

## Branson preps for comprehensive plan

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By Mindy Honey Society Editor |

The city of Branson is preparing a plan that will help guide city leaders through 2030.

Work began earlier this summer on the city's 20-year comprehensive plan for future development and growth, as well as to address future needs of residents and businesses.

"We are not just out to put a pretty binder on everyone's bookshelf," senior planner Joel Hornickel said. "This is absolutely a plan that will be used.

"It will provide a priority list of things we need to take care of."

When completed next year, the plan will address everything from transportation and tourism to health care, education and community services.

Earlier this year, the city selected Design Workshop, out of Denver, to update the comprehensive development plan.

A 15-member steering committee has been formed and in early June a community tour was conducted, as well as about 90 interviews, which is really just the start of their work to gather input from the community.

On Aug. 12, the city will host an informational open house from 4:30-8 p.m. in the Cooper Creek Room at the Branson Convention Center.

"We are basically trying to get the acceptance from the city," Hornickel said.

More meetings will be held in October.

"We are hoping to get it completed and approved in May or June (next year)," he said.

"This document will provide the foundation for future decisions at all levels of city government," said Branson Planning and Development Director Jim Lawson. "It will help us guide capital investments over the next two decades."