



The chapter you see here is the result of months of work by countless individuals throughout the community. It represents a combination of inputs generously provided by the public, Plan Commission, City Council, and many others. This updated chapter will eventually be considered by the Plan Commission and City Council for inclusion in [PlanSpokane 2046](#).

Our teams have worked hard to create these updated chapters. Each has been discussed at the Plan Commission, by various Plan Commission subcommittees, with City Council in general, and shared with the public at various points along the way. These chapters represent the efforts of many, helping to describe the policy and guidance the Comprehensive Plan can provide in each topic area.

Please note this version supersedes any previously published versions, including the release of many chapters last October. All prior versions should be considered out-of-date from this point on.

As with prior versions, this chapter includes the basic text, but might not match the visual look and format of the final document (we're still working on that). To help readers identify where updated language has been provided, a series of icons are shown at right along the way. These aren't part of the final document--they're provided to help readers understand where certain changes may have come from, where past policies have been combined, etc. A guide to those icons is provided below. Each chapter will use the same set of icons for consistency.

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



Policy language was added to ensure consistency with changes in law at the State/Federal level.

Language was streamlined or condensed for readability or clarity.



Text was added as a result of the City's study of Racially Disparate Impacts and Displacement.

A new Goal or Policy was added, not sourced from the currently adopted plan.



A policy or text was added as recommended by the Climate Resilience and Sustainability Board (CRSB).

Multiple Policies from the currently adopted plan were combined into one, usually done to eliminate redundant language.



A goal or policy was removed or moved to another chapter. These are listed at the end of each chapter and include a reason.



What's Next for PlanSpokane?

Because this is the first complete view of some chapters (e.g. Growth Strategy, Transportation, Capital Facilities), we anticipate one more release of updated chapters and maps later this summer. After that, Plan Commission will likely hold a hearing to consider the overall document. We'd love to hear from you along the way.

If you have any comments on the chapters, please engage with us at <http://planspokane.org> or by email at planspokane@spokanecity.org. All comments are considered and each will be provided to the Plan Commission and City Council for their consideration prior to any hearings on the proposed document.

Community Health

Introduction

Today, the understanding of what it means to be healthy has broadened significantly to include mental and social aspects. In the past, the concept of “health” has often been linked to only physical well-being. However, a truly healthy city depends equally on the physical, mental, and social well-being of its community members. Community health is affected by many factors outside the traditional development environment, but with the right mix of policies, programs, and planning strategies, a city can help foster an environment where everyone can thrive and live happy, healthy, and connected lives.

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

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

Goals and Policies

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

Goal: CH-1, Funding Mechanisms to Support Community Health

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

Policy: CH-1.1, Investment in Community Health

Authorize and adequately fund community health programs and explore additional opportunities to highlight and enhance the community health of Spokane’s residents, visitors, and workforce.



A new name has been proposed for this chapter: Community Health. This name reflects the many aspects of community well-being. As a result, goals and policies in this draft use “CH”. However, references to existing policies use the “SH” indicator.



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

Policy: CH-1.2, Commitment to Youth

Allocate resources at a consistent and meaningful level for programs and events focused on Spokane’s youth (18 and under) and their specific needs for social and emotional health, and cultural belonging.

Policy: CH-1.3, Regional Community Health Programs

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

Policy: CH-1.4, Community Awareness

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

Policy: CH-1.5, Public Private Partnerships

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

Policy: CH-1.6, Inclusive Community Involvement

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

Policy: CH-1.7, Equitable Investments for Community Resilience

Foster stronger community connectedness and economic vitality that helps improve economic prosperity and community resilience to climate impacts, such as through equitable investments in libraries, parks, recreation programs, multimodal connections, and urban green space and ventilation corridors, prioritizing overburdened and vulnerable communities.

Goal: CH-2, Facilities and Accommodation

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



Policy language refined and support by CRSB recommendation.



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



This policy has connections to concepts of cultural anti-displacement, hence “belonging” has been added. Policy name has been updated to emphasize inclusive involvement.



CRSB recommended policy.

Policy: CH-2.1, Care Facilities

Accommodate development of care and support facilities for all ages and diverse community needs in all neighborhoods and parts of the city through inclusive development standards, codes, and zones.

Policy: CH-2.2, Temporary Housing for All Populations

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

Policy: CH-2.3, Design of Care and Support Facilities

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

Policy: CH-2.4, Community Care Facilities in All Parts of the City

Allow residential dwellings to be used as approved childcare facilities and adult day centers where housing is permitted to expand access to social service facilities.

Policy: CH-2.5, Childcare and Public Facilities

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

Policy: CH-2.6, Joint Use of Facilities

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

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

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

Goal: CH-3, Public Art

Support the community's health and unique identity by providing programs and supporting opportunities for arts throughout the community.



Policy CH-2.2 has been updated slightly to add topics that could reduce displacement risks.



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



Policy CH-2.7 was substantially reworded to avoid problematic terms, and outdated language.



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

Policy: CH-3.1, Support for the Arts

Encourage the inclusion and provision of public art throughout the City, including on private and public property and in the public right-of-way, in recognition of their contribution to the overall health and wellbeing of the entire community.

Policy: CH-3.2, Neighborhood Arts Presence

Establish a framework for collaboration and coordination with community and neighborhood organizations, including Neighborhood Councils, that allows for the provision of arts throughout the City as well as incentives which encourage new development and redevelopment to incorporate art.

Policy: CH-3.3, Public Funding for the Arts

Explore and adopt funding mechanisms that can support local art, such as direct grants, while leveraging existing tools including but not limited to the dedicated percentage for the arts in public projects and tax revenue programs like Tax Increment Financing.

Policy: CH-3.4, Support for Local Artists

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

Policy: CH-3.5, Artist and Maker Spaces

Encourage and enable the development of spaces throughout the city where artists, inventors, and product designers can work, providing essential facilities and locations for the making of art and for other creative outlets, with attention to young people and artists and makers from underrepresented communities.

Goal: CH-4, Celebrating Spokane's Many Cultures

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

Policy: CH-4.1, Cultural Master Plan

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



The original policies SH 3.2 and 3.3 have been combined into one. Language has been updated to identify collaboration and coordination.



This policy is somewhat broader than before, incorporating more than one funding possibility while also identifying specific existing tools.



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



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

Policy: CH-4.2, Multi-Cultural Spokane

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

Policy: CH-4.3, Inclusive Events

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

Policy: CH-4.4, Life-Long Exploration and Learning

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

Policy: CH-4.5, Community Festivals and Events

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

Policy: CH-4.6, Tribal Connectedness

Support Tribes and Native organizations in strengthening community connectedness and social and economic vitality to help communities improve their economic prosperity and resilience to climate impacts, such as by prioritizing funding for Native-led centers that host multi-generational knowledge sharing, recreation, and health and wellness services.

Goal: CH-5, Equity and Belonging

Establish diversity and equity as a cornerstone of the social fabric of the city by fostering a range of community services, activities, and opportunities that foster a greater sense of inclusion and acceptance of all people, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, relationship or familial status, age, income, residency, or background.

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

Ensure that all city programs, projects, functions, facilities, and operations are open and accessible to all community members, regardless of their background, residency, age, orientation, affiliation, physical ability, language, or identity.



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



This new policy came from ongoing engagement.



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



Policy CH-4.5 was previously policy SH 3.8 but was moved here because of the two new goals (culture and art).



CRSB recommended policy.



The policies in this section were previously part of "SH-4." The Goal title has been updated since previous releases to better identify the intent of the Goal and supporting Policies.

Policy: CH-5.2, Universal Accessibility

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

Policy: CH-5.3, Diversity Awareness and Education

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

Policy: CH-5.4, Supporting Awareness of City Staff

Develop and implement recurring training opportunities for City staff to increase their skills and understanding of equitable practices to support interactions with Spokane's many different cultures, identities, and social groups.

Goal: CH-6, Public Benefit and Services

Develop and implement policy frameworks, programs, and regulations that expand and develop wellness programs, affordable and accessible health and human services, affordable and accessible housing, child and adult day care, and other public benefit uses for all community members throughout the city.

Policy: CH-6.1, Coordination of Human Services

Coordinate with internal city departments, local jurisdictions, and public and private organizations such as social service agencies, schools, libraries, community centers, and neighborhood groups to evaluate existing needs, facilities, and programs relative to health and human services, share data, and develop regionally equitable and comprehensive program and service delivery systems.

Policy: CH-6.2, Neighborhood-Level Health and Human Services

Provide financial and regulatory incentives for service providers and property owners to increase the number of health, dental, and human services facilities within close proximity to all neighborhoods, ensuring sufficient staffing to enable all community members to obtain services.

Policy: CH-6.3, Supporting Unhoused and Unstably Housed Neighbors

Develop and fund programs that support unhoused and unstably housed community members in accessing services and care, while encouraging regional coordination to address housing needs and homelessness.

Policy: CH-6.4, Quality of Life Indicators

Coordinate with regional partners to compile social, natural environment, and economic indicators of a healthy Spokane community, regularly



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



This new policy reflects the value of greater understanding and collaboration, developed based on community engagement.



Policy title and language updated to reflect role of the City and focus on the outcomes of the training.



Goal updated to move beyond ADA accessibility to support potential expansive efforts.



Data sharing and internal coordination added based on feedback from the Housing & Homeless Services Department (HHS).



Integrated concepts from discussion and removed references to outdated neighborhood and district center terminology.



This is a new policy, integrating discussion from existing SH-5.1 and community feedback.



Relocated from Natural Environment Chapter, this policy combines concepts from existing Goal NE-16 and associated policies.

assessing Spokane's progress toward set benchmarks of importance for community members.

Goal: CH-7, Public Safety

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

Policy: CH-7.1, Safe Design Principles

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

Policy: CH-7.2, Design That Communicates Public Access

Design and implement public programs, facilities, and projects such that the design of physical improvements is attractive while also conveying which portions of a site are for public use and which are not, avoiding dangerous or unattractive features like hostile architecture and fencing or walls which restrict visibility.

Policy: CH-7.3, Activation of Public Spaces

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

Goal: CH-8, Criminal Justice

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

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

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

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

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



The policies here are updated to reflect a broader array of possible solutions. A cross-reference to Urban Design is likely to be added here.



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



Policy CH-7.3 was updated according to current terms and concepts.

Policy: CH-8.3, Therapeutic Courts and Non-Jail Alternatives

Expand the use of therapeutic courts and non-jail alternatives, including culturally relevant and restorative justice programs, to increase the provision of treatment and rehabilitation to reduce recidivism and focus on healing and community safety.

Goal: CH-9, Food Access and Security

Ensure that all residents have affordable and convenient access to nutritious and safe foods as well as educational programs and resources for healthy eating while supporting waste reduction.

Policy: CH-9.1, Urban Agriculture and Local Food Production

Recognize urban agriculture and local food production as a strategic asset for community and economic development, local resiliency, and public health.

Policy: CH-9.2, Local Food Access

Promote the development of farmers’ or public markets, food production services, and other small-scale collaborative initiatives to provide all residents with a diverse choice of locally sourced food products, prioritizing access in overburdened communities.

Policy: CH-9.3, Community Gardens

Partner with local organizations to establish and maintain community gardens on city property, as appropriate, to increase access to local food for all residents, including within overburdened communities and cultural communities.

Policy: CH-9.4, Eliminating Food Deserts

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

Policy: CH-9.5, Outreach Partnerships

Partner with food banks, farmers’ markets, and other organizations to provide resources, services, and information to improve food access.

Policy: CH-9.6, Wellness Education

Support culturally relevant programs and partnerships that offer educational resources for healthy cooking, community gardening, mental and physical health, and other skills related to community health and resiliency.



Title of Policy CH-8.3 updated to reflect the focus on alternatives, while the policy language was updated to focus on the reasoning behind jail diversion alternatives.



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



CRSB recommended policy.



CRSB recommended policy.

Policy: CH-9.7, Prevention of Food Waste

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

Policy: CH-9.8, Encourage Composting

Encourage and expand home and commercial composting to increase waste reduction and diversion, reduce the generation and disposal of organic waste, and increase soil health.

Policy: CH-9.9, Waste Reduction Education

Collaborate with regional and community partners to provide equitable outreach and engagement and clear and consistent messaging around waste reduction (including reuse and repair), recycling, and composting among homes and businesses.

Policy: CH-9.10, Agricultural Tools and Practices

Encourage the use of alternative and emerging agricultural tools and practices that support regional resiliency to climate change, such as hydroponics and regenerative farming.

Goal: CH-10, Emergency Management

Identify, update, and maintain emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts to mitigate risks and impacts associated with extreme weather and other hazards throughout the community.

Policy: CH-10.1, Resilience Hubs

Develop resilience hubs — community-serving facilities that are designed to support residents, coordinate communication, distribute resources, and reduce carbon pollution while enhancing quality of life — throughout the city, prioritizing investments in areas with vulnerable and overburdened communities.

Policy: CH-10.2, Wildfire Resilience Strategy

Develop a comprehensive, communitywide wildfire resilience strategy that improves emergency response capabilities, promotes a fire-adapted community, and fosters short- and long-term wildfire recovery, while building community awareness of the strategy.

Policy: CH-10.3, Emergency Evacuation Strategies

Work with community-based organizations to identify, update, and maintain emergency evacuation routes, locations, and strategies, focusing on neighborhood and block-level plans tailored to the meet the needs of the most vulnerable residents.



CH-9.7 is new, coming from direction in the Spokane Regional Food Action Plan (2022) and public engagement.



CRSB recommended policy.



CRSB recommended policy.



CRSB recommended policy.



Goal CH-10 and associated policies based on CRSB recommended policies.



Policy: CH-10.4, Evacuation Plans and Practice

Engage with community members and organizations to provide resources that help residents plan and practice actions that make evacuation quicker and safer.

Policy: CH-10.5, Emergency Route Redundancy

Ensure redundancy in emergency routes accessible by multiple transportation modes including vehicular, non-motorized routes, and transit services to reduce transportation barriers to effective evacuation under different climate hazard scenarios.

Policy: CH-10.6, Tribal Emergency Coordination

Collaborate with Tribes and Native organizations to facilitate and identify places where Tribal members and Indigenous people can interact before, during, and after emergencies that serve as clean air and cooling centers, charging stations, and evacuation centers.

Policy: CH-10.7, Culturally Relevant Emergency Strategies

Work with Tribes and Native organizations to identify evacuation routes and tailored emergency management strategies addressing wildfire, flooding, and other extreme events.

Policy: CH-10.8, Emergency Notifications

Ensure timely emergency notifications for wildfire, smoke, flooding, and other extreme events that provide both digital and non-digital outreach materials in multiple languages.

POLICIES REMOVED FROM THE TEXT:

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

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

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

Policy: SH-1.7, Surplus City Real Property

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



Existing policies reflect the prior Chapter name of Social Health and naming conventions of SH.



SH-1.6 was relocated to the Housing Chapter with phrasing updates.



Concepts in SH-1.7 are already found in the Housing Chapter.

Policy: SH-3.4, One Percent for Arts

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

Policy: SH-5.3, Space for Public Benefit Uses

Provide regulatory and tax incentives and flexibility that encourage builders, developers, and businesses to make space available in their project for public benefit uses.

Policy: SH-6.6, Neighborhood Role

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

Policy: SH-7.4, Oversight of Design for Safety

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

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

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



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



The sharing of facilities is captured in other policies.



The topic of SH-6.6 is covered in Urban Design and Historic Preservation (e.g. people-oriented design) and Neighborhoods (e.g. safe mobility).



SH-7.4 proposed to be removed as it’s an implementation activity of the Comprehensive Plan policies.



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