Sample Planning Process

Stages	Pre-Planning			
Planning Steps	Community Diagnosis	Process Design	Step 1 Data Collection & Analysis	Step 2 Issue Identification
Planning Tasks	 Determine your purpose, capacity and readiness for planning Inventory existing plans, studies and tools Explore preliminary issues and concerns Identify potential planning participants and stakeholders Build capacity for planning by providing education to local officials and residents 	 Establish budget Determine who will prepare the plan Issue a request for proposals if working with a consultant Establish roles, responsibilities and membership of groups involved in planning Identify preferred steps in the process and desired products Incorporate public participation and education 	 Identify data and information needs Gather technical and spatial data Gather public opinion data Analyze and interpret data, making future projections where necessary Present patterns and trends to local decision-makers and the public 	 Involve local decision-makers and public in identifying key community issues, challenges, opportunities and desires Use local data and analyses to support or identify additional issues Prioritize issues to be addressed in plan Identify a vision for the future development of the community
Public Participation Techniques	 Plan commission workshops (E) provide education on community planning Plan commission & local government (P) review previous planning efforts and develop budget for current effort 	 Plan commission & local government (P) approve the plan process, develop public participation plan, and negotiate consultant contract Newspaper article 	 Website (A) post data, maps, analyses and planning documents Kickoff meeting (E) provide general education on the planning process and preliminary data Citizen experts (I) field check data Informational display (A, E) reach general audience by locating at county fair and other public venues 	 Mail survey (I) identify citizen-based issues, opportunities and desires Focus groups (I) identify expert-based issues, opportunities and desires Open house (E, I) provide planning education, review data and trends, identify issues, opportunities and desires Newspaper article (A) provide summary of work completed to date

Planning			Post-Planning	
Step 3 Goal & Objective Formulation	Step 4 Strategy Formulation	Step 5 Plan Review & Approval	Implementation	Monitoring & Assessment
 Develop goals and measurable objectives to help attain your community's vision Develop indicators to monitor progress towards reaching stated goals and objectives 	 Identify potential plan implementation strategies to satisfy goals and objectives Evaluate impacts of alternative strategies and select preferred options Recommend specific plan implementation policies, programs, actions and tools Describe timeline and parties responsible for plan implementation 	 Present plan for community residents and officials to review Make changes to resolve plan inconsistencies and reflect public concerns Take formal action to adopt the plan 	 Adopt a specific course of action to implement the plan Develop or amend local policies, programs and tools as recommended in the plan 	 Monitor progress towards achieving stated plan goals, objectives and indicators Review and revise plan according to schedule stated in the plan or in response to changing community needs
 Radio interview (A) discuss planning progress and advertise workshops Workshops (E, I, N) provide planning education, review data and trends, develop goals and objectives Comment cards (I) solicit additional feedback at end of workshops Plan commission (P) refine goals and objectives and begin to discuss broad policy options 	 Educational sessions (E) provide overview of goals and objectives and introduce land use strategies Interactive GIS (N) modify planning strategies based on citizen input Plan commission (P) select preferred land use strategy and policies 	 Radio interview (A) discuss planning progress and advertise open house Open house (E, I) provide overview of plan and gather public input Plan commission (P) recommend final draft of plan for adoption Public hearing (I) solicit final input before plan is adopted by governing body 	implementation tools for adoption	 Plan commission (P) continually monitor citizen comments and help bring issues to the table for discussion and potential action Citizen watchdog group (I) provide comments to the plan commission and staff regarding land use issues and opportunities