Inventory roadways, public transit routes, trails and other transportation corridors with pertinent right-of-way, speed limit, use, material and location information.
Objective 2  Develop a maintenance schedule for Township-owned roads to be included in a Capital Improvement Program.

Objective 3  Evaluate the compatibility of Township roads with those of adjacent municipalities.

Objective 4  Identify corridors suitable for non-vehicular transportation and establish a network of trails for pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian use. Evaluate handicapped accessibility design issues.

Objective 5  Coordinate with State and County officials on transportation related planning issues, including the enhancement of public transportation. Consider an assessment program for adequacy and ownership of roads.

Objective 6  Manage future growth that is compatible with and/or would improve existing road design capacities, while avoiding cut-through traffic on local roads.

Objective 7  Investigate public transit opportunities, such as the expansion of SEPTA services and possible train service to Township areas.

Objective 8  Evaluate the impact of future traffic patterns on Township roads and determine if road take-over is a viable option.

Objective 9  Evaluate availability of parking facilities at Township locations such as Thornbury Park.

Goal:
Land Use – Establish and maintain land use planning regulations and policies which preserve the beneficial aspects of the Township character and provide for management of future growth.

Objective 1  Maintain a system of land use mapping so as to have available an inventory of Township land uses, infrastructure, open space, and transportation corridors.
Objective 2  Evaluate Township ordinances and modify as necessary to encourage the location of future development in areas where adequate infrastructure exists.

Objective 3  Encourage development which concentrates future growth near compatible land uses.

Objective 4  Require that future development provide significant areas of open space and buffering from existing uses.

Objective 5  Inventory and monitor non-conforming uses and structures and develop programs to encourage conformity and compliance with Township Codes.

Objective 6  Reinforce existing villages and create performance standards which encourage village development at new community locations.

Objective 7  Encourage the development of commercial, industrial and institutional uses which service needs of Township communities, while enforcing applicable regulations, such as buffering of dissimilar uses.

Objective 8  Coordinate with adjacent municipalities for compatibility of land uses and infrastructure.

Objective 9  Ensure that future growth patterns are compatible with both the Chester and Delaware Counties Comprehensive Plans and other planning programs.

Goal:
**Housing and Non-Residential Buildings** – Ensure that safe and adequate housing is provided for all Township residents.

Objective 1  Evaluate ordinances to ensure opportunities for a variety of housing types complying with accepted
standards and compatibility with fair share housing principles.

Objective 2  Review procedures to routinely monitor building conditions in the Township to ensure compliance with applicable codes.

Objective 3  Encourage future growth of residential areas in areas with compatible land uses, adequate infrastructure and suitable community facilities.

Goal: Historic Preservation – Recognize the value of the historic heritage to the community and its role in establishing the Township’s image.

Objective 1  Develop and maintain an inventory of historic buildings and structures.

Objective 2  Encourage owners of historic structures to apply for recognition of historic status from local, state and national registries.

Objective 3  Develop procedures within Township regulations which facilitate preservation and/or adaptive reuse of historic buildings.

Goal: Finances – Maintain a financial program to balance the needs of the community with the ability to generate municipal revenues.

Objective 1  Prepare an annual Budget and a Capital Improvement Plan and Program to fund facilities, maintenance and programs.

Objective 2  Encourage fiscally responsible land development through diversity to strengthen the tax base and provide varied employment opportunities.

Objective 3  Maintain reserve funds for maintenance and expansion of community facilities and public works
projects. Evaluate future taxes based upon expected development and zoning.

Objective 4  Investigate feasibility of adopting a “fee in lieu of” option related to the dedication of open space.

Goal: Planning and Coordination - Coordinate with local, county and state planning agencies on all issues which affect Township services, infrastructure, and land use planning.

Objective 1  Monitor development trends regionally for compatibility and impact on the Township.

Objective 2  Maintain a consistent liaison with adjacent townships to remain aware of activities affecting Thornbury Township.

Objective 3  Continue and expand participation with local and regional organizations which address planning issues or provide services to the Township.

Objective 4  Implement plans which provide adequate and appropriate locations for future growth using sound land use planning principles.

Objective 5  Monitor legal decisions and new regulatory controls which may impact growth management of the Township and provision of services.

Summary

It is the intention of the Goals and Objectives chapter to focus on the issues significant to the Township and to develop measurable ways to address those issues. During the planning period following the adoption of this Comprehensive Plan, important issues may change or new issues may arise. As that occurs, the goals and objectives should be reevaluated and modified to meet the circumstances. The issues are more fully elaborated upon in other chapters of this Plan, where they are applied to existing conditions and plans of action are proposed.
One of the purposes of outlining goals and objectives is to provide residents and officials of the Township with guidelines to assist in the decision making process affecting budgets, zoning decisions, variances and growth management in general. It is the purpose of this Chapter to provide decision makers with a summary of issues which have been found to be significant to the community and which should be paramount in the process of guiding the future of Thornbury Township.