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 the **Social Health** element. 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.

Text, goals, or policies were removed—a reason will be provided.

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 their own section.

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.

Social Health

Introduction

In the past, the concept of "health" has often been linked to physical well-being. However, other recent decades the understanding of what it means to be healthy has broadened significantly to include mental and social aspects as well. While physical health remains important, a truly healthy city depends equally on the mental and social well-being of its community members. This aspect of community planning can be complex—what can a city truly do to ensure that those that live, work, and play in the city are happy, healthy, and engaged in what they feel is a happy life? Social 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 maximize their own potential.

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 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. 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: SH-1, Funding Mechanisms to Support Social 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:** SH-1.1, Investment in Social Health
>
> *Authorize and fund social health programs and explore additional opportunities to highlight and enhance the social health of Spokane's*

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

residents, visitors, and employees working in the city at a level adequate for the continued operation of those programs over time.

Policy: SH-1.2, Commitment to Youth

Allocate resources at a consistent and meaningful level for programs and events that provide access to programs and events focused on Spokane's youth (18 and under) and their specific needs for social and emotional health.

Policy: SH-1.3, Regional Social 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 health services in the region, while simultaneously supporting the expansion of services by neighboring jurisdictions.

This policy was reworked to highlight <u>both</u> the need for social health programs in Spokane <u>and</u> in the rest of the region.

Policy: SH-1.4, Community Awareness

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

Policy: SH-1.5, Public Private Partnerships

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

Policy: SH-1.6, Community Involvement

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

Goal: SH-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, or other life circumstances.

Policy: SH-2.1, Care Facilities

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

Policy: SH-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.

Policy: SH-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: SH-2.4, Daycare Facilities in All Parts of the City

Allow residential dwellings to be used as daycare facilities, whether they are for children (18 and younger) or adults, in all areas where housing is permitted.

Policy: SH-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.

> 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: SH-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 in nodes, all within close proximity to each other, to minimize the need for users and patients to travel long distances between care and facilities.

Policy: SH-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 facilities, can be provided in the city where needed.

> This policy was substantially reworded to avoid problematic terms, and outdated language.

Goal: SH-3, Public Art

Support the community's social health and unique identity by providing and supporting opportunities for arts throughout the community and a wide-ranging, inclusive program of art everywhere.

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

Policy: SH-3.1, Support for the Arts

Encourage the inclusion and provision of public art and cultural events throughout the City, in recognition of their contribution to the overall health and wellbeing of the entire community.

Policy: SH-3.2, Neighborhood Arts Presence

Establish a regulatory framework that allows for the provision of arts throughout the City as well as incentives which encourage new development and redevelopment to incorporate art into every new development.

The original policies SH 3.2 and 3.3 have been combined into one.

Policy: SH-3.3, Public Funding for the Arts

Explore and adopt funding programs that can support local art through the use of funding mechanisms like direct grants and tax revenue programs, like Tax Increment Financing, where allowed and feasible.

This policy is somewhat broader than before, incorporating more than one funding possibility.

Policy: SH-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, and other municipal facilities.

Policy: SH-3.5, Artist and Maker Spaces

Encourage and enable the development of public artist and maker spaces throughout the city where appropriate, providing essential facilities and locations for the creation of art and other creative outlets.

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

Goal: SH-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 have value towards understanding and inclusion.

Policy: SH-4.1, Cultural Master Plan

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

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

Policy: SH-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 towards the whole community.

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

Policy: SH-4.3, Events Inclusive to All

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

Policy: SH-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: SH-4.5, Community Festivals and Events

Ensure that public spaces and facilities are planned such that they provide needed 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.

Goal: SH-5, Diversity and Equity

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, creed, sexual orientation, color, gender, ability, national origin, marital status, familial status, or background.

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

Ensure that all city programs, projects, functions, facilities, and operations are open to all peoples, regardless of their background, residency, orientation, affiliation, or physical ability/disability.

Policy: SH-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: SH-5.3, Diversity Competency 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: SH-5.4, Cultural Competency in City and Public Staff

Develop and implement recurring training opportunities for City staff, offered to local agency staff as well, to increase competency and

This new policy, too, came from ongoing engagement.

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

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

The policies in this section were originally part of "SH-4."

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

This new policy grew from policy SH-4.3 above, where policy directing such exploration by City/public employees was deemed valuable as well.

understanding when interacting with Spokane's many different cultures and social groups.

Goal: SH-6: Public Benefit and Services

<THIS SECTION WILL BE DISUCUSSED WITH THE PLAN COMMISSION AS A WHOLE, UPON COORDINATION WITH CHHS>

Goal: SH-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: SH-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: SH-7.2: Design That Communicates Public Access

Design and implement public programs, facilities, and projects such that the design of physical improvements is both attractive and conveys which portions of a site are for public use and which are not, while avoiding dangerous or unattractive features like solid fencing, hostile architecture, and concrete/block walls.

Policy: SH-7.3 "Eyes on the Street" and 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 avoid visual isolation to ensure community safety.

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.

Goal: SH-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.

(!) Goal 7 and it's policies may be amended later after coordination with relevant City Departments.

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

Policy 7.3 was updated according to current terms and concepts.

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

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

Policy: SH-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 suffer from mental or cognitive disabilities and can be safely housed outside a jail.

Policy: SH-8.3, Therapeutic Courts and Jail Diversion Center

Expand the use of therapeutic courts and non-jail alternatives to increase the provision of treatment and rehabilitation to reduce recidivism.

Goal: SH-9, Food Access and Security

Ensure that all residents have convenient access to healthy food.

Policy: SH-9.1, Local Food Production and Sales

Promote the development of farmers' or public markets, food production services, and other small-scale collaborative initiatives to provide residents with a diverse choice of locally sourced food products.

Policy: SH-9.2, Community Gardens

Enable the establishment and maintenance of community gardens on city property, as appropriate, to be maintained and operated by partnerships with local organizations.

Policy: SH-9.3, Eliminating Food Deserts

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

Policy: SH-9.4, Urban Agriculture

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

Policy: SH-9.5 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.

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

Climate and Resiliency work might provide for updated, new language here.

This policy is new, coming from direction in the Spokane Regional Food Action Plan (2022). Public engagement efforts have highlighted this opportunity as well.

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.

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-6.6, Neighborhood Role

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

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-1.6 and SH-1.7 will likely be moved to Land Use and/or Capital Facilities, where they can be incorporated into similar discussions.

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

The topic of SH-6.6 is better addressed elsewhere, perhaps in the Urban Design & Historic Preservation chapter.

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