

Navigating the Plan ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

This plan includes six chapters: Land Use, Neighborhoods & Housing, Economic Development, Community Services & Facilities, Natural Environment and Transportation. Each chapter includes a vision, goals and objectives. The vision statement for each chapter broadly describes the direction the community wishes to take related to the topical area. The goal statements in each chapter stem from the vision, while the objectives (numbered) aim to accomplish the goal under which they are listed. Each goal in the plan is accompanied by a narrative, which explains the importance of the goal and how it relates to the community. Several sidebars and text boxes provide additional information on specific topics mentioned in the plan.

Chapter Title

Vision Statement

Describes the direction the community wishes to take related to the chapter



Natural Environment ■ ■ ■ ■ ■



Photo by: Branden Beachy

Types of Wetlands

Riparian Zone: plant community consisting of vegetation growing near a river, stream, lake or lagoon or other natural body of water

- **Marshes:** periodically saturated, flooded or ponded with water and characterized by herbaceous (non-woody) vegetation adapted to wet soil conditions.
- **Swamp:** fed primarily by surface water inputs and are dominated by trees and shrubs.
- **Fen:** lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface
- **Bogs:** freshwater wetlands characterized by spongy peat deposits, a growth of evergreen trees and shrubs, and a covered by a thick carpet of sphagnum moss

VISION

Goshen will meet the needs of today's generations without compromising the needs of future generations. The City will respect and manage natural resources in a way that sustains, restores and enhances the natural environment and protects parks, wildlife, waterways, wetlands and open spaces.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

NE-1: Protect, preserve and enhance natural habitats and resources

A natural habitat is the area or environment in which a species or community of species normally lives. Sensitive lands are those areas containing natural features that are environmentally significant and easily disturbed by human activity. Examples include rare species habitat, wetlands and riparian areas, woodlands, steep slopes, and geologically unstable areas. Restoring degraded ecosystems allows them to regain their natural diversities and functions.

1. Preserve and protect wetlands and natural water areas as open space, including lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, creeks, marshes, fens, swamps, floodplains, and wet prairies
2. Minimize visual and ecological impacts of development on the river, open space, parks, or other natural resources
3. Encourage landscaping with native plants
4. Promote the community's environmental assets for tourism
5. Preserve ecological integrity in riparian corridors
6. Use Geographic Information System (GIS) to identify areas in need of protection
7. Partner with relevant agencies to develop restoration projects
8. Evaluate ordinances to require consideration of ecological impacts in site plans
9. Identify grants for river cleanup and natural landscaping

NE-2: Maintain and increase open spaces and parks

Parks are areas of land, often in a natural state or improved with facilities for rest and recreation, set aside for the enjoyment of the public. Greenways are strips of undeveloped land that provide corridors for environmental and recreational use and connect areas of open space. These facilities offer a range of benefits to residents, including opportunities for increased physical activity.

Side Bar

Provides additional information related to a specific topic mentioned in the plan

Goal

Stems from vision and public participation

Goal Narrative

Each goal is accompanied by a narrative which explains the importance of the goal and how it relates to the community

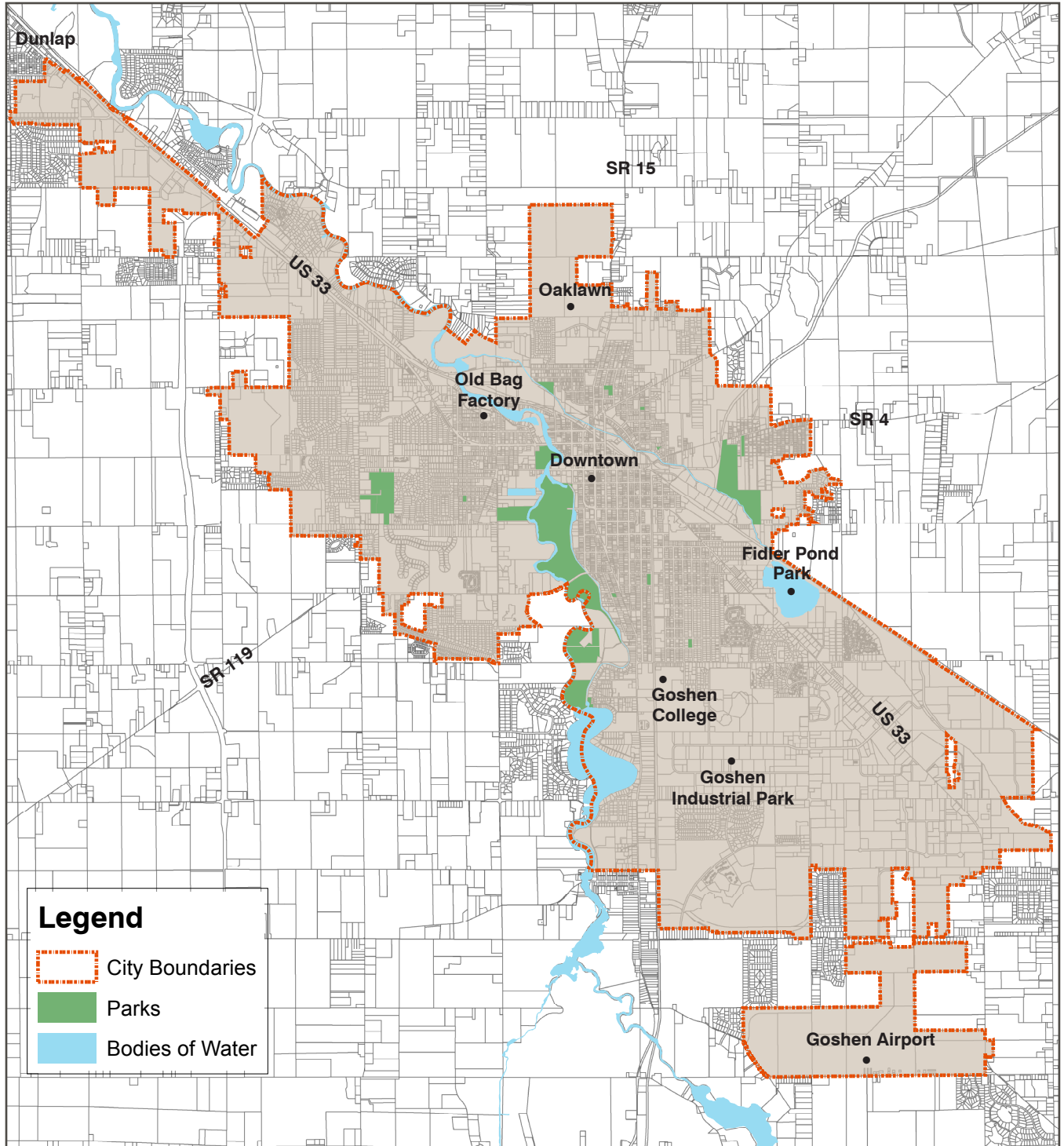
Objectives

Specific actions or policies that aim to accomplish the goal (numbered)

Implementation

Implementation actions for each chapter can be found in Appendix C

City of Goshen Map



The above map shows the existing corporate boundaries and planning context for the City of Goshen