



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 All prior versions should be considered out-of-date from this point on.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.

Neighborhoods

Introduction

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

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

Discussion of Spokane’s neighborhoods cannot be complete without highlighting the Neighborhood Councils. Often it can be difficult to discern whether policy or other guidance in this document refers to Neighborhood Councils - the member bodies that inform and represent the neighborhoods as described in Article VIII of the City Charter - or the physical neighborhood itself. In general, these goals and policies apply to and benefit both. For clarity, any time the text is referring directly to the Neighborhood Councils, the full term will be used. The word ‘neighborhood’ generally refers to the physical neighborhood, which may or may not conform to Neighborhood Council boundaries. Additional policies related to Neighborhood Councils can be found in the Local Governance Through Civic Participation Chapter.

Goals and Policies

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

Goal: N-1, The Downtown Neighborhood

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

Policy: N-1.1, Downtown Development

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



References to the EIS were out of date and have been removed, as the City is developing a new EIS for this update.



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

Goal: N-2, Neighborhood Development

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

Policy: N-2.1, Neighborhood Quality of Life

Ensure that Spokane's neighborhoods continue to offer residents housing and transportation options, safe streets, and trusted public services, as well as cultural, social, economic, educational, and recreational opportunities that sustain and enhance the vitality, diversity, and quality of life within neighborhoods.

Policy: N-2.2, Neighborhood Services

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

Policy: N-2.3, Accessible Services

Ensure that neighborhood-based services are available and accessible to residents of all ages and abilities, such as being in proximity to public transit routes, bicycle infrastructure, or robust amenities for people walking, biking, and rolling.

Policy: N-2.4, Neighborhood Improvement

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

Policy: N-2.5, Neighborhood Arts

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

Policy: N-2.6, Housing Diversity

Expand the diversity of housing options for neighborhood residents of all income levels by supporting the preservation of viable existing housing and allowing for the development of moderate density housing options in all neighborhoods.

Policy: N-2.7, Building Community and Sense of Place

Promote efforts that provide neighborhoods with social amenities, opportunities for social interaction, and a sense of place and belonging that helps build community connection.



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



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



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



This is a new policy sourced from the Building Opportunity for Housing work with connections to anti-displacement.



The language in Policy N-2.7 was formerly a goal—it has been combined into a policy under Goal N-2.

Goal: N-3, Neighborhood Facilities

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

Policy: N-3.1, Multipurpose Use of Neighborhood Facilities

Work with neighborhoods to develop a strategy for the multipurpose and/or shared use of existing facilities and the extension of services within neighborhoods for neighborhood activities.

Policy: N-3.2, Major Facilities

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

Policy: N-3.3, Gathering Places

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

Goal: N-4, Traffic and Circulation

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

Policy: N-4.1, New Neighborhood Streets

Refrain, when possible, from constructing new arterials or other high-traffic roadways that bisect neighborhoods or from widening streets within neighborhoods for the purpose of accommodating additional automobiles.

Policy: N-4.2, Neighborhood Street Safety

Redesign and enhance neighborhood streets to include mature street trees, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and features such as traffic circles, stop signs, crosswalks, speed humps, bump outs, and narrower streets to discourage speeding and improve neighborhood safety.

Policy: N-4.3, Neighborhood Business Traffic

Ensure that the scale of a neighborhood business is appropriate for the scale of the neighborhood it serves so that impacts of non-local vehicle traffic through the neighborhood are minimized.



Neighborhood Facilities was added to the glossary of defined terms.



The original policy was redundant with policies in Growth Strategy and has been reworded to focus more on neighborhood impacts.



This policy was moved here from Goal N-7, which has been made a policy under Goal N-2.



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



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

Policy: N-4.4, Multimodal Transportation

Design neighborhoods for people walking, biking, rolling, or taking transit by promoting accessible and comfortable streetscapes and expanded transportation options that increase convenience, safety, and social interaction while reducing automobile dependency and neighborhood traffic.

Policy: N-4.5, Connections for People Who Walk, Bike, or Roll

Establish a continuous network of facilities and paths between and among all neighborhoods for the use of people who walk, bike, roll, or use other forms of human-scale mobility.

Policy: N-4.6, Sidewalks

Identify and implement strategies to maintain, repair, or build new sidewalks in existing neighborhoods with connectivity gaps, and require sidewalks in new areas of development.

Policy: N-4.7, Safe Mobility

Establish design principles to enhance safety in neighborhoods for people walking or biking through adequate lighting, crosswalks, landscape design, sidewalks, pathways, building access visible from the street, and open views.

Policy: N-4.8, School Walking and Bus Routes

Coordinate with local schools, colleges, and community organizations to identify bus, biking, rolling, and walking routes to and from neighborhood schools that require safety and infrastructure improvements.

Goal: N-5, Open Space

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

Policy: N-5.1, Future Parks Planning

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

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

Connect neighborhoods with an open space greenbelt system of off-street paths and natural areas, to increase opportunities for alternative forms of transportation between and among neighborhoods.



Existing policies N-4.5 and N-4.7 were combined, as their topics of multimodal transportation options and pedestrian design were similar.



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



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



Connectivity between neighborhoods was a big topic during public engagement efforts. Thus, these concepts have been strengthened here.

Goal: N-6, The Natural Environment

Protect and enhance the natural environment within neighborhoods.

Policy: N-6.1, Environmental Planning

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

Policy: N-6.2, Open Space and Nature Corridors

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

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

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

Goal: N-7, Neighborhood Planning

Coordinate and partner with neighborhoods and Neighborhood Councils when developing, adopting, or amending public projects and programs in consideration of each neighborhood’s sense of identity, unique needs, and opportunities.

Policy: N-7.1, Inclusive Neighborhood Planning

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

Policy: N-7.2, Neighborhood Planning

Develop processes and avenues through which residents and neighborhood groups, such as Neighborhood Councils, can participate in and inform community planning, policy, and code development and amendments, commensurate with the requirements of state law and the ideals of inclusive, effective planning.

Policy: N-7.3, Plan Consistency and Implementation

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



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



This goal and its policies have been reworded to better reflect the multiple opportunities and avenues for neighborhood involvement in planning, expanding opportunities for engaging the community.

Additional policies related to Neighborhood Councils can be found in the Governance Through Civic Participation Chapter (Goal LG-3). A cross-reference will be provided in the final document.

Policy: N-7.4, Connections and Impacts Between and Among Neighborhoods

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

POLICIES REMOVED FROM THE TEXT:

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

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

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

Policy: N-7.2, City Hall Outreach

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

Policy: N-6.2, Code Enforcement

Enforce the city codes for public nuisances impacting neighborhood properties.

Policy: N-8.7, Agreement for Joint Planning

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

Policy: N-8.8, Neighborhood Planning Outside the City

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

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

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



The Urban Hub strategy and associated Land Use Designations & Policies call for parks in these features.



This policy is already addressed in the Governance Through Civic Participation chapter.



Policy 6.2 is an implementation action, not a policy.



These three policies (N 8.7 through N 8.9) relate to the joint planning of neighborhoods outside the City. The City does not have the authority to do neighborhood planning for areas in the County UGA.

Ways in which the City can engage in joint planning with the County and other neighboring jurisdictions in the region are covered in the Growth Strategy Chapter (Goal GS-9).