

Spokane

Quest

The Summary of Spokane's
Draft Comprehensive Plan



Spokane Quest

City of Spokane Planning Services Volume 1, Number 1, May 2000

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Dear Spokane Citizens,

Through the Spokane Horizons process conducted over the last five years, the citizens of Spokane have brought forth their dreams and crafted them into proposals that can make these dreams a reality. Spokane's citizens have recognized the city's current problems and potential opportunities and have proposed new directions to ensure a healthier future. Whether the transportation system, the safety of neighborhoods or another equally important quality of life issue has been an individual's focus during this process, this draft Comprehensive Plan/Environmental Impact Statement attempts to address the shared interests of all citizens in a bright future.

The biggest challenge in planning for the future is to identify the best pattern of growth to serve community needs: the best pattern to support living wage jobs, protect the environment, connect residents to goods and services and provide public services at levels that citizens expect and can afford. The draft Comprehensive Plan offers three different patterns of growth for you to consider.

In addition to offering a choice on the most beneficial pattern of growth, the draft plan includes hundreds of other policies that could influence the type of community we create. It presents proposals for affordable housing, traffic calming, neighborhood preservation and business opportunities. It suggests alleys in all new subdivisions, sidewalks and street trees on every street, storefronts accessible to pedestrians and ways to attract more people to live in the city.

This summary has been designed to introduce you to the proposals in the draft Comprehensive Plan. On page 31, you will find information for accessing the entire draft document. We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to learn more about these proposals and to participate in the public process to choose those that will contribute to Spokane's healthy growth.

We are on the final stretch of this long process. It is now time to make the hard decisions and move on to action. If you are already a Spokane Horizons participant, thank you for your citizenship and community service to bring this opportunity to the community. If this is new to you, thank you for joining thousands of other Spokane citizens who are working to improve Spokane through this process.

We cordially invite you to read this summary and contact us with your comments, questions and suggestions.

Sincerely,

John Tallbott
John Tallbott, Mayor
City of Spokane

Sten Stirling
Sten Stirling, President
City Plan Commission

Special Thanks to
The City of Spokane's Historic Preservation
Department for many of the historic photographs
that appear in this summary and their assistance in
locating additional historic information.

Spokane Horizons is Spokane's citizen participation
process for meeting requirements of the 1990
Washington State Growth Management Act.

Through the Sands of

Over the decades, Spokane has been shaped by its notable beginnings. Capturing the attention of fur traders, miners, missionaries and those with the “westward-ho” spirit, Spokane soon found its place on the map. Prior to 1800, Spokane was a Native American encampment located near the falls of the Spokane River.

It was not long, however, before James N. Glover, the “Father of Spokane,” recognized the beauty and potential of the unscathed Spokane area. He acquired land rights from the first settlers who had arrived in 1871 and eventually established a store where he and his wife worked and resided. Glover grew exceedingly involved in the young town and was elected mayor in 1883.

In 1881, a short time before Glover assumed office, the town was incorporated as “Spokan Falls;” an 1883 amendment changed the spelling to “Spokane Falls.” A few years later in 1891, “Spokane” became the official city name when “Falls” was dropped. The city limits at that time extended north to Garland Avenue, south to 29th Avenue, east to Regal Street and west to “H” Street, to encompass a total of 20 square miles.

In the midst of name changes and growth, Spokane suffered its share of tragic events. In August of 1889, a great fire destroyed large portions of the city with losses totaling more than \$6 million. The need to rebuild the city served as the ideal opportunity to replace the old wood buildings with those made of stone and brick. Noted for their architectural and civic status, these buildings are still treasured by Spokane’s citizens.

Spokane grew rapidly in its early years, from a mere 350 in 1880 to over 100,000 in 1910. To ensure that Spokane’s beauty would be protected during the rapid growth period, the “City Beautiful” committee was formed as part of a nationwide planning movement. The committee devoted itself toward making Spokane a desirable place to live by enhancing its natural and built environment, both of which were highly prized by Spokane’s early settlers who proudly used these assets to “boost” their young community and attract growing numbers of people to it. One of the results of Spokane’s City Beautiful movement was the creation of the Park Board in 1907.

In 1911, Spokane citizens approved a one million dollar park bond, which was used to implement the city’s first plan— a park plan created by the world-famous landscape design firm, Olmsted Brothers. Implementation of the Olmsted plan increased Spokane’s park size from 173 acres to 1,934 acres and firmly established Spokane’s park system as one of the community’s enduring assets.

After 1910, Spokane’s growth slowed dramatically. Though growth was slow, important events shaped the community, including the rise of the automobile, the development of aviation, the arrival of radio stations and the irrigation of the Spokane Valley. The 1930s brought the Depression, which was relieved locally by government projects, such as the massive Grand Coulee Dam project and the construction of new downtown buildings, such as the Montgomery Ward and Sears department stores and the 2,260-seat Fox Theater.

Fifty years following the mighty fire, the threat and formidable presence of war in the 1940s knocked at Spokane’s door and made it a center for wartime activity. Kaiser Aluminum and the Spokane Industrial Park, located outside the city, are industrial legacies of these war years. Over the next thirty years, Spokane continued to develop both commercially and industrially. Considerable housing developments further shaped Spokane’s neighborhoods,

gradually spreading into the unincorporated area of Spokane County where most of the new development began to take place. Spokane’s population even declined slightly between 1960 and 1990.

In 1974, Spokane hosted EXPO ’74, the World’s Fair. An immediate success, the fair drew huge crowds throughout the summer. The intrigued crowds thronged through the EXPO site, which had only recently been cleared of the railroad lines that had once crowded the river front site. Today, the Great Northern Depot tower remains as a feature of the park and serves as a reminder of the integral role the railroad played in shaping Spokane.

Spokane has changed a great deal since its founding in 1881; one can only speculate about what Glover and the other founders would think of the area today. The sands of time will continue to pass through Spokane’s hourglass but the pictures that accumulate at the bottom will vary greatly depending upon the path Spokane chooses for its future.



Urban Conditions

Washington Part of Strong Movement

More than 1000 legislative measures were introduced in state legislatures across the nation last year to amend planning laws to be more responsive and orderly. Two-hundred measures have passed thus far but more are expected to receive a serious look and nod of approval as states express justified concerns over urban conditions, growth patterns and development principles.

The American Planning Association (APA) cites Washington as one of the six states that has taken significant steps to "modernize planning laws to address orderly growth, public transit, affordable housing and brownfields recycling," explains Washington Post columnist Neal Peirce. Peirce characterized Spokane's metropolitan area as "sprawling" during visits here in 1994 and 1999.

In the Face of Poverty

Great differences in personal income are perhaps the urban condition that pose the biggest threat to Spokane's health. In 1999, David Rusk, one of the nation's foremost social analysts, observed that the Spokane metropolitan area became 40% more economically segregated between 1970 and 1990. He noted that, increasingly, higher income households are moving outside the urban core, and the core is predominately becoming the place of poverty. The community has recognized the magnitude of poverty in the area but continues to overlook the significance of poverty's geographic concentration in the city.

This condition is even more alarming than it appears on the surface. Spokane, once taking pride as the city of home ownership, now experiences an ownership rate that is lower than the unincorporated county and 10% lower than the national average. In some central city neighborhoods, the number of rental households is significantly greater than owner-occupied homes. This has many detrimental effects: high levels of transient residency that undermine social stability, low property maintenance that expresses itself as physical blight and reduced capacity to create personal financial equity to offset inflation.

Our children are our future, but the city's urban conditions do not support their success. Thirty-seven percent of Spokane's children are in households below the 100% poverty level. Some elementary schools in central neighborhoods experience over 75% turnover each new school year, nearly four of every five students don't return the succeeding fall. These children can suffer from lack of diverse social interaction, inaccessibility to positive role models, poor nutrition and sporadic after-school adult supervision. The chances are high that their future, as adults, will also be one of poverty.

There is a direct relationship between household incomes and the local government's ability to support the community's desired quality of life. Funds to maintain streets, operate parks, provide police and fire protection and run libraries come from locally-generated sales and property taxes. The cost of these services is highest at the center of population where demand is greatest.

City income levels, which are nearly 10% lower than the unincorporated county and only two-thirds that of Seattle, don't generate sufficient tax revenues to maintain city facilities and provide services at levels desired by citizens. The shrinkage in disposable income and its effect on sales tax is felt more severely as incomes decrease.

Income level also influences property taxes. People at lower income levels have less capacity to invest in real property, whether a personal residence or a local business. The city is increasingly reliant on outside investment to improve property. The area's moderate historic growth and availability of non-city venues

for growth and development have not supported investment in the city equal to that outside the city. From 1985 to 1995, total assessed valuation of property in the county grew to almost a billion dollars higher than that in the city, nearly a 400% increase in the difference in just 10 years. The city's minority share of assessed valuation is greatly inconsistent with the higher demands for urban services created by the city's majority share of urban population, roughly double that of the unincorporated county.

Another dimension to the income problem is access to living wage jobs for those in poverty. Employment in the growth sectors where many of these job opportunities are emerging is largely outside the city at the urban edges. The mobility barriers faced by households in poverty limit access to entry-level positions at suburban locations. Mass transit does not offer convenient alternatives to many of these households, particularly when child care is needed. The annual cost of owning one vehicle to commute to distant employment is equal to payments for a \$40,000 home mortgage. Inevitably, these households must choose between ownership of one or more vehicles or the ability to have a better place to live.

The answers to these conditions are among the proposals in the draft Comprehensive Plan. If they are selected for the final plan and pursued with deliberation, Spokane will no longer be a place that struggles to maintain its quality of life in the face of increasing poverty.

*"Sprawl...The struggling expansion of an urban or industrial area.
The Oxford Dictionary, American Edition"*

Traits of Sprawl

Anthony Downs, a noted urban policy analyst, has identified ten traits associated with sprawl:

- Unlimited outward extension.
- Low-density residential and commercial settlements.
- Leapfrog development.
- Fragmentation of powers over land use among many small localities.
- Dominance of transportation by private automotive vehicles.
- No centralized planning or control of land uses.
- Widespread strip commercial development.
- Great fiscal disparities among localities.
- Segregation of types of land uses in different zones.
- Reliance mainly on the trickle-down or filtering process to provide housing to low-income households.

As you travel around the Spokane area, do you see any of these traits? The more of these conditions that exist, the greater the challenge to Spokane's health as we grow.

*"Being against sprawl doesn't mean being against growth."
Edward McMahon, "Stopping Sprawl by Growing Smart"*



On the Horizon

Spokane's future is on the horizon. In that future, one thing is certain—things will be different. Change can be good or bad, and it is up to the citizens of Spokane to shape the future in a way that promotes good changes and minimizes bad ones.

In 1990, the State Legislature passed the Growth Management Act to give fast-growing places the tools to plan for growth and the changes it brings. Spokane County became one of these places in the late 1980s. The county and its cities started to plan under the GMA in mid-1993. The object of these efforts is a new comprehensive plan for each jurisdiction.

Citizens Lead the Way

Early and continuous citizen participation is the foundation for the city's comprehensive planning process. At an early step of the process in 1995, Spokane Horizons was conceived as a new community collaboration to manage public involvement. Throughout the five year process, all planning work has been guided by the ideas of Spokane Horizons participants.

☑ March 1995

A citizen participation forum offers comments concerning the current state of citizen involvement and recommendations for how to motivate and involve people in community planning, producing "Key Principles for Public Participation."

☑ Spring-Summer 1995

Citizens are asked for community issues of importance and topics that should be included in the city's comprehensive plan. Ten plan topics are crafted. Four chapters address mandated GMA topics while others are included by local decision.

☑ Summer 1995

The Spokane Horizons Executive Board, whose members represent fourteen diverse sponsor organizations, is formed to design and implement the Spokane Horizons process. The organizations represent neighborhood, business, civic and local government interests and provide expertise or resources normally not available to the city.

☑ Fall 1995

Over 80,000 questionnaires entitled, "50,000 People Are Coming to Dinner . . . and They're Staying the Night!" are distributed throughout the community via city utility bill mailings, organizations and various meetings. The responses serve as the initial steps toward developing the city's visions and values.

☑ March-April 1996

Seven sub-area meetings are held throughout the city followed by a citywide meeting on April 17. Through these meetings and the work of the Plan Commission, a citywide vision is developed, followed by vision and values statements for each of the plan topics.

☑ June 10, 1996

The City Council unanimously adopts the visions and values as the basis for the comprehensive plan. [Note: The adopted visions and values appear within their corresponding topic section in this summary document.]

☑ July 1996

Ten citizen work groups start meeting to address

the plan topics. The groups identify the predominant issues surrounding each topic and select three representatives to serve on the Core Committee, which shares ideas and provides coordination between topics.

☑ March 1997

The "Community Issues" report, containing lists of community issues to be addressed in subsequent planning phases, is accepted by the City Council.

☑ March-July 1997

The Spokane Horizons topic work groups continue to formulate solutions to their identified issues. In July, City Council accepts the "Ideas for Community Solutions" document.

☑ July-August 1997

The ten topic work groups produce the preliminary draft goals, which are approved in August by the Core Committee.

☑ August-December 1997

Individual work groups develop draft policies addressing the approved goals. The city staff develops the first graphic representations of potential growth concepts that satisfy the draft goals and presents them to the Core Committee.

☑ January-June 1998

The Current Patterns and Focused Growth strategies develop from the initial growth concepts. Outreach to the public for feedback on the strategies includes presentations to more than 90 civic organizations, the preparation of a video and a newspaper tabloid.

☑ Fall 1998

A full information package detailing three growth alternatives is presented to service providers (both city and non-city agencies) for their evaluation.

☑ Spring 1999

Adjustments to the growth population and the refinement of land capacity and demand starts.

☑ Summer 1999

The development of an integrated draft comprehensive plan/EIS document containing the three alternatives begins.

☑ Fall 1999

Additional narrative work, including background and discussion sections, is added to the draft plan while editing and graphic layout procedures continue.

☑ March 2000

The Spokane Horizons Board is reconvened and provides review of the citizen participation process.

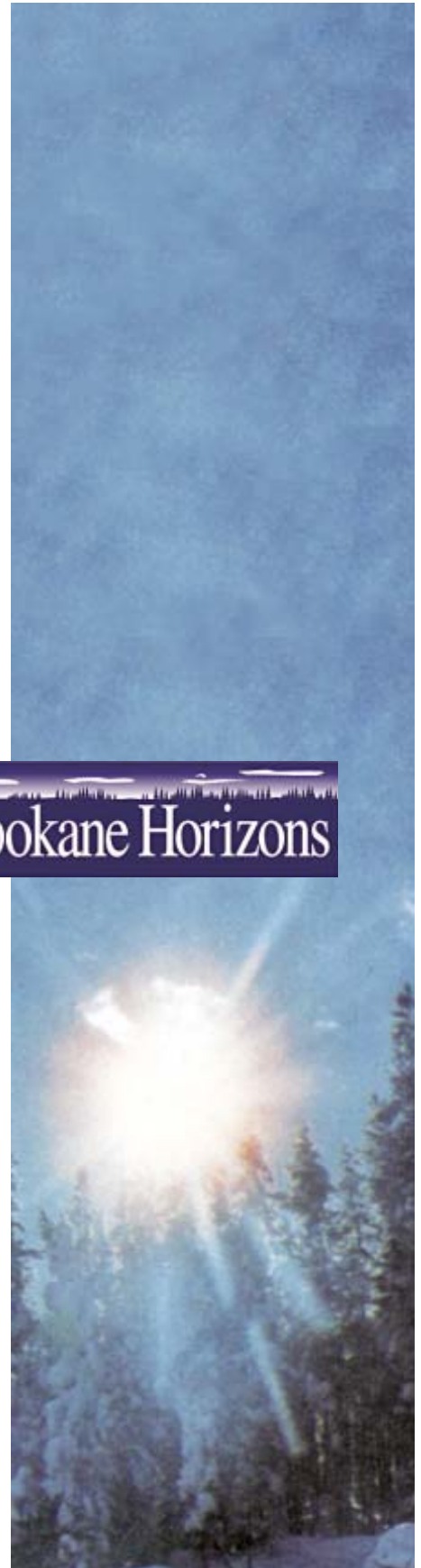
☑ Spring 2000

Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS chapters are introduced to the City Plan Commission.

Want to become more involved in your city?

For more information about how to get involved in the Spokane Horizons process or for the weekly meeting schedule,

*Call the Spokane Horizons Hotline:
(509) 625-6787*



Why a Comprehensive Plan?

The *Comprehensive Plan* is the set of policies, maps, illustrations and technical information that directs the city's decisions about growth and development. It is comprehensive because it guides growth over a long period, typically twenty years, and covers all aspects of the future—social, physical and economic. By law, city-elected officials and managers must follow the direction of the *Comprehensive Plan* when making decisions on public improvements or regulating development. Therefore, the plan is the basis for all spending on streets, parks, libraries and public utilities and it is the foundation for all zoning, subdivision and other land development codes. The plan is published as an official document in one or more volumes.

The Growth Management Act (GMA), passed by the state in 1990, provides one reason to produce a new plan—areas of high growth are required to prepare comprehensive plans under new rules. Spokane County's high growth rate from 1989 to 1993 put the county and city under these requirements in July of 1993. The GMA specifies that new plans address land use, housing, transportation, capital facilities and utilities. By local option, citizens added urban design and historic preservation, natural environment, economic development, social health, neighborhoods, leadership, governance and citizenship, and parks, recreation and open spaces as topics also important to the city.

However, the GMA is not the main reason that citizens created this draft plan for Spokane's future. Neighborhoods, developers, business people and individuals desire predictable futures pursued by efficient and accountable local government. They want to know what types of development are allowed and where. They want to know that their place of residence will be in a safe and pleasant setting. They want to know that they will be able to get conveniently to places of business, work, recreation and social activity. They want to know that the city will provide parks, libraries, police and fire protection and street services in a cost-effective manner. These expectations are fairly constant even as the urban area continues to grow and the region experiences rapid socioeconomic and technological changes. Above all else, this is the reason for the *Comprehensive Plan*—to direct the actions of local government to meet these quality of life expectations.

What is an Urban Growth Area (UGA)?

As part of the comprehensive plan, the city must propose an Urban Growth Area (UGA) to accommodate the twenty-year projected population growth.

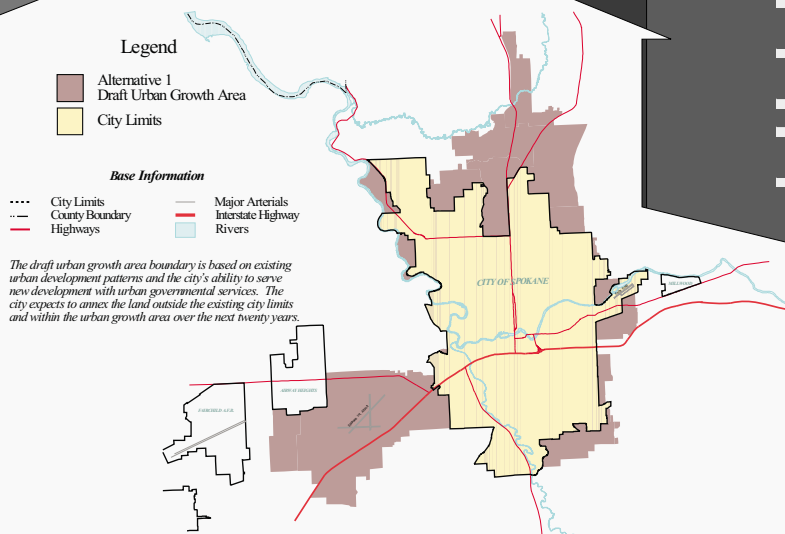
- All land within the existing city limits must be within the city's UGA.
- The city is proposing a UGA outside the city limits because additional land is needed to accommodate the twenty-year projected population growth.
- It is assumed that land in the UGA will be served in the future with city-like services. These services include fire and police protection, parks, libraries, public sewer and water, solid waste disposal, transportation and schools.
- UGAs must include greenbelts and other open space and provide for the protection of sensitive environmental and wildlife habitat areas.
- UGA boundaries must be evaluated at least every five years.
- The GMA requires the establishment of policies for joint city and county planning for things like land use, utilities and streets within UGAs.

The map below shows the areas the city is studying for inclusion in the UGA.

Horizons Process Suggests New Directions

During their initial work, Spokane Horizons participants discussed major new directions that Spokane should take in order to grow as a healthy community. The selection of a growth alternative greatly influences the city's ability to move in these directions. The citizens' suggestions include the following:

- Promote "neighborhood" as the basic unit of community.
- Link the parts of the community through routes, paths and systems to improve accessibility to everything.
- Increase the range of lifestyle choices.
- Provide a mix of housing densities and types in proximity to services and transportation systems.
- Provide more travel choices within the city.
- Increase access to goods and services needed daily.
- Provide neighborhood spaces for social activity.
- Design the city for people, not cars.
- Create mixes of housing, retail businesses, public services and places of work.
- Maintain downtown as the "heart" of the city and region.
- Create new opportunities for businesses in neighborhoods.
- Preserve the natural environment; increase environmental quality.
- Improve delivery of urban services.
- Continue to empower citizens to be in control of the city's future.
- Make a future that is ecologically, economically and socially sustainable.



Carrying Out the Plan

Even the greatest of plans is meaningless if it is not carried out or implemented. Spokane's comprehensive plan, as a community-wide plan, is implemented through the combined efforts of individuals, businesses, neighborhoods, civic groups and local government. Many of the plan's policies reflect this shared responsibility for community action.

City government holds primary responsibility to implement the plan. The city's two main implementation activities are managing development by land use regulations and spending public funds on physical improvements. The relationship between these activities and the comprehensive plan are specified in the state's Growth Management Act, which requires that regulations be consistent with the plan and capital budgeting and spending be in conformance with the plan.

Goals Shared Across the State

The Growth Management Act includes 13 goals that must be respected by cities and counties in preparing comprehensive plans. The goals represent interests of the state as growth and development consume public resources and place greater demands on state and local government. The goals address the following topics:

- Urban Growth
- Reduce Sprawl
- Transportation
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Property Rights
- Permits
- Natural Resource Industries
- Open Space and Recreation
- Environment
- Citizen Participation and Coordination
- Public Facilities and Services
- Historic Preservation

Good City Ideas

These are among the ideas that Spokane Horizons participants suggested to improve the appeal, convenience and social quality of the city. These are not tied to any particular growth alternative; any or all of them could be adopted regardless of which growth pattern is selected for the final plan:

Region

Preserve lands for open space, habitat, natural resources and environmental quality.

City

Maintain the concept of a grid street pattern to connect all parts of the community.

Connect parts of the metropolitan area by routes that pass through the city rather than by-passing.

Neighborhoods

Use traffic calming techniques to enhance the safety and atmosphere of residential neighborhoods.

Allow accessory dwelling units in all residential settings.

Promote social interaction, accessibility and convenience by avoiding barriers such as "gated" developments, which hinder community connection.

Streets

Separate sidewalks from streets with pedestrian buffer strips and street trees in residential settings and wide sidewalks with tree wells along non-residential arterial frontages.

Blocks

Provide alleys in all new residential subdivisions to create access to rear yards and garages.

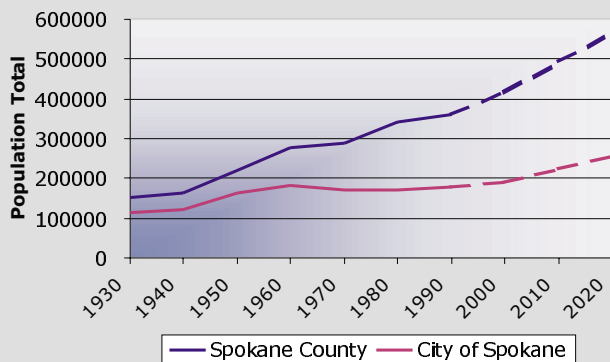
Allow garages only in rear yards or set back from the front property line at least equal to the house.

Lots

Limit lighted areas to the extent of the site on which lighting is installed.

Reduce front yard setbacks to create more social streets.

Population Growth in the City of Spokane and Spokane County



The growth alternatives presented in the draft plan are based on projected growth for Spokane County for the next twenty years as decided by elected officials from all jurisdictions in the county.

Land Use



"The future is purchased by the present." Samuel Johnson

Land use includes far more than regulating how people build on their land; population densities, building intensities and adequacy of public facilities and services all influence how a city grows. Viewed in this manner, land use goals and policies affect every element of the comprehensive plan—transportation, economic development, neighborhoods and the rest—in a significant way.

Over the years, citizens of Spokane have put a great deal of effort into planning for the future. These efforts have produced policy documents and regulations guiding growth and development of the city. In general, these documents have served the city well. Many of the principles of these planning efforts are embodied in the Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS.

The way planning is done has changed with the adoption of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). For example, the GMA contains a set of thirteen goals that are intended to guide the adoption of comprehensive plans. Two of the goals that provide direction for the land use chapter are: "Encourage development in urban areas where public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner," and "Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development."

The following draft goal statements relate to one or more of the growth alternatives.

Residential Land Development: Use residential density guidelines and locational criteria to help maintain stable neighborhoods.

Office Location Policies: Permit office uses of an appropriate scale developed in a manner compatible with surrounding uses to locate in areas convenient to serve the public.

Demand for Business: Provide general locations for business and commercial development commensurate with the needs of the population to be served.

Convenient Business Locations: Provide locations for various needed business and commercial uses that are convenient to the shopping public.

Adequate Services and Facilities: Encourage development in areas where adequate services and facilities are provided.

Development Character: Promote development in a manner that is attractive, complementary and compatible with other land uses.

Citywide Land Use: Offer a harmonious blend of opportunities for living, working, recreation, education, shopping and cultural activities by protecting natural amenities, providing coordinated, efficient and cost effective public facilities and utility services, carefully managing both residential and non-residential development and design and proactively reinforcing downtown Spokane's role as the urban center.

Public Realm Enhancement: Encourage the enhancement of the public realm.

Efficient Land Use: Utilize land efficiently and promote the creative use of density and mixed-use development in proximity to retail businesses, public services, places of work and transportation systems.

Transportation: Promote a network of safe and cost effective transportation alternatives, including transit, carpooling, bicycling, pedestrian-oriented environments and more efficient use of the automobile, recognizing the relationship between land use and transportation.

Housing: Promote diversity in housing cost, type, use, size and density to meet the wide variety of housing needs consistent with Spokane's Visions and Values.

Adequate Public Lands and Facilities: Ensure the provision and distribution of adequate, well-located public lands and facilities throughout the city.

Implementation: Encourage the development of policies and regulations that are consistent with Spokane's Visions and Values.

Urban Growth Area: Provide an urban growth area that is large enough to accommodate the expected population growth through 2020 in a way that meets the requirements of the CWPPs.

Annexation Areas: Support annexations that create logical boundaries and reasonable service areas within the urban growth area, including annexation of unincorporated peninsulas within the city limits.

Service Capacity: Annex only areas where the city has the capacity to provide services.

Joint Planning: Support joint growth management planning and annexation requests, which best meet the Comprehensive Plan's development goals and policies.

Urban Reserve Areas: Identify urban reserve areas through the joint planning process.

Vision

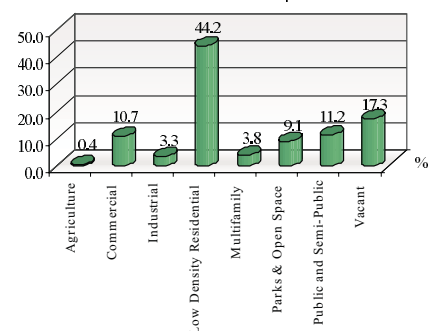
Growth will be managed to allow a mix of land uses that fit, support and enhance Spokane's neighborhoods, protect the environment and sustain the downtown area.

Values

The things that are important to Spokane's future include:

- Acquiring and preserving natural areas inside and outside the city.
- Controlling urban sprawl in order to protect outlying rural areas.
- Developing and maintaining convenient access and opportunities for shopping and services.
- Protecting the character of single-family neighborhoods.
- Guaranteeing a variety of densities that support a mix of land uses.
- Utilizing current residential lots before developing raw land.

Current Land Uses in Spokane



Contact: Ken Pelton, (509) 625-6063

TRANSPORTATION

Yesterday's Innovations Shape Today's Trends



Vision

Citizens of Spokane will have a variety of transportation choices that allow easy access and mobility throughout the region and that respect property and the environment.

Values

The things that are important to Spokane's future include:

- ✧ Ensuring mobility and access within the city.
- ✧ Maintaining the ability to access quickly the outdoors from the city.
- ✧ Decreasing north-south congestion.
- ✧ Increasing the variety of public awareness of transportation choices.
- ✧ Developing and maintaining good public transit.
- ✧ Maintaining roads.
- ✧ Developing and maintaining pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods.
- ✧ Developing convenient access to the downtown area, increasing parking, bus service, light rail and satellite parking with shuttles, and improving the pedestrian environment.



Transportation is much more than providing ways for people to move about the city. Transportation, which relates to an array of other plan topics, shapes the city and the lives of its residents. The transportation chapter reflects citizens' desires for a transportation system and transportation choices that improve both the mobility and quality of life of all residents. The element looks to the transportation needs of the future and strives not to limit Spokane's future transportation options by what is done today. The following draft goals provide broad guidance for decision-making by indicating desired directions for Spokane. The goals are supported by policies located in the Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS and relate to one or more of the growth alternatives.

Overall Transportation: Develop and implement a transportation system and a healthy balance of transportation choices that improve the mobility and quality of life of all residents.

Transportation Options: Provide a variety of transportation options, including walking, bicycling, taking the bus, car pooling and driving

private automobiles, to ensure that all citizens have viable travel options and reduce dependency on automobiles.

Transportation and Land Use: Recognize the key relationship between the places where people live, work and shop and their need to have access to these places; use this relationship to promote land use patterns, transportation facilities and other urban features that advance Spokane's quality of life.

Efficient and Safe Mobility: Design and maintain Spokane's transportation system to have efficient and safe movement of people and goods within the city and region.

Neighborhood Protection: Protect neighborhoods from the impacts of the transportation system, including the impacts of increased and faster moving traffic.

Environmental Protection: Minimize the impacts of the transportation system on the environment, including the region's air quality and environmental features, such as nature corridors.

Sense of Place: Foster a sense of community and identity through the availability of transportation choices and transportation design features, recognizing that both profoundly affect the way people interact and experience the city.

Regional Planning: Plan for transportation on a regional basis.

Equitable Funding: Finance a balanced, multimodal transportation system using resources efficiently and equitably and ensuring the beneficiaries of the system bear the costs in a proportionate manner.

The Future: Prepare for the future and changing transportation needs resulting from changing populations, technology and trends.

Key Themes and Connections

The draft goals and policies of the transportation element relate to five key themes about which citizens were vocal throughout the development of the draft plan and which are connected to Spokane's current transportation trends.

First, citizens desire viable transportation choices. Driving has been made both easy and convenient. Alternatives to driving must also be easy and convenient in order to be utilized and widely accepted. The intent of the plan, however, is not to eliminate automobile use but to provide people with viable options to driving.

Transportation has a key relationship to community quality of life. For example, increasing amounts of traffic and speeding traffic are a growing concern of neighborhood residents. Spokane's quality of life is threatened by congestion, more and faster traffic and the inability to safely walk or bicycle.

Additionally, the transportation chapter recognizes that the true costs of driving are complex and high. Costs include not only financial ones but costs related to the environment, Spokane's quality of life, and society and the community, as well as individuals.

The Comprehensive Plan also examines the integral role between transportation and land use. For example, higher land use densities and a mixture of land uses are needed in some areas of the city to support walking, bicycling and transit as viable transportation alternatives.

Finally, many goals and policies examine the importance of design in relation to transportation. Design features can make driving, walking, bicycling and taking the bus safe, more enjoyable and more viable.

CURRENT TRANSPORTATION TRENDS

	1996	1998	2010 (projected)
Number of Trips Taken in One Day in a Vehicle	1,548,952	1,547,069*	2,250,475
Average Number of Vehicle Miles Traveled in a Day	6,313,806	6,603,756	9,500,475
Average Peak Hour Commute Time (5:00-6:00 pm)	9.73 minutes	12.54 minutes	15.02 minutes**
*The drop in number of trips from 1996 to 1998 is due to a change in land use forecast methods used in 1998 as a result of GMA.			
**2010 commute time assumes: (1) All transportation projects intended to improve capacity in SRTC's Regional Transportation Plan are built and operational by 2010; (2) People's travel behavior will change in the future due to congestion (people will make shorter trips).			

Data source: Spokane Regional Transportation Council.

Contact: Steve Franks, (509) 625-6185

Capital Facilities and Utilities



Above. The old electric generating plant and Post Street Flume as seen from the North Bank in 1885.

Test Your Knowledge...

1. How much garbage does each resident produce each year?
2. What is the average daily water demand per person?
3. Approximately how many gallons of wastewater are discharged into the river each day?
4. How much does it cost for the Spokane Police Department to hire a new officer?
5. What percentage of fire department emergency calls are medical related?

Answers: 1. Nearly a ton; 2. 350 gallons; 3. 33.2 million gallons; 4. \$125,893; 5. Almost 80%

Vision

Public facilities and utilities will be provided concurrently with a growing population to meet the safety, utility, transportation, educational and cultural needs of residents.

Values

The things that are important to Spokane's future include:

- ⚙️ Developing police and fire services that accompany growth.
- ⚙️ Ensuring good parks, schools, libraries and streets in the neighborhoods.
- ⚙️ Continuing to provide facilities for cultural and entertainment opportunities.
- ⚙️ Providing services and facilities as growth occurs.

Capital facilities and utilities provide services that are essential to a community and its ability to grow in the future. Capital facilities consist of facilities owned by public entities, such as water and sewer systems and fire and police stations. Utilities consist of electrical lines, gas lines and telecommunication lines.

The essential services provided by capital facilities and utilities are crucial to the health, safety and welfare of community residents. Water, heat and light are among the necessities of life; today, urban residents also depend on other services such as electronic communications and police and fire

protection. Both current and future residents should be assured that service capacity is adequate to meet demand. It is particularly important to ensure that efforts to provide for future growth do not degrade or diminish services to existing users. Even more fundamentally, the location of capital facilities and utilities must be coordinated in community plans to support and foster development where it is desired.

In an age of tight fiscal and environmental resources, it is important that capital facilities and utilities be provided efficiently. Efficiencies can be gained through greater coordination between service providers and jurisdictions, by more predictable and orderly patterns of development and by using capital facilities and services to serve multiple purposes. Careful planning of capital facilities and utilities is needed to achieve such efficiencies.

The purpose of this topic and the goals below is to provide direction for how these crucial services are provided, particularly in relation to the future growth and development of Spokane.

Adequate Public Facilities and Services: Provide and maintain adequate public facilities and utility services and reliable funding in order to protect investment in existing facilities and insure appropriate levels of service.

Concurrency: Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development are adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards.

Coordination: Promote contiguous, orderly development and provision of urban services through the regional coordination of land use and public services related to capital facilities and utilities.

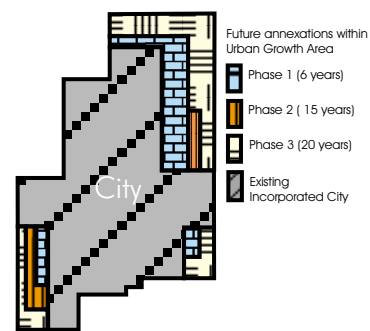
Service Provision: Provide public services in a manner that facilitates efficient and effective delivery of services and meets current and future demand.

Environmental Concerns: Minimize impacts to the environment, public health and safety through the timely and careful siting and use of capital facilities and utilities.

Multiple Uses: Use capital facilities and utilities to support multiple interests and purposes.

Phased Provision

Phased provision of services coordinates planned service levels with anticipated land use and development trends and provides some predictability for developers and the community about where and when urban growth will occur RCW 36.70A.110(3).



Example of Phased Provision of Service

Implementation Programs

In addition to the Capital Facilities Plan and the Capital Facilities Program, the city's capital facilities planning effort involves preparation of a Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and an Annual Budget.

Capital Facilities Program (CFP)

The city's Capital Facilities Program is a twenty-year program that contains six-year plans for spending public funds on capital facilities and amenities needed to address, support and implement the city's comprehensive plan and other adopted city plans and programs. The CFP only covers City of Spokane activities.

Annual Budget

The city's annual budget authorizes expenditures for city expenses, including the acquisition or development of capital facilities. The annual capital budget differs from the financing plan contained in the Capital Facilities Program in that it covers only capital projects funded by city.

Contact: Susanne Croft, (509) 625-6967

Housing

7th Avenue and Howard Street,
circa 1890.



Vision

Affordable housing of all types will be available to all community residents in an environment that is safe, clean and healthy. Renewed emphasis will be placed on preserving existing houses and rehabilitating older neighborhoods.

Values

The things that are important to Spokane's future include:

- ☐ Keeping housing affordable.
- ☐ Encouraging home ownership.
- ☐ Maintaining pride in ownership.
- ☐ Developing a good mix of housing types.
- ☐ Encouraging housing for the low-income and homeless throughout the entire city.
- ☐ Preserving existing houses.
- ☐ Rehabilitating older neighborhoods.

*"A man travels the world over
in search of what he needs,
and returns home to find it."
George Moore*

Furthermore, when addressing the housing needs of lower-income households, public funding, incentive programs and technical help may be needed so that housing development projects are successful. The same remains true for people with special needs, disabilities and the elderly.

By providing a framework for the kind of growth and redevelopment that is desirable in Spokane, the comprehensive plan stands to improve the quality of life for area residents. The following three draft goal statements address broad areas of consideration for Spokane's housing:

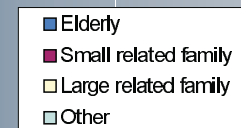
Affordable Housing: Provide sufficient housing for the current and future population that is appropriate, safe and affordable for all income levels.

Housing Choice and Diversity: Increase the number of housing alternatives within all areas of the city to help meet the changing needs and preferences of a diverse population.

Housing Quality: Improve the overall quality of the City of Spokane's housing.

Affordable housing is defined as adequate, appropriate shelter (including basic utilities) costing no more than 30% of a household's gross monthly income. In 1990 within Spokane County, 34,871 households were spending more than 30% of their income on housing. Over 66% of these households are low or very low-income. Low-income households are of greatest concern because they have less income after housing costs to satisfy other needs. Fifty-six percent of the 34,871 households were renters and 59% were located within the City of Spokane.

City of Spokane Housing
Composition by Household Type



Does Age Really Affect Your Housing Needs?

The age distribution of a community's residents influences the demand for various types of housing. The City of Spokane and Spokane County are following national trends and experiencing the effects of the large "baby boom" generation. This is reflected in an increase in the median age of residents of the city and surrounding areas. Currently, the City of Spokane and Spokane County have a higher than average percentage of middle-aged population. This middle-age "bubble" has the potential to create a shift in housing demand as this population reaches retirement age.

Over the next twenty years, three main age brackets will experience the greatest amount of growth: 20 to 29-year olds, 45 to 54-year olds and 55 to 70-year olds. Young residents who are between 20 to 29 years of age are normally just entering the home ownership market. This age group predominately consists of renters with little savings and less discretionary income than older age groups. Such young households normally consist of one and two-person households, childless households and non-family households that tend to prefer attached housing.

Older households, those 45 to 75-years old, that are nearing retirement or that are retired tend to "down-size" into smaller homes with significant amenities that do not require as much maintenance and upkeep. These trends lead to an increase in the demand for smaller dwelling units such as attached dwellings, townhouses and small-lot housing.

The housing chapter of the comprehensive plan addresses the needs and issues surrounding affordable housing, the provision of housing choices and the overall quality of housing. Providing a coordinated set of goals, guidelines and policies, the housing chapter directs future growth and development in Spokane. Citizens developed the guiding content of the topic section with the goal of raising the quality of life for the current and future population.

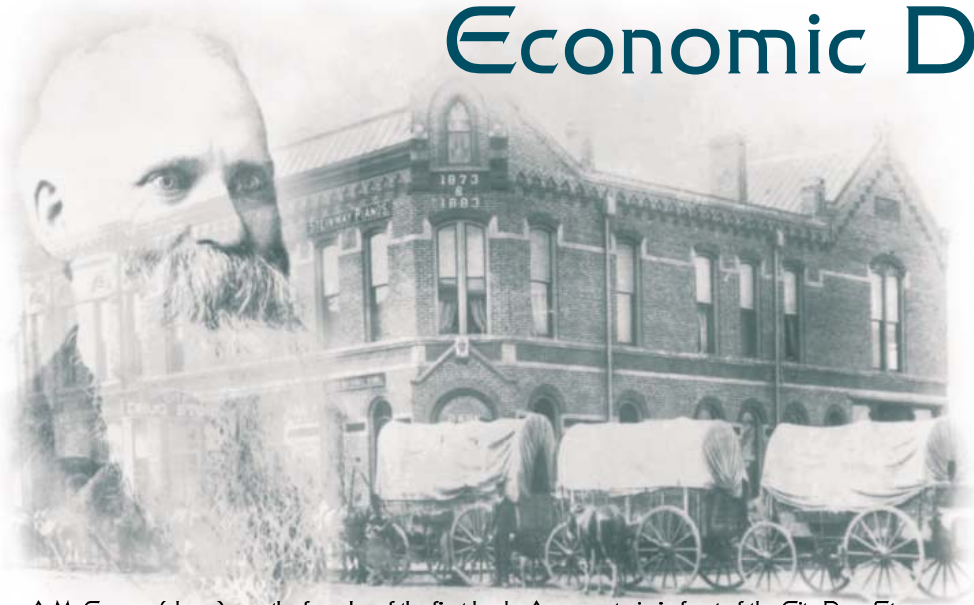
Policies that influence the public and private provision of housing are also included under the draft goal statements. The majority of housing is financed and developed by the private sector. Although many market factors impact the ability of the private sector to provide affordable housing, many local government actions impact housing affordability. Such actions include land use policies, development regulations, infrastructure financing and permitting processes.

TOTAL HOUSING UNITS BY TYPE WITHIN THE CITY OF SPOKANE (1970-1998)

Type of Unit	1970 Number of Units	1970 Percent of Units	1980 Number of Units	1980 Percent of Units	1990 Number of Units	1990 Percent of Units	1998 Number of Units	1998 Percent of Units
Single-Family	48,646	75.6	52,570	69.2	54,835	69.1	57,943	67.2
Duplex	2,780	4.3	3,700	4.9	3,761	4.7	4,157	4.8
3 to 4 Unit Structures	2,378	3.7	3,459	4.6	3,920	4.9	4,136	4.8
5 or More Units	10,215	15.9	15,256	20.1	15,707	19.8	18,579	21.5
Manufactured Homes	302	0.5	1,030	1.4	1,113	1.4	1,401	1.6
Total Housing Units	64,321		76,015		79,336		86,216	

Contact: Louis Meuler, (509) 625-6096

Economic Development



A.M. Cannon (above) was the founder of the first bank. A wagon train in front of the City Drug Store at the southwest corner of Front (Spokane Falls Boulevard) and Howard in 1883.

Vision

Spokane will enjoy a quality of life for everyone that includes a diversified economic base that provides a decent standard of living, a healthy natural environment, and a strong downtown area. Spokane's quality of life will be built on a partnership of diverse interests, including education, business, government, and neighborhoods.

Values

The things that are important to Spokane's future include:

- 1. Ensuring a decent standard of living upon which families can live by implementing more than minimum wage employment.
- 2. Developing a viable, economically strong downtown area.
- 3. Developing a variety of job opportunities that include professional and industrial as well as service opportunities.
- 4. Ensuring that all pay their fair share for city services.
- 5. Protecting the environment since quality of life is important to economic development.

Though J. Glover is credited as the "Father of Spokane," others preceded him. In 1871, S.R. Scranton, J.J. Downing and R.M. Benjamin built the first sawmill in Spokane on the south side of the Spokane River. In 1873, Glover opened Spokane's first store. The store was located between Howard and Wall on what is now Spokane Falls Boulevard. Other stores were soon to follow.

Since the time of those first settlers, Spokane's economy has grown and diversified significantly. Spokane now serves as the hub of a 36-county multi-state area known as the Inland Northwest.

In the past 20 years, the region's economy has shifted from a strong heritage of natural resource related timber, mining and agriculture to an economy that includes high tech and service companies. The healthcare sector, public employers, manufacturing and the military serve as the major industries.

The City of Spokane has the opportunity to further strengthen and stabilize the economy by encouraging a broad range of jobs to employ the community's residents and continuing to provide adequate land, infrastructure, transportation and other public amenities to support economic development activities.

Good schools, high quality neighborhoods, an attractive appearance, many natural areas, a variety of recreational opportunities and high quality public services attract both businesses and residents. Fair and equitable taxation of businesses, efficiently administered development regulations and community attitudes that support balanced and managed growth also foster a favorable business climate.

With concern for Spokane's continued prosperity and desired direction for the future, the following draft goals have been generated and are included in the comprehensive plan.

Cooperative Partnerships: Encourage cooperative partnerships to address the economic expansion of the city and region effectively.

Land Availability for Economic Activities: Ensure an adequate supply of land for economic development activities.

Strong, Diverse and Sustainable Economy: Foster a strong, diverse and sustainable economy that provides a range of employment and business opportunities.

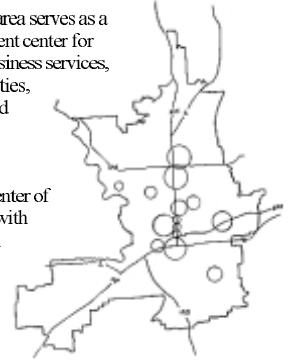
Income and Employment Opportunity: Enhance the economic future of the community by encouraging the creation of jobs that increase the average living wage and reduce income disparity.

Education and Workforce Development: Promote a qualified labor force that is globally competitive and responds to the changing needs of the workplace.

Areas of Highest Employment

Within the city's urban area, the highest number of employees are located within the downtown core and adjacent areas, along major arterials, particularly in relation to shopping malls or districts, and in the industrial areas to the east and northeast portions of the city.

The downtown area serves as a major employment center for financial and business services, hospitality facilities, retail activity and education. Downtown also represents the entertainment center of the community with ongoing cultural and recreational programs, special events and restaurants.



Infrastructure: Implement infrastructure maintenance and improvement programs that support new and existing business and that reinforce Spokane's position as a regional center.

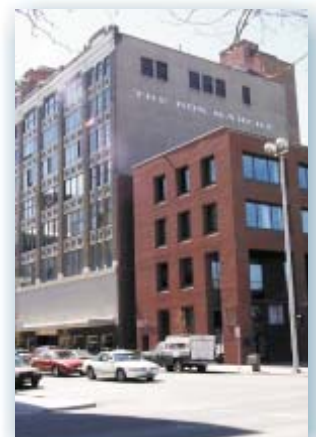
Regulatory Environment and Tax Structure: Create a regulatory environment and tax structure that encourage investment, nurture economic activity and promote a good business climate.

Quality of Life and the Environment: Improve and protect the natural and built environment as assets that attract economic development opportunities and enhance the City of Spokane's quality of life.

1998 Spokane County Employment Profile

Services (29.8%)
Wholesale/Retail Trade (25.3%)
Government (16.6%)
Manufacturing (12.2%)
Construction and Mining (5.9%)
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (5.8%)
Transportation and Utilities (4.5%)

Corner of Spokane Falls Boulevard and Howard in 2000.



Contact: Jo Anne Wright, (509) 625-6017

FRAME BY FRAME:

a look at the three growth alternatives

The Spokane Horizons planning process fashioned three distinct growth alternatives for Spokane's future. Each alternative outlines a different approach for how Spokane might develop and grow over the next twenty years. Each alternative focuses especially on how the city's anticipated population growth can be accommodated. Spokane is expected to be home to an additional 70,000 in 20 years; this is in addition to the current population of approximately 190,000 people in the city and 220,000 in its surrounding growth area.

The three growth alternatives being considered for Spokane's future are:

Current Patterns
Centers and Corridors
Central City

The alternatives offer clear and distinct choices for the community. The Current Patterns alternative is based upon Spokane's past growth patterns and the development practices that have been used in the city. Essentially, it is growth by continuing current trends. The Centers and Corridors alternative focuses growth within areas in mixed-use neighborhood centers, district centers, employment centers and transportation corridors. The Central City alternative focuses future growth in downtown Spokane and in selected areas adjacent to downtown.

In all of the alternatives, the majority of the city does not change; most of the city is largely built-up already and will largely remain the same. The alternatives primarily suggest choices of different settings where growth would occur, particularly new multifamily housing and commercial development. Thus, while the alternatives offer some distinct choices, they also offer some common features. The big differences are within smaller areas of the city.

It is important to note that the growth alternatives take a long-range view of Spokane's future. They provide options for what Spokane could at least start to be like in 20 years. (While that may seem like a long way off, if we don't start planning for and developing our desired future now, we'll never get there.) In addition, the growth alternatives are broad, comprehensive looks at the entire city's future. Rather than planning for individual neighborhoods or your street corner, they provide a broad look at the entire city.

One preferred alternative will be selected from among the three growth alternatives. The preferred alternative will form the foundation of the comprehensive plan that will guide Spokane's future growth and development over the next twenty years. The goal of the city is to make the selection by the end of the year. This time period presents the people of Spokane with an opportunity to select and start a new path toward their desired future.

The pages that follow provide an overview of each of the alternatives. Each alternative is presented as a map featuring land uses and major transportation features. The maps feature call-out boxes that describe some of the key features of the alternative. The alternatives are also depicted by two graphic images, one that presents a large perspective view of a commercial area within the alternative and another that presents a close-up of a street scene that would be typical of the commercial or mixed-use area. Finally, each alternative features a bar graph that shows the relationship between the city's existing population and how the alternative accommodates population in different settings.

Following the growth alternative sections are four comparative articles that examine the market, environmental, fiscal and social impacts of the alternatives. The market section, for example, provides an understanding of the market opportunities and constraints affecting future development in Spokane.

"... Come my friends, 'Tis not too late to see a newer world."
Alfred Tennyson

What Should You Ask As You Review The Alternatives?

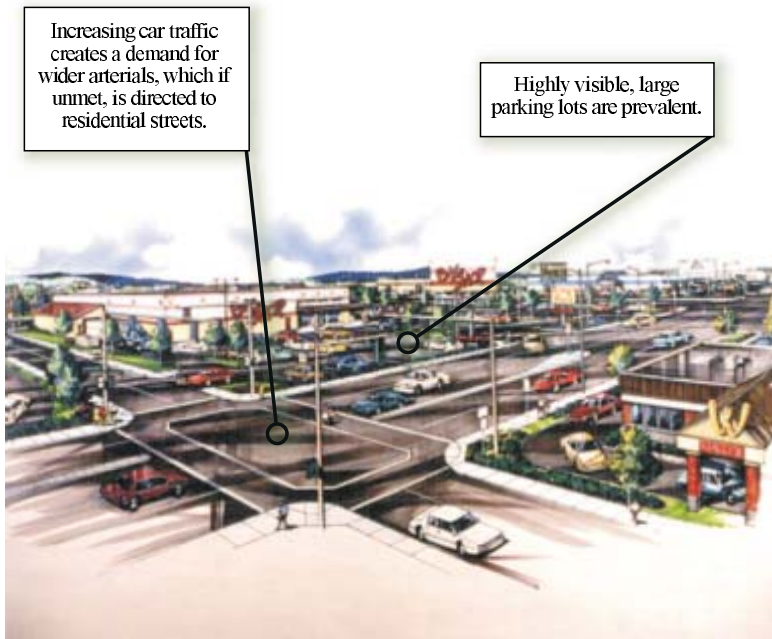
- How does this affect the city as a whole?
Individual neighborhoods?
- What sacrifices or provisions must be made to ensure the success of this alternative?
- What is the most/least attractive part of the growth alternatives?
- Can the city pay for this option?
- What is there to gain from this alternative?
- Does the alternative fail to address any major concerns about growth?
- What are the long and short-term benefits to each alternative?
- How much will it cost to provide the necessary public facilities and services?
- How does the alternative provide for youth? Elderly? Other demographic groups?
- How will the alternative affect employment opportunities and locations?
- In what ways is the natural environment positively or negatively affected?
- How will transportation options and convenience be changed?
- What housing options will be available?
- What recreation or cultural opportunities will be available to meet my needs?
- How is the community's visual quality affected?
- How is historic preservation supported?

current patterns Alternative

This alternative is based upon the past growth and development practices that have been used in the city. It assumes that most of the existing planning policies and land use regulations will be retained and used to guide development. Policies, regulations or incentives would not be enacted to encourage a more compact urban form, use of transit, or mix of housing, employment and shopping.

Legend	
	Conservation Open Space
	Potential Open Space
	Active Open Space
	Single Family Residential
	Two Family Residential
	Medium Density Residential
	High Density Residential
	High Density Residential/Office
	Office
	Neighborhood Business
	General Commercial
	Medium Density Residential/Office
	Central Business District
	Light Industrial
	Heavy Industrial
	Institutional
	Industrial Reserve
	Residential Reserve

	Draft Urban Growth Area		Proposed Arterials/Freeway
	City Limits		Interstate Highway
	County Boundary		Trails
	Arterials		Rivers

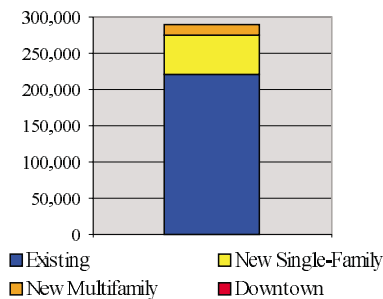


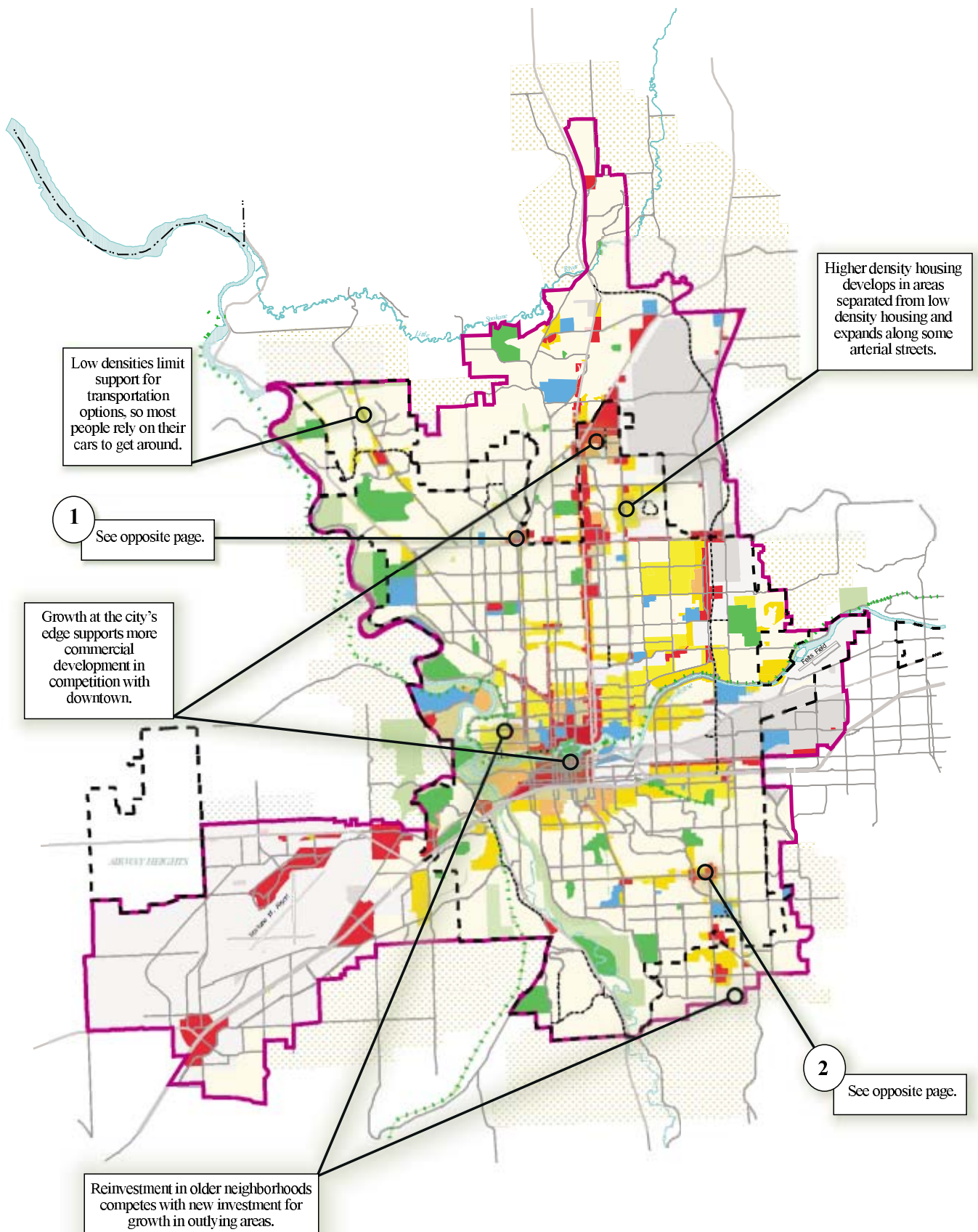
Raw land at the urban edge is used to accommodate most residential and commercial growth.

1 Single-family housing along arterial streets converts to rentals, higher density housing or commercial uses.



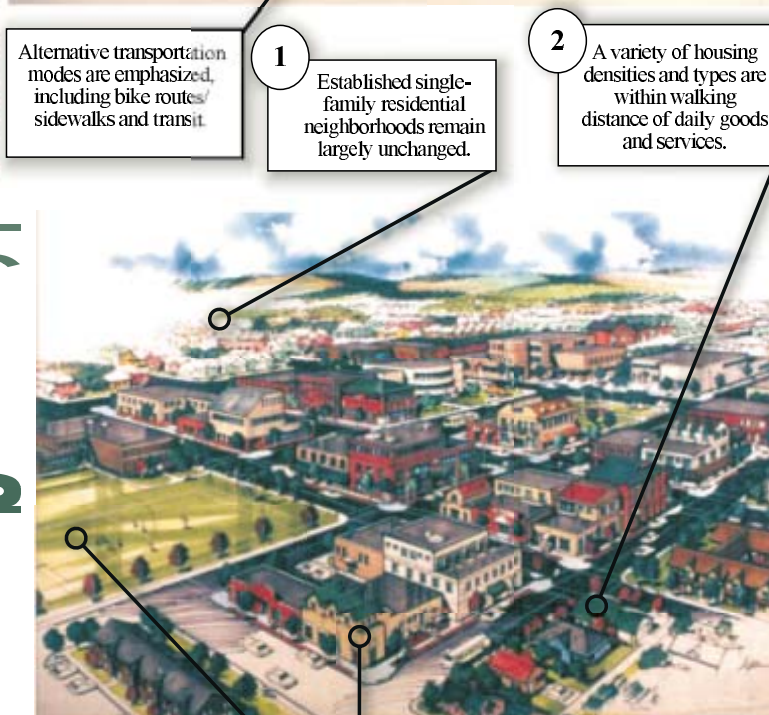
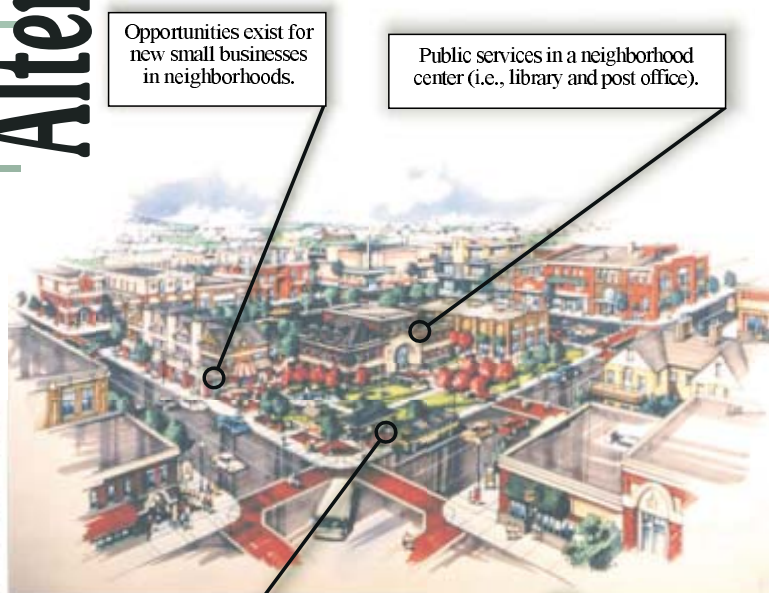
Current Patterns Population Distribution





focused growth, mixed-use centers and corridors **Alternative**

In this alternative, future growth occurs within concentrated areas in mixed-use neighborhood centers, district centers, employment centers and transportation corridors. The centers contain a mix of uses, including higher density housing centered around or above retail and commercial establishments, office space and public and semi-public activities (parks, government and schools). Streets within the centers and surrounding neighborhoods enable residents to walk or bicycle for their daily service needs and to access each center's transit stop. Higher density housing within and around the centers supports business in the center and allows for enhanced transit service between centers, along corridors and to the downtown area. Center designations may change to reflect neighborhood planning decisions.



Legend

	Agriculture		Neighborhood Retail
	Conservation Open Space		Neighborhood Mini Center
	Potential Open Space		General Commercial
	Active Open Space		Downtown
	Residential 4-10		Light Industrial
	Residential 10-20		Heavy Industrial
	Residential 15-30		Institutional
	Residential 15+		Industrial Reserve
	Office		Residential Reserve

	Neighborhood Center		Arterials
	Employment Center		Proposed Arterials/Freeway
	District Center or Corridor		Interstate Highway
	Draft Urban Growth Area		Trails
	City Limits		Proposed Light Rail
	County Boundary		Rivers



Neighborhood Centers

A mix of uses including higher density housing, businesses and public facilities to meet the needs of the surrounding neighborhood.

Structures are no higher than three stories.



District Centers

A mix of uses including higher density housing, businesses and public facilities to meet the needs of several neighborhoods.

Structures are no higher than five stories.



Employment Centers

A mix of uses including higher density housing, strong employment uses with non-service related jobs, businesses and facilities that support employers and residents.

Structures are no higher than five stories.

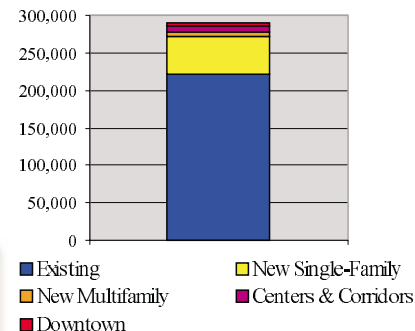


Corridors

A mix of uses including higher density housing, businesses and public facilities to meet the needs of several neighborhoods concentrated along a mass transit corridor.

Structures are no higher than five stories.

Centers and Corridors Population Distribution



focused growth central city Alternative

This alternative focuses future growth in downtown Spokane and in areas adjacent to the downtown area. It adds uses within the Central City that support people and their ability and desire to live there. The Central City serves as an area where people can select from a variety of housing and transportation alternatives while accessing a revitalized urban center. By directing intensive growth to the Central City, downtown is emphasized as the “heart” of the city and region.

Legend

	Conservation Open Space
	Potential Open Space
	Active Open Space
	Single Family Residential
	Two Family Residential
	Medium Density Residential
	High Density Residential
	High Density Residential/Office
	Office
	Neighborhood Business
	General Commercial
	Medium Density Residential/Office
	Central Business District
	Light Industrial
	Heavy Industrial
	Institutional
	Industrial Reserve
	Residential Reserve

	Draft Urban Growth Area		Proposed Arterials/Freeway
	City Limits		Interstate Highway
	County Boundary		Trails
	Arterials		Rivers
	Central City Boundary		



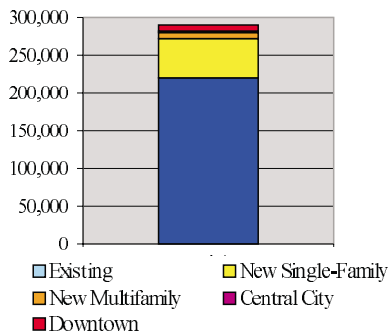
1 Most new health services, entertainment, shopping, higher educational facilities, professional offices and government offices are located in the central city.

The urban intensity of downtown is increased as existing underutilized buildings are renovated or replaced and some parking lots are converted to new structures.

Increased activity in the downtown core encourages more intense growth to expand out to the designated areas next to downtown.

The city's new multifamily housing is built as townhouses, condos and apartments in the central city.

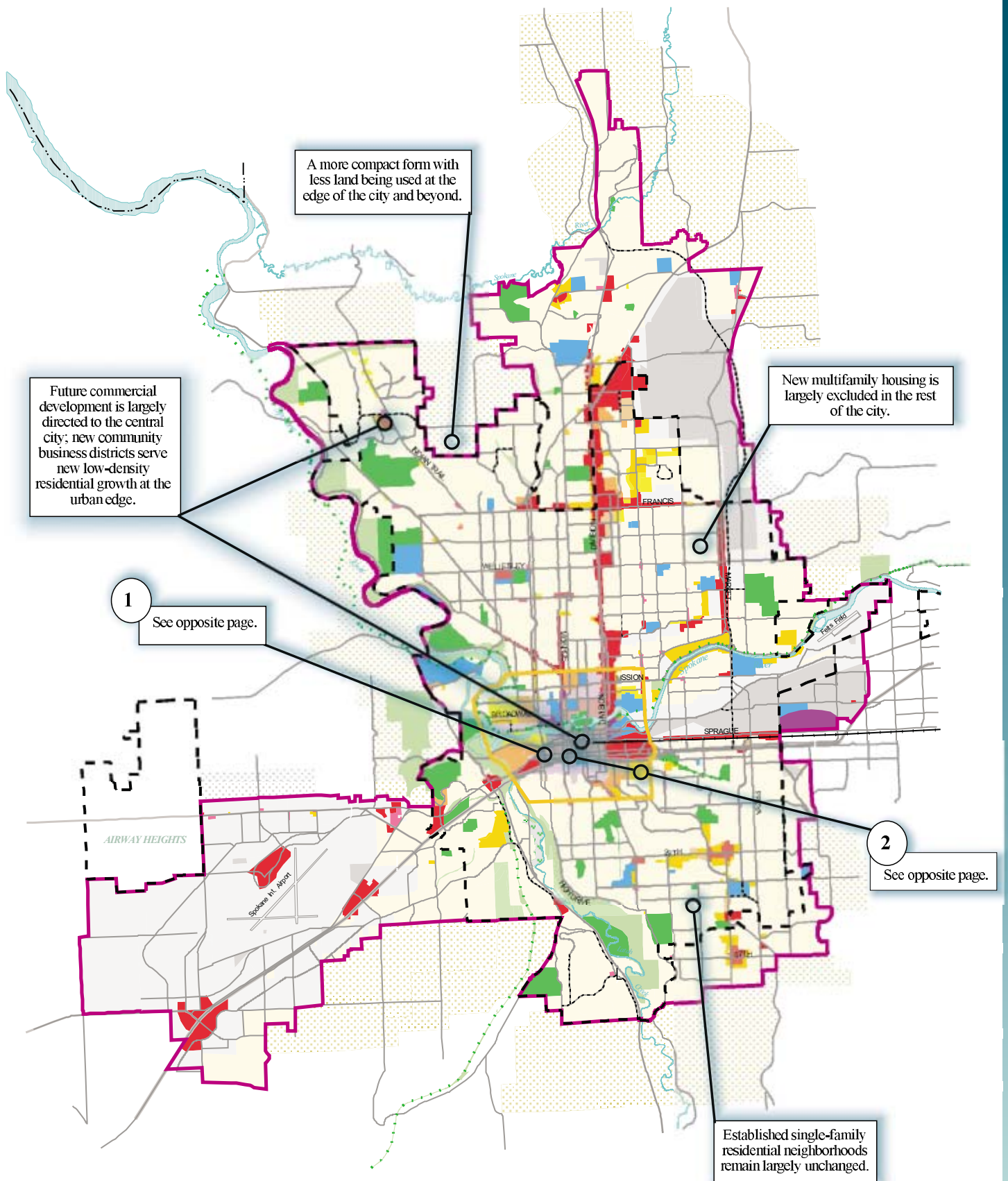
Central City Population Distribution



2 The widest variety of transportation choices in the region is in the central city area with transportation links that provide greater pedestrian and transit access to the downtown core.

Extensive design standards promote a visually pleasing environment.

The city core is the most pedestrian-friendly area of the city; the rest remains primarily auto-oriented.



Something to talk about over coffee



Current Patterns

Centers and Corridors

Central City

This worksheet provides you with space to compare the three alternatives. Refer to the questions on page 13 for guidance as you explore Spokane's options for growth. The City Council and Plan Commission welcome your comments, questions and concerns.

MARKET

The following information has been summarized from the Leland Consulting Group's market analysis report, completed in 1999 for the City of Spokane to enable an understanding of the market opportunities and constraints affecting future development in Spokane.

Demographics

The populations of the City of Spokane and Spokane County are growing steadily. As the largest metropolitan area between Seattle and Minneapolis, Spokane has received national attention as an "up-and-coming" city because of its quality of life, business opportunities, proximity to interstate transportation and excellent recreational venues. Yet, as in all growing communities, with steady growth comes challenges.

Spokane is the largest city in Spokane County and is the primary activity center for hundreds of miles. Approximately 187,000 residents now live within the city limits, just over 45 percent of countywide residents. This population has increased by over 10,000 people since 1990. However, population growth has been greater in Spokane County, driven primarily by a steady net immigration of new residents, liberal development requirements and a good supply of inexpensive land.

As of 1999, almost 81,545 households were located within the Spokane City limits, an increase of over 6,398 households since 1990. Over the next five years, the number of households in the city is expected to increase to more than 84,000.

The current household size within the city limits is estimated to be 2.23 persons per household. This is projected to decline to 2.20 persons per household by 2004, compared to 2.39 persons per household in Spokane County. Smaller households are not only present in Spokane but are becoming more prominent in the county as well. Additionally, Spokane County has a higher than usual concentration of older residents in comparison to the majority of metropolitan areas.

In contrast to markedly lower household income levels among City of Spokane residents, householders living in Spokane County are becoming more affluent. Average household incomes in the City of Spokane are concentrated in the below \$25,000 income category, a figure far below comparable regional households.

In General

It is expected in the near future that the Spokane market will more likely be supportive of

development typical of current patterns rather than focused growth. Indeed, in the short-term, it may be difficult for Spokane's current market to support focused growth development. In the longer-term, however, if there is strong community support and significant public-private partnerships, current market conditions could change. In addition, national urban development trends that are supportive of focused growth type development could reach Spokane, which often lags behind national trends. These trends are based, in part, on changing national demographics, such as increasing numbers of empty nesters, childless couples and singles. Resulting trends include:

- Growing numbers of people weary of long automobile commutes and "cookie cutter" suburban development that lacks a sense of place.
- More people seeking easy access to workplaces, restaurants, "main street" shopping, evening entertainment and opportunities to interact with a wide diversity of people.
- Employers seeking urban settings to attract younger workers who desire "downtown" lifestyles and cultural amenities.

Public Investments and Incentives

Public investments and incentives, such as streets, schools and tax credits, will continue to influence development decisions and influence real estate cycles. If focused growth is desired, significant public-private partnerships will be needed to change Spokane's real estate patterns in the near future to reach this goal. Particularly in the beginning, successful public-private partnerships will need to serve as the catalyst for future market-driven development.

Housing

Spokane's existing housing market is relatively strong. Housing demand will continue to be positive as long as the regional economy remains stable. As the demand for convenient, reasonably priced housing increases, underdeveloped areas and transit nodes are likely to see new development activity, particularly if the housing industry responds to the demand for a wider range of housing opportunities stimulated by increasingly diverse populations. Additional housing, either as infill on vacant lots or in focused areas, can also provide increased spending power to support businesses and support public transit.

Retail

In the short-term, the significant share of the retail market that shops in large shopping centers and "big box" stores is likely to remain unchanged. In the longer-term, selected areas present an opportunity to undergo a renaissance to become

places for people to shop, socialize and enjoy leisure time closer to their homes. People living in focused growth areas are likely to forego time-consuming automobile trips to other shopping districts to make day-to-day purchases closer to home. Retail opportunities for focused growth areas include destination specialty stores, restaurants with both a citywide and neighborhood clientele and stores and service businesses to serve local residents.

Parking

Parking availability is a major consideration. It is crucial to future development to deal with the need for parking creatively, such as by using transportation demand strategies and promoting alternative modes of transportation, without restricting development by underestimating the demand for convenient and sufficient parking.

Conclusion

A fundamental conclusion of the Leland report is that in the short-term, Spokane's market will more likely be supportive of current patterns type development rather than focused growth but that in the longer-term, market conditions could change. Such change, however, is highly dependent on strong community support that expresses itself in appropriate investments in focused growth areas.

The report states candidly that "implementing [either] of the focused growth alternatives will require diligence on the part of the city." The report cautions the need for the city to carefully consider the areas where it wants to focus growth, and that in the short-term, it is better to designate fewer targets for focused growth than overwhelm the community with many such areas. It concludes that areas that are good candidates for more intensified development have the following characteristics:

- Neighborhood demographics that indicate a higher percentage of singles, childless couples and active seniors.
- Household incomes that are at least 20 percent higher than the current Spokane median household income.
- Good public transit access that provides access to either downtown jobs or significant employment centers.
- Neighborhood shopping that is interesting, relatively close and preferably within walking distance.
- Existing development that is attractive and has a measure of architectural integrity.
- Parcels that are slated for mixed-use development are on busy streets, have good visibility for "pass-by" traffic and have ample room for customer and residential parking.

ENVIRONMENTAL

The Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS evaluates three land use alternatives: Current Patterns, Centers and Corridors and Central City. All alternatives will comply with the GMA. Each alternative distributes future growth somewhat differently throughout the city: more dispersed for Current Patterns and more focused in mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented centers, corridors and/or the downtown and adjacent sub-areas for Centers and Corridors and Central City.

All alternatives assume the same population growth (68,800) and employment growth (27,712) over the next 20 years. The City of Spokane is proposing to expand its Urban Growth Area (UGA). Additional land would be included within the city's UGA for all alternatives.

IMPACTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Natural Environment

Plants and Animals: Development results in the removal of native plants and the loss of wildlife habitat and populations. Urban growth in undeveloped areas could reduce the overall biodiversity of the area.

Air: Air quality impacts are associated with construction activities, residential wood burning and vehicle traffic, with the greatest impacts occurring where urban growth is concentrated and along transportation corridors. Mixed-use centers and public transit could result in lower impacts over time.

Water: Development near shoreline, riparian, wetland and wellhead areas could cause degradation of surface and groundwater quality and wetland areas and flooding.

Earth: Urban growth could cause erosion during and after construction. Development in geologically hazardous areas increases the potential for property damage and public safety impacts associated with landslides.

Energy: Energy consumption increases to serve residential, industrial, commercial and transportation needs.

Land Use

Under all of the alternatives, the city becomes more urbanized and populous. Residential development continues as the dominant land use citywide, followed by industrial uses. The Current Patterns alternative disperses density throughout the city in the largest UGA. The Centers and Corridors and Central City alternatives target high densities in specific areas of the city, with less change in existing neighborhoods.

With greater density and intensity of development, land use conflicts associated with additional traffic, activity, noise, odor, light and

glare and visual qualities could occur. Under any of the alternatives, proposed plan policies are generally consistent with the GMA and Countywide Planning Policies.

Population

The city's population allocation is 68,800 additional people over the next twenty years. All of the proposed comprehensive plan alternatives could accommodate this population. Preliminary land quantity analysis and vacant land estimates will be refined along with the Draft Comprehensive Plan alternatives.

Employment

Industrial: An additional 8,600 industrial jobs are projected by 2020. Approximately 1,720 net acres of developable industrial land are needed to support these jobs. A small surplus of industrial land is possible for the alternatives, based on initial analysis.

Commercial/Office: An additional 19,100 commercial/office jobs are forecast by 2020, requiring approximately 570 net acres of developable commercial/office land. A small deficit of commercial/office land is possible for the alternatives, based on initial analysis.

Housing

The alternatives could accommodate an estimated 38,000 new housing units, which is sufficient to accommodate the city's 2020 population target. Average gross densities for new development under the alternatives would generally range from just over 4 units per acre for single-family to 12 units per acre for multifamily development. Average net densities would be approximately 6 units per acre. Multifamily housing comprises approximately 25 to 41 percent of the total new units, depending on the alternative.

Transportation

The alternatives do not differ significantly in terms of broad transportation system performance measures. Based on preliminary level of service standards, the Current Patterns alternative requires the greatest investment to resolve forecast capacity deficiencies primarily because the level of service standard is set higher than under the other alternatives. The Centers and Corridors alternative has highest transportation system improvement costs (by approximately 2.5 to 3 percent), primarily because of increased use of boulevard and parkways under this alternative. Use of transit and non-motorized transportation modes are best supported by the Centers and Corridors and Central City alternatives, which include light rail service, expanded transit service and an extensive non-motorized system.

Public Services

Police: Increased demand for police protection requires additional personnel, equipment and

capital expenditures over the next twenty years, with the greatest costs occurring under the Current Patterns alternative. Needs for interlocal agreements with the county for Joint Planning Areas exists.

Fire: The demand for fire suppression and emergency medical services is somewhat higher, and therefore more costly, for the Current Patterns alternative than for the two focused growth alternatives. There are needs for interlocal agreements with special districts for Joint Planning Areas. Current Patterns is somewhat more costly in comparison to the other alternatives.

Schools: Proposed school district capital facilities plans would provide adequate elementary, middle and high school capacity for projected 20-year student enrollment under all alternatives.

Solid Waste: The city has adequate landfill capacity for increases in solid waste disposal under all of the alternatives.

Parks: The city expends funds for the acquisition, development and maintenance of additional park lands under all of the alternatives.

Water: The Current Patterns has the greatest impact on water demand, based on densities, land use pattern and UGA size. Under all of the alternatives, public water supply may be sufficient to serve demand for the next twenty years but beyond this period may be stressed without additional water conservation measures.

Wastewater: The Current Patterns alternative would have the greatest impact based on densities, land use pattern and UGA size. Twenty-year growth projections under any of the alternatives exceed the design capacity of the existing treatment facility.

MITIGATING MEASURES

In general, Draft Comprehensive Plan goals and policies and new and existing development regulations are intended to mitigate potential impacts. Proposed goals and policies encourage new development to occur in ways that are compatible with the overall character of existing neighborhoods, to protect the natural environment and to phase new development with the provision of services and facilities.

UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Under any of the growth alternatives, continued growth results in a larger population, increased demand for public services and increased risk of impacts to the natural environment within the developed area.

FISCAL

Fiscal impact analysis is a planning tool that can help estimate the incremental public costs and revenues resulting to a city from future growth. *Costs* refer to the public costs of operating and maintaining city services and facilities — such as police and fire service, parks, road maintenance and general governmental services (e.g., planning and finance) required to support planned growth.

Revenues include funds that accrue primarily to the city's general fund -- from taxes (e.g., property taxes, sales taxes, business taxes and utility taxes), fees and intergovernmental revenues generated by growth.

The balance between costs and revenues indicates whether a certain type, amount or mix of development will generate a surplus or deficit to the city. The focus is on identifying the relative differences among alternatives, not the exact costs or revenues from any individual alternative.

This information can be used, along with information about environmental and social

impacts, to help identify trade-offs and choose a preferred alternative.

Fiscal analysis is usually based on information drawn from a city's annual budget, historical patterns of costs and revenues and plans or estimates of future conditions. Different methods and assumptions can be used to project these costs and revenues into the future. In some cases, the analysis relies on average costs per person to estimate future municipal costs.

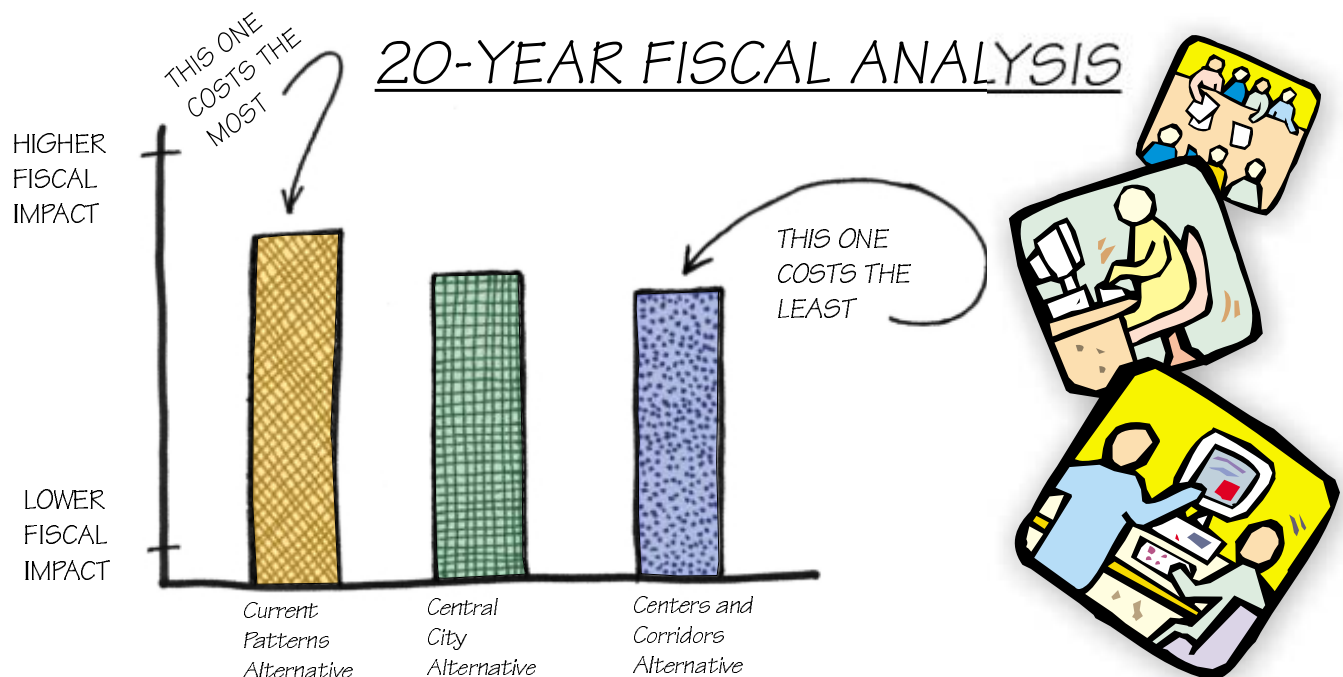
This approach provides a reasonable estimate, but it may not reflect efficiencies that come from serving a larger population or large investments in capital facilities that may be triggered by an increment of population. In other situations, fiscal analysis employs case studies of different types of development or infrastructure to identify costs. In general, assumptions used in the analysis are conservative.

The fiscal analysis for the Draft Comprehensive Plan is based on the different types, amounts and patterns of future development included in three draft land use alternatives: Current Patterns,

Centers and Corridors and Central City. It provides an initial test or snapshot of the relative costs and revenues that could result from implementation of the Comprehensive Plan over a 20-year period. The fiscal analysis only examines public costs and revenues accruing to the City of Spokane; private costs and fiscal effects to other jurisdictions are not evaluated.

The preliminary analysis indicates that the Current Patterns alternative would be more expensive to service and would provide a smaller fiscal surplus (by approximately 5 percent) to the city compared to either of the focused growth alternatives. This is caused, in part, by the larger Urban Growth Area proposed for Current Patterns and the need to extend city services, such as police, fire and parks, to a larger area. The Centers and Corridors alternative would be the most cost effective, slightly edging out Central City.

These conclusions are preliminary and will be refined as the city continues to refine its Comprehensive Plan.



SPokane

Current Patterns

Arts: The farther people live from downtown, the more difficult it is for them to access downtown cultural programs. However, neighborhood-based arts programs in outlying areas are not practical to deliver as isolated efforts lacking the community structure to support them. It would be preferable to enliven downtown through improved transit service.

Community Centers: Two things occur when people choose to live outside the city. They live farther away from service providers' facilities and the transit service needed to get them there. Also, city tax revenues decline while the demand for human services funding increases.

Community Development: Declining city tax revenue would not adversely impact CD's ability to provide services, insofar as they rely mainly on state and federal funding.

Entertainment: The farther people live from downtown, the more difficult it is for them to access downtown cultural and sports programs. It would be necessary either to provide better transit service or more parking.

Historic Preservation: The incentive to preserve historic buildings relies on a high market demand for built space in areas where historic structures exist. When development activity occurs mainly at the city's fringe, the city core and older neighborhoods decline and little interest in the rehabilitation and reuse of the historic buildings in those areas exists.

Human Services: A lack of neighborhood-level childcare, adult care and health care is prevalent. With no strategy for service providers to co-locate or cluster at central locations and public transportation that is neither frequent nor pervasive, non-drivers (disabled, youth, seniors and others) have difficulty getting to work, school, appointments and shopping.

Neighborhood Services: Neighborhoods without a focal point around which to convene tend to experience a weakened sense of identity and low levels of participation in their neighborhood council.

Youth: Access and entertainment are major issues for youth. Youth events are typically located outside the normal walking distance from home. However, it is impractical to provide frequent transit service at a neighborhood level when housing is low-density and scattered away from the city core. In addition, demand for park space and the recent trend toward fewer but larger schools has reduced the choice of neighborhood-based sites for youth programs and teen activities. Youth's needs are not well met.

Centers and Corridors

Arts: When specific areas are targeted for development, arts outreach can be more efficiently and effectively focused in these activity hubs. Mixed-use centers would allow for "arts districts" featuring the live/work settings that attract artists. Neighborhood-based delivery of arts events and programming would make arts more accessible, especially to youth and seniors.

Community Centers: Provision of services near where people work and live would be much more efficient and cost-effective. There is potential for more efficient use of both space and staff as operations share facilities.

Community Development: Increased interaction between neighbors improves neighborhood cohesiveness, which supports CD's goal to build healthy communities and increase community pride. The neighborhood center approach would fit with the structure of CDBG steering committees.

Entertainment: While there could be some opportunity for public events delivered at a neighborhood level, downtown would likely remain the main seat of major cultural and sports programs. Improved transit service is needed to link centers with each other and downtown.

Historic Preservation: This approach could preserve existing historic buildings because it directs growth in the way Spokane developed historically: walkable, unique neighborhoods centered around retail mixed with higher density housing and linked by public transportation.

Human Services: This approach would more efficiently and effectively deliver health and human services programs by clustering these programs together in neighborhood centers near where people live. Higher administrative and program costs might be offset by reduced criminal justice costs due to increased safety.

Neighborhood Services: Centers and corridors would provide the physical focal point required for a sense of place. Potential for increased social interaction could strengthen the social fabric to the extent that residents would be more actively involved with their neighborhood councils.

Youth: This youth-friendly approach allows for the locally accessible services and a sense of community that children and their families need. The mix of uses would supply the ridership threshold required for frequent transit service, allowing greater mobility for youth. Mixed-use also could provide opportunities for increased youth/business interaction, improving job skills among the youth. In general, the increased level of accessible activities and social interaction would support a safer, healthier community.

Central City

Arts: Downtown is already home for many arts-related businesses and organizations. A stronger downtown could contribute vitality to the arts that, in turn, would draw more people downtown. However, care should be taken to preserve affordable sites for the arts and artists; otherwise, they might relocate to areas away from the city core where rental rates are lower.

Community Centers: An improved range of housing and transportation opportunities in the central city would provide people in that area with better access to services at nearby community centers. Community centers in the rest of the city would serve neighborhoods essentially as they are today since non-residential zoning will be limited to current use. Without a focal point for new development, new residents from different income levels would find little incentive to locate there.

Community Development: State and federal funds would continue to be spent on projects in low-income neighborhoods but without the broader guidance and link to revitalization inherent in the Centers/Corridors alternative.

Entertainment: Major cultural and sports programs would continue to be located downtown. An increased residential component downtown would support expansion of these programs. Improved public transportation options would make it easy for other residents to come downtown, as well.

Historic Preservation: The emphasis on downtown as the regional economic and cultural center would encourage the rehabilitation of historically significant downtown buildings. However, a focus on the city center may leave the outlying mixed commercial/residential historic neighborhoods more vulnerable to demolition for new development.

Human Services: Without designated focal points for affordable housing, co-location of services and good cross-town bus service, access to services would remain difficult for some people.

Neighborhood Services: Neighborhoods that lack a focal point around which to convene may continue to experience a weakened sense of identity and low levels of participation in their neighborhood councils.

Youth: Vitality would be added to downtown, which is already a hub for youth entertainment, shopping and cultural opportunities. Increased housing appropriate for children and families would require the amenities appropriate for families. Services may become less accessible to youth in areas away from the city core.

"Architecture is a continuing dialogue between generations which creates an environment across time." Vincent Scully

URBAN DESIGN AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Vision

The qualities that make Spokane unique, including the historic and cultural fabric, neighborhoods, downtown area, parks and green spaces and tree-lined streets, will be maintained and improved.

Values

The things that are important to Spokane's future include:

- ▲ Maintaining Spokane's "comfortable feel," size, neighborhoods and friendliness.
- ▲ Maintaining the downtown area as the center of the region in order to ensure the city's economic and cultural health.
- ▲ Having downtown Spokane be distinctive and urban by using its architectural heritage and splendor.
- ▲ Maintaining the natural beauty that makes Spokane distinctive, including the parks, tree-lined streets and green areas.
- ▲ Preserving the historic buildings, historic fabric and cultural heritage that provide Spokane with its character.
- ▲ Ensuring that new buildings complement historic buildings and their surroundings.
- ▲ Developing Spokane to be an attractive, clean city in which people take pride. Supporting neighborhoods and their associated business districts.

The combined topic of urban design and historic preservation in the comprehensive plan is geared toward, among other things, preserving Spokane's historic buildings and sites and guaranteeing that new structures are appropriately built to meet the character of the area. The overall goal of historic preservation, as stated in the *1981 Historic Preservation Plan*, is to "Recognize, study, record and/or preserve outstanding archaeological sites and outstanding historic structures, sites and districts as physical evidence of the historic heritage of Spokane."

The draft goals of urban design and historic preservation address the concerns and issues of city residents. These statements have been excerpted from the Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS; each goal is supported further by a series of policies that relate to one or more of the growth alternatives.

Pride and Identity: Enhance and improve Spokane's visual identity and community pride while striving to maintain its visual diversity.

Quality Design: Enhance the livability of Spokane by preserving its historic character and building a legacy of quality public and private development.

Function and Appearance: Use design to improve how development relates to and functions within its surrounding environment.

Preservation: Preserve and protect Spokane's significant historic structures, neighborhoods and sites.

Downtown Center Viability: Create a vital, livable downtown by maintaining it as the region's economic and cultural center and preserving and reinforcing its historic and distinctly urban character.

Neighborhood Qualities: Preserve, improve and support the qualities of individual neighborhood areas.

Local Determination: Make neighborhoods attractive, safe places by encouraging residents to express their design and development values through local and sub-area planning efforts.

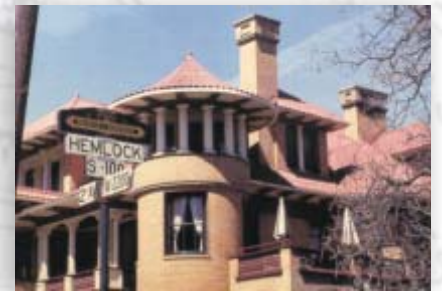
As early as 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt was quoted in the Chamber of Commerce publication, *Spokane: A Modern City*: "I never saw two such cities anywhere as Spokane and Seattle. If my eldest boy was large enough to be choosing a place, I would advise him to locate in one or the other of those cities and it is a shake-up between them."

Design Review Committee Accepts Challenge

In 1994, the City Council, recognizing the public demand for quality projects, established a design review program and appointed a citizen committee of design professionals and organization representatives to conduct individual project reviews and oversee the development of the program. The members of the Design Review Committee accepted the challenge to act in an advisory role, developing guidelines, reviewing projects and making recommendations to the city approving authority for the assigned specific classes of projects.

The mission of the Design Review Committee is captured in their statement: "Instill the values of the public into a project's design, keeping in mind the developmental standards established by the governing body, while at the same time, not substantially increasing the development cost or permit issuance time for the proponent."

Pedestrian-oriented atrium space of Riverpark Square attracts customers and creates a sense of place for the multi-tenant commercial development.



The Cutter & Malmgren designed Patrick Clark mansion was built in 1897 and has successfully been rehabilitated into a gourmet restaurant.



The architectural compatibility of the recent addition to the 1891 Review Building demonstrates attention given to urban design of mass, scale, rhythm, color, texture and line.



The Wall Street pedestrian mall includes urban elements that help create the stage for a comfortable and active street.

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Natural Environment

“My first glimpse of the site of the future magnificent city was unfurled to view from the cliff near the head of Washington Street, and was so enchanting that I dismounted and spent several moments enjoying its grandeur and beauty. Here seemed to be the setting of the elements of an ideal city, even a corner of paradise.”

H.T. Cowley,
Spokane Daily Chronicle, 1916

Vision

Spokane will be responsible stewards of the environment to ensure clean air and water and healthy trees and parks. Residents will have convenient access to natural and recreational areas inside and outside the city.

Values

The things that are important to Spokane's future include:

- Protecting and replanting street trees, trees in parks and private trees.
- Guaranteeing good clean air and water.
- Preserving the natural environment outside the city.
- Maintaining a close connection to the outdoors, recreation and nature areas.
- Using alternatives to personal automobiles to save energy and protect the environment.
- Recognizing the uniqueness of the four seasons and the climate.
- Recycling.
- Being responsible stewards of the environment.
- Keeping areas where wildlife live.
- Maintaining the availability of open space, golf courses and trails.
- Maintaining tree-lined streets and the natural beauty.
- Preserving the Spokane River and Latah Creek.



The natural environment has been of key importance to the City of Spokane since its onset. Prior to its official founding, Native Americans and early pioneers were equally in awe of the incomparable splendor of the area. The comprehensive plan contends that Spokane's citizens will be responsible stewards of the environment so that clean air and water are maintained in addition to the healthy trees and parks scattered throughout the city.

Current Trends

Spokane grew quickly during the early 20th century and the natural environment was altered correspondingly. Land was cleared for commerce and housing, bridges were built across the river, dams were constructed for electricity, industry was developed over the aquifer and roads were crisscrossed over the landscape. At the same time, early leaders recognized the importance of Spokane's setting and the natural environment and preserved areas for parks and natural areas along the river. After a couple decades of rapid growth, Spokane leveled off and grew slowly for fifty to sixty years.

More recently, growth has started again to impact the natural environment in and around Spokane. More water is being drawn out of the aquifer, more sewage must be treated and released into the river, more vehicles contribute to the poor air quality, more garbage must be incinerated, sprawling development replaces farmland and open space and more wildlife habitat is altered or lost. At the same time, citizens increasingly ask for improved natural areas, trails, clean air and water and protection for wildlife and their habitat.

In response to these community interests, the following natural environment draft goals are proposed for the comprehensive plan:

Water Quality: Protect the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer and other water sources so they provide clean, pure water.

Sustainable Water Quality: Ensure all aquifers and water sources are not depleted below sustainable, recharge or flow levels.

Shorelines: Protect the natural state of shorelines while providing community access that does not negatively impact animal habitats.

Surface Water: Provide for clean rivers that support native fish and aquatic life and that are healthy for human recreation.

Clean Air: Work consistently for cleaner air that nurtures the health of children and future generations.

Native Species Quality: Protect and enhance diverse and healthy native species, such as the plants, trees, animals and fungi, for children and future generations and to respect the ecological necessity of bio-diversity.

Natural Land Form: Preserve natural land forms that identify and typify our region.



Agricultural Lands: Preserve land and provide opportunities for farming that generates produce for local markets.

Sustainable Economy: Enhance the natural environment to support a thriving sustainable economy.

Natural Environment and Employment: Create employment that enhances the natural environment.

Measuring Economic Growth: Measure economic growth in a way that includes all impacts and costs, both positive and negative, to the natural environment.

Nature Space: Designate a nature space network (nature space and connecting corridors) throughout Spokane that supports native habitats and natural land forms.

Urban Forest: Maintain and enhance the urban forest to provide good air quality, reduce urban warming and increase habitat.

Park and Plaza Links: Create a citywide network of paved trails, designated sidewalks and soft pathways that link regional trails, natural areas, parks, sacred and historical sites, schools and urban centers.

Design with Natural Elements: Develop or revitalize plazas using local nature elements, including water, vegetation, wildlife and land forms.

Natural Aesthetics: Retain and enhance nature views, natural aesthetics, sacred areas and historic sites that define the Spokane region.

Quality of Life: Develop annual social, natural environment and economic indicators of a healthy Spokane community, which are compared to prior years in order to assess Spokane's progress.

Natural Environment Education: Educate children and the community on how to improve Spokane's natural environment.

Energy Conservation: Promote the conservation of energy in the location and design of residential, service and workplaces.



A Final Word from the Founding Father

“The valley, filled with sunflowers, looked like a field of gold. I was charmed with the entire country.” J. Glover



Contact: Leroy Eadie, (509) 625-6187

"What is the city but its people?"—Shakespeare

Social Health



Over one-quarter of the homeless persons in Spokane are children.

One-sixth of Spokane's population lives in poverty.



Vision

Spokane will be a safe and nurturing community that provides a diversity of social, recreational, educational and cultural opportunities for all ages. A strong, positive identity for Spokane will be furthered by constructive community events and activities.

Values

The things that are important to Spokane's future include:

- ✎ Providing recreational and educational opportunities for all youth.
- ✎ Assuring that Spokane remains a great place to raise a family.
- ✎ Treasuring the youth and elders alike.
- ✎ Maintaining quality education and avoiding overcrowding in the schools.
- ✎ Maintaining a diversity of opportunities for higher education.
- ✎ Eliminating and keeping out drug and gang-related criminal activities.
- ✎ Implementing neighborhood and community-oriented policing.
- ✎ Expanding and diversifying cultural opportunities, such as arts, sports, entertainment and ethnic opportunities.
- ✎ Continuing community events that contribute to Spokane's community identity, such as Hoopfest, Bloomsday and Pig-Out in the Park.
- ✎ Assuring that access to recreation opportunities are not lost as growth occurs.

Social health addresses youth, families, senior citizens, people with disabilities, education, public safety, recreation, the arts and cultural opportunities. The social health chapter describes methods for restoring Spokane to complete vitality. It covers the more qualitative aspects that support Spokane's social fabric and relate to an overall sense of community.

Spokane's human capacity is already quite rich. With a full range of choices and opportunities, Spokane can maximize the human resources by enhancing each person's ability to achieve their full potential in the community. When residents are productive, safe, healthy, caring and civil, the city is prosperous, energetic, supportive and livable. The draft goals for social health are as follows:

Roughly half of single mothers and their children live in poverty.

Funding Mechanisms to Support Social Health:

Utilize all funding mechanisms that will help to develop the infrastructure, support and staffing necessary to provide affordable, accessible opportunities for arts, culture, recreation, education and health and human services to all citizens, with particular attention to the needs of those who are young, old or have special needs.

Facilities for Special Needs Populations: Enable and encourage development patterns and uses of public and private property that are responsive to the facility requirements of special needs populations.

Arts and Cultural Enrichment: Support community image and identity through the arts and accessible art activities.

Diversity: Develop and implement programs that attract and retain city residents from a diverse range of backgrounds and life circumstances so that all people feel welcome and accepted, regardless of their race, religion, color, sex, national origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation, economic status or disability.

In 30 years, there will be more people over 64 than people under 15.

Public Benefit Uses: Create philosophy, policy framework, laws and regulations that expand and develop wellness programs, affordable and accessible health and human services, child and adult day care and other public benefit uses.

Safety: Create and maintain a safe community through the cooperative efforts of citizens and city departments, such as Planning, Design Review, Police, Fire, Human Services, Youth, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, to develop and implement quality planning and design standards, as comprehensively addressed in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).

"A healthy city is one that is continually creating and improving those physical and social environments and strengthening those community resources which enable people to mutually support each other in performing all the functions of life and achieving their maximum potential." Trevor Hancock

Did you know...

- Between 1980 and 1990, Spokane's population grew by only 3.4%, while the number of poverty households increased by 28%.
 - Eighty percent of poverty in the U.S. is related to teen pregnancy.
 - Nine of 10 men in prison between the ages of 19 and 35 were born to teenage mothers.
 - The initial hospital cost for a baby affected by maternal drug use is about \$25,000, compared with \$420 for a non-exposed baby.
- The average person over age 80 devotes nearly 1/3 of their income to health care expenses.
- Out of 670 child day care providers in Spokane County, only 16 will provide care for sick children.
- Russian-speaking people compose Spokane's largest minority group.
- There are 4 community centers, 6 senior centers, and 4 youth centers in the city to serve nearly 200,000 citizens.
- Between 1991 and 1994, 38.5% of all homicides in the City of Spokane were related to domestic violence.

Sixty percent of the residents in extreme poverty census tracts do not own an automobile.

Factors of Social Health

Many factors contribute to social health in the City of Spokane. These include the following:

Good Schools--Strong Families--Safe Streets--Cultural Diversity--

Housing Choices--
Employment Options--
Cultural and Recreational Opportunities--
Accessible Health Care--
Civic Responsibility--
Efficient Public Transportation

The arts contributed \$82.5 million to Spokane's economy in 1997.

Contact: Susanne Croft, (509) 625-6967



Neighborhood Planning

The comprehensive plan guides all aspects of the city's growth and development for the next twenty years. The plan provides the overall scheme of city development—the major land uses, transportation systems, parks, open spaces and centers of shopping and employment. The plan establishes the framework for all other planning activities and documents.

Neighborhood planning is an important community process in the city. The city recognizes neighborhood planning as a valuable tool for refining and turning the vision of the comprehensive plan into a reality.

Neighborhood planning is defined as a geographically specific, broad focused, citizen-based activity that implements and further defines the goals and policies of the comprehensive plan. Neighborhood planning activities have been present in Spokane over the past twenty years. Neighborhood planning is conducted collaboratively between Neighborhood Services, Planning Services and neighborhood councils throughout the city.

The neighborhood planning process will respect the established boundaries of organized neighborhoods. In special cases, the boundary for neighborhood plans may include more or less geography than the official neighborhood area.

For all neighborhoods, the city will initiate a needs assessment through the Community Assembly and the respective neighborhood councils to start the process. The assessment will identify neighborhood issues and needs that are not addressed in the new citywide comprehensive plan. Some of these items may be resolved by additions or revisions to city codes, some may be addressed by changing city operational practices and some may suggest that further refinement or additions to the citywide plan are warranted. Any residual needs or issues that are unique to a specific neighborhood can then be addressed by a neighborhood planning process.

One of the benefits of the needs assessment process is its value in helping the city and Community Assembly identify the first neighborhood planning areas. Likely, these will be in those parts of the city accommodating growth under the new Comprehensive Plan or facing the greatest threats to quality of life. These first projects will be conducted as a pilot program to test the design and responsiveness of the process. A priority list for other neighborhood plans will also be developed through the Community Assembly.

Planning at the neighborhood level is a primary way to insure that city government helps build a healthy future for all citizens. It is also a way to insure that neighborhoods continue to be the foundation of a strong community.



Picnic in the 1800s.

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Vision

Spokane's neighborhoods will be safe, inclusive, diverse and livable with a variety of compatible services. Existing neighborhoods will be preserved and new distinctive neighborhoods, including the downtown area, will be established so that a sense of community is promoted.

Values

The things that are important to Spokane's future include:

- Preserving older neighborhoods that make Spokane unique.
- Developing new neighborhoods that have individual character and identity.
- Encouraging the development of neighborhoods that feel like small towns, that provide a variety of compatible services and that have schools and community centers
- Preserving inner-city neighborhoods.
- Recognizing downtown Spokane as a mixed-use neighborhood with a diversity of housing.
- Ensuring safe, relaxing, attractive, livable, enjoyable, older neighborhoods.



Neighborhoods are identified areas that people call home. They provide familiarity and a sense of place in a large city. When citizens in the Spokane Horizons process were gathered together to discuss the issues involving neighborhoods, they expressed several key themes or ideas repeatedly. These ideas were then shaped into the draft goals that appear in the comprehensive plan.

The draft goals and policies are intended to enable a cohesive network of individual neighborhoods by providing residents with the following: a wide range of housing locations and options, neighborhood character preservation, attractive and safe streetscapes, transportation options, quality schools, inviting gathering places, proximity to public services, cultural, social, recreational and entertainment opportunities and other features that enhance our neighborhoods and quality of life.

The neighborhoods draft goals and policies 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. The draft goal statements for the neighborhoods chapter of the comprehensive plan are as follows:

The Downtown Neighborhood: Promote downtown Spokane as the primary economic and cultural center of the region and improve its viability as a desirable neighborhood in which to live and conduct business.

Neighborhood Development: Reinforce the stability and diversity of the city's neighborhoods in order to attract long-term residents and businesses and to insure the city's residential quality and economic vitality.

Neighborhood Facilities: Maximize the usefulness of existing neighborhood facilities and services while minimizing the impacts of major facilities located within neighborhoods.

Traffic and Circulation: Provide Spokane residents with clean air, safe streets and quiet, peaceful living environments by reducing the volume of automobile traffic passing through neighborhoods and promoting alternative modes of circulation.

Open Space: Increase the number of open gathering spaces, greenbelts, trails and pedestrian bridges within and/or between neighborhoods.

The Environment: Protect and enhance the natural and built environment within neighborhoods.

Social Conditions: Promote efforts that provide neighborhoods with social amenities and interaction and a sense of community.

Neighborhood Planning Process: Ensure a sense of identity and belonging for neighborhoods throughout the city by developing a neighborhood planning process that is all-inclusive, maintains the integrity of neighborhoods and empowers neighborhoods in their decision-making.

"We are beginning to see that it is only through the healthy functioning of neighborhoods that cities function at all."

Ada Louise Huxtable

Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces



The infamous garbage-eating goat of Riverfront Park.

Did you know...

Spokane's carousel, presently located in Riverfront Park, was designed by Charles Loeff, Loeff, who not only carved many of the 54 horses and is responsible for the engineering, is credited as the creator of the first carousel in the U.S. at Coney Island in 1876. Spokane's carousel of 1910 is deemed as most likely his last. The carousel was originally located in Natatorium Park.

Vision

Spokane will acquire, operate, enhance, and protect a diverse system of parks, boulevards, parkways, urban forest, golf courses, and recreational, cultural, historical and open space areas for the enjoyment and enrichment of all.

Values

The things that are important to Spokane's future include:

- ⌘ Providing and maintaining parks to serve all neighborhoods.
- ⌘ Maintaining open spaces, golf courses and trails.
- ⌘ Being close to the outdoors, recreation and nature.
- ⌘ Providing recreation facilities and programs.
- ⌘ Maintaining linkages between recreation facilities and open spaces.



The parks, recreation and open space system of the city has been enjoyed by residents for over 100 years. The current system contains more than 75 parks and features pathways with an abundance of natural beauty and diversity. Furthermore, Spokane has allocated more than 3,488 acres as protected green space.

In 1891, A.M. Cannon and J.J. Brown donated a piece of land west of Spokane Falls for the first public park, which became known as Coeur d'Alene Park. Public parks came under the supervision of the mayor and City Council that same year. The Board of Park Commissioners was established in 1907 to oversee public park affairs while the Olmsted Brothers' landscape architectural firm provided the city with a park master plan. Today, the effects of the Olmsted plan are evident throughout the designated park and open space areas in Spokane. The support of early city leaders and private citizens ensured the implementation of the original master plan. Many of their identities are preserved through the names of the parks and the land they donated.

The opportunity for relaxation, recreation and the enjoyment of natural features and landscaping provided by parks and open spaces has long been recognized as important. In the past, the citizens of Spokane have encouraged and supported the development of a superior park system. Today, changing recreational pursuits and changes to the demographic characteristics of Spokane's population make the provision of parks and open spaces even more challenging and important.

For the future, different work schedules, income levels and lifestyle will have a profound impact on the way that parks and open space areas are provided. The draft goals identify ways to both improve and preserve the parks, recreation and open space system for Spokane.

Preservation and Conservation: Assure the preservation and conservation of unique, fragile, scenic and non-renewable resources.

Park System: Provide a park system that is an integral and vital part of the open space system and that takes advantage of the opportunities for recreation that a comprehensive open space system provides.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation: Provide a convenient and pleasant open space-related network for pedestrian and bicyclist circulation throughout the City of Spokane.

Park Preventative Maintenance Program:

Recognize and upgrade Spokane's existing park resources by continuing the park preventative maintenance program.

Recreation Program: Assure an indoor and outdoor recreation program, which provides well-rounded recreational opportunities for all residents.

Agency Coordination: Encourage and pursue a climate of cooperation between government agencies, non-profit organizations and private business in providing open space, parks facilities and recreational services that are beneficial for the public.

Parks Service Quality: Provide a parks and recreation system that is efficient and financially responsible.

Night baseball under electric lights first began in 1891.



In 1884, the first YMCA for Spokane was established.



Contact: Leroy Eadie, (509) 625-6187

Leadership, Governance, and Citizenship



James N. Glover

James N. Glover (above) is recognized as the "Father of Spokane." The 1893 City Hall (right) was succeeded in 1913 by a temporary seat of governance that the city occupied in a surprising feat of survival until 1981. In that year, city government abandoned what is now the Old City Hall in favor of the remodeled 1929 Wards Department Store building, its present home.



Leadership, governance and citizenship is a broad topic that explores the type of leadership, public participation, communication, accessibility, civic duty and social responsibility needed for a healthy community. Civic leaders across the country are weighing in with strategies to save cities threatened by inner city decline and many urban centers have been successful in turning things around. A common theme has emerged from those success stories—the elected officials and other key community members have demonstrated leadership. These committed people have achieved consensus on a community-wide vision for the future and have secured commitments from all parties toward an action strategy. Leaders have been tireless, focused and disciplined. Casting a large net of inclusion within the community and listening to what people said, they brokered the contract among the municipality, other institutions, and their constituents. In all of these cases, the high level of success is traced directly to leadership.

The citizenship exercised by individuals also bears greatly on the community's health. Citizenship is demonstrated through voting, obeying laws, caring for others, inviting social diversity and a host of other ways to further community well-being. A prime opportunity for residents to practice citizenship is comprehensive planning, an activity that finds people's shared interests to build consensus on the community's future. Comprehensive planning presents one of the greatest challenges of citizenship, as people are asked to identify a future that is better for society as a whole rather than necessarily better for them as an individual. The healthiest communities experience citizenship of this kind.

The achievement of this ideal results from a joint effort from elected leaders and active citizens. Spokane has already witnessed the tremendous impacts citizens can play in the realm of local

government. The Spokane Horizons process serves as a great testament to the power of a united force working toward a common goal.

The following draft goals serve as the basis for how leadership, governance and citizenship will be encouraged and perpetuated in Spokane.

Decision Process: Make substantive planning decisions through an open public process, where the outcome of that process is directly expressed in the decision of elected officials.

Citizen-Directed Decisions: Expect citizens to become engaged in public process opportunities and direct the planning decision-making outcome.

Planning Through Neighborhood Councils: Utilize the neighborhood councils and the Community Assembly as the primary way for the public to participate in planning activities and bring proposals through the City Plan Commission to the City Council.

City and Government Communication: Maintain open two-way communication between the city and its citizens through a variety of avenues.

Infrastructure for Focused Growth: Concentrate new infrastructure investment within the heart of the intense urban area rather than the fringe of the urban area or within the outlying suburbs.

Efficient Use of Structures and Facilities: Expand the use of existing facilities to the maximum extent possible before building new facilities, and utilize available historic structures for service provision before constructing new buildings.

Governmental Coordination: Encourage all jurisdictions to coordinate the planning, regulatory implementation and capital expenditure process among governmental agencies (city, county, interstate).

Contact: Chris Hugo, (509) 625-6069

"Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people."

Harry Emerson Fosdick

Vision

Spokane will be an informed community that is visionary, respectful, tolerant and inclusive. Spokane's leadership will be open, empowering and responsible to planning for future generations within the city and greater community.

Values

The things that are important to Spokane's future include:

- III Respecting the needs of the city and surrounding community.
- III Considering what will be left for future generations.
- III Encouraging the strong, visionary, decisive and dedicated leadership of elected officials.
- III Encouraging leadership that listens and responds to people.
- III Ensuring a government that is responsive to the financial limitations of the community and controls spending appropriately.
- III Guaranteeing that users of city services and amenities pay their fair share.

DON'T FORGET!

Send a Letter!
Please accept this opportunity to assist the City of Spokane's decision-makers in their quest to select a preferred alternative for growth by submitting your comments to:

The City of Spokane
City Plan Commission
808 West Spokane Falls Boulevard, Room 200
Spokane, Washington 99201-3329
(509) 625-6060
or compplan@spokanecity.org

Survey Says!

Now that you are familiar with the growth alternatives and plan topics, we invite you to fill out the survey located in the center of this summary. Need more than one survey? Feel free to make as many copies of the survey form as you need and share them with your friends and family.

Looking for More Information?

The Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS, Volume 1

Volume 1 presents choices about the city's growth and development. It contains all of the proposals for the city's future that were produced by the Spokane Horizons process. In addition to the visions and values, draft goals and summary of the growth alternatives in Spokane Quest, Volume 1 includes hundreds of proposed policies with supporting maps and illustrations. Volume 1 is the primary document for decisions about Spokane's future.

The Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS, Volume 2

Volume 2 is primarily a reference document that presents information upon which the proposals in Volume 1 are based. It includes inventories, technical studies and other materials that provide background on the proposals in Volume 1.

Annotated List of Supporting Record, Analysis and Materials

Within the Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS, a thorough list of supplemental documents and supporting materials is included. These are documents that support the contents of the plan; they are available in the Planning Services Department for viewing.

Channel 5

Presentations of the Draft Comprehensive Plan will appear regularly on Channel 5 on Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 9:00 am throughout June.

Internet

Serving as one of the most cost effective and convenient ways of reviewing the document, the Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS and other project materials appear on the city's website at www.spokanecity.org.

CD-ROM

A copy of the Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS on CD-ROM may be purchased through the Planning Service's Department for \$5.

Meeting Schedule

5/24/00 * 7:00-8:30 pm
Lincoln Heights Elementary
3322 East 22nd Avenue

5/25/00 * 7:30-8:30 pm
Avista Auditorium
1411 East Mission Avenue

5/31/00 * 7:00-8:30 pm
Unitarian Church
4340 West Fort Wright Drive

6/7/00 * 6:30-8:30 pm
Sacajawea Middle School
401 East 33rd Avenue

6/8/00 * 4:00-5:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
318 South Cedar Street

* Childcare available.

6/14/00* 7:00-8:30 pm
Roosevelt Elementary School
333 West 14th Avenue

6/15/00 5:30-7:30 pm
Corbin Art Center
507 West 7th Avenue

6/19/00 10:30-12:00 pm
Spokane Association of Realtors
1924 North Ash Street

6/20/00 1:30-3:00 pm
Downtown Library
906 West Main Avenue

6/20/00 5:15-6:45 pm
Downtown Library
906 West Main Avenue

6/29/00 7:00-9:00 pm
Auntie's Bookstore
402 West Main Avenue

7/10/00 7:00-8:30 pm
Northeast Community Center
4001 North Cook Street

8/23/00 6:00-8:00 pm
City Hall Chambers
808 West Spokane Falls Boulevard

9/6/00 6:00-8:00 pm
Arena Champion's Room
720 West Mallon Avenue

Tuesday Meetings

During the comment period, the planning staff will hold a public meeting on the Draft Comprehensive Plan the last Tuesday of every month at the Downtown Library from 6:00-8:00 pm

Comp Plan Lab

A "Comp Plan Lab" is open throughout the comment period so that you can review the three growth alternatives at your convenience.

Where: City Hall Conference Room 6C

When: Mondays-Fridays, 8:00 am-5:00 pm. Evening hours: Mondays, 5:00-8:00 pm. An all-staff open house is held the first Monday of every month from 5:00-8:00 pm.

