



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 All prior versions should be considered out-of-date from this point on.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](mailto: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.

# Natural Environment

## Introduction

This chapter addresses the natural environment of Spokane and the surrounding region. The Natural Environment Element includes topics such as rivers, wetlands, urban forest, nature areas, the aquifer, clean air and water, shorelines, trails, energy efficiency, agricultural lands, the economy, and wildlife.

Spokane enjoys an extensive natural environment for an urban area, including the presence of native plants and animals. Spokane must continue to protect and enhance the natural environment to maintain and improve this region's quality of life.

Goals and policies address restoration, protection, and enhancement of the natural environment, as well as guide incentives, regulations, future plans, and public investments. These measures aim to bring back and maintain all that is great in Spokane and can be even better: clean rivers and streams, healthy air, natural areas with native vegetation, trails, cultural and historic sites, trees, locally significant landforms, and citizens who understand the impacts of growth on the natural environment and the opportunities to make positive changes.

## 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 as it relates to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.

### **Goal:** NE-1, Water Quality

*Protect the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer and other water sources to provide clean pure water.*

#### **Policy:** NE-1.1, Aquifer Study

*Study the aquifer and utilize strategies to remedy all sources or activities of contamination.*

#### **Policy:** NE-1.2, Stormwater Techniques and Best Practices

*Encourage the use of evolving best practices for stormwater, including solutions like rain gardens, regional stormwater treatment facilities, and other low-impact mitigation tools that protect ground and surface water from contamination and pollution.*



This policy was added following consultation with the City's Stormwater department.

**Policy** NE-1.3, Regional Coordination of Stormwater Quality

*Coordinate with regional partners and agencies for the study, creation, and adoption of new manuals and standards for stormwater quality solutions that provide new effective methods of managing stormwater.*

**Policy:** NE-1.4, Regional Water Board and Stewardship Groups

*Continue to support regional watershed groups and boards, including the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board, in their efforts to conduct aquifer planning as well as allocating, monitoring, and studying responsibilities for the entire watershed.*

**Policy:** NE-1.5, Mining Activities

*Prohibit or severely limit open pit mining throughout the city, as it exposes the aquifer or ground water to potential contamination.*

**Policy:** NE-1.6, Natural Water Drainage

*Identify and preserve areas that provide natural water drainage to accommodate future stormwater runoff while protecting surface and ground water.*

**Policy:** NE-1.7, Wellhead Protection

*Allow only non-polluting land uses to be developed and operated within the water recharge zones of the public water wells, as guided by development regulations and land use limitations within critical areas.*

**Policy:** NE-1.8, Toxic Dumping Regulations

*Develop and enforce restrictions and fines for the dumping of toxic fluids and other contaminants in locations where they may reach the aquifer or surface waters, consistent with state and federal law.*

**Policy:** NE-1.9, Sewer Requirement

*Ensure that newly developed property in the city and within the City's sewer service area is connected to municipal sewer service, minimizing aquifer contamination.*

**Goal:** NE-2, Water Conservation

*Promote water conservation to protect and preserve water quality from drought, extreme heat, and other hazards, seeking to ensure all local aquifers and water sources stay above sustainable recharge or flow levels.*

**Policy:** NE-2.1, Water Conservation Strategy

*Strengthen and implement a water conservation strategy that leads to decreases in household, public facility, commercial, industrial, and agricultural water use citywide, commensurate with the true available*



NE 1.4 was broadened slightly to avoid referencing only one body/solution.



The original mention of the urban growth area was made more specific, limiting this policy to the City's service area.



Goal updated to reflect language recommended by the CRSB.



CRSB recommended policy, incorporating language from existing policy NE-2.1, Water Conservation.



*capacity of the City's water supply and effects of a changing climate, including expanded incentives for drought-tolerant, native plantings and the use of innovative incentives, communication, and education programs.*

**Policy:** NE-2.2, Drought Resilience Strategy

*Develop, implement, and regularly review a comprehensive drought resilience strategy that factors in projected climate impacts and sets action levels for different drought stages in municipal code.*

**Policy:** NE-2.3, Landscaping Requirements and Incentives

*Expand the use of incentives like SpokaneScape and other programs that encourage use of drought-tolerant plants and the placement of native trees and vegetation, including incentives like water bill credits and discounts.*

**Policy:** NE-2.4, Native Vegetation on Public Lands

*Preserve existing native vegetation in parks and other public lands, incorporating the placement of new native, drought-tolerant species when constructing new facilities.*

**Policy:** NE-2.5, Reclaimed Water

*Develop a program to allow municipal reclaimed water systems, where feasible considering water rights, and allow onsite non-potable water systems to reduce water demand in private-sector commercial and residential buildings.*

**Policy:** NE-2.6, Water Management Support

*Encourage and support residents and businesses to optimally manage rainwater, water use, and stormwater on their properties by modeling practices on public properties and adopting codes and standards that enable and encourage rain gardens, drought tolerant plants, permeable pavements, or other best practices.*

**Policy:** NE-2.7, One Water

*Manage water resources for all users sustainably through a "One Water" concept that manages all forms of water, including through retaining rainwater strategies, smart irrigation, stormwater management, preventative maintenance, water conservation, infiltration and groundwater recharge, plant selection, landscape management, utility rate structures, and other methods that respect water rights regulations while supporting a resilient and effective urban water system.*

**Goal:** NE-3, Surface Waters

*Provide for clean rivers and wetlands that support native fish and aquatic life and are healthy for recreational uses.*



CRSB recommended policy.



This policy has been strengthened, expanding SpokaneScape while seeking additional possible solutions.



CRSB recommended policy.



CRSB recommended policy.



CRSB recommended policy.

**Policy:** NE-3.1, Watershed Plan

*Support and develop regional watershed plans in collaboration with regional and local partners, concerning all watersheds that are associated with the geographic boundaries of the city and the City's service areas.*

**Policy** NE-3.2, Zero Pollution Industrial Parks

*Develop standards and incentives for zero pollution industrial parks and uses, focusing on manufacturing that utilizes recycled and reused materials sourced from adjacent uses in the immediate vicinity.*

**Policy** NE-3.3, Impervious Surface Reduction

*Reduce impervious surface in the city, understanding that there are locations where impervious surfaces have less benefit to surface runoff and absorption, such as areas of drainage concern mapped by the City.*

**Policy:** NE-3.4, Wetlands

*Enforce and monitor regulations that achieve no overall net loss in acreage and functions of the remaining wetland base and, over the long term, increase the quantity and quality of wetlands in the city.*

**Policy:** NE-3.5, Aquatic and Upland Habitat

*Implement programs, codes, and standards that increase aquatic and upland habitat resilience by protecting water quality, increasing water residence time in streams, implementing natural landscaping to slow, filter, and store stormwater, conserving water, protecting groundwater, and keeping waters cool.*

**Policy:** NE-3.6, Channel Migration Zone Management

*Determine the channel migration zone of streams and rivers in locations within the city that have a history of flooding and ensure that the entire migration zone is maintained and protected, not only the water.*

**Policy:** NE-3.7, Downstream Impacts Consideration

*Consider the downstream impacts created by development, erosion control devices, and public works projects within or adjacent to rivers and streams.*

**Goal:** NE-4, Clean Air

*Work consistently for cleaner air that nurtures the health of current residents, children, and future generations.*

**Policy:** NE-4.1, Clean Heating Sources

*Encourage the use of heating sources that do not negatively affect Spokane's air quality, including through continued membership and support of the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (SRCAA) and other similar bodies.*



We are considering including a map of areas of drainage concern in this chapter or, alternatively, a cross-reference to the online map.



This policy was moved here from under Goal 7 as it has relationship with both goals. A cross-reference will likely be provided.



CRSB recommended policy.



Originally policy NE-19.1 of the existing Natural Environment Chapter, it was broadened to add protection specificity.



Originally policy NE-19.6 of the existing Natural Environment Chapter.



SRCAA was added to this policy as they are currently the primary agency related to this topic, though the language was broadened to allow for other actions.

**Policy:** NE-4.2, Facility Review

*Evaluate public and private facilities prior to permitting for their impacts to air quality prior to permitting, weighing the public benefits of the facility against its impact on regional air quality and the health of local residents.*

**Policy:** NE-4.3, Vegetation that Improves Air Quality

*Plant, preserve, and encourage the use of vegetation known to benefit local air quality, considering both urban trees and landscaping incorporated into facilities and development.*

**Goal:** NE-5, Native Species Protection

*Protect and enhance diverse and healthy native species, such as plants, trees, animals, and fungi, for present and future generations and respect the ecological necessity of biodiversity.*

**Policy:** NE-5.1, Native and Non-Native Adaptive Plants and Trees

*Encourage the use of and development of standards for using native and non-native adaptive plants and trees in landscape designs for public and private projects.*

**Policy:** NE-5.2, Public Native Species Application and Education

*Utilize and expand programs and incentives like SpokaneScape that educate and recognize members of the public who install and maintain drought-tolerant native planting in yards and landscaping.*

**Policy:** NE-5.3, Habitat Network

*Identify, purchase, preserve, and maintain existing and potential links between wildlife habitats, seeking to form a network of wildlife habitats while partnering with local, regional, and state agencies and programs, including leveraging opportunities for community and volunteer involvement.*

**Policy:** NE-5.4, Fish and Wildlife Protection

*Continue to identify, protect, and ensure no net loss of ecological function or value to fish, wildlife, and their habitats which are identified as a priority for ecological health by citizens and scientific experts while utilizing current best available science practices and standards.*

**Policy:** NE-5.5, Protection of Adjacent Wildlife Habitats

*Coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions and agencies to designate, protect, and acquire wildlife habitats that abut or straddle the city limits or the urban growth area boundary to enhance connectivity and ease of movement for wildlife.*



This policy was rewritten with the same effect/intent but to better understand the relationship with air quality.



The term 'citizen' has been removed, as that term can feel exclusionary to some.



Supported by CRSB policy recommendation.



This policy was rewritten to emphasize best practices and ecological function in response to public comment.

**Goal:** NE-6, Natural Landforms

*Preserve natural landforms that identify and typify our region, including landforms of cultural significance.*

**Policy:** NE-6.1, Landform Identification

*Define, identify, and map natural landforms that typify our region and that may warrant protection, including features like pine forests, views of Mount Spokane, aquifer springs, the Palouse Hills, scablands, the Spokane River Falls and rapids, basalt cliffs, Missoula flood stones, granite hillsides, basalt ponds and wetlands, camas fields, and shrub steppe drylands.*

**Policy:** NE-6.2, Landform Preservation

*Preserve lands that contain natural landforms through purchase, incentives, clustering, or the transfer of development rights.*

**Policy:** NE-6.3, Landforms of Cultural Significance

*Recognize and preserve significant landforms and features that provide cultural value to the community and its rich tapestry of different cultures, such as views of Mt. Spokane and access to the Spokane Falls and Spokane River.*

**Goal:** NE-7, Areas of Geologic Concern

*Recognize that some physical geologic and slope features are not suitable for development while also warranting environmental protection.*

**Policy:** NE-7.1, Rock Formation Protection

*Identify and preserve basalt rock formations that give understanding to the area’s geological history, add visual interest to the landscape, and contribute to a system of connected conservation lands.*

**Policy:** NE-7.2, Unstable Slope Protection

*Map and designate areas of unstable slopes as unsuitable for development, including standards and regulations that prohibit development in these areas.*

**Policy:** NE-7.3, Slope Protection

*Integrate the protection of slopes with wildlife corridor and natural area designations and acquisitions.*

**Policy:** NE-7.4, Geologically Hazardous Areas

*Classify, designate, and protect Geologically Hazardous Areas as identified in the Critical Areas Ordinance.*



Landforms are a topic of Chapter 14, Shorelines as well—a cross-reference will be provided.



This policy will likely have a relationship to Chapter 3, Growth Strategy, and may move there in future reviews.



Landforms and their cultural value were a topic of recent public engagement discussions.



Geologic topics were formerly part of the landform discussion above. They have been separated out under a new goal for clarity.

**Goal:** NE-8, Agricultural Lands

*Preserve agricultural land and allow farming that generates produce for local markets and supports the local economy and community resiliency.*

**Policy:** NE-8.1, Agricultural Lands of Local Importance

*Designate areas of the city that have been traditionally used for agricultural purposes, have at least Soils Conservation Services Class II soils or are designated prime agriculture lands, and are at least one acre in size as agricultural lands of local importance.*

**Policy:** NE-8.2, Compatible Agricultural Activities

*Allow agricultural activities adjacent to urban uses without compromising farmers' rights to farm their land.*

**Goal:** NE-9, Natural Areas

*Designate a network of natural areas and connecting corridors, distinct from developed parks, throughout Spokane that support native habitats and natural landforms.*

**Policy:** NE-9.1, Identification of Natural Areas

*Identify natural areas throughout the city through park planning, neighborhood input, existing city-owned parks and conservation lands, wildlife habitats, steep slopes, wetlands, floodplains, riparian areas, adjacency to county natural areas, and proximity to state parks.*

**Policy:** NE-9.2 Natural Corridor Links and Connections

*Identify and enhance interconnections between undisturbed natural areas, understanding that protected and local species need movement corridors to navigate the city.*

**Policy:** NE-9.3, Acquisition of Natural Areas

*Acquire and protect natural areas and connecting corridors through various acquisition techniques, such as tax incentives, purchases, Spokane County Conservation Futures funds, volunteer funding drives, donations, transfer of development rights, clustering, easements, and requirements for contribution when adjacent areas develop, seeking to create a network of natural areas throughout the city.*

**Policy:** NE-9.4, Natural Area Paths

*Develop soft, permeable, low-impact paths in natural areas while also protecting environmentally sensitive areas from encroachment by people and domesticated animals.*



This goal exhibits close relationships to Chapter 12, Parks and Recreation. At a minimum, a cross-reference will be provided.



This policy was lengthened to include samples of techniques formerly listed in the discussion.

**Policy:** NE-9.5, The Spokane River Gorge

*Protect and enhance the Spokane River Gorge as a natural area, maintaining it as one of the region's greatest natural resources while developing connections to other important features like Riverfront Park, Latah Creek, Indian Canyon, and Riverside State Park.*

**Policy:** NE-9.6, Interconnected Natural Systems

*Protect, restore, acquire, and maintain urban agricultural lands, urban forests, critical areas, shorelines, habitats, and open spaces as interconnected natural systems that provide flood protection, heat reduction, and carbon sequestration benefits, including through codes, capital investments, and regional partnerships.*

**Goal:** NE-10, Urban Forestry

*Establish and support programs, codes, and standards that support the long-term health and maintenance of the urban canopy on public and private lands, including public awareness campaigns, incentives, and funding opportunities, prioritizing areas with high heat risk and overburdened communities to provide good air quality, reduce urban warming, and increase habitat.*

**Policy** NE-10.1, Street Trees

*Establish standards, incentives, funding strategies, and requirements for the planting and maintenance of street trees along all streets in the city, public or private, as well as education and standards that ensure the long-term survival and growth of those trees.*

**Policy:** NE-10.2, Urban Forestry Programs

*Participate in and seek to grow local and regional urban forestry programs for the expansion, protection, and maintenance of the urban tree canopy.*

**Policy:** NE-10.3, Protection Techniques

*Use incentives and acquisition to protect priority forested areas both on public and privately owned land.*

**Policy:** NE-10.4, Tree Replacement Program

*Develop and implement a program whereby the City maintains "no net loss" of street trees through programs and incentives for tree maintenance and replacement, while considering exemptions for emergencies and public safety.*

**Policy:** NE-10.5, Promote the Growth of an Urban Tree Canopy

*Promote policies, programs, and incentives that help the City reach its goal of 30% canopy coverage, focusing first on parts of the City where tree coverage is low or missing entirely.*



The connection between the Gorge and other natural areas was added.



CRSB recommended policy.



CRSB recommended policy adjusted to serve as goal for more specific policies, supporting existing language in NE-12 Urban Forest.



Missing from the original policy was discussion of maintaining trees once planted. That language has been added here.



"No net loss" was formerly only in the discussion of this policy. It has been added to the policy itself to highlight its importance.



This policy was added to reflect current program goals.

**Goal:** NE-11, Connectivity and Access to Wildlands and Open Space

*Create a citywide network of trails, sidewalks, and pathways that link regional trails, natural areas, parks, public cultural resources and historical sites, schools, and urban centers, maximizing the social and health benefits from access to nature.*

**Policy:** NE-11.1, Walkway and Bicycle Paths Through Natural Areas

*Identify, prioritize, and connect natural places in the city with a walkway, trail, shared-use pathway or bicycle path system that includes connections to regional trails, natural areas, soft path networks, community parks, cultural resources, historic sites, schools, the downtown area, and community and neighborhood centers.*

**Policy:** NE-11.2, Natural Area Path Design

*Design walkways, trails, shared-use pathways, and bicycle paths in natural areas based on qualities that make them safe, functional, and separated from automobile traffic where possible, while seeking to maintain a high level of sensitivity to the natural area and its biological value.*

**Policy:** NE-11.3, Pathways for the Whole Community

*Design walkways and shared-use paths in natural areas to increase access for all members of the community, including areas designed specifically to be accessible for people of all abilities.*

**Policy:** NE-11.4, Year-Round Use

*Build and maintain portions of natural area path systems that can be used year-round.*

**Policy:** N-11.5, Winter Trail Network

Link soft trails, parks, and other features of the active open space system with the wider walkway, trail, shared-use pathway, and bicycle path network in Spokane to develop a winter trail network.

**Goal:** NE-12, Natural Beauty

*Retain and enhance nature views, natural aesthetics, areas of cultural value, and historic sites that define the Spokane region.*

**Policy:** NE-12.1, Protection of Natural Aesthetics

*Protect and enhance nature views, natural aesthetics, cultural resources, and sacred or historic sites within the growing urban setting through collaboration with local Tribes, historians, organizations, and community members to identify features to be protected.*



Language has been added to this goal and policies to make the relationship with natural areas and wildlands more overt. Potential cross-reference to Parks Goal PR-4.



The discussion has been incorporated into the body of the policy itself here.



This new policy was added to be inclusive of those of all abilities when designing pathways.

**Policy:** NE-12.2, Naming Culturally Historic Sites

*Coordinate with local Tribes to identify local nature views, natural aesthetics, cultural resources, and sacred or historic sites that define the Spokane region by the original names given to them.*

**Policy:** NE-12.3, Nature Themes

*Identify and use natural themes in large-scale public and private landscaping projects that reflect the natural environment of the Spokane region, incorporating features that reflect local landforms.*

**Goal:** NE-13, Natural Environment Education

*Educate all ages of the community on the value the natural environment provides to the community, engaging with the public and fostering greater stewardship.*

**Policy:** NE-13.1, Protection and Recognition

*Develop programs that formally recognize activities, development, businesses, groups, and people that contribute to the protection and improvement of Spokane’s natural environment.*

**Policy:** NE-13.2, Natural Environment Information

*Create a central source within city government to disseminate information on anything affecting the city’s natural environment, programs to enhance the natural environment, and environmental education opportunities.*

**Policy:** NE-13.3, Critical Areas Education

*Educate owners of properties which include critical areas in identifying, recognizing, and planning for the use of their property while ensuring compatibility with critical area protection and optimizing use of resources and programs that may be available.*

**Policy:** NE-13.4, Community Education and Awareness

*Coordinate with local and regional agencies and organizations to educate the community on the meaning and significance of cultural and historic sites, fostering greater support for their protection and enhancement.*

**Policy:** NE-13.5, Environmental Education for Youth

*Educate youth about the interrelationship between people and nature so that an understanding and respect for human impacts and the benefits of nature is developed.*

**Policy:** NE-13.6, Volunteer Opportunities

*Provide educational resources and volunteer opportunities for environmental stewardship on City-owned property, including clean-up events for trails, parks, and swales, and the planting of street and park trees.*



A cross-reference to Policy NE-7.1 will be provided here, as they relate to each other (the themes are the same).



This policy was added in response to public engagement.



A cross-reference to policies in the Governance and Public Participation chapter is likely to be added here.



CRSB recommended policy.

**Goal:** NE-14, Tribal Collaboration

*Ensure that environmental efforts and resources are resilient to the impacts of extreme weather and other natural hazards by collaborating with local Tribes and urban Native organizations to support traditional and sustainable practices.*

**Policy:** NE-14.1, Traditional Ecological Management

*Collaborate with Tribal partners to leverage traditional ecological management strategies for natural areas.*

**Policy:** NE-14.2, Culturally Relevant Conservation

*Protect, enhance, and restore ecosystems in order to support Tribal rights and conserve culturally important consumptive and non-consumptive resources including foods, medicinal plants, and materials that could be adversely impacted by climate change.*

**Goal:** NE-15, Data and Monitoring

Support environmental efforts and monitor effectiveness of programs by regularly collecting municipal and citywide data and tracking progress towards established goals.

**Policy:** NE-15.1, Greenhouse Gas Monitoring

*Regularly monitor progress and update interim targets for the city's net zero greenhouse gas emissions goal as set in municipal code.*

**Policy:** NE-15.2, Water Conservation Monitoring

*Set and regularly monitor progress for short- and long-term targets for water conservation goals set in municipal code.*

**Policy:** NE-15.3, Ecosystems Inventory Database

*Maintain an inventory of existing and potential natural lands, fish and wildlife habitat, urban forest, and natural infrastructure in the city's Geographic Information System, evaluated for their ecological and climate resilience values, and disseminate the information for decisionmakers and the public in a useable, interactive format.*

**POLICIES REMOVED FROM THE TEXT:**

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

**Policy:** NE-1.4, Water Quality Report

*Prepare an annual water quality report that identifies the year's water quality and quantity and compares these to prior years.*



Goal NE-14 and its attendant policies based on CRSB recommended policies.



Goal NE-15 and its attendant policies based on CRSB recommended policies.



Existing Comp Plan policy NE-11.4 was expanded to address CRSB recommendation on collecting data on habitat in addition to the urban forest.



This is already a requirement of State law—having a policy here is redundant.

**Goal:** NE-3, Shorelines

Protect the natural state of shorelines while providing community access that does not negatively impact riparian habitats, fragile soils, and native vegetation.

**Policy:** NE-8.3, Urban Agriculture

*Allow urban agriculture within more typical urban uses where appropriate, ensuring impacts to more intense urban uses are minimized, to allow for evolving best practices in local food production and security.*

**Goal:** NE-9, Sustainable Economies and Employment

Support a sustainable economy and incentivize employment that enhances the natural environment.

**Policy:** NE-9.1, Environment and the Economy

*Identify, preserve, and enhance the natural environment elements that define Spokane’s quality of life and help sustain the economy, including the draw that the region’s natural beauty has on those that choose to live and work here.*

**Policy:** NE-9.2, Environment Supporting Businesses

*Provide incentives for businesses that restore and benefit the natural environment while providing jobs for residents.*

**Policy:** NE-9.3, Local Business Support

*Support and provide incentives for businesses that employ local people, use local materials, and sell their products and/or services locally.*

**Policy:** NE-9.4, Incentives for Ecologically Responsible Businesses

*Identify and provide incentives for economic activities that combine the goals and principles of economy, ecology, and social equity.*

**Policy:** NE-9.5, Profit from Waste

*Recruit industries that can make use of and profit from Spokane’s solid waste in a manner that minimizes or mitigates environmental impacts while maximizing reuse of materials.*

**Policy:** NE-9.6, Packaging Reduction

*Create and advocate for legislation, education, and other means that reduce product packaging to reduce waste disposal.*

**Policy:** NE-9.7, Spokane’s Youth and Green Economy Careers

*Support the growth of the local ecologically responsible economy by providing venues, coordination, and opportunities for green businesses to*



This goal (which had no policies tied to it) is redundant with Chapter 14, Shorelines.



This was a new policy in previous drafts. The concept is captured in GS-1.6



Goal NE-9 and its associated policies have been removed, as their concepts are addressed in Economic Prosperity-- see Goal EP-3 and associated policies EP-3.7, and EP-3.13



NE-9.5 concepts are captured in CRSB-recommended policy EP-3.13, Circular Economy.



NE-9.6 removed as it is implementing other existing policies.



Though previously proposed as a new policy in earlier drafts, the policy has been removed due to it being implementation actions to address other policies.

connect with local youth through job training, job fairs, seminars, and other outreach events.

**Goal:** NE-13, Incorporating Natural Designs in Public Spaces

Develop or revitalize plazas and public spaces using natural elements, including water, native vegetation, and landforms.

**Policy:** NE-13.1, Plaza Inventory and Improvements

Inventory existing plazas that lack nature elements and that are not used actively and identify natural element features that will improve them.

**Policy:** NE-13.2, New Plaza Design

Develop plazas with native natural elements and formations, such as basalt, Missoula flood stones, stream patterns, river character, native trees, and plants that attract native birds.

**Policy:** NE-15.2, Natural Aesthetic Links

Link local nature views, natural aesthetics, sacred areas, and historic sites with the trail and path system of the city.

**Goal:** NE-16, Quality of Life

Compile social, natural environment, and economic indicators of a healthy Spokane community on an annual basis and compare them to prior years in order to assess Spokane's progress.

**Policy:** NE-16.1, Quality of Life Indicators

Coordinate with other groups and agencies to develop quality of life indicators based upon what others have previously identified.

**Policy:** NE-16.2, Benchmark Adoption

Develop quality of life benchmarks based on identified indicators that the community wants to obtain over time.

**Goal:** NE-16X, Energy Conservation

Promote the conservation of energy in the location and design of residential, area services, and workplaces.

**Policy:** NE-16.X, Innovative Development

Encourage innovative residential development techniques that produce low energy consumption per housing unit.

**Policy:** NE-16.1X, Residential Development Techniques

Encourage new and evolving residential development techniques that produce low energy consumption per housing unit, including development



This goal was an updated version of Shaping Spokane Goal NE-13, relocated to the Urban Design and Historic Preservation Chapter as policy DP-3.9.



This policy is captured by DP-3.9.



This policy was incorporated into policy DP-3.9 in the Urban Design and Historic Preservation Chapter.



Concepts in this policy have been captured in DP-3 and associated goals.



This goal and its policies were condensed and added to Chapter 10, Community Health as CH-6.4, Quality of Life Indicators.



Newly drafted Goal, recommended later for removal as all related policies have since been removed or relocated.



This policy is captured in H-2.11, Resilient Development Practices.



This was a newly proposed policy in previous drafts. It has been relocated to the housing chapter, H-2.11

*of middle housing types, co-living, solar-enhancing site orientation, earth sheltering, and the use of renewable energy sources.*

**Policy:** NE-16.2X, Resilient Development Practices

*Encourage and allow for new proven technologies and best practices that increase building resiliency throughout the city for all use types, including the reuse of materials, energy efficiency, less environmentally costly materials, local building materials and supplies, and new methods for thermal insulation and structural features.*

**Goal:** NE-17, Flood Hazards Management

*Protect life and property from flooding and erosion by directing development away from flood hazard areas.*

**Policy:** NE-17.2, 100-Year Flood Plain Reassessment

*Coordinate with federal and state agencies in the reassessment of the 100-year flood plain and adopt standards and mitigation that provides for adequate protection in areas where flooding is more likely.*

**Policy:** NE-17.3, 500-Year Flood Plain Considerations

*Coordinate with federal and state agencies to explore and understand the 500-year floodplain and its effects on potential future limitations on land use and development, with an eye towards being prepared to consider the 500-year floodplain if regulations come forward concerning that area.*

**Policy:** NE-17.4, Land Acquisition & Home Relocation Program

*Consider and analyze a program for the purchasing and/or relocation of homes in the 100-year floodplain, establishing those areas long-term for natural area conservation and potential movement corridors.*

**Policy:** NE-17.5, Discourage Development in the 100-Year Flood Plain

*Discourage development and redevelopment of habitable structures that are within the 100-year flood plain.*

**Policy:** NE-17.6, Public Awareness and Education

*Develop a public awareness and education program for residents living within flood plains, highlighting the associated risks and ways to mitigate their risk.*



This was a newly proposed policy but the theme is already captured in the Urban Design and Historic Preservation Chapter, where that discussion is more appropriate.



Goal recommended for removal as related policies will be relocated.



Language has been updated and relocated to the Land Use Chapter, consolidated into GS-7.4.



This was a newly proposed policy, which was relocated to the Land Use Chapter, GS-7.5.



Language was updated and relocated to the Housing Chapter, H-6.5



Relocated to the Land Use Chapter, consolidated into GS-7.4.



Policy was originally relocated to the Land Use Chapter, GS-7.6 but was not selected to keep. Public awareness as a topic is addressed in the Governance chapter.