



Chapter 10

Social Health

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10.1 INTRODUCTION

“A healthy city is one that is continually creating and improving those physical and social environments and strengthening those community resources which enable people to mutually support each other in performing all the functions of life and achieving their maximum potential.” – Trevor Hancock



The concept of “health” has historically been associated with issues surrounding physical health. However, the healthy communities movement defines health beyond traditional health issues and also considers social and community health. A city’s role in improving the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities requires addressing the factors that influence or cause health-related behaviors, such as: resource allocation, the physical environment, housing choices, quality education, efficient

public transportation, employment options, cultural and recreational opportunities, and accessible health systems through local policies that enhance equity.

Scope of the Chapter

In the Comprehensive Plan, the aspects of a healthy community that are specifically related to housing, natural environment, transportation, and economic development are addressed in the chapters devoted solely to those topics. This chapter addresses the more qualitative aspects that support Spokane’s social fabric.

With a full range of choices and opportunities, Spokane can maximize its human resources by enhancing each person’s ability to achieve their full potential in the community. Implementation of these ideas need not be expensive if it builds on the assets that already exist. This is a values-driven approach that uses what we have to get where we want to go. When residents are productive, safe, healthy, caring, and civil, the city is prosperous, energetic, supportive, and livable.

The policies in this chapter support a key underlying assumption that social health is strongly related to a sense of community. People feel a greater attachment to place if they associate it with meaningful experiences. When they can shop, work, play, and learn near where they live, people are provided with the



opportunity to communicate and develop a positive relationship with their neighbors. These relationships can erase barriers that arise from differences in age or socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. For this reason, the social health chapter includes policies that encourage diversity in each neighborhood.

DRAFT



10.2 VISION AND VALUES

Spokane volunteers working on the Comprehensive Plan identified important themes in relation to Spokane's current and future growth. A series of visions and values was crafted for each element of the Comprehensive Plan that describes specific performance objectives. From the Visions and Values document, adopted in 1996 by the City Council, the Comprehensive Plan's goals and policies were generated.

Social health addresses youth, families, senior citizens, people with disabilities, education, public safety, recreation, the arts, and cultural opportunities.

Vision

"Spokane will be a safe and nurturing community that provides a diversity of social, recreational, educational, and cultural opportunities for all ages. A strong, positive identity for Spokane will be furthered by constructive community events and activities."

Values

"The things that are important to Spokane's future include:

- Providing recreational and educational opportunities for all youth.
- Assuring that Spokane remains a great place to raise a family.
- Treasuring the youth and elders alike.
- Maintaining quality education and avoiding overcrowding in the schools.
- Maintaining a diversity of opportunities for higher education.
- Eliminating and keeping out drug and gang-related criminal activities.
- Implementing neighborhood and community oriented policing.
- Expanding and diversifying cultural opportunities, such as arts, sports, entertainment, and ethnic opportunities.
- Continuing community events that contribute to Spokane's community identity, such as Hoopfest, Bloomsday, and Pig-Out in the Park.
- Assuring that access to recreational opportunities is not lost as growth occurs."



10.3 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.

SH 1 FUNDING MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT SOCIAL HEALTH

Goal: Utilize all funding mechanisms that will help to develop the infrastructure, support, and staffing necessary to provide affordable, accessible opportunities for arts, culture, recreation, education, and health and human services to all citizens, with particular attention to the needs of youth, the elderly and those with special needs.

Policies

SH 1.1 Invest in Social Health

Allocate funds to arts and human services in sufficient amounts to guarantee ongoing support for these programs to achieve their full potential.

Discussion: Arts and cultural programs are a powerful economic development tool in their ability to enhance Spokane's image and thereby entice new businesses to locate here. For these reasons, the city supports the Spokane Arts Commission's efforts to promote and enhance the arts in Spokane. The Community, Housing and Human Services Department and Spokane Arts Fund each contribute substantially to the social health of the city. For this reason, it is essential to establish a consistent funding base that supports program stability. This is especially important for leveraging external dollars. To that end, general fund monies shall be allocated annually to support these functions.

The Spokane City Council has named human services as one of its nine priorities. Community, Housing and Human Services' budget supports local non-profit organizations that provide services such as child and adult day care, family support services, emergency services, and support services for special needs populations and the elderly. The Spokane Arts Fund supports the Arts Commission through a Memorandum of Understanding, and is the City of Spokane's main proponent for arts and cultural opportunities in the community. Arts staffing levels must be adequate to also pursue and administer state, federal and private grants. In addition, the Arts allocation must be sufficient to provide sub-grants to local arts organizations, and matching money for public and private arts funding.

SH 1.2 Commitment to Youth

Allocate resources at a consistent and meaningful level to provide access to youth-related programs



Discussion: Youth are critical to the future of the city. The entire community should share in supporting their growth and development. By their involvement in civic and neighborhood activities, youth see the impact of their own actions and recognize the difference they make.

Youth success is supported by far more than what happens in a classroom. The physical environment in which youth are raised plays a key role as well. Stable housing, personal and community safety, affordable transit, convenient access to school, health care, and other destinations and safe, welcoming places for interaction with peers and mentors all add up to a youth-supportive environment.

SH 1.3 Equitable Funding

Coordinate with public and private agencies at the local, state, and federal level and with recipients to design a structure for funding and decision-making that recognizes the significant presence of social services of a regional nature within the City of Spokane.

Discussion: The region's special needs populations tend to concentrate in the City of Spokane, especially mental health clients, those with developmental disabilities, and persons involved with substance abuse treatment programs. The city's Community, Housing, and Human Services Department works closely with social service providers within the city to coordinate services and allocate funding. For this reason, the city must have an active voice in regional decision making processes that address service delivery and allocation of money for services and facilities of regional or countywide significance. In addition, cost-sharing agreements should address the disproportionate presence of special needs populations in any particular jurisdiction.

SH 1.4 Accessibility

Improve communication with and access to public recreational, cultural, and educational facilities or programs.

Discussion: For those in need, reduced rates should be available via private sponsorship or public subsidy for one-time access or membership cards.

SH 1.5 Public/Private Partnerships

Encourage public/private partnerships that complement each other as a means to provide coordinated, centrally located services.

SH 1.6 Vacant Buildings

Promote and assist non-profit organizations in purchasing and renovating vacant properties in order to provide sites for additional community-related facilities.



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.

Discussion: The Spokane City Council should consider making surplus city property not anticipated for sale available to non-profit organizations for cultural, community, charitable, or civic purposes, according to a sliding scale based on ability to pay, and the relative merit of or need for the intended use for the property. Relevant non-profit organizations receive notification of the disposition hearing on surplus property through the manner outlined in the City of Spokane Charter and RCW 39.33.020.



If a city department has a reimbursable ownership interest in the subject property at the time the City Council decides to donate or lease said property, that department will be compensated from a dedicated reserve fund within the general fund that has been set aside for this purpose.

The goal is to facilitate the delivery of needed programs and services throughout the community. The chosen use must reflect either broad community values, such as the need for more affordable housing, or needs that have been identified by the specific neighborhood.

SH 1.8 Volunteerism

Promote volunteerism as a way to involve citizens in meeting the needs of their neighbors, stretch City of Spokane funding resources, and build a sense of pride in the community.



SH 2 FACILITIES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATIONS

Goal: Enable and encourage development patterns and uses of public and private property that are responsive to the facility requirements of special needs populations.

Policies

SH 2.1 Care Facilities

Distribute care facilities fairly and equitably throughout all neighborhoods.



Discussion: There is a need, as well as a legal obligation, to distribute essential public facilities fairly and equitably throughout and between all jurisdictions. Facilities of regional/countywide and/or local significance include:



- Adult day care;
- Child care;
- Long-term care facilities; and
- Other special need care facilities.

SH 2.2 Special Needs Temporary Housing



Disperse special needs temporary housing evenly throughout all neighborhoods.

Discussion: All efforts must be made to ensure that these special needs housing facilities are evenly dispersed throughout all of the city’s neighborhoods. Examples of the types of facilities for which this can be an issue include:

- Emergency shelters;
- Foster care facilities;
- Group homes;
- Transitional housing; and
- Homeless shelters.

SH 2.3 Compatible Design of Special Needs Facilities

Ensure that facilities that accommodate special needs populations blend in with the existing visual character of the neighborhood in which they are located.

Discussion: Neighborhood residents will be more likely to accept a residential care or treatment facility if it contributes to the consistency and appeal of the neighborhood’s visual character.



SH 2.4 Co-Location of Facilities

Encourage a land use pattern that allows convenient access to daily goods and services, especially for those persons with mobility limitations.

SH 2.5 Family Day Care Providers’ Home Facilities

Allow use of a residential dwelling as a family day care provider’s home facility in all areas where housing exists or is permitted.

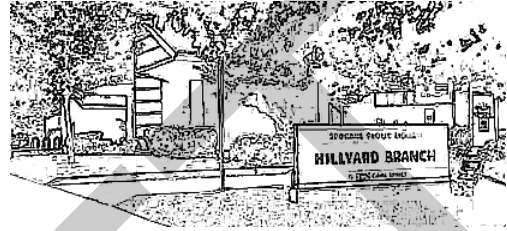
Discussion: Zoning regulations that relate to family day care providers’ home facilities cannot be any more restrictive than conditions imposed on any other



residential dwelling in the same zone. However, certain procedures and conditions may be required insofar as they relate specifically to use of the property as a day care facility, as outlined in RCW 36.70A.450.

SH 2.6 Joint-Use Facilities

Provide for the joint use of facilities that clusters services for child or adult day care, health care, human services, libraries, schools, and cultural, recreational, and educational programs, as needed.



SH 2.7 Exceptions to Fair Housing

Regulate residential structures occupied by persons who pose a direct threat to the health or safety of other individuals or whose tenancy would result in substantial physical damage to the property of others through appropriate and necessary means to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

Discussion: Institutional housing facilities serving individuals in a residential setting who are not subject to fair housing laws, such as the Federal Fair Housing Act and the State Housing Policy Act, but who pose a significant and serious risk to the public health, safety and welfare may be subject to local zoning regulations, per 42 U.S.C. §3604(t)(9). Such a determination must rely on competent and substantial evidence rather than fear, ignorance, or prejudice.

Examples of such facilities include mental health facilities, and residential settings for persons involved with the criminal justice system, such as detoxification facilities, parolee work release facilities, sexual offender treatment facilities, and other re-entry facilities. These facilities are often difficult to site.

Development regulations identify requirements for on-site supervision, and spacing requirements sufficient to adequately separate uses from each other and buffer vulnerable sites such as schools, day care facilities, parks, community centers, libraries, places of worship and school bus stops. Strategies for public involvement range from initial notification to the option of a public hearing before the Hearing Examiner. The siting process will follow the guidelines in place for siting of essential public facilities.

See Chapter 3, Land Use, for policies related to the siting of facilities for special needs populations and Chapter 6, Housing for policies related to fair housing.



SH 3 ARTS AND CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Goal: Support community image and identity through the arts and accessible art activities.

Policies

SH 3.1 Support for the Arts

Encourage public and private participation in and support of arts and cultural events in recognition of their contribution to the physical, mental, social, and economic wellbeing of the community.



Discussion: Arts are valued for their ability to entertain, inspire, challenge, and enrich us. In addition, artists make a significant contribution to the local economy as small businesses. The full array of artists and arts organizations includes written, visual, musical, traditional, and performing arts.

There is substantial potential for city departments to provide in-kind support for community cultural events. The arts organization could then use this in-kind contribution as a match for private funding. In addition, the city could make a public statement about the importance of arts by providing seed money for an arts endowment fund. In return for contributions, private entities could receive tax or development incentives.

SH 3.2 Neighborhood Arts Presence

Provide the regulatory flexibility necessary to support and encourage an arts presence at the neighborhood level.

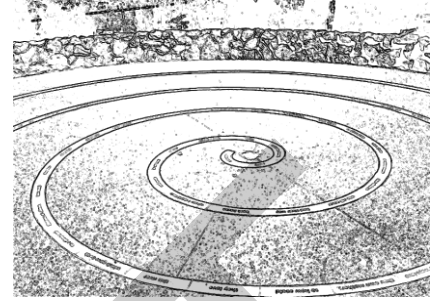
Discussion: A neighborhood level arts presence adds to neighborhood character and identity, contributes to and diversifies the neighborhood economy, and makes the arts more accessible to neighborhood residents. In order to do this, regulations must allow for such things as artist galleries, live-work spaces, and studios in neighborhoods and must provide for parking and home business standards that support “arts incubator” projects in neighborhoods. Regulations should also encourage the presence of street fairs and market places that include performance and display space for street artisans, thereby lending a festival atmosphere to the neighborhood. Joint use of neighborhood facilities can expand on this arts presence by creating increased opportunities for arts education and performance space.

SH 3.3 Public Art Incentives

Provide incentives such as bonus densities or increases in floor-area ratio and lot coverage to encourage the use of public art in commercial, industrial, and mixed-use developments.



Discussion: The City of Spokane desires an aesthetic environment and use of arts in public and private development as a way to connect with local history, reinforce neighborhood identity, and strengthen a sense of belonging. A design committee or art selection committee should review any proposed public artwork, as outlined in the Municipal Art Plan.



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.

SH 3.5 Tax Increment Financing

Support the use of tax increment financing for the arts.

Discussion: One of the more creative applications of revenues from tax increment financing (TIF) views public art as a form of infrastructure. There are several good models for implementation of this strategy for funding the arts. One approach includes a partnership between the city's Arts Commission and the development corporation who receives and manages TIF revenues. The Arts Commission administers the public arts projects for the development corporation and the city.

SH 3.6 Life-Long Learning

Work in partnership with artists, arts organizations, ethnic, cultural, musical and community associations, and education institutions to foster opportunities for life-long cultural exploration for all citizens.

Discussion: Cultural programs can provide important opportunities for learning and enjoyment to people of all ages and circumstances. Creative delivery options could include poetry and graphic art on railroad viaducts and transit and bus shelters, presentations at major public events, and the treatment of information on public flyers and billing statements.



SH 3.7 Support Local Artists

Solicit local artists to design or produce functional and decorative elements for the public realm, whenever possible.



Discussion: City departments should take advantage of every opportunity for local artists to design solutions or create some of the components of public projects. An example would be street amenities such as benches, lighting, and gates.

SH 3.8 Community Festivals

Support celebrations that enhance the community's identity and sense of place.

Discussion: Community-wide festivals are valuable assets to Spokane for many reasons. They serve as valuable community-building forums that strengthen community identity and establish that identity among the tourist trade. Currently successful examples include Hoopfest, Bloomsday, and Pig Out in the Park. The City of Spokane will continue to support community festivals in any way possible, in recognition of the opportunity they provide to build community.

SH 4 DIVERSITY

Goal: Develop and implement programs that attract and retain city residents from a diverse range of backgrounds and life circumstances so that all people feel welcome and accepted, regardless of their race, religion, color, sex, national origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation, economic status, disability, or other protected classes, consistent with SMC Title 18.

Policies

SH 4.1 Universal Accessibility

Ensure that neighborhood facilities and programs are universally accessible.

Discussion: Community-based programs and facilities should be physically, operationally, financially, and culturally accessible to all those who desire to participate. Specific barriers to accessibility may include physical aspects, such as architectural design or building location, hours of operation, public transit routes, income eligibility requirements, and the need for interpretation due to language barriers or hearing, speech, or visual impairment.

SH 4.2 Cultural Competency and Education

Encourage programs and events that foster understanding and appreciation of the diversity of the community and region.

Discussion: Cultural activities provide an excellent forum in which to share with each other our diverse insights into and experiences of life. This exchange adds a rich texture that improves everyone's quality of life, and helps us to understand, appreciate, and value each other.

Chapter 6, Housing, includes policies related to the mix of housing types, as they relate to social health.



SH 5 PUBLIC BENEFIT USES

Goal: Create policy framework, laws, and regulations that expand and develop wellness programs, affordable and accessible health and human services, child and adult day care, and other public benefit uses.

Policies

SH 5.1 Coordination of Human Services

Coordinate with public and private agencies and other appropriate entities to evaluate existing needs, facilities, and programs relative to health and human services, and develop regionally equitable and comprehensive programs and service delivery systems.

Discussion: Community-based partners in this coordination process may include social service agencies, schools, libraries, community centers, and neighborhood groups. Efforts should be directed toward issues related to persons who are homeless, disabled, in low-income brackets, and others in need. Of particular concern are the impacts of deinstitutionalization and the inequities and inefficiencies of service delivery, which can result when location of service provision, geographic distribution of consumers, and funding and programmatic decision-making become disassociated from one another. Cooperation will result in improved coordination, reduced duplication of services, and increased efforts to access and leverage any funds available to the respective entities that support these efforts.

SH 5.2 Neighborhood-Level Health and Human Services

Provide financial, regulatory, and tax incentives for business and property owners, service providers, and developers in order to increase the number of neighborhood and district centers where health and dental clinics, and human services are available.

Discussion: Access to health and dental care, and human services, is a fundamental aspect of social health. Therefore, facilities and staffing should be sufficient to enable all citizens to obtain health and human services at the neighborhood level, preferably within walking distance of their home. There are a number of ways the City of Spokane can provide financial support for neighborhood-based health and human services. By adequately funding the Community Housing and Human Services Department, the city provides both the matching money necessary to access outside funding as well as staff whose technical assistance can help non-profit organizations obtain federal, state and private funding



for which they are eligible. These efforts should specifically focus on projects that support the location of human services in neighborhood and district centers.

SH 5.3 Space for Public Benefit Uses

Provide regulatory and tax incentives and flexibility that encourage builders, developers, and businesses to make space available in their project for public benefit uses.

Discussion: Any of the following uses qualify as a public benefit use, so long as they are available to the general public: child and/or adult day care; health and human services, such as employment counseling and walk-in clinics; recreation facilities; educational or vocational activities; community meeting rooms; and art galleries or museums.



SH 6 SAFETY

Goal: Create and maintain a safe community through the cooperative efforts of citizens and city departments, such as Planning and Development, Police, Fire, Community, Housing and Human Services, Parks and Recreation, and Neighborhood Services.

Policies

SH 6.1 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Themes

Include the themes commonly associated with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) in the normal review process for development proposals.

Discussion: The CPTED concept packages quality planning and design standards into a development tool that supports public safety. Certain themes commonly associated with the CPTED approach include:

- **Activities vs. Locations:** Create a presence of normal activity, which dominates the tone of acceptable behavior and ownership for any given space.
- **Elimination of Anonymous Spaces:** Employ methods that create a perception of territorial ownership in public spaces, such as artwork (as approved by the Arts Commission) on bus shelters, underpasses, and parking lots, as one means to reduce vandalism.



- **Friendly Streetscapes:** Encourage on-street parking (as opposed to expansive parking lots), narrower streets, crosswalks, and sidewalks.
- **Lighting:** Design lighting to specifically support safety, identification, environmental integration, beautification, attraction, and recreation.
- **Variety of Uses:** Include a variety of uses in the same building, which helps to ensure that someone is around the building more frequently; e.g., residential and commercial uses in the same building.
- **Natural Barriers:** Provide natural barriers, such as distance or terrain, to separate conflicting activities.
- **Pedestrian Amenities:** Encourage public interaction and create street activity by providing pedestrian amenities, such as sturdy seating and pedestrian-level lighting in parking lots, walkways, entrances, and exits.
- **Property Maintenance:** Create the impression that someone is monitoring a property by consistently maintaining the property in a way that conveys a pride of ownership.

SH 6.2 Natural Access Control

Use design elements to define space physically or symbolically to control access to property.

Discussion: Examples of acceptable natural or symbolic elements include visually permeable fences, low walls, prickly shrubbery and canopy trees, signs, pavement, art, and vegetative or fenced screening. These tools can be used effectively to notify an intruder that they have entered someone’s space. The idea is to create a safe environment that still has a people-friendly feel to it. The goal is to discourage access control methods that feel institutional, ranging from labor-intensive organized methods, such as guards, or overt mechanical devices, such as locks and gates. Through application of restraint, it is possible to limit access and declare ownership without sacrificing aesthetics.

SH 6.3 Natural Surveillance

Design activities and spaces so that users of the space are visible rather than concealed.

Discussion: Activity patterns can be influenced through the design of parking, building orientation, and elements such as windows and landscaping, which encourage visibility and public interaction. It is usually more efficient and cost-effective for people



who know their neighbors to assert ownership over their personal and public space than to expect this level of oversight from an outside presence such as a police patrol. Also, people’s behavior often corresponds to the quality and character of their environment. For example, people tend to rise to the expectations of a humane environment, whereas an impersonal or anonymous environment suggests that people may not need to be accountable for their actions.

SH 6.4 Territorial Reinforcement

Employ certain elements to convey a sense of arrival and ownership and guide the public through clearly delineated public, semi-public, and private spaces.

Discussion: Examples of elements that can be used to indicate the location of defensible space include sidewalks, pavement, lighting, landscaping, signage, art, low walls, fencing, and changes in elevation. Public spaces are those intended for all to use, semi-private spaces are intended for specific users or uses, and private space is intended for private use by businesses, tenants, and homeowners.



SH 6.5 Project Design Review

Include the crime prevention principles of CPTED in any analysis of projects that come before the Design Review Board.

Discussion: Design review for crime prevention should result in recommendations that encourage voluntary, creative solutions rather than mandates, which require specific actions.

SH 6.6 Neighborhood Role

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

Discussion: Information on CPTED principles should be available to citizens who are interested in proactive steps they can take to make their neighborhood a safer place to live, work, shop, and play.

SH 6.7 Community Oriented Policing Services

Continue to support the operation and administration of neighborhood-based Community Oriented Policing Services (C.O.P.S.).

Discussion: Spokane’s Community Oriented Policing Services (C.O.P.S.) is an international model for successful community mobilization and neighborhood level problem solving. This prime example of neighbors helping neighbors is a very effective way to improve neighborhood safety, a key aspect of social health. C.O.P.S.



Substations also provide vital venues for decentralized, neighborhood-based collaborative outreach between agencies.

SH 7 FOOD ACCESS AND SECURITY

Goal: Ensure that all citizens have convenient access to healthy food.

Policies

SH 7.1 Local Food Production

Promote the development of home and community gardens, farmers' or public markets, and other small-scale collaborative initiatives in order to provide citizens with a diverse choice of locally-based food products.

SH 7.2 Community Gardens

Enable the establishment and maintenance of community gardens on city property, as appropriate.

Discussion: Creative approaches to managing community gardens must be considered in order to maintain the gardens once they are established. Such approaches may include support and/or management from educational institutions or volunteer community organizations.

SH 7.3 Access to Fresh Produce

Develop incentive programs to encourage convenience stores – especially those located in areas with limited access to full-service grocery stores, to carry fresh produce.

SH 7.4 Urban Agriculture

Recognize urban agriculture as a strategic asset for community development, neighborhood beautification, and public health.

