



10 CONCLUSION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public input in the decision-making and planning process is fodder for a healthy community and it enhances the character and vitality of a City. Public participation in planning for the City of Watertown is not limited to merely community charrettes, community task forces and various governmental advisory boards. In fact, Watertown exhibits active involvement of community members along all stages of the planning spectrum. The role of those serving on citizen advisory boards is to exercise neutrality while making advisements in the best interest of the City. These commissions encourage public discussion and they place trust in City staff to use their technical expertise, training and educational background to see that the goals and objectives of the City are pursued and met. City staff provides the Council and various commissions with assessments and statements of issues, ideas, goals and possible solutions, yet all decisions must be made according to the values of the general public as represented by commission members.

INTER-JURISDICTIONAL COORDINATION

In addition to working from within the City with its staff and citizen advisory boards, the City of Watertown will work with surrounding municipalities to coordinate its plans for growth, in order to best meet broader regional planning goals. Areas where collaboration with regional jurisdiction and surrounding communities are most fitting are identified in this plan. The City will continue to attempt coordination and collaboration with surrounding townships through the orderly annexation process. It will continue ongoing communication with Carver County planning efforts, including parks and trails linkage, transit and circulation, adequacy of community facilities, and health and safety for all residents. The City of Watertown is interested in creating partnerships with surrounding communities to build upon various important components found in this plan such as housing, economic development and employment opportunities, natural resources, historic preservation, transit and public facilities, while influenced by the positive community character of Watertown.