

Watford City Embarks on New Vision for Community

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A little over ten years ago, Watford City completed a Community Strategic Plan with the assistance of NDSU. "At the time, it wasn't something that many smaller communities in Western North Dakota were doing," says Curt Moen, Watford City Planning & Zoning Administrator. The leadership at the time, however, felt it was important to create a vision for our community. The Community Strategic Plan focused on facilities to enhance the community. From that processes, a number of infrastructure upgrades and new facilities were completed including a main street renovation, outdoor water park, golf course updates, visitor center, and other recreation facilities.

Chart a New Course

"Even though Watford City was extremely progressive in its planning, a lot has changed in ten years," says Moen. "It is time to create a new Community Vision Plan that serves as an extension of our past efforts, while recognizing the dynamic shifts in the community from oil and gas development." The updated Community Vision Plan is intended to address: population projections; residential, commercial, and industrial planning; community services and amenities planning, and a land use plan update.

Kick Off Survey

The City of Watford City recently hired AE2S and ICON Architects to assist them through the Community Vision Plan. The kick off of the planning process is a community wide survey that focuses on obtaining input about current and future facilities and services the citizens of Watford City would like to see implemented into the plan. The survey will be available to citizens both online with a link to the survey on the City's website at www.watford.mckenziecounty.net, the Watford City Facebook page, and is also published in this issue of the McKenzie County Farmer newspaper.

The community will have approximately two weeks to complete the 14 question survey before results are compiled. "We are hoping to get at least a ten percent response rate from the community. Of course, we would love for everyone to respond. The more input we can gather, the better the planning will be. We would like for everyone's voices to be heard," Moen says.

After the data is compiled, a community engagement meeting will be held in conjunction with a larger scale regional planning project, Vision West ND. This project covers the nineteen oil and gas producing counties in western North Dakota. Through this project, community meetings and planning efforts will be integrated with the City of Watford City in effort to maximize the impact of the planning process and participation.

Looking Ahead

As the planning process moves forward, the City will continue to report its progress to keep citizens abreast of the planning efforts. After the survey data has been compiled and the community engagement planning meetings have been completed, focus will be shifted to creating specific strategic action plans in order to create a new vision for the City.