



Chapter 2: Planning Process

Introduction

The Boone County Comprehensive Plan update is a community lead planning effort that establishes initiatives, guides decision making, and provides the county with opportunities to succeed over the next 10 years. The process began with the project being identified and prioritized in the 2017-18 Boone County Strategic Plan and the partnership between the Region 1 Planning Council and Boone County. The two entities collaborated to organize, develop, and write this plan. The process required a truly unique and customized planning effort because a project of this scale had never been undertaken by the partnership before. The approach included forming new internal and external partnerships, data and resource sharing, significant upfront public participation, and generating community-wide buy in.

In order to effectively implement the Boone County Comprehensive Plan, it should be evaluated on an annual basis and updated in full by the year 2029.

Legal Authority of County Comprehensive Plans

Illinois State Statute 55 ILCS 5/5-14001 documents the power counties have to develop plans. It states, “(counties or regions) should have a plan made for the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a co-ordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of said region, and of public improvements and utilities therein, and which plans will in the judgment of the county board, in accordance with the present and future needs of the region and of the State, best promote health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity, efficiency and economy in the process of development and the general welfare of said region.”¹

In addition, the Illinois State Statute 55 ILCS 5/5-14005 describes the need for coordination among plans. It states, “The county planning commission or regional planning commissions created under the provisions of this Division shall encourage the cooperation of the political subdivisions within their respective territories in any matters whatsoever which may concern the county or regional plan or maps prepared by such commission as an aid toward coordination of municipal plans with county and regional plans.”²

This plan strives to accomplish and satisfy both of these statutes.

Plan Objectives

There were three key objectives the Boone County Comprehensive Plan update set out to accomplish:

- » **Objective 1:** Be more comprehensive than previous plans.
- » **Objective 2:** Engage as many people as possible.
- » **Objective 3:** Leverage partnerships and limited resources to develop an easy-to-use, implementable roadmap for the future, driven by the community’s needs, vision, and values.

Objective 1

A wide array of topics that effect the future quality of life for Boone County residents were included in the update. The approach still saw land use as a central component to the plan, but included seven additional community-centered topics in order to produce a more all-encompassing plan for the future.

Objective 2

A multitude of diverse public engagement methods were employed to spawn continuous community buy-in and input throughout the process. The combination of these methods generated hundreds of responses from several hundred people across various mediums.

Objective 3

A collaborative approach was utilized throughout the process. Staff leveraged established local and regional networks of agencies, organizations, and individuals to gather the most accurate data, distribute public participation materials, review information, and contribute to the plan. Without countless individuals across the county and region, a successful planning process would not have been possible. The process truly was collaborative in nature and thus has yielded collaboratively driven action items for the future.

Plan Topics

There are a total of eight topics detailed in this plan. Each topic was carefully selected to address a specific subject matter that is both important to residents, but also important for the overall growth and sustainability of the county.

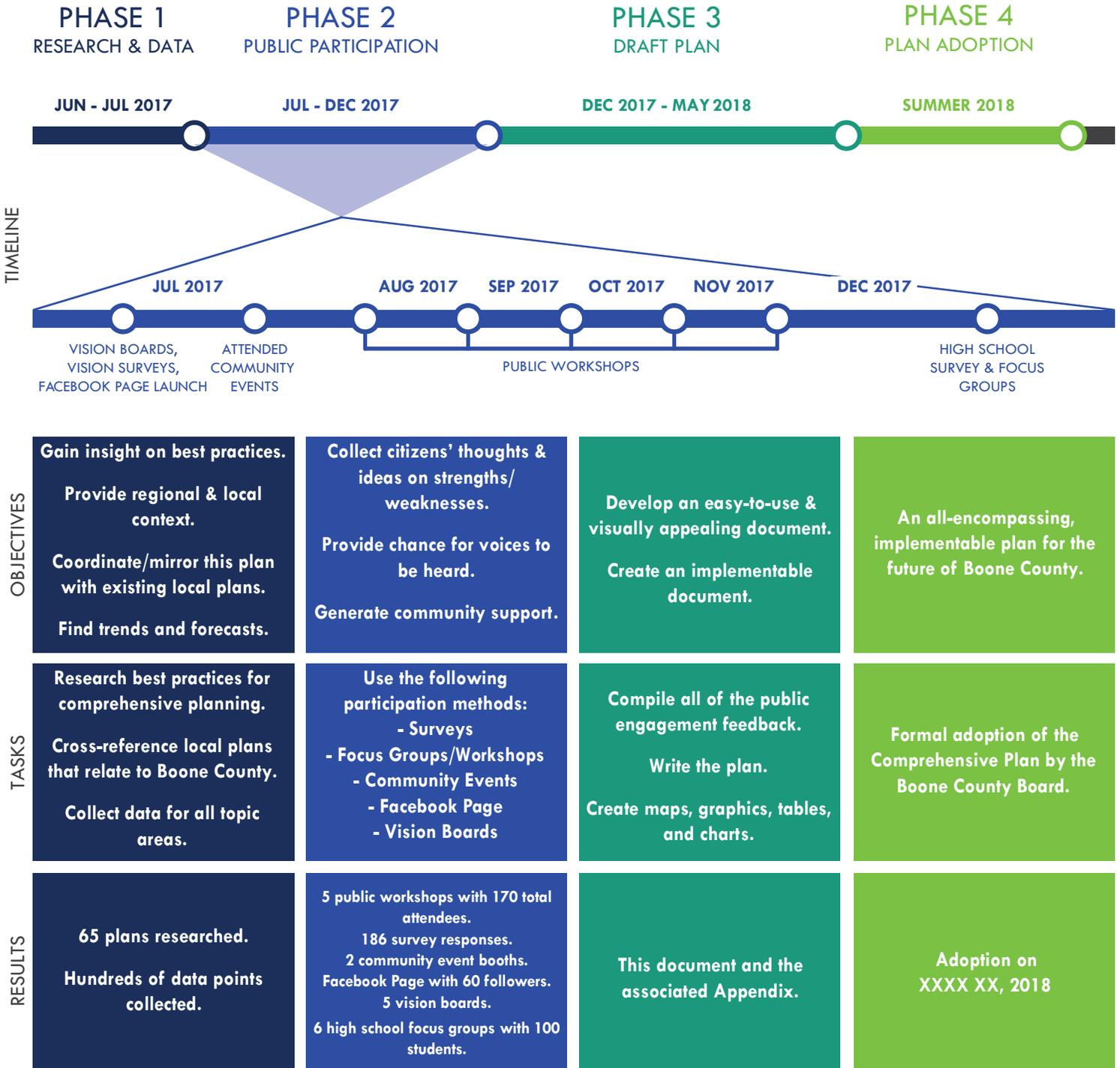
FIGURE 2.1 PLANNING TOPICS



Planning Process

The planning process took 12 months and included four different phases. Each phase had identified tasks, objectives, and timelines. The following figure shows the overall plan timeline; the public participation timeline; and the objectives, tasks, and results of each of the phases.

FIGURE 2.2 PLANNING PROCESS



Overarching Themes

Throughout the planning process several key themes came to fruition. These themes are connected and integrated into the majority of the goals, objectives, and strategies formulated through public input, elected officials' feedback, and technical staff support. The overarching themes of the Boone County Comprehensive Plan are:

- » **Connection, Communication, and Coordination:** Creating new connections, coordinating initiatives, and working together with regional and local governments, agencies, and organizations.
- » **Equity:** Providing services equitability through the engagement and inclusion of all residents.
- » **Youth Retention and Aging in Place:** The services, options, opportunities, and amenities that allow an aging population to stay in the county, but also attract new and retain existing younger residents.
- » **Agriculture:** The importance of the agricultural heritage of Boone County both past and present.

FIGURE 2.4 OVERARCHING THEMES

	3 C's	EQUITY	YOUTH RETENTION/ AGING IN PLACE	AGRICULTURE
LIVABILITY & RECREATION				
HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SAFETY				
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY				
EDUCATION & PUBLIC COMMUNICATION				
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT				
HOUSING				
TRANSPORTATION				
LAND USE				

Chapter 2 Sources

1. Illinois Compiled Statutes, §§ Counties Code: Regional Planning-55 ILCS 5/5-14001 -55 ILCS 5/5-14002.
2. Illinois Compiled Statutes, §§ Counties Code: Regional Planning-55 ILCS 5/5-14005 -55 ILCS 5/5-14006.



Boone County's Vision for 2029

AN INCLUSIVE COUNTY THAT CHERISHES ITS RURAL HERITAGE, WHILE ALSO MAINTAINING ITS HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH A STRONG EDUCATION AND HEALTH SYSTEM, DIVERSIFIED HOUSING AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, STRATEGICALLY PLACED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCIES, AND A MULTITUDE OF FAMILY-FRIENDLY RECREATIONAL OPTIONS.

