

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan is a long-term planning document that establishes a vision, goals, and policies that guide all aspects of Spokane's growth and development over the next twenty years. The plan guides the City's actions related to land use and growth, housing, economic development such as workforce and business opportunities, natural environment protection, as well as infrastructure, parks, emergency response, wastewater and stormwater, and more.

Spokane's current Comprehensive plan – [Shaping Spokane](#) – includes the following chapters:

- [Introduction](#)
- [Implementation](#)
- [Land Use](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Capital Facilities and Utilities](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Economic Development](#)
- [Urban Design and Historic Preservation](#)
- [Natural Environment](#)
- [Social Health](#)
- [Neighborhoods](#)
- [Parks and Recreation](#)
- [Local Government and Citizenship](#)
- [Shorelines](#)
- [Glossary](#)

Why does the Comprehensive Plan require updating?

The PlanSpokane Periodic Update the Comprehensive Plan will update the document to help guide Spokane's growth through 2046. Washington State's Growth Management Act (GMA) requires each city and county to periodically review and update their Comprehensive Plans to ensure consistency with State, Regional, and County policies. The update also provides an opportunity to review population and other growth forecasts with the most up to date data, allowing for policies to be reviewed for Spokane's evolving needs and wants. Spokane's Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2017, with the next due in 2026.

Recent legislative updates that will need to be incorporated into this Periodic Update include House Bill 1181 which requires cities to incorporate climate considerations into their Comprehensive Plans, as well as House Bill 1220, requiring provisions for housing of all income segments.

How will Climate be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan?

HB 1181, the state legislation requiring the integration of climate considerations into jurisdictions Comprehensive Plans, allows for two ways to meet the bill's intent: create a stand-alone Climate Element (also known as a chapter) or integrate climate policies throughout the document. The City of Spokane has opted to integrate climate policies throughout in order to identify co-benefits that increase Spokane's future resiliency while also supporting other goals. More information about the Climate Planning efforts can be found at my.spokanecity.org/climateplanning.

What does plan for and accommodate housing for all incomes mean?

House Bill 1220 passed in 2021, specified that Comprehensive Plans must have policies regarding the provision of housing for all income segments. It also requires each community to identify the number of new housing units needed at each income level. Those housing units include supportive housing for incomes that are 0 to 29 percent of Spokane's area medium income (AMI), housing for 30-50 percent AMI, 50 to 80 percent AMI, 100 to 120 percent AMI, housing for over 120 percent AMI, and emergency housing units.

What is a "growth alternative"?

As part of the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update, Spokane will be performing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This document allows the City to identify potential growth options for the next twenty years, the potential environmental and other impacts of those growth options, and what mitigation may be required to prevent any negative effects of those options.

The potential growth options are known as Growth Alternatives and will be reviewed in the Draft EIS.

The community will then be provided the details of each Growth Alternative, allowing for feedback to refine and determine which types of growth meet the community's future vision.

A Final EIS will then be developed, based on a Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative is developed from the community's feedback of the Growth Alternatives and may include various components of one or all of the Growth Alternatives. The Preferred Alternative will be the foundation of the final Comprehensive Plan policies.

DRAFT ALTERNATIVES

Multiple Draft Alternatives that examine elements of different growth options for Spokane will be identified. The Preferred Alternative can be a combination of various elements from all the Draft Alternatives.



ANALYSIS

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will review the Draft Alternatives, identifying potential impacts and mitigation measures. This analysis will help compare the various elements of the Draft Alternatives.

BOARD & COMMISSIONS

The City's Boards and Commissions will provide feedback on the Draft Alternatives. Their discussions and recommendations will help Spokane City Council select the elements that will go into the Preferred Alternative.

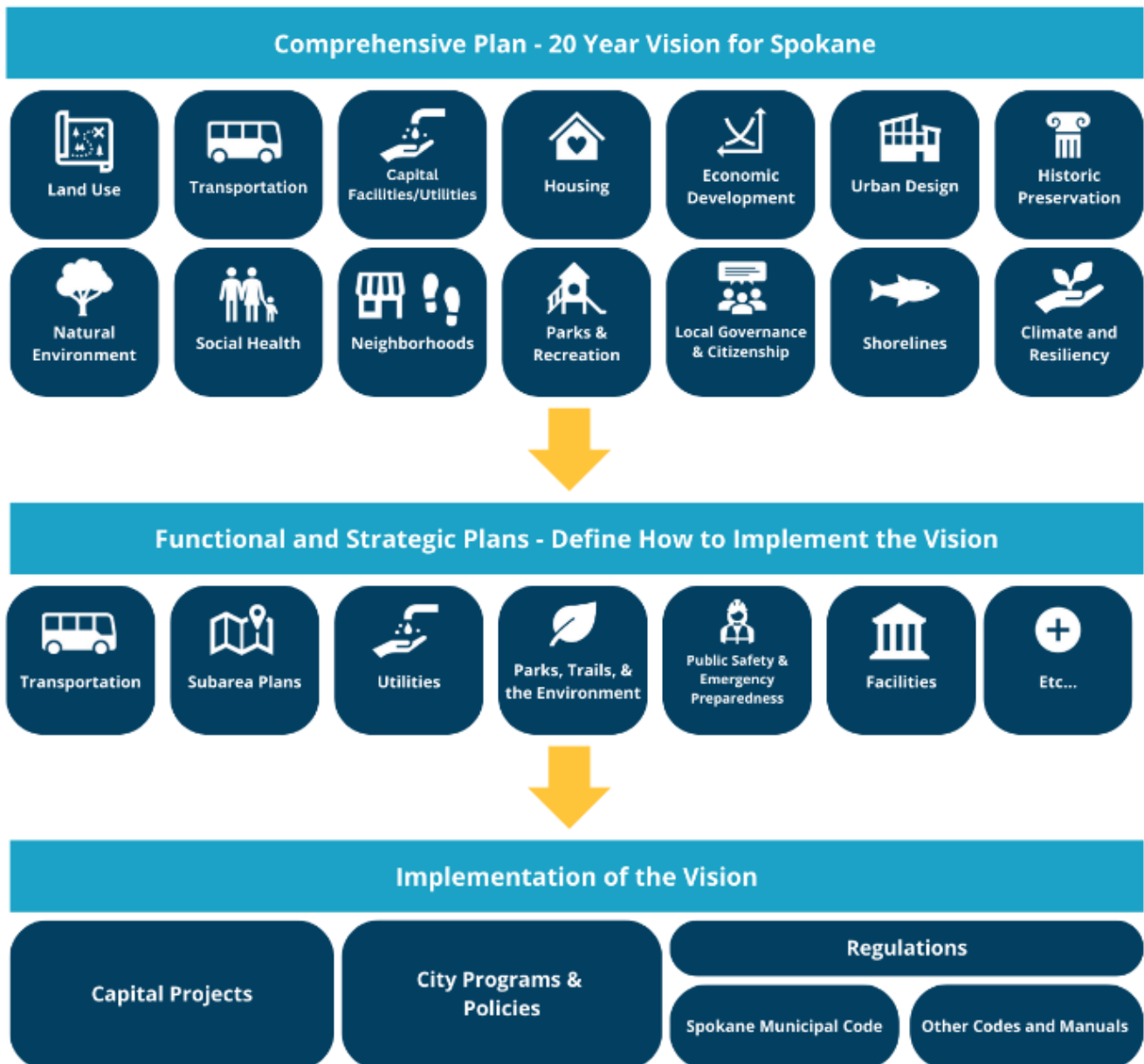
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Feedback from the community about likes, dislikes, and desires for the future growth of Spokane will be incorporated into the Preferred Alternative.

How does the Comprehensive Plan affect the city and my property?

A City's Comprehensive Plan guides future growth and development of the community for the next twenty years, through visions, goals, and policies. Those policies then filter down into regulations, such as the Spokane Municipal Code, and decision-making, such as budget allocations.

On a property-by-property basis, the Periodic Update will potentially look at modifying existing land uses within the City. Depending on the Preferred Alternative that is selected, this could result in the land use of your or surrounding properties changing, which could impact what future development could occur. However, regardless of any changes that occur, existing uses are permitted to remain and there are no requirements to redevelop or otherwise modify the existing use or structure.



How much does it cost to update the Comprehensive Plan?

Like many required plans and updates, the Periodic Update to the Comprehensive Plan is a standard local government requirement and part of the City's standard working process. The City of Spokane Planning and Economic Development Services Department is tasked with managing the Comprehensive Plan, in addition to other obligations. In addition to internal staffing, the state has issued several grant opportunities to support local governments in implementing new legislative requirements. Spokane has received the grants to provide resources to conduct analysis, community engagement, and other work to inform the Comprehensive Plan update. Those grants include the Periodic Update Grant for up to \$325,000 and the Climate Planning Grant funded by the Climate Commitment Act for up to \$700,000, which are partially being used to hire consultants for technical assistance.

The City is also leveraging recent and current projects to reduce the work necessary to complete the Periodic Update. Those projects include, but are not limited to:

- [Centers and Corridors Study](#)
- [Building Opportunity for Housing](#)
- [South Logan TOD Project](#)
- [Housing Action Plan](#)
- [Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan](#)
- [Bicycle Priority Network](#)

How can I get involved in the Periodic Update?

The City of Spokane is working on robust and diverse community engagement to hear from as many residents and visitors as possible. To get involved:

- **Visit the Website.** You can review materials, drafts, and other information on the [PlanSpokane Webpage](#).
- **Visit Engage Spokane.** An online community space to offer input and help shape the future of our thriving city, [PlanSpokane](#) and [Climate Planning](#) each have an [Engage Spokane site](#).
- **Send an Email.** You can send comments, feedback, or additional information to PlanSpokane@spokanecity.org.
- **Sign up for the PlanSpokane Newsletter.** [Sign up for email updates](#) to stay up to date on the latest developments and upcoming engagement opportunities.
- **Attend events.** Look out for upcoming community workshops and events throughout 2025 and 2026 to chat, share information, and hear your thoughts on climate planning.