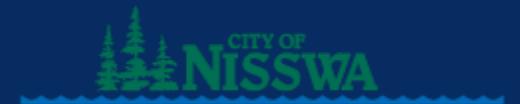
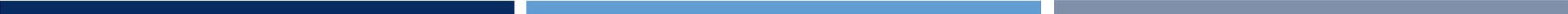


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# CITY OF NISSWA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #4 – ARIL 4<sup>TH</sup> 5:30 – 7:30PM





# AGENDA



Policy development  
Next Steps  
Open house

# FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

## ■ **Steering Committee Meetings (6):**

- Meeting #1: December 6<sup>th</sup>
- Meeting #2: First week in Jan
- Meeting #3a: March 1<sup>st</sup> 5:30 – 7:30
- Meeting #3b: Mar 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00 – 8:00
- Meeting #4: April 4<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 7:30
- Meeting #5: Early May
- Meeting #6: Mid June

## ■ **Open Houses (2):**

- January 10<sup>th</sup> @ the Community Center from 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- **Visioning Session #2, April 18<sup>th</sup> at Grand View Lodge from 5:00 – 8:00 pm**
- Third – if determined necessary

## ■ **Walking tour (weather permitting)**

## ■ **Focus Groups**

- Sustainability
- Land Use and Development
- Local Businesses and Economic Development

# S.M.A.R.T GOALS

- **Specific:** When setting a goal, be precise about what you want to accomplish
- **Measurable:** What metrics are you going to use to determine if you meet the goal?
- **Agreed-upon:** Do these goals reflect what the community would like to see?
- **Realistic:** Are these goals achievable?
- **Time-based:** Provide a target date for deliverables



# POLICY OVERVIEW AND HOW-TO

## GOAL

- Goals establish long-range efforts for the city and are intended to serve as guidelines for the comprehensive plan.
- **They represent general statements that identify community aspiration or desired conditions.**

## POLICY

- Each goal is then accompanied by several policy statement
- **Policies describe actions aimed at achieving each of the goals located in the plan element**

Transportation Goal example: “Foster a healthy, equitable, and economically vibrant community where all residents have greater mobility choices.”

**Policy: “Develop a network of enhanced local connections to the Paul Bunyan Trail.”**

# TOPICS

**PARK, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION**

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

**NISSWA CHARACTER/COMMUNITY VISION**

**LAND USE**

**HOUSING**

**TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**SUSTAINABILITY**

**TOURISM**

# HOUSING

Goal 1: Develop a diverse and high quality housing stock that meets the needs of Nisswa residents at all stages of life and at various income levels

**Policy:**

- Encourage new housing to fill the gaps in the housing market
- Expand housing options surrounding the downtown business district
- Support the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing properties
- Encourage high quality design and use of sustainable materials in home construction

# HOUSING

Goal 2: Strengthen and support Nisswa's existing neighborhoods

**Policy:**

- Protect neighborhoods from incompatible land uses
- Improve transportation connections. Particularly bicycle paths/routes and pedestrian facilities
- Encourage and support the maintenance and rehabilitation of older housing stock

# HOUSING

Goal 3: Create high quality environments in all residential neighborhoods that preserves and protects existing natural resources

**Policy:**

- Establish housing pattern and conservation design recommendations that respect the natural environment
- Encourage infill housing where appropriate
- Improve access and connection between housing, employment and retail areas in Nisswa
- Encourage connections to retail, park and open spaces, trail networks and lakes to create attractive and walkable neighborhoods as a means to attracting young families

# HOUSING

Goal 4: Cultivate vibrant and cohesive residential neighborhoods that support the image of Nisswa as a welcoming and connected community

**Policy:**

- Encourage neighborhood and community gatherings and interaction
- Build capacity at the neighborhood level for improvement projects
- Reinforce neighborhood identity and sense of pride

# HOUSING

Goal 5: Balance local housing markets to address local housing needs

**Policy:**

- Develop neighborhood strategies that account for the location of infrastructure
- Use zoning to encourage efficient and functional development
- Locate all public housing near amenities such as schools, shopping, recreation and jobs
- Use a range of tools to sustain affordable housing options
- Provide life cycle housing to meet the needs of Nisswa's diverse demographics and age cohorts

# PARK, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION

Goal 1: Provide residents and visitors the opportunity to enjoy the natural environment throughout the City of Niswaga

## **Policy:**

- Maximize every efforts and opportunity to preserve forested tracts and improve water quality
- Engage volunteers in the restoration, maintenance and preservation of open space and park network's natural resources
- Collaborate with area and state stakeholders to plan for and fund ongoing ecological management and restoration

# PARK, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION

Goal 2: Serve the needs of all park and trail users and ensure equitable access to these facilities

## **Policy:**

- Provide parks with playgrounds or natural play areas that are within walking distance of residential neighborhoods.
- Incorporate ADA into park designs when feasible
- Design parks to serve residents at all ages
- Respond to the desires and needs of residents with regards to developing park facilities

# PARK, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION

Goal 3: Enhance public multi-seasonal access, connectivity, and inclusiveness of Nisswa's recreational and natural resources

## **Policy:**

- Continue to expand and improve on-street bicycle facilities and off-street trail networks
- Collaborate with the Public Works Department to promote active, multi-modal transportation as an alternative to automobile use
- Establish strong, safe, interconnected trail networks linking downtown, parks, community amenities to neighborhoods

# PARK, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION

Goal 4: Facilitate partnerships and collaboration with area stakeholders to expand pedestrian trail networks

## **Policy:**

- Partner with adjacent local units of government and state agencies
- Develop and adopt a Complete Streets policy
- Encourage interconnected streets and patterns of development that create more convenient multimodal travel options
- Review opportunities for multimodal transportation investments that enhance access, walkability and community aesthetics along primary thoroughfares

# NATURAL RESOURCES

Goal 1: Protect and preserve natural resources and water quality (air, water, land) for continued responsible use

## **Policy:**

- Identify and safeguard valuable natural resources and outdoor heritage through education, preservation and conservation efforts
- Draw connections between historic land use and natural ecosystems, including eco-tourism, and flora/fauna tourism

# NATURAL RESOURCES

Goal 2: Be a city that strives to lead by example for environmental stewardship and sustainability

## **Policy:**

- Review development to avoid areas of significant constraints, unique or fragile resources and areas that are critical to sustaining the ecosystem.
- Promote the use of renewable energy technologies in residential construction

# NATURAL RESOURCES

Goal 3: Protect and improve the health of the natural environment

## **Policy:**

- Preserve vegetation and specimen trees from development. Assure re-vegetation of disturbed land
- Create or protect buffers along streams and lakeshores
- Support and enhance the urban forest (pine curtain)
- Educate residents, businesses, and visitors about the importance of protecting natural resources

# NATURAL RESOURCES

Goal 4: Integrate the green infrastructure within the urban core and rural areas throughout the City of Niswaga

**Policy:**

- Provide buffers along waterways and wetlands
- Define green infrastructure within future development and redevelopment areas
- Support re-forestation and other ecosystem restoration practices

# NATURAL RESOURCES

Goal 5 : Educate visitors, residents, and businesses on the importance of protecting natural resources and enhancing water quality

## **Policy:**

- Develop programming and education awareness around invasive species, protecting water quality and best management practices
- Define green infrastructure within future development and redevelopment areas

# NISSWA CHARACTER/COMMUNITY VISION

Goal 1: Ensure that people can live, work, and play in the City of Nisswa

**Policy:**

- Develop intentional “efficiencies and effectiveness” programs and projects with multi-jurisdictional, multi-theme, multi-forms of wealth, multi- sectors, agencies, departments’ involvement
- Ensure continued community outreach to ensure all population’s needs are being heard.

# NISSWA CHARACTER/COMMUNITY VISION

Goal 2: Protect and enhance the sense of place and character of Nisswa

## **Policy:**

- Develop collaborations that use and enhance local culture, such as collaboration between mental health care professionals, artists, and local food producers
- Utilized arts-based placemaking to improve downtown and public spaces.
- Maintain community character and distinctive community assets
- Identify gateway corridors for signage and placemaking features

# NISSWA CHARACTER/COMMUNITY VISION

Goal 3: Support and enhance the health and integrity of the natural environment that sustains the spirit of the community

## **Policy:**

- Integrate green infrastructure and appropriate practices to aid community-wide water quality maintenance efforts
- Identify highly vulnerable natural resource areas
- Protect and restore wildlife corridors, ecosystems, water quality and recreational opportunities
- Protect buffers and implement best management practices along lakeshore property

# NISSWA CHARACTER/COMMUNITY VISION

Goal 4: Improve the stock of trust, relationships, and networks that support community collaboration

**Policy:**

- Actively recruit and nurture emerging community leaders through community leadership, learning and development opportunities, and network groups
- Formalize community leadership networking groups

# LAND USE

Goal 1: Provide for orderly development by establishing suitable relationships among natural resources, commercial, residential, and other land uses

## **Policy:**

- Ensure that development is orderly; following the patterns established in the Future Land Use Map
- Stage new development or expansion of the city's urban service area
- Encourage redevelopment and infill development to have preference over development on green field sites

# LAND USE

Goal 2: Maintain and adopt a Land Use Plan that designates land use areas and guides development to appropriate areas; ensuring desirable land use patterns and minimizing conflicts

## **Policy:**

- Coordinate community growth with [Nisswa Public Works/Utilities/Stakeholders] to systematically plan for the efficient expansion of municipal services
- Identify areas of significant natural resource important, sensitive environmental areas, and protect these areas from incompatible development

# LAND USE

Goal 3: Enhance Nisswa's image as a community of vibrant, thriving, and desirable neighborhoods; a regional hub for commerce, recreation, arts, and tourism

## **Policy:**

- Adopt, communicate, and implement clear standards for structures, site design, materials, and landscaping requirement for future development and redevelopment projects
- Collaborate with developers on future development and redevelopment proposals to ensure high quality design components that enhances the community image
- Encourage design elements that create safer circulation routes, facilitate social interaction, and enhance neighborhood character
- Promote commercial and industrial development that services local and regional markets

# LAND USE

Goal 4: Enhance the diversity and livability of residential areas

**Policy:**

- Integrate different types of residential housing while retaining the character of distinct neighborhoods
- Promote infill development and retention of traditional neighborhoods adjacent to the Central Business District
- Ensure a variety of house types to meet the needs of all residents, no matter their stage in life
- Strive to achieve a better balance of the ratio of permanent vs. second homeowners in the community by providing more opportunities for housing affordable to locals

# LAND USE

Goal 5: Support development that enhances community character; preserving the small town character and protecting natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas

## **Policy:**

- Ensure that new developments and infill redevelopment projects are designed in a manner that preserves the small town character, and protects the natural environment
- Reform existing policies to make it easy for developers to build compact, walkable places
- Encourage higher density residential development near the central business district, and where public sewer is available

# LAND USE

Goal 6: Encourage mixed-use development that is focused on the integration of land uses

**Policy:**

- Encourage planned mixed-use developments, in which traditional residential subdivision aspects and small commercial are merged
- Encourage development efforts to take advantage of the Paul Bunyan Trail to provide creative identity for new construction and renovation
- Encourage residential components be included in mixed use areas to provide opportunities to live closer to recreation, job clusters, and retail centers
- Recognize and reward developers that build great places using smart growth and green building approaches

# LAND USE

Goal 7: Improve accessibility throughout Nisswa

**Policy:**

- Encourage development of pedestrian and bicycle networks that link the community together
- Connect rural residential land uses with the downtown core and recreational amenities
- Ensure the provision of accessibility to residents and visitors with disabilities
- Adopt a complete green streets policy that also addresses street trees and stormwater

# LAND USE

Downtown |

Goal 1: Support the social and economic viability of Nisswa's downtown

## **Policy:**

- Retain and attract the appropriate mix of retail and service business activity
- Provide signage and wayfinding throughout the downtown core to identify businesses, parking opportunities, and Paul Bunyan Trail connections and access points
- Evaluate and recommend improvements to enhance the downtown pedestrian environment
- Promote adequate customer parking for the downtown, with concentration on downtown signage and wayfinding to identify public parking areas
- Encourage the use of Federal, State, local, and other financial resources to fund and incentivize Downtown reinvestment and maintenance of projected Downtown enhancements
- Utilize arts based placemaking to improve downtowns and public spaces

# LAND USE

## **Downtown |**

Goal 2: Support development that enhances the character and identity of the Downtown Core

### **Policy:**

- Support the redevelopment of vacant and sub-standard sites within the central business district
- Encourage and support innovative housing opportunities
- Create linkage between trail segments. New city trail systems connect to other walkable community options (trails, sidewalks etc.)
- Develop new design guidelines that maintain downtown's character and identity

# TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## Transportation |

Goal 1: Trail systems are interconnected throughout the Nisswa community and to regional systems

## Policy:

- Promote a trail system with new development proposals and residential neighborhoods
- Promote traffic calming strategies on collector and local streets (plantings, signage, pavement striping, etc) to encourage slower travel speeds
- Where possible, the city will utilize a Complete Streets methodology in the design and reconstruction of streets (adjacent land uses, travel speeds, width and number of lanes, on-street parking, vertical/horizontal road alignment, pedestrian and bicycle features, intersection curb radii and crossing facilities, signage, lighting, landscaping, etc.)
- The city will continue to support trail connectivity among local, regional, and state trail systems

# TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## Transportation |

Goal 2: Plan and develop an interconnected, accessible multimodal transportation system

### Policy:

- Encourage development of pedestrian and bicycle pathways that link the community together in a cohesive manner
- Connect businesses with surrounding land uses to increase access
- Incorporate bike lanes and bike racks in downtown corridors to promote biking and increase signage
- Work closely with MnDOT on any new development request along Highway 371
- The city will support local and regional transit providers and programs that benefit residents and visitors to the area

# TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## **Infrastructure |**

Goal 1: Provide cost effective, quality city services

## **Policy:**

- Sustainably operate and maintain wastewater collection and treatment facilities
- Integrate waste reduction, composting and recycling programs throughout the City of Niswaga
- Identify and prioritize all city utility and infrastructure improvement and secure funding for implementation
- Explore opportunities for improved internet and Wi-Fi connection
- Develop civic infrastructure (communities facilities and utilities), recreational programs, and other quality of life services that are important for sustaining the community

# TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## **Infrastructure |**

Goal 2: Plan for the expansion of public utilities to facilitate healthy and sustainable community growth

## **Policy:**

- Monitor infrastructure capacity on an ongoing basis to understand capacity limitation on accommodating new development
- Reform policies to make it easy for developers to build compact, walkable, mixed-use places; policy alignment, context sensitive design, green and complete street design, low-impact development.
- Design infrastructure and facilities that sustain or restore natural systems
- Cooperate with other government, private-sector utilities, and community organizations

# TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## **Infrastructure |**

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# TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## **Infrastructure |**

Goal 2: Plan for the expansion of public utilities to facilitate healthy and sustainable community growth

## **Policy (Continued):**

- Cooperate with other government, private-sector utilities, and community organizations
- Establish criteria for prioritizing projects in the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Work with local units of governments to work across political boundaries to share equipment costs/facilities for more efficient delivery of high-speed internet. Example: Lay conduit for fiber optics when upgrading sewer and water or digging trench
- Promote, support private/public partnerships that fund improved high-speed internet access throughout region for telecommuting & business activities, educational benefits and tele-health. Ensure the collection of accurate data around served, underserved and unserved communities

# TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## **Infrastructure |**

Goal 3: Prioritize infill development on vacant lands and redevelopment of blighted, neglected properties

## **Policy:**

- Promote development in areas that are contiguous to existing public infrastructure
- Study the costs and benefits on new industries that place high demands on the existing municipal system
- Focus on the development of existing platted neighborhoods to best utilize already present infrastructure

# TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## **Infrastructure |**

Goal 4: Where practical, minimize impact to environmentally sensitive areas when extending and constructing utilities

## **Policy:**

- Establish buffer zones between overhead utilities, substations, treatment facilities and commercial and residential areas
- Place overhead utilities underground when feasible

# TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## Infrastructure |

Goal 5: Coordinate infrastructure improvements to maximize the economic benefits of street reconstructions that include sewer, water, dry utilities, and streetscaping

## Policy:

- Facilitate dialog around right-sized wastewater infrastructure projects. Start with education of existing infrastructure status.
- Maintain a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that annually reviews and implements priorities in an efforts to provide adequate infrastructure

*Ongoing development. Further coordination needed.*

# TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

## **Infrastructure |**

Goal 6: Invest in broadband infrastructure to increase the number of household that are served by high-speed internet services

## **Policy:**

- Ensure that households and businesses throughout the City of Nisswa have service that meets common state standards
- Collaborate with area units of government to share equipment costs/facilities for a more efficient delivery of high-speed internet
- Create and leverage public and private partnerships to fund improved broadband access
- Promote an understanding of the importance of broadband to a community's infrastructure

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal 1: Promote Nisswa as a great place for business and commerce

## **Policy:**

- Provide assistance for businesses looking to grow, start up, or relocate in Nisswa
- Provide a variety of financial and technical assistance programs to downtown businesses owners for rehabilitating and renovating downtown buildings, storefronts, and signage
- Invest in quality of life amenities; housing, parks, trails, open space and community programs and events
- Establish partnerships and coordination with local, regional, and state organizations that support economic development activities
- Increase number of small and medium enterprises
- Utilize private/public partnerships to facilitate increased small, medium enterprise (SME) business lending

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal 2: Develop cohesive, interconnected residential neighborhoods that meet the diverse needs of Nisswa residents

## **Policy:**

- Encourage development of new housing to fill gaps in the housing market
- Collaborate with community partners to support housing development and rehabilitation
- Support the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing properties
- Build capacity at the neighborhood level for community improvement projects
- Prioritize infill and redevelopment of existing neighborhoods
- Plan for lifecycle housing, rather than responding only to current market conditions

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goal 3: Support tourist-related commercial enterprises that strengthens Nisswa's position as a tourist destination

**Policy:**

- Coordinate with Downtown businesses, non-profit arts, culture groups, and service clubs to support and expand activities and special events
- Leverage the Paul Bunyan Trail and utilizing the “trail town” model of economic revitalization
- Focus entrepreneurship programs in arts and culture sectors
- Develop career paths in the tourism industry that have competitive salaries and benefits to attract and retain employees
- Proactively address the need for extracurricular activities within the community that meet area needs and attract visitors
- Development programming and funding mechanisms to assist the downtown business district and rehabilitation efforts

# SUSTAINABILITY

Goal 1: Ensure that elements of the built environment work together to provide highly functional places for residents and commerce

## Policy:

- Provide for complete streets servicing multiple functions as well as multi-modal transportation options
- Conserve and reuse historic resources
- Provide accessible public facilities and spaces
- Provide incentives to private parties who build new green buildings that utilize a green building framework.
- Pursue solutions to building local renewable energy infrastructure
- Ensure access to solar energy for all residential and commercial uses
- Support programs to integrate waste reduction, composting and recycling programs throughout the City of Niswaga

# SUSTAINABILITY

Goal 2: Maintaining natural resources and sensitive environmental areas are a priority

## **Policy:**

- Restore, connect, and protect natural habitats and sensitive lands
- Provide for renewable energy use
- Adopt and implement guidelines for storm water filtration/re-use techniques
- Adopt an ordinance with erosion and sediment control provisions as well as requirement for permanent storm water treatment

# SUSTAINABILITY

Goal 3: Ensure that public health needs are recognized and addressed through various methods

**Policy:**

- Plan for physical activity and healthy lifestyles
- Provide accessible parks, recreation facilities, greenways, and open spaces near neighborhoods
- Plan for access to healthy, locally grown foods for all neighborhoods

# TOURISM

Goal 1: Retain and increase number of visitors that come to Nisswa

## **Policy:**

- Keep Nisswa travel experiences fresh and current by marketing existing and new outdoor recreation, arts and cultural heritage experiences and amenities
- Identify and safeguard valuable natural resources and outdoor heritage through education, preservation and conservation efforts. Draw connections between historic land uses and natural ecosystems including agri-tourism, mining/timber, transportation (land, water, air) and flora/fauna tourism
- Leverage the Paul Bunyan Trail and work with downtown businesses owners to advertising and marketing opportunities

# TOURISM

Goal 2: To have a sustainable, year-round economy through partnerships with local businesses, resort operators, and other agencies that creates opportunities for all

## **Policy:**

- Encourage development of diverse retails and services that support local and regional needs
- Promote a high standard of service and hospitality for local business
- Promote and preserve unique local amenities and drivers for regional tourism; outdoor recreation and historic assets
- Collaborate with educational institutions, economic development entities, and local businesses to address workforce needs, and develop career pathways for residents of all ages

# TOURISM

Goal 3: Establish partnerships with resort owners and operators to expand recreational facilities and programs

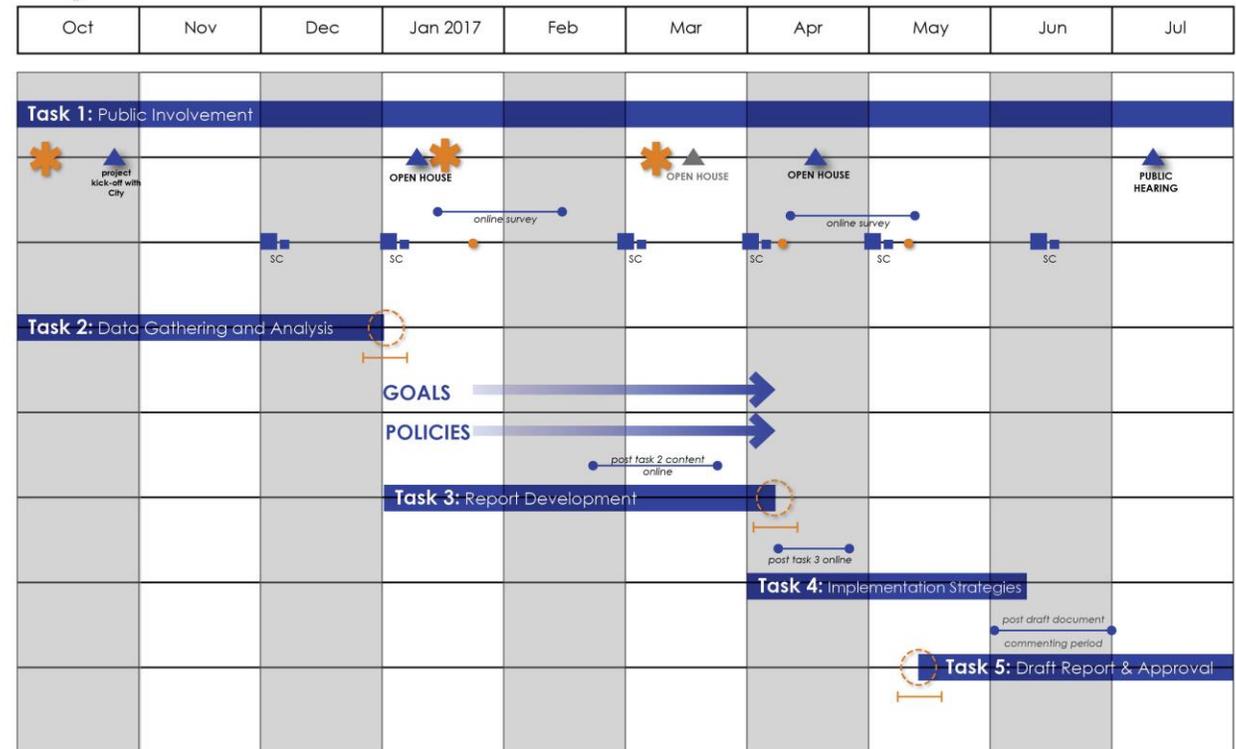
**Policy:**

- Provide a range of recreational opportunities for a diversity of activities throughout the year
- Promote shoulder season opportunities, and provide a variety of winter and summer recreational amenities
- Strategically identify and plan for new recreation resource opportunities

# NEXT STEPS

- Make edits to policies
- Send out strategies to SC
- Visioning Session #2 – April 18<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 – 8:00pm @ Grand View Lodge
  - Arrive at 4:30pm
- Develop survey questions post meeting
  - Post soon thereafter the visioning session
- Draft chapters to be sent in April
  - Comments due by May meeting

## City of Nisswa Comprehensive Plan Schedule



### Legend

- RS/NUPA team meeting
- public involvement meeting
- Steering Committee (SC) meeting
- team milestone
- time period for online content postings
- RS/NUPA progress check-in
- focus group meetings

**Task 1:** Draft public participation plan, and develop a schedule and strategy for the entire community involvement component. Meetings with steering committee will be necessary to define approach

**Task 2:** Research, analyze, graph, chart, and map information. Present to SC, online survey, and summarize data.

**Task 3:** Work with CPSC, use public comment, and develop visions, objectives, and goals.

**Task 4:** Work with CPSC, use public comment, and identify implementation strategies.

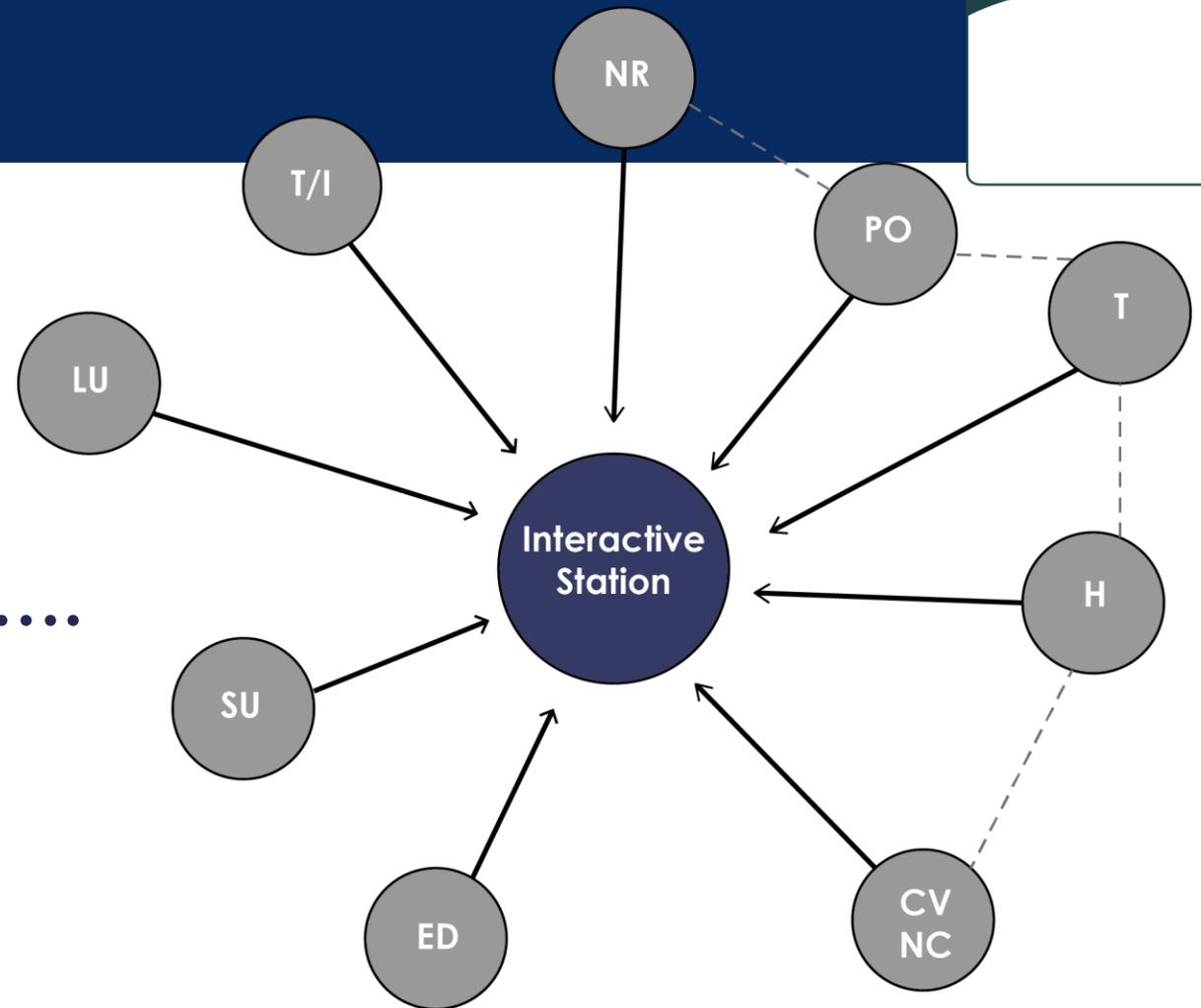
**Task 5:** Draft report and prepare for open house and work towards completed draft.

**DRAFT**  
for discussion  
purposes only

# OPEN HOUSE

In the future Nisswa will be....

- Open house style
- Goals to be placed on the tables
- Participation thru dot-ercize
- **In the future Nisswa will be....**



\*\*Check in/how to station

\*\*Future Land Use Maps

# CONTACT INFORMATION

**Questions?**

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