

**UPDATE:** Since the Health Chapter is relatively current, no amendments have been proposed by the Plan Commission in the 2015 update to the existing Comprehensive Plan.

**BE (Built Environment) Fit Forum 2 registration and program guide can be found here.**

The City of Eau Claire has developed a new Comprehensive Plan Chapter related to the promotion of public health in the built environment (places shaped by man). Safe buildings, sidewalks, bike trails, complete streets, accessible parks and community gardens are some examples of how the built environment can play a role in reducing health risk factors such as obesity and chronic disease.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that today, 7 out of the 10 leading causes of death in the U.S. are chronic diseases (heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, obesity-related, and arthritis) and almost 50% of Americans live with at least one chronic illness. Treatment for people with chronic conditions accounts for more than 75% of the \$2 trillion spent annually on medical care in U.S. More locally, in Eau Claire County, between 2000-2002 the Eau Claire City-County Health Department estimates that 55% of the County's population was either overweight (32%) or obese (23%). In 2008, 29% of children were either overweight or at risk. Eau Claire County also recently ranked 59th out of 72 counties in the 2013 [County Health Rankings](#) for a quality built environment.

These numbers give pause to consider why and to ask deeper questions in order to reach possible solutions. Accordingly, that is what this chapter plan is all about. To look at ways the built environment can help public health and the citizens of Eau Claire make the healthy choice the easy choice. The City hopes all stake-holders from the general public, hospitals, health and design professionals, developers, builders and other community members take part in implementing the chapter as we move forward in making Eau Claire a more healthy place.

### **EAU CLAIRE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – HEALTH CHAPTER PROCESS**

The City-County Board of Health formally supported the chapter on May 15th, 2013. The Plan Commission held a public hearing and approved the chapter on July 1st. The City Council held a public hearing on August 12th and on October 22nd adopted the [Health Chapter](#).

The public planning process involved four meetings. An Advisory Committee, representing key members of the community from a variety of backgrounds, was formed to help shape the chapter. Below are supporting documents.

<b>First Meeting:</b>	<b>Organize &amp; Educate, September 18th, 2012</b> Review Material: <a href="#">Agenda</a> , <a href="#">Comprehensive Plan Baseline Policies</a> , <a href="#">Presentation</a> , <a href="#">Neighborhood Health Screening Worksheet</a>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Identify Important Issues, October 18th, 2012</b> Review Material: <a href="#">Agenda</a> , <a href="#">Issues Memo</a> , <a href="#">Screening Summary</a> , <a href="#">Mtg. Notes</a> ,

<b>Meeting:</b>	<a href="#">Presentation</a>
<b>Third Meeting:</b>	<b>Develop Policies &amp; Actions, December 18th, 2012</b> Review Material: <a href="#">Agenda</a> , <a href="#">Committee Memo</a> , <a href="#">Issues</a> , <a href="#">Supporting Docs.</a> , <a href="#">Policy Research</a> , <a href="#">Mtg. Notes</a> , <a href="#">Presentation</a>
<b>Fourth Meeting:</b>	<b>Review Draft Chapter, January 31st, 2013</b> Review Material: <a href="#">Agenda</a> , <a href="#">Rough Chapter Draft</a> , <a href="#">Meeting Notes</a> , <a href="#">Presentation</a>

**Contact:**

You can submit comments related to the new Health Chapter [here](#) or call Associate Planner, Ned Noel, at 715-839-4914.

**Learn More:**

- [Eau Claire City-County Health Department](#)
- [Eau Claire ACHIEVE's Community CHANGE Tool 2010-2011 Assessment](#)
- [Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention State Program](#)
- [CDC's Healthy Places](#)
- [Design for Health](#)
- [Wisconsin Food Security Mapping](#)