

June 10, 2006 Nisswa Comprehensive Plan meeting
Community Visioning Session

Community Character

1. Place where friends meet and businesses flourish; social aspect. Ex. care and usage, sustain and improve public places.
2. A community that preserves its resources and provides an opportunity for planned growth, while maintaining our Nisswa quaint quality of life!
3. Retain the natural character, good water quality, recreational opportunities for all ages, low density, slow development and limited commercial development.
4. Definition of community appearance. *
5. Clean lakes, air/North Woods feel but near services.
6. Promote citizen and seasonal/temporary resident involvement. *
7. "Self preservation/maintenance of community character. *
8. Have and maintain northern Minnesota feel and small town character, water quality, and access to urban amenities. *****
9. Need to define community character. *****

Economic Development

10. Planning for commercial growth-old Nisswa, new Nisswa.
11. Expand business growth and development to expand tax base! **
12. Economic development that is well conceived and takes into account the "sub regional" market=neighboring communities. *
13. Real estate taxation, vacant land taxation, and value increases and impacts on taxation. ****
Continued tourism growth. ***
14. Vitality of downtown area and a "well-defined" business area. *
15. "Smart growth" retail. *
16. Upscale dining.
17. Investigate alternative funding sources to keep property taxes low.

Natural Resources

18. Open space/green space=too restrictive on development options. *
19. Sustain and preserve water quality and surface water. ***
20. Keep beauty-large green spaces (trees, hills, water). **
21. Integrate development with nature ("The Preserve").
22. Landscape standards for development, monitor construction/development. *
23. Golf course/soil runoff treatment of land.

Recreation

24. Maintain commitment to physical activity in the area (cultural activities and events).
25. Surface water use.
26. Need parks/beaches and recreational facilities (ex. a city park on Nisswa Lake).

27. Public use for small city lakeshore properties (about 50 foot segments).

Transportation and Infrastructure

28. Transportation issues and infrastructure-roadways, trails, mass transit. ****
29. Future generations-respect for natural environment and more focus on the built environment (ex. indoor pools). *
30. Accommodating weather changes ex. snow, etc.
31. Law enforcement and fire protection (keeping up with population). Ex. traffic and speeding on residential and county roads, traffic calming, water patrol, enforcement of zoning, inter agency and inter city cooperation, and county sheriff. *
32. Emergency planning.
33. Planning for schools and tying schools with other planning components and maintain Nisswa Elementary School in the city.
34. Waste water management and treatment and city sewer/water supply-city water. *****
35. Environmental impacts of MN-371, what is it going to look like, Baxter-Nisswa and beyond. MN-371 Development plan. County 77. *****
36. Shaping community “flow” patterns.
37. Proactive city government. *
38. Water softeners.
39. Infrastructure plan includes communication-internet/cell.
40. Traffic/congestion and pedestrian-vehicle safety. ***
41. Architecture/building standards.
42. Historic preservation and pedestrian overlay districts. ***
43. No parking ramps.
44. Need for parking.
45. Install infrastructure and services prior to development.

Land Use and Residential Development

46. Well-planned and managed residential growth and growth in general. *****
47. The question of “how much growth in enough?” **
48. Increased services for 60+ population, senior housing, and planning for older adults. **
49. Lack of affordable and entry level housing-starter homes, clustering, etc. **
50. Defining where development should occur/strategic plan for growth to promote growth and preserve resources. ***
51. Enroll key landowners in the planning process.
52. Need high-quality development or conservation design. *
53. Redevelopment of lakeshore property-residential and commercial.
54. Regulating density/lakeshore development. ***
55. Evaluate and overhaul PUD requirements.
56. Work with neighborhood and regional communities on planning and policy.

* indicates top priorities by group from group members placing dots on the paper sheets.