



**Building a
“Community for a Lifetime”
in Carver County**



- n The CCHP is a non-profit, public-private public collaborative with a mission to make Carver County a healthy place to live and work.**
- n More than 40 organizations are represented on various CCHP teams.**
- n 3 Action Teams are working on various issues.**

CCHP Vision

To make Carver County
the Healthiest County in
the nation.

Senior Commission

Our Vision

Each community in Carver County will be a vibrant and senior-friendly community prepared for an increasing number of older residents.





**The Baby
Boomers
are
aging!**

Just the Facts

The number of older adults ages 65+ in Carver County will triple by 2025.

- n The oldest Baby Boomers turned 65 in 2008.**
- n Older adults will outnumber school-aged children.**
- n On average they will live 6 years longer than their parents.**
- n Dramatic growth will be seen in the “very old” age group--over 85 years old.**

So What?

- n Large numbers will be leaving the workforce**
- n Income and possibly sales tax revenues will decrease**
- n Many Boomers are not financially prepared**
- n More people will be dependent on working adults**

Every system will be challenged!

- n Transportation
- n Healthcare
- n Housing
- n Business
- n Education

“The issues of the future will not be land use and development, rather it will be how we deal with the aging population and K-12 education.”

Metropolitan Council

What can we do?



Community for a Lifetime Initiative



Communities
For A Lifetime

Creating Vibrant, Senior-Friendly Communities

Key Components of a *Community for a Lifetime*

- 1. Transportation**
- 2. Housing**
- 3. Home & community-based services**
- 4. A safe and caring environment**
- 5. Parks and recreational activities**
- 6. Affordable accessible healthcare**

Key Components

- 7. Long-term care options**
- 8. Flexible educational programs**
- 9. Meaningful connections**
- 10. Opportunities to volunteer and work**
- 11. Infrastructure that allows seniors to be active and mobile**

Senior Commission Approach

1. Put the issue on the map

§ Articles in local papers

§ Periodic training events

§ Presentations to County Board of Commissioners, local cities, Chambers of Commerce, volunteer groups, elected leaders, etc.

Strategies Continued

2. Encourage local direction, preparation and ownership through the creation of city-level Senior Advisory Groups.

- ✓ Watertown, Mayer, Norwood Young America, Victoria, Chanhassen*, Waconia**
- ✓ Each of these teams have multiple accomplishments and local leadership
- ✓ All are working to make their community a Community for a Lifetime

Local Planning



Strategies Continued

- 3. Advocate for the creation of an interdepartmental Carver County Office of Aging**
 - ✓ The County Commissioners established the Office of Aging as of January 1, 2008
 - ✓ It serves as an “anchor” for Community of a Lifetime implementation steps
 - ✓ Its major role is to provide leadership and coordination for senior services across the county—both public and private

Strategies Continued

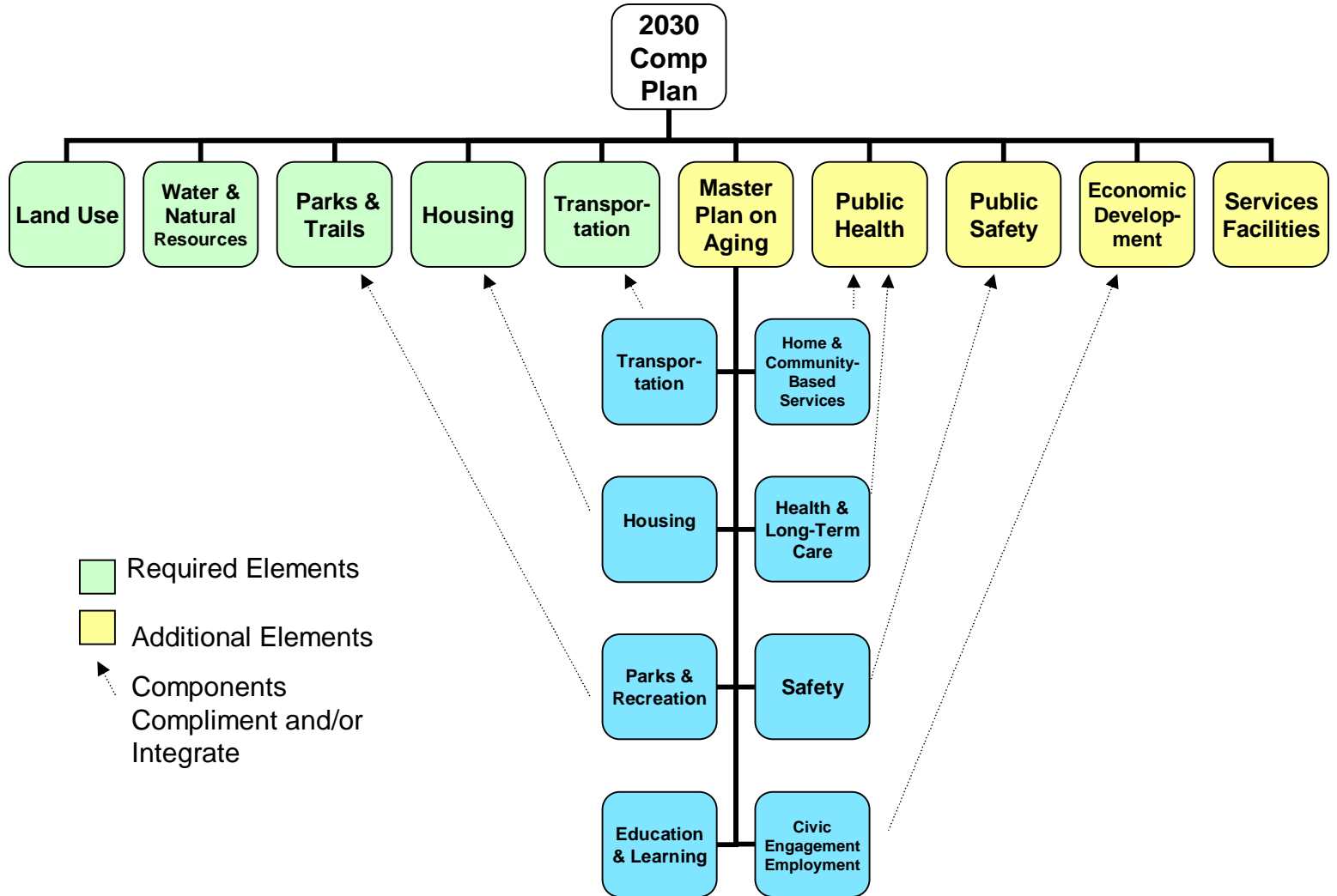
- 3. Build a shared vision and guiding framework through the development of a County-wide Master Plan on Aging**
 - ✓ 8 Design Teams worked for more than 12 months to recommend goals and strategies.
 - ✓ The plan was integrated into Carver County's Comprehensive Plan.
 - ✓ The Office of Aging will oversee its implementation.

Creating Communities for a Lifetime: Plan Outline

Overall Vision: Each community in Carver County will be a vibrant and senior-friendly community prepared for an increasing number of older residents.

Home & Community-Based Services	Education & Learning	Healthcare & Long-term Care	Housing	Civic Engagement & Volunteerism	Parks & Recreation	Safety	Transportation
<p><i>Carver County's older adults will have a high quality of life. They will be able to remain in the residence of their choice and will be connected to an array of home and community-based services.</i></p>	<p><i>Easily accessible opportunities for lifelong learning will be available to all residents of Carver County, regardless of age, race, culture or current levels of education.</i></p>	<p><i>As they age, adults in Carver County will remain healthy and active. Each individual will take responsibility for their health, maintaining a healthy lifestyle and seeking preventive care and services. A continuum of effective, affordable outpatient and inpatient healthcare services (mental and physical) will be available to older adults in Carver County.</i></p>	<p><i>Carver County residents of all ages will have access to diverse, life cycle housing options and locations that meet individual preferences and provide opportunities for active living and intergenerational neighborhood and community growth, regardless of physical, social or financial status.</i></p>	<p><i>Carver County excels as a place for all people to feel valued and connected. It provides the best opportunities and has the most people of all ages fully engaged in the life of the community. Plentiful and diverse opportunities are available for all to be fully engaged and make meaningful contributions.</i></p>	<p><i>Carver County supports a well coordinated, affordable, readily accessible park and recreational opportunities/services offering mental, physical and social interaction that is consistently available to persons of all ages.</i></p>	<p><i>Carver County is a safe and secure environment for our seniors.</i></p>	<p><i>All people in Carver County will have access to safe, convenient, flexible and affordable transportation options and related facilities.</i></p>

Carver County Health Partnership Master Plan on Aging Integration into the Carver County 2030 Comprehensive Plan



Essential Elements for Creating Community for a Lifetime

nLeadership

nVision

Keys to Success

- n Vision and leadership are essential—
find and/or develop key leaders to
champion the issue and create
multiple points of ownership**
- n Understand that all sectors have a role
in the solutions--build partnerships
and collaborations across sectors.**
- n Focus on issues that you can impact**

Other “learnings”

- n People are committed to their community--so work at the community level as they define it
- n Look for outside funding sources to support initial efforts
- n Think long-term, act short-term, grab the low-hanging fruit and celebrate small achievements
- n The process takes time, don't get discouraged by the upfront investment in planning
- n Emphasize long term cost savings and reliance on private solutions---not every issue needs government funding

“Learnings” continued

- n The issue of our aging population impacts everyone—not just seniors
- n Emphasize that Senior Friendliness is friendliness for all ages
- n Don't reinvent the wheel—use the resources and knowledge developed by others
- n Work with the local media to publicize your efforts
- n View older adults for their value and potential
- n Not everyone is interested or motivated – work with those who are