



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 All prior versions should be considered out-of-date from this point on.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

Local Governance Through Civic Participation

Introduction

Leadership, governance, and civic participation are broad concepts that refer to the two pillars that uphold a healthy community: leaders and decision makers who govern responsibly and community members who actively participate and contribute to the decision-making process and otherwise help shape the direction of Spokane. Such contributions can occur both within and outside the governing process. A prime opportunity for residents to practice civic participation within City decision-making is comprehensive planning, an activity that finds people’s shared interests to build consensus on the community’s future and results from a joint effort from elected leaders and active members of the community.

To ensure successful governance, the City must encourage the civic participation of all residents, build community partnerships, effectively and accessibly engage with residents and community groups, and respond to feedback received.

Goals and Policies

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

Goal: LG-1, Decision Making Process

Make substantive planning decisions through an open public process in which the outcome of that process is expressed in the decision of elected officials.

Policy: LG 1.1, City Council Direction

Begin each planning activity with formal Spokane City Council direction and a commitment to the process’s outcome to ensure community awareness and clarity on the proposed activity.

Policy: LG 1.2, Resource Allocation

Commit sufficient resources to planning and other City activities to ensure that those activities engage the public and follow current best practices for equitable engagement, especially where past engagement may have been less robust.

Policy: LG 1.3, Public Participation

Employ a variety of techniques and venues to encourage the involvement of community members in the decision-making process, including proactively



The title has been reworded to highlight participation in government, not one’s citizenship status, and to acknowledge regional community members. As a result, goals and policies in the draft use ‘LG’. However, policies in the existing Plan use the ‘LGC’ indicator.



The introduction was updated to recognize the fact that the Comprehensive Plan serves all people who live, work, or visit Spokane.



This policy was reworded for clarity. Overburdened communities were added as well to support updated understanding of environmental justice and resiliency.

reaching out to vulnerable populations, overburdened communities, and underserved communities.

Policy: LG 1.4, Documentation Trail

Incorporate a documentation trail into the public record of each planning activity, illustrating how public input shaped the final decision.

Policy: LG 1.5, Respect for Public Input

Demonstrate respect for public opinion, value the involvement of all community members in governmental decision processes, and treat all community members as equals through the actions of officials and city staff.

Policy: LG 1.6, Equity as Core Principle

Establish equity and belonging as core principles in all decisions, policies, and functions of the City of Spokane by including a targeted universalism approach and focused racial equity to address Spokane’s most persistent inequities while supporting a sustained shift towards fairer practices throughout our city to benefit all members of our community.

Policy: LG 1.7 Incorporating Data Analysis

Develop and incorporate equity-focused evaluation of programs and policies, collecting equity data such as demographic information, disparity indicators, community-identified needs, and historical context, and applying this data at every stage of decision-making to ensure that City actions advance fair and just outcomes for all residents, particularly those from historically underserved or marginalized communities.

Goal: LG-2, Community Involvement

Encourage community members to become engaged in the public process in order to ensure City actions reflect the needs and desires of those most impacted.

Policy: LG 2.1, Leadership Training

Pursue and support a variety of public and private leadership training programs for the general public, elected officials, and City staff to promote an informed and committed community.

Policy: LG 2.2, Civics Education

Encourage the development of responsible civic participation and a knowledge of civics through activities such as courses, lectures, webinars, and a strong public participation program to foster a more engaged community.



Similar language was originally under Goal 4, but it fits better here. It has been updated as well to include respect for *all* community members



This policy is new, identifying equity and access as core principles for City actions, to the benefit of all community members.



This policy is new, ensuring data that support equitable decisions is included throughout all policy and program actions.

Policy: LG 2.3, Broad Community Representation

Strengthen the connection between city residents and city government by maintaining geographic, demographic, age, opinion and personal philosophy, and cultural diversity on boards and commissions, ensuring the representation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities.

Policy: LG 2.4, Boards and Commissions

Recognize the credibility and value of City of Spokane boards and commissions, which are made up of volunteer community members, by emphasizing the value of recommendations they forward to decision-making bodies and providing clear procedures for formalizing and recording these recommendations for public reference.

Goal: LG-3, Planning Through Neighborhood Councils

Utilize the Neighborhood Councils and the Community Assembly as a way for the public to participate in planning activities and bring proposals through the Spokane Plan Commission to the City Council.

Policy: LG 3.1, Forum for Community Members

Use Neighborhood Councils as one of many forums for community members to bring issues and/or problems to the City of Spokane for debate and to express their preferences for resolution.

Policy: LG 3.2, Roles, Relationships, and Responsibilities

Maintain the role, relationship, and responsibility of the Neighborhood Councils as expressed in the City of Spokane Charter, such as assisting in prioritizing neighborhood needs and future policies.

Policy: LG 3.3, Collaboration and Problem Solving

Create opportunities that foster successful collaboration among the neighborhoods in pursuit of the common good rather than individual interests to the detriment of other neighborhoods or the city at large.

Policy: LG 3.4, Community Representation

Encourage representation of a broad range of community members, including vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, within the Neighborhood Councils to deepen neighborhood collaboration and connectedness.

Goal: LG-4, Community and Government Communication

Maintain open two-way communication between the City and its community through a variety of avenues.



The policy language was amended slightly to conform with recent legislation (HB1181).



Policy has been updated to reflect both the value of the recommendations from Boards and Commissions while also noting the importance of information-sharing for the general public.



This policy was updated slightly for clarity. A cross-reference to the Neighborhoods chapter is likely to be added here as well.



The policy is new, added to conform with recent legislation (HB1181).

Policy: LG 4.1, Dissemination of Public Information

Use City cable television, websites, email, and other current technologies for timely dissemination of information on city, neighborhood, and regional activities, including language access.

Policy: LG 4.2, Encouraging Respectful Interactions

Reinforce public trust by ensuring all community members are treated with respect by providing periodic training to City employees in customer service techniques and by promoting mutual respect between community members and City employees.

Goal: LG-5, Youth Civic Participation

Value youth civic participation as the foundation of the community's future and ensure that young community members are informed about the community, invited into community-building processes, and given the opportunity to contribute their insights and diversity to the community dialogue.

Policy: LG 5.1, Youth Participation

Support and promote participation strategies that provide opportunities for young people to engage in the decision-making process, including during planning processes, on Boards and Commissions, and other ways of representation.

Policy: LG 5.2, Young People as Civic Members

Share community resources, including public space and facilities, with young community members.

Policy: LG 5.3, Strategic Networking

Create effective advocacy in the interests of young people by building and maintaining collaboration between local government and a broad range of human resources, community interest groups, and private sector entities that work with and for the community's youth.

Goal: LG-6, Responsive City Government

Increase public confidence in the City's responsiveness to the pursuit of community values through the day-to-day administration of land use and development codes.

Policy: LG 6.1, Enforcement of Land Use and Development Codes

Utilize a violation-driven code enforcement system rather than a complaint-driven system to achieve compliance with land use and development codes that support quality of life to increase responsiveness and provide equitable enforcement.



This policy was expanded slightly to include regional activities and language access concepts.



This policy was adjusted slightly for clarity and to update the language.



The participation of youth in boards and commissions was added here to broaden the effect slightly.

Goal: LG-7, Community Participation

Increase community collaboration, partnership, and connectedness by supporting resident involvement in organizations and efforts that support the community outside of governing processes.

Policy: LG-7.1, Awareness of Opportunities

Use City resources to share and support community volunteering and participation opportunities that support the collective vision of Spokane.

Policy: LG-7.2, Partner with Organizations

Explore ways to partner with local and regional organizations that provide community resources and opportunities for civic engagement for all community members.

Policy: LG-7.3, Environmental Awareness

Provide all residents with an equitable opportunity to learn about climate impacts, influence policy decisions, and take actions to enhance community resilience to promote environmental justice and support physical and mental health and well-being.

Goal: LG-8, Tribal and Urban Native Collaboration

Establish relationships, practices, and processes of active collaboration and coordination with local Tribal governments and Urban Native communities during planning efforts that may affect Tribal interests and rights and broader community needs.

Policy: LG-8.1, Intergovernmental Relationships

Honor and uphold government-to-government relationships with federally recognized Tribes through early, frequent, and meaningful Tribal consultation, coordination, and partnership during city decisions and planning processes that may affect Tribal interests, rights, and broader Native community needs.

Policy: LG-8.2, Tribal Consultation

Establish a municipal process for regular and meaningful consultation with Tribal officials in the development and review of City plans, regulations, proposed legislation, and other policy statements or actions relevant to Tribal interests.

Policy: LG-8.3, Tribal Liaisons

Designate and maintain a clear central point of contact at the City to coordinate communication, consultation, and collaboration with federally recognized Tribal governments on issues of mutual concern. Work with each Tribe, consistent with its preferred protocols and



This goal and policies are new, added to accommodate some of the comments received in ongoing engagement and as a result of efforts like Climate Planning.



CRSB recommended policy.



New goal and associated policies based on community engagement, including discussions with the Tribal Working Group established as part of the Climate Planning effort and the Spokane Urban Native Advisory Council.

A map of traditional Tribal lands will be added to the Introduction Chapter, with appropriate cross-references to this goal.

capacity, to identify appropriate Tribal points of contact and effective communication channels.

Policy: LG-8.4, Urban Native Collaboration

Confer and collaborate with urban Native organizations and Native community members on policies, programs, and initiatives affecting urban Native populations to meaningfully consider and integrate their unique perspectives, contributions, lived experience, cultural knowledge, and needs in the city with a commitment to equity and sovereignty-informed partnership, such as through the Spokane Urban Native Advisory Council.