

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On October 19th, 2006, the City of Saint Hedwig, Texas held a kick-off meeting to initiate a Master Plan. The Master Plan is to serve as the framework which will guide and mold all development within the community over the next 20 years and beyond.

The Master Plan project would not have been initiated without the foresight of Saint Hedwig's City Council and Planning & Zoning commissioners, staff and the citizenry of Saint Hedwig. Principally at play was the recognition that growth and market forces from the San Antonio metropolitan area were increasingly impacting the immediate region and that a failure to capture and shape this growth in a controlled manner would ultimately result in a future determined by outside forces and not the wants and aspirations of the community.

By anticipating and harnessing this future growth in population and development, Saint Hedwig is allowed self-determination in terms of how its future city appears and the quality of life it has to offer to present and future generations. Saint Hedwig's self-determination *is* to maintain a strongly rural community where development is secondary to the preservation of the natural environment. Where development does occur, Saint Hedwig seeks to maximize the tax revenue stream of such development while minimizing its associated negative impacts. Furthermore, it seeks to develop a Historic Downtown District, as described in Section 4. *Future Land Use Plan*, to increase the quality of life by providing an area to serve as the central social and economic center of the community. Residential areas are to be strongly single-family oriented to underscore the community's strong family-oriented lifestyle and rural character.

The Master Plan is a document that provides a number of issues critical to the realization of the description just provided: a brief history of the community and its rural past; a basis, determined by city officials, civic leaders and citizenry, for all principles and ideas presented; appropriate development types and transportation systems; and a guide to the implementation of all principles and ideas presented.