



Navasota Comprehensive Plan

2005-2015

A Road Map to the Future

THE EXISTING CITY



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Forward



SECTION 1 – FORWARD

Texas Target Cities Program

The Texas Target Cities Program was initiated in 1993, by the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at Texas A&M University. Each year, a city within the State of Texas is selected to participate in this program. The program is designed to provide residents of Texas communities with assistance in city planning while serving as a “real world” learning laboratory for graduate students in the Master of Urban Planning program. Students gain fundamental planning experience while the targeted community receives valuable assistance for improving the quality of urban life for its residents. Cities are chosen for participation in the program based on demonstrated need and their commitment to the planning process. The City of Navasota was selected as the 2003-2004 Texas Target City. This Comprehensive Plan is but one of the documents prepared by several graduate students for the City of Navasota.

The Urban Planning graduate students under the Texas Target Cities Program are providing the City of Navasota with a Comprehensive Plan, a geographic information system (GIS), an economic development plan, and an economic development website. The Comprehensive Plan provides a holistic view of various elements within Navasota. The geographic information system allows a graphic analysis of the status and growth of the City in order to manage development and determine where it should occur. The system can also provide City staff with up-to-date maps covering a wide range of subjects; for example, zoning, transportation characteristics, infrastructure, and etcetera. The Navasota Economic Development Plan aims to promote and concentrate on the growth of small, local businesses. The economic development website will be a useful tool to promote both economic development and tourism for the City of Navasota.

The Comprehensive Plan

The Navasota Comprehensive Plan strives to be a plan that addresses the needs and aspirations of the community both today and over the next 10 years. In order to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan reflects what the community desires, it is critical that community members are involved in the development and implementation of the plan. The ultimate goal of this plan is to create a sustainable community using the available resources to meet current needs while ensuring that adequate resources are available for future generations. This document is broken into two parts. The first part of the document is a compilation of various elements describing the City's history and background, regional context, natural resources, economic base, demographics, land use, transportation system, urban infrastructure, housing, community facilities, historic resources, hazards, and urban image. The second part is a future city scenario that includes goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures.

The Planning Process

The analysis of the existing community data began in the fall of 2003, when data was collected on the City. Students visited the community and digitally mapped the entire community including existing land use, transportation network conditions, and many other relevant city characteristics using GIS. To directly engage the local citizens in the planning process, surveys were mailed out to obtain input on community needs. Additionally, during the spring of 2004, students continued the interaction with the community by holding public meetings and design charettes. At these meetings, citizens were invited to provide direct comments on the state of Navasota. With the collected data analysis and the citizens' involvement, students were able to analyze the community that exists today and provide suggestions for City plans for tomorrow.