



# 5 QUALITY LIFESTYLES

## THEME 5 | GOALS

### **Goal 1: Quality Arts & Culture**

*Hobart will expand arts and culture efforts that emphasize the City's sense of community while providing educational and entertainment opportunities for residents and visitors.*

### **Goal 2: Climate-conscious Community**

*Our community will remain committed to conservation and sustainable practices, adapting to the changing climate and ensuring a more resilient future.*

Hobart's 2040 Plan includes five community Themes. The following section describes Hobart's vision for Theme 5: Quality Lifestyles. Information about Quality Lifestyles is embedded into all of the other four sections of the Comprehensive Plan. The next few pages are a list of Strategies and Actions for each of the goals listed above.

## GOAL 1: QUALITY ARTS & CULTURE

Hobart will expand arts and culture efforts that emphasize the City's sense of community while providing educational and entertainment opportunities for residents and visitors.

Hobart's arts and culture resources play a significant role in creating a sense of community pride, as well as exposing residents and visitors to art, performance, and local history. One of Hobart's most notable public artworks is the mural depicting Hobart's key historical events on the wall of Off-Road Rim Financing. The mural was recently painted by local artist Pete Cortese who has painted historically significant murals throughout the Hobart community. Another noteworthy work of art is the mural painted in 1938 by William Dolwick in the Hobart Post Office, Early Hobart, which depicts Hobart in 1870. Works like these bring vibrancy to Hobart's public spaces, while also imbuing them with a sense of history and community togetherness. Public art can also create a sense of place, helping to beautify areas where people gather, encouraging them to linger, and creating landmarks that help to orient pedestrians and bikers. The Hobart Clock Tower, for example, is a sculptural feature that serves as a community identifier and landmark. There are dozens of additional opportunities for public art around Hobart, and the City can work with local artists to bring the community to life through art.

There is also an opportunity to support Hobart's arts community and increase capacity of arts organizations and independent creatives throughout the city. Cultural spaces like the Art Theater in downtown Hobart bring music and performance to the Hobart community and help to support performing artists. Arts programs, such as Arts in the Park, help to inspire burgeoning young artists. There is room for more of these spaces and programming in Hobart. Regional Arts organizations, such as the Indiana Arts Commission and South Shore Arts, can link Hobart's creatives to opportunities, as well as serve as inspiration for additional Hobart-led initiatives that are focused on supporting the creative community.

### South Shore Arts NORTHWEST INDIANA

South Shore Arts is a nonprofit organization that advances the arts in Northwest Indiana by providing programming and events, such as workshops, classes, performances, and exhibitions. Its programs are aimed at supporting artists, as well as exposing the public to the arts. Funded by the Indiana Arts Commission, South Shore Arts operates The Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster and the South Shore Arts Substation No. 9 in Hammond. South Shore Arts also provides resources to artists through their website and alerts them to grants and other opportunities. Overall, South Shore Arts demonstrates the ways in which an organization can transform lives and strengthen communities through the arts.



**STRATEGY 1:** Promote the creation and upkeep of public art near key activity nodes to create a welcoming and vibrant environment that draws in both residents and visitors.

- **Action 1.1:** Identify specific locations that can be enlivened by public art interventions (e.g. community open spaces, alleyways, blank external walls Downtown, walkable streets).
- **Action 1.2:** Identify the type of art preferred for specific locations (e.g. sculpture, mural, installation, monument).
- **Action 1.3:** Create a Request for Proposals for major public art projects, allowing artists to pitch their ideas. Consider allowing the community to participate in the selection of artists based on their proposals.
- **Action 1.4:** Emphasize the diversity of Hobart by encouraging participation among diverse artists that represent all segments of the community.
- **Action 1.5:** Support pop-up and pilot projects in parks and public spaces to test new types of public art interventions, prioritizing temporary and low-cost tactics.
- **Action 1.6:** Use public art to create a richer downtown experience by considering creative ways to incorporate art into vacant storefronts or empty lots.



Public Art - Mural

**STRATEGY 2:** Build the local arts and culture capacity of Hobart and its creative residents and organizations.

- **Action 2.1:** Create an arts and culture commission or governing board that advocates for and oversees the implementation of arts and culture plans.
- **Action 2.2:** Create an arts and culture plan and/or a community placemaking plan.
- **Action 2.3:** Create an arts and culture webpage linking to organizations, events, artist opportunities, and other arts and culture news.
- **Action 2.4:** Partner with existing regional arts organizations, such as South Shore Arts, to continue bringing impactful programming to Hobart.
- **Action 2.5:** Support the ability of creative sector workers, organizations, and businesses to thrive by actively working to create affordable rental spaces/incubator spaces and allowing the use of public buildings for workshops or other creative activities.
- + **Action 2.6:** Partner with regional arts organizations to help connect artists with grants and funding.
- + **Action 2.7:** Work with Hobart's schools to promote arts programming and classes.



Makers Space

## GOAL 2: CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS COMMUNITY

Our community will remain committed to conservation and sustainable practices, adapting to the changing climate and ensuring a more resilient future.

Hobart has a wealth of natural resources, including Lake George, numerous conservation areas, and the Oak Savannah Trail, among others. The City also contains a significant amount of undeveloped land that encompasses wetlands and other natural features. It is the proximity to these natural places that serves to highlight the need to protect them for generations to come. It also calls attention to the fact that surrounding land must be developed responsibly in order to preserve ecosystems and habitats. It is critical that the City takes an active role in promoting climate consciousness, ecologically-sensitive measures, and Smart Growth development standards throughout the City and among its residents and businesses.

Hobart has already made strides toward promoting an eco-friendly community. The City has a recycling program that operates weekly, and residents and businesses are also able to recycle their electronic waste by paying an extra fee or bringing it to the recycling facility. Hobart has also adopted a proactive stormwater management program that underscores its commitment to improving the quality of stormwater runoff beyond the basic level of regulatory compliance and protecting nearby lakes, rivers, and streams. The City is also a part of the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission’s (NIRPC) Greenways and Blueways initiative, which seeks to promote sustainability by creating a network of waterways and trails. Finally, in 2019, the City of Hobart and NIRPC partnered to create a new conservation zoning district designation and low-impact design standards to guide the development of sites adjacent to local conservation areas. This Conservation Zoning and Sub Area Plan, once fully adopted, will reduce the adverse impacts of adjacent land uses and will improve local access to natural areas and wildlife.

In order to promote sustainability and climate consciousness throughout the City, Hobart can continue to play an active, leading role in the adoption and advocacy of responsible practices. The Strategies and Actions below provide guidelines for promoting climate consciousness and environmental sustainability in a meaningful and impactful manner.

**STRATEGY 1:** Support and encourage community-wide sustainable practices and initiatives for residents and businesses.

-  **Action 1.1:** Work with businesses and homeowners to incorporate resilient landscaping features throughout the City that minimize water usage while contributing to overall beautification.
-  **Action 1.2:** Create a toolkit and set of guidelines that businesses or homeowners can reference if they choose to incorporate sustainable and resilient landscape features.

-  **Action 1.3:** Consider implementing a city-wide composting initiative that includes the regular curbside collection of food waste, yard waste, and other organic materials.
-  **Action 1.4:** Consider the development of a City composting facility that processes waste and turns it into nutrient-rich soil for use in the City’s agricultural facilities.
-  **Action 1.5:** Consider creating incentives for the implementation of sustainable and resilient landscape features and practices, such as recognizing local businesses that are leaders in green building and sustainability practices in the community through an awards program or annual recognition program by the City Council.

 Ongoing  
 5 - 10 yr.  
 3 - 5 yr.  
 1 - 3 yr.  
 0 - 1 yr.

**STRATEGY 2:** Educate the community about the importance of sustainable practices.

- **Action 2.1:** Partner with organizations such as Hobart Parks Department, the School City of Hobart, and Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Committee (NIRPC) to educate residents about sustainability and conservation.
- **Action 2.2:** Promote workshops or community pop-up events focused on teaching the community about ecosystem and biodiversity restoration and preservation, energy efficiency, and urban forest preservation.

**STRATEGY 3:** Ensure that the City is prepared for a changing climate and has a plan set forth to protect natural resources for generations to come.

- **Action 3.1:** Pursue the creation and adoption of a Climate Adaptation Plan that responds to the projected impacts of climate change in Hobart and identifies strategies to meet adaptation goals.
- **Action 3.2:** Create a Green Mission Statement that helps to guide City-wide sustainability activities.
- **Action 3.3:** Evaluate the appropriate staffing, including dedicated staff, on-call consultants, or other resources, to implement sustainability initiatives.

## Citywide Sustainability Organization, Sustainable Cleveland

### CLEVELAND, OHIO

Sustainable Cleveland began in 2009 with the simultaneous launch of a ten-year initiative to transform Cleveland into “a Green City on a Blue Lake”. Sustainable Cleveland is run by a community of Cleveland residents and provides resources that offer information and actionable tools that are aimed at helping Clevelanders make smart, sustainable choices at home, at work, and in the community. Their mission is to “engage people from all walks of life, working together to design and develop a thriving and resilient Cleveland region that leverages its wealth of assets to build economic, social, and environmental well-being for all.

Sustainable Cleveland offers several resources and programs, including a community choice electricity purchasing program, a circular economy community grant program (Circular Cleveland), a rain barrel program, and an opt-in recycling program. Finally, Sustainable Cleveland works hand-in-hand with the Mayor’s Office of Sustainability to inform and update the Cleveland Climate Action Plan every five years. The Climate Action Plan sets goals and tracks progress related to energy efficiency, green building, clean energy, sustainable transportation, clean water, vibrant green space, and reducing waste.



**STRATEGY 4:** Continually promote Smart Growth policies that will help Hobart develop and grow in a sustainable and responsible manner.

- Action 4.1:** Encourage infill development in active areas of the community to reduce sprawl and preserve green spaces.
- Action 4.2:** Promote design for density, supporting walkability, bikeability, and alternative modes of transportation, and encouraging a healthy mix of uses and housing typologies.
- Action 4.3:** Encourage energy-efficient buildings to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Action 4.4:** Advocate for mixed-income housing to promote economic diversity and reduce risks of displacement.
- Action 4.5:** Consider renewable energy sources including solar, wind, and other green power alternatives.

**STRATEGY 5:** Protect conservation areas and encourage responsible development of properties adjacent to conservation areas.

- Action 5.1:** Adopt the Conservation Zoning and Sub Area Plan.
- Action 5.2:** Promote conservation and development partnerships between property owners and local conservation groups by assisting in forging relationships between parties.
- Action 5.3:** Incentivize the implementation of low-impact design principles that are in-line with the Conservation Zoning and Sub-Area Plan.
- Action 5.4:** Establish the Natural Resource Conservation District (NRC) zoning designation.

## About the Hobart Conservation Zoning + Sub-Area Plan, 2019

The Hobart Conservation Zoning + Sub-Area Plan proposes the creation of a new zoning district, the Natural Resource Conservation District (NRC), which applies to existing and future managed conservation lands. It also defines opportunities where development can take place in a manner that respects and enhances conservation areas by reducing the adverse impacts of adjacent land uses and by improving access to wildlife and nature. The plan has three main aims:

- » Identifying areas where conservation is needed to protect the Lake George watershed and protect local habitats.
- » Determining parcels where conservation and new development partnerships could occur.
- » Establishing best practices for how development plans can work with local conservation groups to achieve stormwater management and conservation goals.

The plan includes a roadmap to the partnership process and provides guidelines for identifying shared goals and mutually beneficial development solutions. It also provides several examples of low-impact design concepts which illustrate the benefits of low-impact design, as well as a conservation toolkit. The adoption of this plan will help guide responsible development and ensure that Hobart's natural areas are protected well into the future.

THEME 5   STRATEGIES & PARTNERS	
<b>Goal 1: Quality Arts &amp; Culture</b>	
HIGH	<p><b>STRATEGY 1:</b> Promote the creation and upkeep of public art near key activity nodes to create a welcoming and vibrant environment that draws in both residents and visitors.</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> City of Hobart, South Shore Arts, Local Artists</p>
MEDIUM	<p><b>STRATEGY 2:</b> Build the local arts and culture capacity of Hobart and its creative residents and organizations.</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> City of Hobart, South Shore Arts, Indiana Arts Commission</p>
<b>Goal 2: Climate-conscious Community</b>	
HIGH	<p><b>STRATEGY 1:</b> Support and encourage community-wide sustainable practices and initiatives for residents and businesses.</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> City of Hobart, City of Hobart Parks Department, Hobart Chamber of Commerce, Regional Chambers of Commerce</p>
MEDIUM	<p><b>STRATEGY 2:</b> Educate the community about the importance of sustainable practices.</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> City of Hobart, School City of Hobart, Conservation Organizations</p>
HIGH	<p><b>STRATEGY 3:</b> Ensure that the City is prepared for a changing climate and has a plan set forth to protect natural resources for generations to come.</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> City of Hobart</p>
MEDIUM	<p><b>STRATEGY 4:</b> Continually promote Smart Growth policies that will help Hobart develop and grow in a sustainable and responsible manner.</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> City of Hobart</p>
HIGH	<p><b>STRATEGY 5:</b> Protect conservation areas and encourage responsible development of properties adjacent to conservation areas.</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> City of Hobart, IDNR, Shirley Heinze Land Trust, Lake County Parks, NIPSCO, NIRPC</p>



SOUTH  
INDIANA  
51  
←

3rd

Luxe Exteriors

Luxe Exteriors

Capriotti's  
Pizzeria

GUTTERS DING ROOF