

**SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE/AGENDA OF THE  
SPOKANE PLAN COMMISSION CHAPTER REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE**

**MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025  
2:30 P.M. – CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM 3B ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR**

The Spokane Plan Commission Chapter Review Subcommittee will be holding a Special Meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, in the City Hall Conference Room 3B on the third floor at 808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, WA. The purpose of the meeting is to consider and discuss items on the attached agenda.

The special meeting will be open to the public.

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Video ID: 113 307 977 8

Written public comments will be accepted at [erapdscp@spokanecity.org](mailto:erapdscp@spokanecity.org) on these items up to one hour prior to the start of the meeting. Verbal testimony may also be accepted during the meeting.

**SEE ATTACHED AGENDA**



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Spencer Gardner  
Planning Director

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION:** The City of Spokane is committed to providing equal access to its facilities, programs and services for persons with disabilities. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Risk Management at 509.625.6221, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA, 99201; or [mlowmaster@spokanecity.org](mailto:mlowmaster@spokanecity.org). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Risk Management through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.







# Updated Special Meeting Notice PC Chapter Review Subcommittee 5.21.25

Final Audit Report

2025-05-12

Created:	2025-05-12
By:	Angela McCall (amccall@spokanecity.org)
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## "Updated Special Meeting Notice PC Chapter Review Subcommittee 5.21.25" History

-  Document created by Angela McCall (amccall@spokanecity.org)  
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# Spokane Plan Commission Chapter Review Subcommittee Agenda

Special Meeting

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

2:30 PM

Hybrid – City Hall Conference Room 3B / Microsoft Teams

808 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA 99201

## Community Chapters (Social Health & Neighborhoods)

**Group 1 Members:** David Edwards, Amber Lenhart, Mary Winkes

**Virtual Meeting Link - See Next Page for Information**

**TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

### Subcommittee Briefing Session:

2:30 – 2:40	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Roll Call</li><li>2. Approval of Minutes from <a href="#">5/06/25</a></li><li>3. Introduction to the Subcommittee</li><li>4. Approval of current agenda</li></ol>	Planning Staff Kevin Freibott All
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### Agenda:

2:40 – 3:30	1. <a href="#">Social Health Chapter</a>	Kevin Freibott
3:30 – 4:00	2. <a href="#">Neighborhoods Chapter</a>	Kevin Freibott

**Adjournment:** The next scheduled Plan Commission Chapter Review Subcommittee meeting will be held Thursday, June 5, 2025.

\*Items denoted with an asterisk may include final action taken by the Subcommittee. Written public comments will be accepted at [planspokane@spokanecity.org](mailto:planspokane@spokanecity.org) on these items up to one hour prior to the start of the meeting. Verbal testimony may also be accepted during the meeting.

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# Plan Commission Chapter Review Subcommittee Meeting Information

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Plan Commission Chapter Review Subcommittee will be held in a hybrid in-person / virtual format. Members of the public are welcome to attend in person at City Hall or online using the following information.

## Microsoft Teams

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**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 323-618-1887,,342971408#](tel:+13236181887342971408) United States, Los Angeles

Phone Conference ID: 342 971 408#

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Meeting ID:  
257 115 857 178 2

Passcode:  
s8PF6Ym7

Please note that public comments will be taken during the meeting, but the public is encouraged to continue to submit their comments or questions in writing to: [planspokane@spokanecity.org](mailto:planspokane@spokanecity.org). Written public comments will be accepted up to one hour prior to the start of the meeting.

**The audio proceedings of the Plan Commission meetings will be recorded and are available online.**

# Spokane Plan Commission Chapter Review Subcommittee - Draft Minutes

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Hybrid Meeting in Council Briefing Center & Microsoft Teams Teleconference

Group 1: Community Chapters (Neighborhoods, Local Governance, Social Health)

Meeting Minutes: Plan Commission Chapter Review Subcommittee called to order at 1:02pm by Kevin Freibott.

## **Subcommittee Briefing Session:**

### **Attendance for Plan Commission Workshop:**

- Subcommittee Members Present: Plan Commissioner Amber Lenhart, CA Liaison Mary Winkes
- Subcommittee Members Not Present: Plan Commissioner David Edwards
- Staff Members Present: Kevin Freibott, Angie McCall, KayCee Downey

**Introduction to the Subcommittee:** Staff member Kevin Freibott reported.

### **Agenda:**

- **PlanSpokane Updated Vision from the Community (Including Vision Statement & Feedback)**
  - a. Presentation provided by staff member KayCee Downey.
  - b. Questions asked and answered.
  - c. Discussion ensued and feedback taken.
- **Local Governance and Civic Participation**
  - a. Presentation provided by staff member KayCee Downey.
  - b. Questions asked and answered.
  - c. Discussion ensued and feedback taken.

Subcommittee Adjourned at 2:19PM.

The next regularly scheduled Plan Commission Chapter Review Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

May 14, 2025

Chapter Review Subcommittee  
Spokane Plan Commission  
City of Spokane

**Re: May 21 Meeting of the Chapter Review Subcommittee**

Dear President Bank and Plan Commissioners,

The first meeting of the Chapter Review Subcommittee is scheduled for **May 21 at 2:30 PM** in **Conference Room 3B, third floor lobby of City Hall**. The public is welcome to watch online or attend in person. Please note that attendees should check in with security, come up to the third floor, and speak to the reception counter through the double doors for guidance to the conference room.

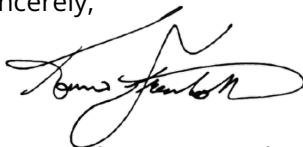
As always, we have a lot to cover and there is a lot to review and consider beforehand. Please take the time to read and consider the attached materials before the meeting. We have provided the following:

1. **Social Health Chapter**. Text of Chapter 10 of the Comprehensive Plan, showing the results of the first streamlining and update.
2. **Neighborhoods Chapter**. Text of Chapter 11 of the Comprehensive Plan, similarly edited and updated.

This session will end Group 1's contribution to this effort. Our following meeting will be the first of Group 2, covering chapters like Natural Environment, Parks & Recreation, and Shorelines.

We look forward to seeing everyone next week during the workshop. Please let me know if you have any questions at that time.

Sincerely,



Kevin Freibott, Senior Planner  
Planning & Economic Development  
[kfreibott@spokanecity.org](mailto:kfreibott@spokanecity.org)  
509-625-6184



# PlanSpokane

## Plan Commission Periodic Update Chapter Review Subcommittee

### CHAPTER 10 – SOCIAL HEALTH

May 14, 2025 Version



**PLAN****SPOKANE**  
Resilient | Connected | Livable | 2046



## Introduction and Guidelines

The following chapter provides the goals and policies meant to guide growth and development in the City of Spokane through the lens of the **Social Health** element. While reviewing this document, it helps to keep a few things in mind:

1. PlanSpokane 2046 is NOT an entirely new document. The existing Comprehensive Plan and ongoing community engagement were the foundation of this document, along with adopted plans, state legislation, and new engagement informing proposed changes.
2. The current Comprehensive Plan, Shaping Spokane, can be found at [shapingspokane.org](http://shapingspokane.org). Readers may refer to that document if they wish to see the existing chapter language.
3. The Vision and Values, previously found in each chapter, are being combined into a single unified vision for the City. Accordingly, those sections of the chapters do not appear in this document.
4. Many policies in the existing plan include “discussion” below the policy. Where those discussions do not provide a better understanding or clarification of the policy, they have been removed from this new document or the language in that discussion has been incorporated into the policy language itself. These removals are not identified specifically here.
5. The plan has undergone a review and minor edits throughout. Terms have been updated, language has been streamlined, and many small changes have been made to increase readability and understanding. Minor wording changes aren’t marked directly to make sure the proposed language is as clear as possible, but any large updates may be identified.
6. A range of helpful notes are provided in the sidebar to the right—these are not part of the proposed text, rather they help readers understand certain proposed changes.
7. The [Climate Planning effort](#) is still ongoing and may affect the language in the chapter later on. Places where we anticipate this *might* occur will be marked with the appropriate icon (see at right).
8. Work towards understanding Racially Disparate Impacts and Displacement is ongoing and may likewise have an impact on the language in this chapter. Where we anticipate this happening, an icon has been included (see at right).
9. Some policies or goals from the past versions of the Comprehensive Plan may have been omitted. If they have been combined with other

The following icons will appear where:



General information or notation is provided, clarifying changes to the existing text.



Language was streamlined or condensed. Minor changes won’t be marked.



New text or policy was added, not sourced from the current plan.



Two or more policies in the existing plan were combined into one.



A policy or language was added because of a change in state law requirements.



Climate and Resiliency work might impact this language in the future.



Racially Disparate Impacts or Displacement work may impact this language in the future.



Text, goals, or policies were removed—a reason will be provided.



policies or goals, there will be an icon and description in the blue margin. Where policies or goals have been removed entirely, they are listed at the end their own section.

The currently proposed language for this chapter begins on the following page. Please be sure to note the “version date” at the bottom of the page as we anticipate future changes as this effort evolves.

# Social Health

## Introduction

In the past, the concept of “health” has often been linked to physical well-being. However, over recent decades the understanding of what it means to be healthy has broadened significantly to include mental and social aspects as well. While physical health remains important, a truly healthy city depends equally on the mental and social well-being of its community members. This aspect of community planning can be complex—what can a city truly do to ensure that those that live, work, and play in the city are happy, healthy, and engaged in what they feel is a happy life? Social health is affected by many factors outside the traditional development environment, but with the right mix of policies, programs, and planning strategies, a city can help foster an environment where everyone can thrive and maximize their own potential.

Some areas where a city can make a difference to the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities include policies and programs that influence or improve resource allocation, the physical environment, housing choices, quality education, efficient public transportation, employment options, a rehabilitation-based criminal justice system, cultural and recreational opportunities, and accessible health systems through local policies that enhance equity. These efforts lay the foundation for healthier, more connected communities.

When people can live, play, and work near where they live, it nurtures a sense of community. This proximity encourages communication, shared experiences, and stronger relationships between neighbors—fostering a healthy, supportive, and vibrant community.

## Goals and Policies

Goals and policies provide specificity for planning and decision-making. Overall, they indicate desired directions, accomplishments, or aims in relation to the growth and development of Spokane.

### **Goal:** SH-1, Funding Mechanisms to Support Social Health

*Identify and utilize various funding mechanisms to support infrastructure, programs, and staffing needed to provide affordable, equitable, and accessible opportunities for public art, cultural events, recreation, education, and health services for all who live, work, and play in the city.*

#### **Policy:** SH-1.1, Investment in Social Health

*Authorize and fund social health programs and explore additional opportunities to highlight and enhance the social health of Spokane's*



While the message is largely the same, the language in the introduction has been brought up to date and somewhat rewritten.

*residents, visitors, and employees working in the city at a level adequate for the continued operation of those programs over time.*

**Policy:** SH-1.2, Commitment to Youth

*Allocate resources at a consistent and meaningful level for programs and events that provide access to programs and events focused on Spokane's youth (18 and under) and their specific needs for social and emotional health.*

**Policy:** SH-1.3, Regional Social Programs

*Coordinate with both public and private entities at the local, state, and federal level and with program recipients to ensure Spokane's role as a major resource for social health services in the region, while simultaneously supporting the expansion of services by neighboring jurisdictions.*

**Policy:** SH-1.4, Community Awareness

*Improve community awareness of public recreational, cultural, and educational facilities and programs by providing multiple communication methods and media types when advertising and noticing such programs, including the use of multi-lingual and visual/non-textual methods.*

**Policy:** SH-1.5, Public Private Partnerships

*Seek close working relationships and establish partnerships with quasi-public and private entities when developing and operating social programs, recognizing that real success in social health requires a multi-faceted approach.*

**Policy:** SH-1.6, Community Involvement

*Ensure that programs in the City of Spokane allow for and foster greater opportunities for the public to get involved and participate in services that support their neighbors' social health and build a sense of community.*

**Goal:** SH-2, Facilities and Accommodation

*Ensure all facilities that provide public and private services are responsive to and inclusive of the needs and desires of all residents, regardless of ability, age, or other life circumstances.*

**Policy:** SH-2.1, Care Facilities

*Accommodate development of care and support facilities for disabled persons in all neighborhoods and parts of the city via inclusive development standards, codes, and zones.*



This policy was reworked to highlight both the need for social health programs in Spokane and in the rest of the region.

**Policy:** SH-2.2, Temporary Housing for All Populations

*Accommodate the development and operation of temporary housing for all populations in need, including opportunities for disabled persons and those requiring direct care, throughout all parts of the city and the region, to allow those in need to remain in close proximity to their community and social circle.*

**Policy:** SH-2.3, Design of Care and Support Facilities

*Establish and enforce development regulations that allow for construction of care facilities in every neighborhood while considering the context and environment in which they are placed.*

**Policy:** SH-2.4, Daycare Facilities in All Parts of the City

*Allow residential dwellings to be used as daycare facilities, whether they are for children (18 and younger) or adults, in all areas where housing is permitted.*

**Policy:** SH-2.5, Childcare and Public Facilities

*Enable and ensure that childcare facilities/capabilities are incorporated into the design and operation of major public facilities where appropriate, to support and encourage community use and participation in events and services.*

**Policy:** SH-2.6, Joint Use of Facilities

*Regulate land uses and zoning requirements such that child and adult care services, health services, libraries, schools, recreational, educational, and cultural programs can be clustered in nodes, all within close proximity to each other, to minimize the need for users and patients to travel long distances between care and facilities.*

**Policy:** SH-2.7, Housing and Services for Higher Risk Populations

*Regulate institutional housing consistent with State and Federal laws and requirements for the location of housing, treatment, and support services for higher risk populations, while ensuring that these necessary services, such as substance abuse care facilities, can be provided in the city where needed.*

**Goal:** SH-3, Public Art

*Support the community's social health and unique identity by providing and supporting opportunities for arts throughout the community and a wide-ranging, inclusive program of art everywhere.*



This is new policy, sourced from numerous interactions with the public where daycare needs were cited as a major barrier to participation and use of public facilities.



This policy was substantially reworded to avoid problematic terms, and outdated language.



Art and culture, while closely linked, are not the same. Accordingly, they have been split into two goals and related policies.

**Policy:** SH-3.1, Support for the Arts

*Encourage the inclusion and provision of public art and cultural events throughout the City, in recognition of their contribution to the overall health and wellbeing of the entire community.*

**Policy:** SH-3.2, Neighborhood Arts Presence

*Establish a regulatory framework that allows for the provision of arts throughout the City as well as incentives which encourage new development and redevelopment to incorporate art into every new development.*

**Policy:** SH-3.3, Public Funding for the Arts

*Explore and adopt funding programs that can support local art through the use of funding mechanisms like direct grants and tax revenue programs, like Tax Increment Financing, where allowed and feasible.*

**Policy:** SH-3.4, Support for Local Artists

*Develop public facilities and structures in partnership with local artists to provide for artistic value and installations in public projects, such as municipal facilities, community centers, libraries, and other municipal facilities.*

**Policy:** SH-3.5, Artist and Maker Spaces

*Encourage and enable the development of public artist and maker spaces throughout the city where appropriate, providing essential facilities and locations for the creation of art and other creative outlets.*

**Goal:** SH-4, Celebrating Spokane's Cultural Diversity

*Support and encourage exploration and celebration of Spokane's cultural heritage, recognizing that Spokane's residents represent a tapestry of different cultural groups and backgrounds, all of which have value towards understanding and inclusion.*

**Policy:** SH-4.1, Cultural Master Plan

*Create and implement a master plan of cultural opportunities, programs, and considerations highlighting goals and strategies towards exploring, understanding, and supporting cultural exploration and celebration in the City, understanding that there is more than one Spokane culture.*

**Policy:** SH-4.2, Multi-Cultural Spokane

*Recognize and consider when developing funding and public programs that there are many cultures within Spokane and that one individual may come from any number of cultures, each with distinct value towards the whole community.*



The original policies SH 3.2 and 3.3 have been combined into one.



This policy is somewhat broader than before, incorporating more than one funding possibility.



This is a new policy. The concept was pulled from recent public engagement.



This new policy proposes that an implementation strategy or plan be developed, specific to this goal and the needs of the city.



This new policy honors something staff has heard a lot during engagement, that there are *many* cultures in place here.

**Policy:** SH-4.3, Events Accessible to All

*Encourage recreational and cultural programs and activities of local interest that are inclusive and affordable to all.*

**Policy:** SH-4.4, Life-Long Exploration and Learning

*Coordinate with local organizations and communities to ensure that public events and facilities are planned to accommodate and support cultural events and activities, available for all residents, visitors, and employees in the city.*

**Policy:** SH-4.5, Community Festivals and Events

*Ensure that public spaces and facilities are planned such that they provide needed spaces and facilities for a diverse range of cultural festivals and events, including the provision of large open outdoor and indoor spaces for gatherings, dances, and fairs, as well as smaller events like storytelling and teaching.*

**Goal:** SH-5, Diversity and Equity

*Establish diversity and equity as a cornerstone of the social fabric of the city by fostering a range of community services, activities, and opportunities that foster a greater sense of inclusion and acceptance of all people, regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, color, gender, ability, national origin, marital status, familial status, or background.*

**Policy:** SH-5.1, Accessibility and Opportunity in City Services and Operations

*Ensure that all city programs, projects, functions, facilities, and operations are open to all peoples, regardless of their background, residency, orientation, affiliation, or physical ability/disability.*

**Policy:** SH-5.2, Universal Accessibility

*Communicate and interact with all residents, visitors, and employees in the city in a manner that assures equitable access to information, including the use of multi-lingual and multi-platform communications and outreach.*

**Policy:** SH-5.3, Diversity Competency and Education

*Fund and implement programs and public events that create and grow greater understanding and knowledge between the many diverse groups and cultures that make up the City of Spokane.*

**Policy:** SH-5.4, Cultural Competency in City and Public Staff

*Develop and implement recurring training opportunities for City staff, offered to local agency staff as well, to increase competency and*



This new policy, too, came from ongoing engagement.



This policy has been reworded slightly, previously identified as policy SH 3.6.



This was previously policy SH 3.8 but was moved here because of the two new goals (culture and art).



The policies in this section were originally part of "SH-4."



In the finished document, this policy will likely include a cross-reference to the Governance chapter.



This new policy grew from policy SH-4.3 above, where policy directing such exploration by City/public employees was deemed valuable as well.

*understanding when interacting with Spokane's many different cultures and social groups.*

**Goal:** SH-6: Public Benefit and Services

**<THIS SECTION WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH THE PLAN COMMISSION AS A WHOLE, UPON COORDINATION WITH CHHS>**

**Goal:** SH-7: Public Safety

*Foster and maintain a community where people feel safe, supported, and included, by coordinating the efforts of public/private entities and individuals with those of the City, including Police, Fire, Planning, and the many other City departments and functions that support or enact such efforts.*

**Policy:** SH-7.1: Safe Design Principles

*Develop and enforce design and development requirements that consider the impact of design on community safety while seeking to ensure that design measures do not foster exclusionary practices.*

**Policy:** SH-7.2: Design That Communicates Public Access

*Design and implement public programs, facilities, and projects such that the design of physical improvements is both attractive and conveys which portions of a site are for public use and which are not, while avoiding dangerous or unattractive features like solid fencing, hostile architecture, and concrete/block walls.*

**Policy:** SH-7.3 "Eyes on the Street" and Public Spaces

*Design sites and activities such that users of the space are visible from the outside and can see out from the inside, to foster a greater sense of connection and avoid visual isolation to ensure community safety.*

**Policy:** SH-7.4, Oversight of Design for Safety

*Update and enhance the design review process for public projects to ensure that consideration of new public projects includes discussion and consideration of public safety features described in the Comprehensive Plan while simultaneously continuing the process by which the Police Department is included in pre-application and development application review.*

**Goal:** SH-8, Criminal Justice

*Provide evidence based criminal justice services that use police, prosecutors, courts, public defenders, treatment and supervision to reduce crime and recidivism while supporting victims.*



The topic of services and support for those experiencing homelessness and similar parts of the community requires more study and analysis. This will likely be discussed later with the entire Plan Commission.

Likewise, Goal 7 and it's policies may be amended later due to coordination with relevant City Departments.



The policies here are updated to reflect a broader array of possible solutions.



Policy SH-7.2 is a combination of the original SH-6.2 and SH-6.4.



Policy 7.3 was updated according to current terms and concepts.



**Policy:** SH-8.1, Racial Equity in the Criminal Justice System

*Implement cost-effective, research-based, smart justice reforms to eliminate racial disproportionality in arrests, sentencing and incarceration.*

**Policy:** SH-8.2, Disproportional Incarceration of Individuals with Mental or Cognitive Disabilities

*Implement cost-effective, research-based, smart justice reforms and funding that utilize comprehensive assessment and placement at non-jail facilities for community members who suffer from mental or cognitive disabilities and can be safely housed outside a jail.*

**Policy:** SH-8.3, Therapeutic Courts and Jail Diversion Center

*Expand the use of therapeutic courts and non-jail alternatives to increase the provision of treatment and rehabilitation to reduce recidivism.*

**Goal:** SH-9, Food Access and Security

*Ensure that all residents have convenient access to healthy food.*

**Policy:** SH-9.1, Local Food Production and Sales

*Promote the development of home and community gardens, farmers' or public markets, and other small-scale collaborative initiatives to provide citizens with a diverse choice of locally sourced food products.*

**Policy:** SH-9.2, Community Gardens

*Enable the establishment and maintenance of community gardens on city property, as appropriate, to be maintained and operated by partnerships with local organizations.*

**Policy:** SH-9.3, Eliminating Food Deserts


*Incentivize and enable uses that provide fresh food to the neighborhood by amending zoning and code requirements for parts of the city where affordable, healthy food is not currently available.*


**Policy:** SH-9.4, Urban Agriculture

*Recognize urban agriculture as a strategic asset for community development, neighborhood beautification, and public health.*

**Policy:** SH-9.5 Prevention of Food Waste

*Support the reduction of edible food waste by encouraging the donation of foods through food waste pickup programs and community education.*

 The terminology and scope of this policy are updated, partially due to public engagement.

 This policy is new, coming from direction in the Spokane Regional Food Action Plan (2022). Public engagement efforts have highlighted this opportunity as well.

## POLICIES REMOVED FROM THE TEXT:

The following policies have been removed from the text, largely due to redundancy, unclear goals/success, and similar factors.

### **Policy:** SH-1.6, Vacant, Condemned, and Real Estate Owned Buildings

*Promote and assist non-profit organizations in purchasing and renovating vacant, condemned and/or Real Estate Owned properties in order to provide sites for additional community-related facilities and/or affordable housing to meet the diverse housing needs of our current and future residents.*

### **Policy:** SH-1.7, Surplus City Real Property

*Establish a dedicated reserve fund within the City of Spokane's general fund to cover the cost of leasing any unused city-owned building and/or property that has been determined surplus to non-profit organizations.*

### **Policy:** SH-3.4, One Percent for Arts

*Encourage private developers to incorporate an arts presence into buildings and other permanent structures with a value of over \$25,000 by allocating one percent of their project's budget for this purpose.*

### **Policy:** SH-6.6, Neighborhood Role

*Encourage neighborhood residents to apply CTPED principles in their consideration of development issues within their own particular neighborhood.*

### **Policy:** SH-8.4, Coordination with Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council

*Develop Levels of Service for Therapeutic Courts and Diversionary Services in coordination with the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council.*



SH-1.6 and SH-1.7 will be moved to Land Use and/or Capital Facilities, where they can be incorporated into similar discussions.



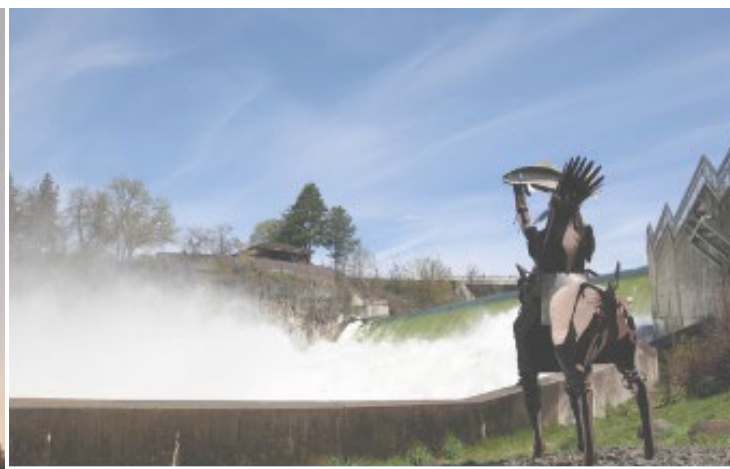
SH-3.4 was removed because it is more appropriately addressed as an implementation strategy, not a policy.



The topic of SH-6.6 is better addressed elsewhere, perhaps in the Urban Design & Historic Preservation chapter.



SH-8.4 was removed because it is more appropriately addressed as an implementation strategy, not a policy.



# PlanSpokane

## Plan Commission Periodic Update

### Chapter Review Subcommittee

#### **CHAPTER 11 – NEIGHBORHOODS**

May 14, 2025 Version



**PLAN****SPOKANE**  
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## Introduction and Guidelines

The following chapter provides the goals and policies meant to guide growth and development in the City of Spokane through the lens of the **Neighborhoods** element. While reviewing this document, it helps to keep a few things in mind:

1. PlanSpokane 2046 is NOT an entirely new document. The existing Comprehensive Plan and ongoing community engagement were the foundation of this document, along with adopted plans, state legislation, and new engagement informing proposed changes.
2. The current Comprehensive Plan, Shaping Spokane, can be found at [shapingspokane.org](http://shapingspokane.org). Readers may refer to that document if they wish to see the existing chapter language.
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5. The plan has undergone a review and minor edits throughout. Terms have been updated, language has been streamlined, and many small changes have been made to increase readability and understanding. Minor wording changes aren’t marked directly to make sure the proposed language is as clear as possible, but any large updates may be identified.
6. A range of helpful notes are provided in the sidebar to the right—these are not part of the proposed text, rather they help readers understand certain proposed changes.
7. The [Climate Planning effort](#) is still ongoing and may affect the language in the chapter later on. Places where we anticipate this *might* occur will be marked with the appropriate icon (see at right).
8. Work towards understanding Racially Disparate Impacts and Displacement is ongoing and may likewise have an impact on the language in this chapter. Where we anticipate this happening, an icon has been included (see at right).
9. Some policies or goals from the past versions of the Comprehensive Plan may have been omitted. If they have been combined with other

The following icons will appear where:



General information or notation is provided, clarifying changes to the existing text.



Language was streamlined or condensed. Minor changes won’t be marked.



New text or policy was added, not sourced from the current plan.



Two or more policies in the existing plan were combined into one.



A policy or language was added because of a change in state law requirements.



Climate and Resiliency work might impact this language in the future.



Racially Disparate Impacts or Displacement work may impact this language in the future.



Text, goals, or policies were removed—a reason will be provided.

policies or goals, there will be an icon and description in the blue margin. Where policies or goals have been removed entirely, they are listed at the end in their own section.

The currently proposed language for this chapter begins on the following page. Please be sure to note the “version date” at the bottom of the page as we anticipate future changes as this effort evolves.

# Neighborhoods

## Introduction: The Future of Spokane's Neighborhoods

The neighborhoods chapter contains goals and policies that set the direction for citywide neighborhood growth and development. They establish basic principles that apply to all neighborhoods, ensuring an overall growth pattern that represents the interests and desires of the entire community.

This chapter's goals and policies are intended to enable Spokane to be a cohesive network of unique neighborhoods that residents are proud to call home by providing residents with all they need to live healthy, happy lives.

Discussion of Spokane's neighborhoods cannot be complete without mentioning the Neighborhood Councils. Often it can be difficult to discern whether policy or other guidance in this document is referring to Neighborhood Councils, the member bodies that inform and represent the neighborhoods, or the physical neighborhood itself. In general, these goals and policies apply to and benefit both. For clarity, any time the text is referring directly to the Neighborhood Council, the full term will be used. The word 'neighborhood' generally refers to the physical neighborhood, which may or may not conform to the Neighborhood Council boundaries.

## Goals and Policies

Goals and policies provide specificity for planning and decision-making. Overall, they indicate desired directions, accomplishments, or aims in relation to the growth and development of Spokane.

### **Goal:** N-1, The Downtown Neighborhood

*Recognize downtown Spokane as the primary economic and cultural center of the region and improve its viability as a desirable neighborhood in which to live, visit, and conduct business.*

#### **Policy:** N 1.1, Downtown Development

*Provide a variety of housing, recreation, and daily service opportunities within the downtown neighborhood that attract and retain neighborhood residents to support downtown and surrounding neighborhoods, recognizing the value the downtown neighborhood holds for all residents, visitors, and employees in the city.*

### **Goal:** N-2, Neighborhood Development

*Reinforce the stability and vibrancy of the city's neighborhoods to attract a diversity of long-term residents and businesses to ensure high residential quality, community connectedness, and economic vitality.*



The header section here used to include a reference to the EIS, but since the City is developing a new EIS for this update the reference was out of date.



This policy has been reworded to strengthen downtown neighborhood's relationship to other neighborhoods.



**Policy:** N 2.1, Neighborhood Quality of Life

*Ensure that Spokane's neighborhoods continue to offer residents transportation and living options, safe streets, public services, and cultural, social, and recreational opportunities in order to sustain and enhance the vitality, diversity, and quality of life within neighborhoods.*

**Policy:** N 2.2, Neighborhood Services

*Provide economic opportunities and community events that are centrally located, easily accessible, and affordable to support neighborhoods in enabling people to live, work, shop, socialize, and receive other essential services within their neighborhood.*

**Policy:** N 2.3, Accessible Services

*Ensure that neighborhood-based services are available and accessible to residents of all ages and abilities, such as being located in proximity to public transit routes or robust pedestrian amenities.*

**Policy:** N 2.4, Neighborhood Improvement

*Encourage revitalization and improvement programs to conserve and upgrade existing properties and buildings to prevent deterioration of current housing stock and support adaptive reuse.*

**Policy:** N 2.5, Neighborhood Arts

*Provide access to public art, including sculptures, murals, special sites, and facilities, in all neighborhoods through programs and investments.*

**Policy:** N 2.6, Housing Diversity

*Support a vibrant mix of households by providing a diversity of housing options for neighborhood residents by preserving existing housing units, allowing for the development of moderate density housing options in all neighborhoods, and supporting alternative housing options like accessory dwelling units.*

**Goal:** N-3, Neighborhood Facilities

*Maximize the usefulness of, and access to, existing and future neighborhood facilities and services while minimizing the impacts of major facilities located within neighborhoods.*

**Policy:** N 3.1, Multipurpose Use of Neighborhood Buildings

*Work with neighborhoods to develop a strategy for the multipurpose use of existing structures and the extension of services within neighborhoods for neighborhood activities.*



"Cultural opportunities" was added here to highlight their value to communities.



Some of the terms in this policy have been updated to more current/inclusive forms.



This policy has been updated to provide additional support for resiliency.



Better cross-referencing is something staff is developing as part of the final format—including a needed cross reference here to Land Use.



Policy 2.6 is new, sourced from the Building Opportunity for Housing work and held until the update to include.

This policy supports language already in Chapter 3.



A cross-reference will be added here to the term "major facilities" in the glossary.



**Policy:** N 3.2, Major Facilities

*Work with Neighborhood Councils and relevant groups to explore mitigation measures, public amenity enhancements, and alternative locations when siting major facilities.*

**Policy:** N 3.3, Gathering Places

*Increase the number of public gathering places within neighborhoods to encourage neighborhood socialization and promote a more cohesive and safer neighborhood, including the provision of indoor spaces for gatherings and events in all weather and seasons.*

**Goal:** N-4, Traffic and Circulation

*Provide Spokane residents with clean air, safe streets, and peaceful living environments by ensuring impacts to neighborhoods are considered when planning or changing the transportation network.*

**Policy:** N 4.1, Neighborhood Streets

*Refrain, when possible, from constructing new arterials that bisect neighborhoods and from widening streets within neighborhoods for the purpose of accommodating additional automobiles.*

**Policy:** N 4.2, Traffic Patterns

*Alter traffic patterns and redesign neighborhood streets to include large street trees, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, traffic circles, stop signs, and/or narrower streets to discourage speeding and improve neighborhood safety.*

**Policy:** N 4.3, Neighborhood Business Traffic

*Ensure that the size of a neighborhood business is appropriate for the size of the neighborhood it serves so that trips generated by non-local traffic through the neighborhood are minimized.*

**Policy:** N 4.4, Multimodal Transportation

*Promote a variety of transportation options, including walking, biking, rolling, and public transportation, to reduce automobile dependency and neighborhood traffic.*

**Policy:** N 4.5, Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections

*Establish a continuous pedestrian and bicycle network within and between all neighborhoods.*

**Policy:** N 4.6, Pedestrian Design

*Design neighborhoods for pedestrians by increasing transportation options, convenience, safety, social interaction, and comfortable streetscapes.*



The original policy was redundant with policies in Chapter 3. It has been reworded to more focus on neighborhood impacts.



This policy was moved here from Goal 7, which has been removed due to redundancy (see below).



Original Policy 4.1 and the goal were combined into one, better aligning with the intent of this Chapter.

As a result, the policies below have been renumbered by one.



This policy was updated to more closely relate to current complete streets and safe transportation concepts.



This policy may move to Chapter 3, where the document will likely address commercial uses inside residential neighborhoods more directly.



Examples of what constitutes "multimodal" were added to N-4.4 to ensure clarity.



The 'discussion' under this policy has been incorporated into the policy itself.

**Policy:** N 4.7, Sidewalk Program

*Develop a sidewalk program to maintain, repair, or build new sidewalks in existing neighborhoods, and require sidewalks in new areas of development.*

**Policy:** N 4.8, Pedestrian Safety

*Design neighborhoods for pedestrian safety through adequate pedestrian lighting and landscape design, sidewalk systems, pathways, building access that is visible from the street, and open views.*

**Policy:** N 4.9, School Walking and Bus Routes

*Coordinate with local school districts, private schools, and colleges to determine which bus and walking routes to and from neighborhood schools provide the highest degree of pedestrian safety or may require improvements.*

**Goal:** N-5, Open Space

*Increase the number of outdoor gathering spaces, greenbelts, trails, and pedestrian bridges within and between neighborhoods.*

**Policy:** N 5.1, Future Parks Planning

*Utilize public-private partnerships between neighborhood groups and the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department to locate land and develop financing strategies that meet the level of service standards for neighborhood parks and/or open space to provide neighborhood residents with areas for recreation and socializing, reinforcing a sense of home and community.*

**Policy:** N 5.2, Connectivity via Greenbelts and Open Space

*Connect neighborhoods with an open space greenbelt system, including paths and non-vehicular access, to increase opportunities for alternative forms of transportation within and between neighborhoods.*

**Goal:** N-6, The Natural Environment

*Protect and enhance the natural environment within neighborhoods.*

**Policy:** N 6.1, Environmental Planning

*Protect and steward the natural environment within neighborhoods when introducing new projects to support community health, safety, and livability.*

**Policy:** N 6.2, Open Space and Nature Corridors

*Consider and implement connections between neighborhoods and designated open spaces/nature corridors when planning, designating, and maintaining such areas.*



The mention of safety improvements in this policy was added following public engagement on the South Logan TOD Study, highlighting that need.



Some of the language in the original 'discussion' under this policy has been inserted into the policy itself.



Connectivity between neighborhoods was a big topic from the public engagement efforts. Thus, changes have been made to strengthen the concept in policies.



The ongoing Climate and Resiliency work may impact this section later on.



N-6.2 and N-6.3 have been reworded to provide for a connection between the topic and neighborhoods.

**Policy:** N 6.3, Maintenance of City-Owned Open Space and Amenities

*Coordinate and partner with neighborhoods in the maintenance and operation of City property, with the intent of ensuring proper maintenance and operation of facilities for neighborhood use like greenways, paths, street features, and parks.*

**Goal:** N-7, Neighborhood Planning

*Goal: Coordinate and partner with Neighborhood Council when developing, adopting, or amending public projects and programs in consideration of each neighborhood's sense of identity, unique needs, and opportunities.*

**Policy:** N 7.1, Inclusive Neighborhood Planning

*Ensure that any planning involving or affecting neighborhoods is conducted to include the contribution of all interested parties, including those from vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, institutions, organizations, and individuals of all ages and abilities, property owners, renters, businesses, employees, and visitors.*

**Policy:** N 7.2, Neighborhood Planning

*Develop a process and avenues through which neighborhoods can participate in and inform comprehensive planning, policy, and code development and amendments, commensurate with the requirements of state law and the ideals of inclusive, effective planning.*

**Policy:** N 7.3, Plan Consistency and Implementation

*Consider and address the desires of neighborhoods expressed in their adopted neighborhood plans by consulting these plans and analyzing the impacts of any new City plans, programs, or policies against the goals and stated desires of neighborhood plans, including during comprehensive plan amendments and updates.*

**Policy:** N 7.4, Connections and Impacts Between Neighborhoods

*Consider the impacts of decisions on both the neighborhood most directly involved but also how neighborhoods are interconnected and relate to each other when conducting planning or policy/code amendments.*



Neighborhood planning has evolved in Spokane over time—this goal and its policies have been reworded to better reflect that there is and should be multiple opportunities and avenues for neighborhood interaction with the policy and planning of the City, not just the one program that began in the past.

## POLICIES REMOVED FROM THE TEXT:

The following policies have been removed from the text, largely due to redundancy, unclear goals/success, and similar factors.

**Policy:** N 5.2, Parks and Squares in Neighborhood Centers

*Include a park and/or square in each neighborhood center.*

**Goal:** N-7, Building Community

*Promote efforts that provide neighborhoods with social amenities, opportunities for social interaction, and a sense of community.*

**Policy:** N 7.2, City Hall Outreach

*Encourage City Hall outreach efforts in neighborhoods by providing neighborhoods with public information regarding city announcements, newsletters, and other neighborhood specific information.*

**Policy:** N 6.2, Code Enforcement

*Enforce the city codes for public nuisances impacting neighborhood properties.*

**Policy:** N 8.7, Agreement for Joint Planning

*Agree Coordinate with the county, affected neighborhoods, and interested stakeholders on a consistent process for developing neighborhood plans within the adjacent unincorporated Urban Growth Area as consistent with the Growth Management Act (GMA).*

**Policy:** N 8.8, Neighborhood Planning Outside the City

*Use the City of Spokane, and Spokane County, and Growth Management Act planning processes when conducting planning in neighborhoods within the city's unincorporated UGA.*

**Policy:** N 8.9, Consistency of Plans Outside the City

*Maintain consistency between the City's unincorporated UGA neighborhood plans and the City of Spokane and Spokane County Comprehensive Plans.*



N 5.2 will be moved to the Land Use Chapter.



The overall topic of goal N-7 is discussed in depth in the Social Health chapter.



This policy is already addressed in the Governance and Public Participation chapter.



N 6.2 is an implementation action, not a policy. The City's code enforcement is guided by SMC standards.



These three policies (N 8.7 through N 8.9) are a subject of State Law and the Growth Management Act—accordingly these policies have no effect beyond those already required by the state. Furthermore, per GMA, the City has no authority over neighborhood plans or general zoning/code in adjacent jurisdictions.