



Harlingen Comprehensive Plan

One Vision | One Harlingen



April 2016



CITY OF HARLINGEN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

One Vision | One Harlingen

Prepared for
The City of Harlingen



by
Halff Associates, Inc. and
City of Harlingen Planning & Development Staff

in association with
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April 1, 2016



September 5, 2014
Dan Serna, City Manager
City of Harlingen
P.O. Box 2207
Harlingen, Texas 78551

Reference: Harlingen's Comprehensive Plan - One Vision, One Harlingen (September 2014)

Harlingen's Future is Bright!

We are pleased to submit this draft Comprehensive Plan document, entitled One Vision, One Harlingen. It is the culmination of an extensive planning process involving key stakeholders, members of an advisory committee, city staff, the City Commission, and most importantly, citizens from all over Harlingen.

This plan envisions Harlingen as a community of choice, offering both a great place to live and a place for its residents to thrive. It envisions a community that builds on its many strengths, and that makes smart choices about how to grow. It envisions a city with many economic opportunities, excellent schools, great opportunities for entertainment and quality of life, and a strong and vibrant Downtown and surrounding Core Areas. This plan envisions a city linked together by an excellent roadway system, a citywide trails network and the east to west ribbon of green that is the Arroyo Colorado.

This is the road map for the Harlingen of the future. It is for everyone who loves and dreams about what the city can be, and includes many actions and recommendations that together can create a bright future for Harlingen. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to have worked with you, your staff and everyone who lives in the city.

Sincerely,

Halff Associates, Inc.

Jim Carrillo, FAICP, ASLA
Vice President, Director of Planning

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Comprehensive Plan for the City of Harlingen is the core policy document consisting of the City's vision, goals, strategies, and implementation measures for growth and prosperity. It is an integrated approach to future development with a focus on the economy, transportation, public services, quality of life, education, housing, civic facilities, land use, public safety, community character, partnerships and civic involvement. This document has a significant importance to elected officials. It is utilized as a guide upon its adoption and funding of its implementation. City departments are subsequently charged with the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

ABOUT THE PLAN

The Comprehensive Plan is a cohesive effort of numerous city-wide stakeholders. The Plan's culmination of input is derived from elected officials, city staff, residents, business owners and appointed committee members.

The One Vision, One Harlingen Comprehensive Plan is organized into three chapters: The Vision and Goals Chapter, the Future Chapter, and the Implementation Strategy and Action Plan Chapter. In addition, the Comprehensive Plan includes elements in the appendices pertaining to the Overview of a Comprehensive Plan. This includes: Community Profile, Public Engagement, Land Use, and Tools and Strategies.

Overall, the Comprehensive Plan does not solely focus on one element of the City; it evaluates all the components of the City and how they work together. The Plan's contents also reflect a self-evaluation of the City's leadership in an effort to effect positive change and development for its residents. It is a summary of the City's key elements necessary for planning growth. It is a plan that serves the City now and well into the future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to recognize the many individuals who put in a significant amount of their time and energy to make Harlingen's comprehensive plan a unique document that reflects the values of the residents of Harlingen. This plan for Harlingen's future would not have been possible without the input, feedback, and support provided by Harlingen's citizens and members of city staff who provided information and technical answers relating to this comprehensive plan.

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