

3.1 Community Planning

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Assessment Process	
A.	The assessment of needs, wants, and resources is achieved by surveys, town meetings, brain storming, focus group studies, and mayoral-appointed advisory committees.
B.	The Harry S Truman Regional Planning Commission authored a Comprehensive Plan for Lamar.
C.	A baseline study commissioned by the city and conducted by the Rural Policy Research Institute provides for benchmarks and key indicators through the year 2006.

Program Standards	
A.	Organization: Jointly, the City of Lamar, Barton County Chamber of Commerce, and Lamar Community Betterment are responsible for the development, administration, and operation of community planning endeavors for Lamar.
B.	Mission Statement: The prime directive for this program is to progressively provide planned and orderly growth for all facets of physical development and maintain an acceptable quality of life for the future of Lamar.
C.	Planning Commission: The City of Lamar has appointed a planning and zoning commission which complies with Chapter 89 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. Regular meetings are scheduled and held with special meetings scheduled and held on a case-by-case basis as needed.
D.	Comprehensive Plan: The City of Lamar adopted a Comprehensive Plan that is reviewed and updated annually. The following areas are addressed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Land Use Plan 2. Transportation Plan 3. Community Facilities Plan 4. Public Improvement Plan 5. Accommodation Plan for the Disabled and Handicapped 6. Layout for the redevelopment and/or restoration of blighted districts and distressed areas <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lamar's new Enterprise Zone long-range plan meets the requirements of D-6
E.	Planning Implementation Tools: The community has adopted and implemented ordinances in the following areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subdivision Regulations 2. Zoning Ordinances 3. Housing Codes 4. Building Codes
F.	Citizen Participation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Mayor of Lamar utilizes advisory committees in the planning process for the City of Lamar. 2. The Lamar Community Betterment organization and the Barton County Chamber of Commerce use surveys and focus groups to develop citizen input for the planning process of the community. 3. For the 2002 renewal of MoCAP, the Chamber of Commerce utilized a special internet website with interactive online surveys and a publication of MoCAP standards for the entire community. Further information on this method is listed on Goal #1.

Program Goals and Planning

Goal:	Expand citizen participation in the MoCAP Planning and Assessment Process
Strategy	Utilize interactive surveys and online publication of MoCAP resources to expand citizen participation in the process of community assessment and planning. This method uses the award-winning Chamber website, www.bartoncounty.com . Surveys are also inserted into the local newspaper, the <i>Lamar Democrat</i> for added exposure.
Funding	Funding for this planning resource is provided in the overall Economic Development budget through the Chamber of Commerce.
Timeline	18 month renewal process for MoCAP (Completed December 2002 for current renewal)
Goal Evaluation	Number of additional citizens participating in MoCAP surveys; quality of MoCAP plan meeting state standards for re-certification of Lamar as an All-Missouri Certified City.

Program Evaluation

The success of Community Planning endeavors for Lamar are addressed through:

- Specific economic indicators available from the local agencies, the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center and the U.S. Census Bureau
- Benchmarks established through the Lamar Baseline Study
- Monthly focus group sessions conducted by the Chamber of Commerce
- Annual Surveys of local residents and community leaders by Community Betterment