

Introduction and Guidelines

The following chapter provides the goals and policies meant to guide growth and development in the City of Spokane through the lens of **local governance & civic participation**. While reviewing this document, it helps to keep a few things in mind:

1. PlanSpokane 2046 is NOT an entirely new document. The existing Comprehensive Plan and ongoing community engagement were the foundation of this document, along with adopted plans, state legislation, and new engagement informing proposed changes.
2. The current Comprehensive Plan, Shaping Spokane, can be found at shapingspokane.org. Readers may refer to that document if they wish to see the existing chapter language.
3. The Vision and Values, previously found in each chapter, are being combined into a single unified vision for the City. Accordingly, those sections of the chapters do not appear in this document.
4. Many policies in the existing plan include “discussion” below the policy. Where those discussions do not provide a better understanding or clarification of the policy, they have been removed from this new document or the language in that discussion has been incorporated into the policy language itself. These removals are not identified specifically here.
5. The plan has undergone a review and minor edits throughout. Terms have been updated, language has been streamlined, and many small changes have been made to increase readability and understanding. Minor wording changes aren’t marked directly to make sure the proposed language is as clear as possible, but any large updates may be identified.
6. A range of helpful notes are provided in the sidebar to the right—these are not part of the proposed text, rather they help readers understand certain proposed changes.
7. The [Climate Planning effort](#) is still ongoing and may affect the language in the chapter later on. Places where we anticipate this *might* occur will be marked with the appropriate icon (see at right).
8. Work towards understanding Racially Disparate Impacts and Displacement is ongoing and may likewise have an impact on the language in this chapter. Where we anticipate this happening, an icon has been included (see at right).
9. Some policies or goals from the past versions of the Comprehensive Plan may have been omitted. If they have been combined with other

The following icons will appear where:



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



Language was streamlined or condensed. Minor changes won’t be marked.



New text or policy was added, not sourced from the current plan.



Two or more policies in the existing plan were combined into one.



A policy or language was added because of a change in state law requirements.



Climate and Resiliency work might impact this language in the future.



Racially Disparate Impacts or Displacement work may impact this language in the future.

policies or goals, there will be an icon and description in the blue margin. Where policies or goals have been removed entirely, they are listed at the end in **red text**.

The currently proposed language for this chapter begins on the following page. Please be sure to note the “version date” at the bottom of the page as we anticipate future changes as this effort evolves.

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 responsibly govern 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. Comprehensive planning presents one of the greatest challenges of civic participation, as people are asked to identify a future that is better for society as a whole rather than necessarily better for them as an individual. The achievement of this ideal results from a joint effort from elected leaders and active members of the community.

Leadership, governance, and civic participation involves the role of government and the type of leadership, participation, communication, accessibility, civic duty, and social responsibility.

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: LGC-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: LGC 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: LGC 1.2, Resource Allocation

Commit sufficient resources to planning activities in order to ensure that those activities engage the public and follow current best practices for equitable engagement.



The title has been reworded.



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

Policy: LGC 1.3, Public Participation

Employ a variety of techniques and venues to encourage the involvement of community members in the decision-making process, including the participation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities.

Policy: LGC 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: LGC 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.

Goal: LGC-2, Community Involvement

Encourage community members to become engaged in the public process.

Policy: LGC 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: LGC 2.2, Civics Education Throughout Life

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.

Policy: LGC 2.3, Broad Community Representation

Strengthen the connection between city residents and city government by maintaining geographic diversity, cultural variety, and a wide range of community philosophies on boards and commissions, ensuring the representation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities.

Policy: LGC 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 that are forwarded to decision-making bodies.

Goal: LGC-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 City Plan Commission to the City Council.



This policy was reworded for clarity.



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



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

Policy: LGC 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: LGC 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: LGC 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: LGC 3.4, Community Representation

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

Goal: LGC-4, Community and Government Communication

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

Policy: LGC 4.1, Dissemination of Public Information

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

Policy: LGC 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: LGC-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: LGC 5.1, Youth Participation

Support and promote participation strategies that provide opportunities for young people to engage in the decision-making process.



This policy was updated slightly for clarity.



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



This policy was rewritten for clarity and to update the language.

Policy: LGC 5.2, Young People as Civic Members

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

Policy: LGC 5.3, Strategic Networking

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

Goal: LGC-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: LGC 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.

Goal: LGC-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: LGC 7.1, Awareness of Opportunities

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



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

