



Neighborhoods

CHAPTER CONTENTS

The Chapter Contents have not been updated here. They will be updated with the correct subsections and page numbers at the end of the approval process, as page numbers can change due to formatting and other factors.

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Changes that remove or modify language from the existing Comprehensive Plan will be shown in **RED**. This includes those instances where an identical policy exists in other Chapters and the redundant Policy has been removed from this chapter.

Instances where a Policy has been moved, or when two or more policies have been combined into one in this Chapter, the text will be identified with a **GREEN** color. Any changes to the original language will be shown in the final location of combined/moved Policies. The original location will be shown in ~~strikethrough~~ to indicate the language is no longer located there. The reader is advised to look at the language in the final location to see any changes that may have been made to the original text after the move/combination.

11.1 INTRODUCTION

The Future of Spokane's Neighborhoods

The neighborhoods chapter contains goals and policies that set the direction for citywide neighborhood growth and development. They establish basic principles that apply to all neighborhoods, ensuring an overall growth pattern that represents the interests and desires of the entire community.

~~The Neighborhood Planning Process section establishes the process for neighborhood planning after the comprehensive plan is adopted. Neighborhood planning is an important community process in the City of Spokane that will serve to fulfill the vision of the comprehensive plan while ensuring that neighborhoods continue to be the foundation of a strong community. To one degree or another, neighborhood planning has been present in Spokane over the past twenty years. While many of the complex issues and opportunities facing the city can be effectively addressed at a citywide level, others need more specific solutions. In addition, neighborhoods may face issues and opportunities different from other parts of the city. Neighborhood planning will help to address individual neighborhood issues and opportunities in order to maintain and enhance the City of Spokane's quality of life. Although the city will be conducting neighborhood planning activities, the city is not committed to recreating neighborhood specific plans per se. The city will be conducting neighborhood planning activities that implement the comprehensive plan through center planning, resolve joint planning issues in the city's unincorporated urban growth area, and address issues and opportunities identified by neighborhoods in an assessment process.~~

The Focus Group decided to remove discussion of the Neighborhood Planning Process because it is not a policy but rather an activity that is implemented through a separate process and subject to City Council funding. See Goal N8 below.

Policies pertaining to neighborhood design and preservation are included in Chapter 8, Urban Design and Historic Preservation, DP 6, Neighborhood Qualities, and DP 7, Local Determination. Policies pertaining to land use can be found in Chapter 3, Land Use, LU 3.2, Centers and Corridors, LU 3.3, Planned Neighborhood Centers, LU 3.4, Planning for Centers and Corridors, and LU 3.5 Mix of Uses in Centers.

~~See the Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS, Volume 2, Chapter 25, "Neighborhood Planning," for additional information on the history of neighborhood planning in the City of Spokane; also see Map N 1, "Community Development Neighborhoods" and Map N 2, "Neighborhood Councils."~~

References to the EIS were removed for streamlining purposes. The EIS remains as an appendix to the Comprehensive Plan (Volume II).

Shaping the Future

~~In planning for the future of Spokane's neighborhoods, the overall objective of citizens participating in the Horizons comprehensive planning process was to find ways to improve and maintain the quality of life in the city's neighborhoods. Participants expressed several key issues of concern about today's neighborhoods and spent many hours discussing solutions. These issues and solutions greatly influenced the content of the plan and shaped the proposed directives for Spokane's future growth. These directives—the vision, values, goals, and policies of the neighborhoods element of the plan—provide guidance for decision-makers on the way neighborhoods will grow on a citywide level.~~

Key Issues and Solutions

~~Low density development and segregated land uses have shaped the city's urban and suburban growth patterns for the past several decades. Problems of increased traffic congestion, air pollution, overburdened public facilities, increased housing and infrastructure costs, loss of open space, and loss of other valued community resources are typically associated with such patterns. Presently, the ability to walk or bicycle to daily destinations is not an option in most neighborhoods.~~

Designing neighborhoods that make it easier for people to walk or bicycle to shops and services is one solution for making city neighborhoods desirable living environments. A compact mix of retail, business, and residential activity in neighborhood centers reduces the need for an automobile and reverses the growing problems of sprawl. As a result, fuel is conserved, less pollution is created, and communication between neighbors flourishes.



Furthermore, diverse housing within centers and corridors provides choices for singles, families, and the growing empty-



nester and elderly populations. A network of sidewalks, paths, and transit linkages within and between neighborhoods enables neighbors to connect with each other and the larger community.

To ensure the compatibility of existing neighborhood character with new development, neighborhood planning includes design guidelines and review. Neighborhood citizens and businesses will participate in decisions affecting neighborhood physical, economic, and social development and will work with other neighborhoods to

ensure that visions and plans do not conflict. Spokane will be defined as a city of neighborhoods with an interwoven design plan and policies. The health, safety, and welfare of the larger community will always be paramount to neighborhood decision-making.

This chapter's goals and policies are intended to enable Spokane to be a cohesive network of individual neighborhoods by providing residents with a wide range of choices of housing locations and options; the preservation of distinctive neighborhood character; attractive and safe streetscapes; transportation options; quality schools; inviting gathering places; proximity to a variety of public services; cultural, social, recreational, and entertainment opportunities; and finally, a sense of place and community – a city citizens can proudly call home – a city of neighborhoods.

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- ◆ A wide range of choices of housing locations and options
- ◆ The preservation of distinctive neighborhood character
- ◆ Attractive and safe streetscapes
- ◆ Transportation options
- ◆ Quality schools
- ◆ Inviting gathering places
- ◆ Proximity to a variety of public services
- ◆ Cultural, social, recreational, and entertainment opportunities
- ◆ A sense of place and community
- ◆ A city we proudly call home

A City of Neighborhoods

This list was incorporated into the paragraph above and some items are discussed in other chapters of the Comprehensive Plan.

~~11.2 GMA GOAL AND REQUIREMENTS AND COUNTYWIDE PLANNING POLICIES~~

~~GMA Neighborhoods Planning Goals (RCW 36.70A.020)~~

~~While neighborhoods is not one of the elements required under the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), it falls within the GMA's provision for optional elements (RCW 36.70A.080). The neighborhoods chapter addresses a range of principles for neighborhood growth identified by the citizens who participated in the Spokane Horizons planning process. These principles are incorporated into the neighborhoods' goals and policies, most of which support or relate to several of the broader goals of the GMA. The chapter contains goals and policies relating to the GMA goals of: (Goal 1) Reduce Sprawl, (Goal 3) Transportation, (Goal 4) Housing, (Goal 9) Open Space and Recreation, (Goal 10) Environment, (Goal 11) Citizen Participation and Coordination, (Goal 12) Public Facilities and Services, and (Goal 13) Historic Preservation. Refer to the Growth Management Act, RCW 36.70A.020, Planning Goals, for a description of each goal.~~

For all chapters, the GMA Goal and Requirements and Countywide Planning Policies have been moved to Volume V, Appendix A.

~~Countywide Planning Policies~~

~~The neighborhoods chapter also addresses the protection of neighborhood character, one of the principles from the "Statement of Principles," which introduces the Countywide Planning Policies (CWPPs). These principles, identified by the Steering Committee of Elected Officials, embody the overall tone and viewpoint of the policies.~~

~~In addition, the neighborhoods chapter contains policies relating to the CWPP topics of Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development and Provision of Urban Services, Parks and Open Space, Transportation, Siting of Essential Public Facilities, Affordable Housing, and Economic Development. Refer to the Countywide Planning Policies and Environmental Analysis for Spokane County for the full content of each policy, adopted December 22, 1994.~~

11.23 VISION AND VALUES

Spokane volunteers working to develop the 2001 Comprehensive Plan ~~Horizons volunteers~~ 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.

~~Neighborhoods are sub-districts of the community and identify, create, promote, protect, and respect integration of the total community, service needs, and operations.~~

All references to the “Horizons” process were deleted throughout the chapter, given the length of time that has elapsed since that process occurred – reducing the name recognition. The Comprehensive Plan now references the efforts of volunteers, including those that helped with “Horizons.”

The Visions and Values of the “Horizons” process remain virtually untouched.

Vision

“Spokane’s neighborhoods will be safe, inclusive, diverse, and livable with a variety of compatible services. Existing neighborhoods will be preserved or enhanced and new distinctive neighborhoods, including the downtown area, will be established so that a sense of community is promoted.”

Values

“The things that are important to Spokane’s future include:

- ◆ Preserving or enhancing older neighborhoods that make Spokane unique.
- ◆ Developing new neighborhoods that have individual character and identity.
- ◆ Encouraging the development of neighborhoods that feel like small towns, that provide a variety of compatible services, and that have schools and community centers.
- ◆ Preserving or enhancing inner city neighborhoods.
- ◆ Recognizing downtown Spokane as a mixed-use neighborhood with a diversity of housing.
- ◆ Ensuring safe, relaxing, attractive, livable, enjoyable, economically diverse neighborhoods.”

11.34 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. Additional materials for this chapter are located in the Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS, Volume 2, Chapter 25, Neighborhoods.

N 1 THE DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

Goal: ~~Recognize~~ ~~Promote~~ downtown Spokane as the primary economic and cultural center of the region and improve its viability as a desirable neighborhood in which to live and conduct business.

Policies

N 1.1 Downtown Development

Develop downtown Spokane as the primary economic and cultural center of the region and provide a variety of housing, recreation, and daily service opportunities that attract and retain neighborhood residents.

Discussion: Enhancing downtown Spokane as a vital and desirable neighborhood in which to live attracts a diverse and stable resident population. The vitality of the downtown neighborhood is key to the success of preserving the quality of life in city neighborhoods, particularly those neighborhoods that are close to the city core. Healthy neighborhoods provide the downtown area with a market support base for its retail, services, restaurants, and entertainment sectors.

N 2 NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Goal: Reinforce the stability and diversity of the city's neighborhoods in order to attract long-term residents and businesses and to ~~e~~nsure the city's residential quality, cultural opportunities, and economic vitality.

Policies

N 2.1 Neighborhood Quality of Life

Ensure that neighborhoods continue to offer residents transportation and living options, safe streets, quality schools, public services, and cultural, social, and recreational opportunities in order to sustain and enhance the vitality, diversity, and quality of life within neighborhoods.

This is a new policy developed during the Focus Group process in order to highlight the importance of neighborhood quality of life.

Discussion: Spokane enjoys a rich variety of living opportunities within its individual neighborhoods, each with its unique character. Maintaining and enhancing our neighborhood assets is key to providing stability within neighborhoods and Spokane citizens with a prolonged sense of pride.

~~N 2.1.2~~ Mixed-Use Neighborhood Centers

Develop ~~a~~ neighborhoods ~~infrastructure~~ that enables citizens to live, work, shop, socialize, and receive other essential services within their own neighborhood.

Discussion: Mixed-use neighborhood centers in designated areas throughout the city ~~will~~ provide neighborhood services as well as economic and cultural opportunities that are centrally located, easily accessible, and affordable. ~~A center might include an elementary school, community center, church, small grocery store, laundromat, barber, delicatessen, and other~~

~~neighborhood-scale services. A center will be within walking and bicycling distance of most neighborhood residents, preferably within a half mile.~~

~~Within the hierarchy of centers, neighborhood centers should serve a single neighborhood whereas district centers should serve several nearby neighborhoods, as well as the people living near the center itself. The range of available services, as well as the scale of the service offered, is broader in a district center than a neighborhood center. Thus, the character of the available service depends not only on the needs of the particular neighborhood(s) but also on the type of center.~~

This discussion was removed because it is already included in the Chapter 3, Land Use.

N 2.23 Special Needs

~~Provide neighborhood-based services that address special needs and that are in proximity to public transit routes so as to be accessed easily by local residents. Ensure that neighborhood-based services are available for special needs and located in proximity to public transit routes in order to be accessible to local residents.~~



Discussion: ~~Special needs services include adult day care, child care, long-term elderly care, special needs housing, and transitional housing. Special needs services can include child/adult care services, long-term care for special needs, special needs housing, and other related services which recognize self-direction and participation by all residents and/or recipients of the services.~~

N 2.3 Neighborhood Redevelopment

~~Identify specific areas in neighborhoods where redevelopment is appropriate, and program the manner in which those changes are to occur, consistent with the neighborhood planning process.~~

This policy was deleted by the focus group because the process of neighborhood planning is continually changing.

N 2.4 Neighborhood Improvement

Encourage ~~revitalization~~ *rehabilitation* and improvement programs to conserve and upgrade existing properties and buildings.

Discussion: ~~Neighborhood citizen groups should focus on home and neighborhood maintenance and improvement through the neighborhood planning process. To stimulate property owners to maintain or improve their properties, the city should fund improvement programs for inadequate or deteriorating parks, streets, utilities, libraries, community centers, and other public facilities, particularly in older areas.~~



N 2.5 Neighborhood Arts

Devote space in all neighborhoods downtown Spokane and neighborhoods for public art, including sculptures, murals, special sites, and facilities.

Discussion: ~~Examples of public art space include artist gallery/market places, art studios where artists both live and work (live-work space), “arts incubator” projects, and sculptural or architectural entrances to neighborhoods, airports, and downtown areas.~~

N 2.6 Housing Options

~~Provide a variety of housing options within neighborhoods to attract and retain neighborhood residents, consistent with the neighborhood planning process.~~

~~**Discussion:** A mixture of low, moderate, and high income housing should be available within the neighborhood or neighborhood center.~~

~~Various types of housing that provide lifestyle choices for our diverse population should also be available. Apartments, condominiums, townhouses, rowhouses, duplexes, and single family homes are examples of housing options.~~

~~The housing in downtown Spokane primarily consists of multifamily units targeted for low income and elderly occupancy. While it is important to continue to meet the needs of the low income and elderly, downtown Spokane can also benefit from meeting the housing needs of a wide range of consumers, from affordable, below market rate housing to luxury units. Other downtown areas across the nation have discovered a demand for market rate units, particularly with young professionals and empty nesters. Increasing the number and diversity of downtown residents helps to support retail and neighborhood services and generates day and night activity in downtown Spokane.~~

~~Additional information on neighborhood centers is found in Chapter 3, Land Use. Additionally, policies related to housing options – including neighborhoods and neighborhood centers – are included in Chapter 6, Housing.~~

~~This policy was deleted by the Focus Group because the Downtown Plan already covers part of it (second paragraph) and it was redundant with Chapter 6, Housing (See Goal H 2 and its associated policies).~~

N 3 NEIGHBORHOOD FACILITIES

Goal: Maximize the usefulness of existing neighborhood facilities and services while minimizing the impacts of major facilities located within neighborhoods.

Policies

N 3.1 Multipurpose Use of Neighborhood Buildings

~~Work with neighborhoods to develop a strategy plan for the multipurpose use of existing structures and the extension of services within neighborhoods for neighborhood activities.~~

Discussion: Rather than constructing new buildings for neighborhood services and activities, the city should make better use of existing buildings and parks. The city should extend facility hours, hire additional staff, or provide the opportunity for neighborhood volunteers to staff the facilities. The City of Spokane and neighborhoods can also partner with private resources to acquire needed space for neighborhood activities such as performances, exhibitions, classes, and neighborhood meetings.



N 3.2 Major Facilities

~~Use the siting process outlined under “Adequate Public Lands and Facilities” (LU 6) as a guide when evaluating potential locations for facilities within city neighborhoods, working with neighborhood councils and/or interest-specific steering committees to explore mitigation measures, public amenity enhancements, and alternative locations.-~~

~~This policy was modified because Steering Committees are no longer separate committees in some neighborhoods.~~

Discussion: Traffic and noise are just two negative impacts of locating a major facility within a neighborhood. The city needs to examine the benefits of centralizing these large facilities so that neighborhoods are not negatively impacted. The city can look to mitigation measures or a public amenity in exchange for major facility siting. In addition, the fact that property is city-owned is not a sufficient reason for choosing a site for a large facility, and alternative locations should be explored. The Land Use Policy 6.11, “Siting Essential Public Facilities,” ~~describes outlines the a-~~siting process contained in the “Spokane County Regional Siting Process for Essential Public Facilities.” that supplements the model siting process described in the Growth Management Siting of Essential Public Facilities Technical Committee Report. This process should also be applied to siting decisions relative to essential public facilities of a local nature within neighborhoods, such as libraries, schools, and community centers.

N 4 TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION

Goal: Provide Spokane residents with clean air, safe streets, and quiet, peaceful living environments by reducing the volume of automobile traffic passing through neighborhoods and promoting alternative modes of circulation.

Policies

N 4.1 Neighborhood Traffic Impact

Consider impacts to neighborhoods when planning the city transportation network.

Discussion: City growth has impacted many older, established neighborhoods, particularly those that are close to the city core. The primary impact to these established neighborhoods is from traffic passing through them from new developments. Streets are often widened to accommodate the additional traffic, which produces more traffic, air pollution, and safety concerns.

N 4.2 Neighborhood Streets

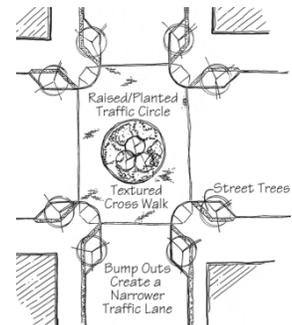
Refrain, when possible, from constructing new arterials that bisect neighborhoods and from widening streets within neighborhoods for the purpose of accommodating additional automobiles.

Discussion: Though designed to increase convenience to outlying housing, the addition of major arterials is compromising older neighborhoods. In addition to increasing traffic congestion, reducing air quality, and posing safety hazards, arterials that pass through neighborhoods physically divide, disrupt, and diminish the character and social fabric of the neighborhood.

N 4.3 Traffic Patterns

Alter traffic patterns and redesign neighborhood streets in order to reduce non-neighborhood traffic, discourage speeding, and improve neighborhood safety.

Discussion: When arterials become congested, drivers look for alternative routes and often use neighborhood streets for short-cuts. This habit has increased the volume of automobile traffic in city neighborhoods and has caused increased safety, noise, and air pollution concerns for neighborhood residents. To help deter the inappropriate use of neighborhood streets by non-neighborhood traffic, the city should take steps to alter traffic patterns and redesign neighborhood streets by implementing a program that includes large street trees, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, traffic circles, stop signs, and narrower streets.



N 4.4 Neighborhood Business Traffic

Ensure that the size of a neighborhood business is appropriate for the size of the neighborhood it serves so that trips generated by non-local traffic through the neighborhood are minimized.

Discussion: Neighborhood businesses should be of the size and type to fit neighborhood character and to serve the needs of neighborhood residents. Larger businesses within neighborhoods often attract community and regional traffic. By limiting the size of businesses within neighborhoods, fewer trips are generated through the neighborhood by non-local traffic.

N 4.5 Multimodal Transportation

Promote a variety alternative forms of transportation options to reduce automobile dependency and neighborhood traffic.

~~**Discussion:** To reduce automobile dependency and neighborhood traffic, the city should promote a variety of transportation options, such as ride-sharing, walking, bicycling, or riding the bus. This can be accomplished by such means as encouraging trip reduction programs for businesses, enabling the development of neighborhood centers so that neighborhood residents can walk or bicycle for daily service needs, and designing pedestrian-friendly streets and neighborhoods.~~



~~Some neighborhoods have essential public facilities that draw a large amount of traffic from outside of the neighborhood. Measures to help alleviate this traffic include satellite parking on the periphery of the neighborhood, enhanced transit service, or shuttle and van service.~~

N 4.6 Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections

Establish a continuous pedestrian and bicycle network within and between all neighborhoods.

~~N 4.7 Transit Access~~

~~Encourage the transit authority to increase transit accessibility.~~

~~**Discussion:** Mobility and accessibility within neighborhoods can be increased by making transit more convenient. Suggested methods include more bus stops in neighborhoods, improved schedules, shorter commute times, cross-city routes, and more express routes. Shelters and stops should be well illuminated and have benches and adequate route information. Satellite sites (off-site connecting stations) and more park and ride-lots are additional ways to make transit more user-friendly and inviting.~~

Policies 4.7 and 4.8 have been removed because they are addressed in Chapter 4, Transportation.

~~N 4.8 Transportation Services~~

~~Work with the Spokane Transit Authority or other transit carriers to augment the bus system through the use of small-van services (paratransit) within and between neighborhoods.~~

The Focus Group removed this policy because it is the responsibility of STA to provide transit services.

~~N 4.9 Funding Programs for Neighborhood Transportation~~

~~Work with neighborhoods to explore funding programs for neighborhood-based transportation for residents who do not drive.~~

This policy was deleted by the focus group because transportation funding is not under the purview of neighborhood planning and is better addressed in the Transportation Chapter (Chapter 4).

~~N 4.710 Pedestrian Design~~

~~Design neighborhoods for pedestrians.~~

~~**Discussion:** Neighborhoods become more stable, desirable living environments through the use of basic community building design principles that include more transportation options, convenience, safety, social interaction, and aesthetically pleasing streetscapes.~~

~~Neighborhoods that possess these qualities provide a sense of place and community for neighborhood residents. Pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods can be created through the use of parking strips, street trees, sidewalks, pedestrian and bicycle paths, pedestrian malls, landscaping, traffic-calming devices, rear parking for businesses, screened or underground parking for multifamily housing, and systems routing traffic away from neighborhoods.~~



~~N 4.811 Sidewalk Program~~

~~Develop a sidewalk program to maintain, repair, or build new sidewalks in existing neighborhoods, and require sidewalks in new neighborhoods, concurrent with development.~~

~~N 4.12 Pedestrian Buffer Strips~~

~~Require that sidewalks be separated from the street by a pedestrian buffer strip on all new or redeveloped streets to provide a safe place to walk.~~

This topic is already addressed in Chapter 3, Land Use, and Chapter 4, Transportation. Therefore, it has been removed here.

~~**Discussion:** New or redeveloped neighborhoods should be required to incorporate pedestrian buffer strips along sidewalks in order to provide a buffer between the sidewalk and street. Buffer strips protect pedestrians from street traffic and also serve as areas where snow can be plowed during the winter months rather than being plowed directly onto sidewalks, which impedes walking. The city will work with neighborhoods that do not have separated sidewalks to help them develop a sidewalk snow removal program.~~

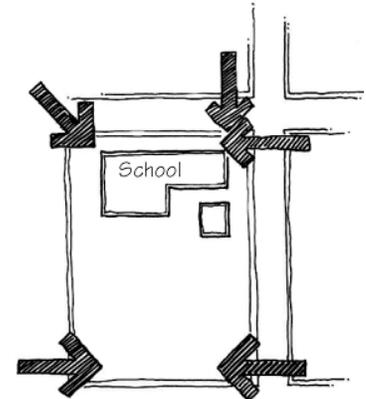
~~N 4.913 Pedestrian Safety~~

~~Design neighborhoods for pedestrian safety.~~

~~**Discussion:** Pedestrian safety can be achieved through such means as adequate pedestrian lighting and landscape design, sidewalk systems, pathways, building access that is visible from the street, and open views.~~

~~N 4.104 School Walking and Bus Routes~~

~~Coordinate with local school districts, private schools, and colleges to determine which bus and walking routes to and from neighborhood schools provide the highest degree of most pedestrian safety.~~



Additional policies related to transportation as it affects neighborhoods are included in Chapter 4, Transportation.

N 5 OPEN SPACE

Goal: Increase the number of open gathering spaces, greenbelts, trails, and pedestrian bridges within and/or between neighborhoods.

Policies

N 5.1 Future Parks Planning

Utilize neighborhood groups to work with the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department to locate land and develop financing ~~strategies~~ plans that meet the level of service standards for neighborhood parks and/or ~~open space~~ neighborhood squares.

Discussion: Parks, squares, or other open space within neighborhoods provide neighborhood families with areas for recreation and gives neighbors the opportunity to gather and socialize, reinforcing a sense of home and community. A public-private collaboration to find supplemental funding for parks on an individual neighborhood basis is a possible way to ensure that neighborhoods have adequate open space. Another possible-use of open space is for the development of community gardens, which can also serve as a tool for developing a sense of community.

N 5.2 Parks and Squares in Neighborhood Centers

Include a park ~~and/or~~ square in each neighborhood center.

N 5.3 Linkages

Link neighborhoods with an open space greenbelt system or pedestrian and bicycle paths.

Discussion: Linking neighborhoods allows for reduced automobile use and increased opportunities for alternative forms of transportation.



N 6 THE ENVIRONMENT

Goal: Protect and enhance the natural and built environment within neighborhoods.

Policies

N 6.1 Environmental Planning

Protect the natural and built environment within neighborhoods ~~through neighborhood planning that considers environmental impacts from development.~~

Discussion: Efforts must continue to be made to preserve the environment when introducing new projects into established neighborhoods, when developing new neighborhoods, and as a daily exercise in maintaining a clean living environment for health, safety, and aesthetic purposes. ~~Clean air and water, energy conservation, adequate public facilities and utilities, city services, open space, clean yards and streets, well-preserved and maintained housing, and an efficient, multimodal transportation system are just some of the requirements for sustaining a healthy environment.~~

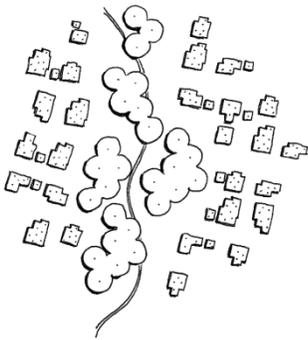
The Focus Group removed part of the discussion because it is already covered by the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

N 6.2 Code Enforcement

Enforce the city codes for public nuisances impacting neighborhood properties.

Discussion: It is the duty of local government to pursue compliance with codes ~~with a~~. ~~Assess the Code Enforcement budget to determine the potential for self-funding of an expanded, proactive code enforcement program.~~

See Policy LGC 76.1, Enforcement of Land Use and Development Codes. Refer to the Spokane Municipal Code, Section 10.08.010, "Litter and Rubbish," and Section 10.08.030, "Nuisance," for applicable regulations.



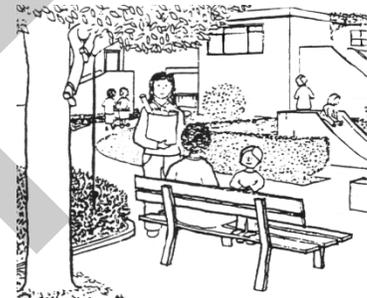
N 6.3 Open Space and Nature Corridors

Identify and protect nature and wildlife corridors within and between neighborhoods.

N 6.4 Maintenance of City Property

Ensure that city land, property, and infrastructure within neighborhoods are adequately maintained to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

Discussion: It is imperative that the city maintains its property within neighborhoods at a level that serves as a good example to citizens. Properly caring for city property protects the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens while improving aesthetic values and quality of life.



N 7 SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Goal: Promote efforts that provide neighborhoods with social amenities and interaction and a sense of community.

Policies

N 7.1 Gathering Places

Increase the number of public gathering places within neighborhoods.

Discussion: Increasing the number of public gathering places in neighborhoods encourages neighborhood socialization, resulting in a more cohesive and safe neighborhood. A park, plaza, or a favorite retail establishment within a mixed-use neighborhood center can serve as a gathering place. Sites outside a center, such as a neighborhood ~~pocket~~ park, church, or community center, ~~or fire station~~ are also suitable for neighborhood meetings and social gatherings.

The Focus Group added the word "public" to this policy in order to ensure that these places would be open to the general public.

N 7.2 City Hall Outreach

Encourage City Hall outreach efforts in neighborhoods.

Discussion: Outreach efforts might include such activities as providing neighborhoods with public information regarding neighborhood and city announcements, newsletters, or other information. The city will work with neighborhoods to determine the need, if any, and the preferred venue for outreach activities.

N 8 NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING PROCESS

~~The city is committed to neighborhood based planning. Although the city will be conducting neighborhood planning activities, the city is not committed to recreating neighborhood specific plans per se. The city will be conducting neighborhood planning activities that implement the comprehensive plan through center~~

The Focus Group decided to remove discussion of the Neighborhood Planning Process because it is not a policy but rather an activity that is implemented through a separate process and subject to City Council funding.

planning, resolve joint planning issues in the city's unincorporated urban growth areas, and address issues and opportunities identified by neighborhoods in an assessment process.

~~Neighborhood planning is defined as any planning activity conducted in the city's Urban Growth Area (UGA) that implements or is more focused and detailed than the comprehensive plan. Examples of neighborhood planning may include center and corridor planning, downtown or district planning, developing design guidelines that address the unique character of historic neighborhoods, developing neighborhood operational plans or programs, and developing new neighborhood plans in the city's unincorporated UGA. Neighborhood planning shall be conducted within the framework of the comprehensive plan, and further, the Growth Management Act requires that these plans be consistent with the comprehensive plan. The neighborhood planning processes within the city neighborhoods and the neighborhoods within the city's UGA shall be consistent. Neighborhood planning for city neighborhoods will be conducted collaboratively between the city neighborhood councils, the City of Spokane Planning Services Department, and the City of Spokane Neighborhood Services Department.~~

This sentence was moved to the discussion under Policy N 8.4 below.

~~For those neighborhoods outside of the city but within the city's UGA, the Spokane County Planning Department and the Neighborhood Alliance will also collaborate on the planning process. Neighborhood planning documents directing growth and development are an official part of the comprehensive plan.~~

~~Immediately following adoption of the comprehensive plan, the city will simultaneously conduct neighborhood assessments; discussions among the city, the county and unincorporated urban growth area neighborhoods regarding joint planning; and center and corridor planning pilot projects, if warranted. Following these activities, the city will focus on planning for centers/corridors and neighborhood planning activities identified as a result of the assessments. The city is committed to providing the necessary resources to implement this neighborhood planning process.~~

Goal: Ensure a sense of identity and belonging for each neighborhoods throughout the city and the city's adjacent Urban Growth Area by developing through a neighborhood planning process that is all-inclusive, maintains the integrity of neighborhoods, implements the comprehensive plan, and empowers neighborhoods in their decision-making.

Policies

N 8.1 Inclusive Neighborhood Planning

~~*Establish an inclusive planning process in which*~~ *Ensure that* neighborhood planning is conducted through the cooperation and contributions of all interested parties, including institutions, organizations, and individuals of all ages, whether resident, property owner, business owner, or employee.

Discussion: The City of Spokane Planning and Development Services, Office of Neighborhood Services, Community Assembly, and Neighborhood Councils will participate in community outreach efforts to help ensure neighborhood representation during neighborhood planning. Sufficient resources will be used in the process to allow accessible, full and fair participation by citizens, making special efforts to accommodate participation by everyone.

N 8.2 Neighborhood Planning Process

~~*Establish a collaborative*~~ *Ensure that the* neighborhood planning process ~~*that*~~ carries out the city's firm commitment to neighborhood planning, involves simultaneous consideration of city and neighborhood goals and strategies, and includes representatives of both the city and neighborhood working together.-

Discussion: While many of the complex issues and opportunities facing the city can be effectively addressed at a citywide level, others need more specific solutions. In addition, neighborhoods may face issues and opportunities different from other parts of the city.

Neighborhood planning helps to address individual neighborhood issues and opportunities in order to maintain and enhance the City of Spokane's quality of life.

The discussion here was originally in the chapter introduction, but the Focus Group felt it was better included here.

The city is committed to continuing its long tradition of neighborhood planning activities that implement the comprehensive plan, even though the planning process is not static – it evolves over time to reflect both the need for additional neighborhood planning and city resources.

Development of the neighborhood planning process is ongoing. The city will continue to coordinate

with the Spokane County Planning Department, the Community Assembly, the Joint Task Group of the Community Assembly and the Alliance of Spokane County Neighborhoods to ensure consistency between the city and county neighborhood planning processes.

As discussed above at Goal N 8, the Focus Group has removed much of the discussion of the Neighborhood Planning Process as it often changes. The process listed in this policy is out of date and no longer followed by the city.

The City of Spokane Neighborhood Planning Process is as follows:

A. Planning Boundaries

Determine, with the help of neighborhoods, logical planning boundaries for the neighborhood assessment and planning processes.

Discussion: The neighborhood planning process respects the established boundaries of organized neighborhoods. However, the boundaries established for purposes of neighborhood planning may, in some instances, include several neighborhood councils. The following must be taken into consideration when establishing planning area boundaries:

- ◆ Areas defined by strong historical, cultural, geographic, or business relationships.
- ◆ Natural or built barriers (e.g., planning for drainage systems on a watershed basis).
- ◆ Manageable size of area and manageable complexity of issues for resources available.
- ◆ Generally agreed upon neighborhood boundaries.

B. Neighborhood Planning Assessment

Develop and facilitate a neighborhood planning assessment process.

Discussion: For all city neighborhoods, the city will initiate a planning assessment process with the Community Assembly and the respective Neighborhood Councils. For those neighborhoods within the city's unincorporated UGA, the city will work with the Alliance of Spokane County Neighborhoods. The assessment will identify neighborhood issues and needs that are not addressed in the new citywide comprehensive plan. The assessment process should begin immediately following the adoption of the comprehensive plan. Some issues may be resolved by additions or revisions to city codes, some may be addressed by changing city operational practices, and some may suggest that further refinement or additions to the citywide plan are warranted. Any residual needs or issues that are unique to a specific neighborhood can then be addressed by a neighborhood planning process. The city shall work with the neighborhoods to develop a program to complete this task that is both equitable and efficient.

C. Planning Resources

Establish priorities for the allocation of city planning resources among neighborhoods.

Discussion: The priorities shall be based on:

- ◆ The results of the neighborhood assessment process.

- ◆ The need to protect critical areas.
- ◆ The location or neighborhood where the greatest degree of change is expected, i.e., where a neighborhood, district, or employment center is designated.
- ◆ Interest among the residents and businesses in an area to participate in a neighborhood plan process.
- ◆ Potential to attract a large activity generator.

D. Planning Guidelines

Develop guidelines for neighborhood planning processes, content, and technical analysis, promoting neighborhood plans or other neighborhood planning documents of a consistent level of quality for both city neighborhoods and city UGA neighborhoods.

Discussion: The guidelines shall be developed through a collaborative process with the city, stakeholders, neighborhood representatives, and in the case of the city's unincorporated UGA neighborhoods, Spokane County. It is anticipated that separate guidelines may be developed for city neighborhoods and city unincorporated UGA neighborhoods because the needs of these neighborhoods and jurisdictions may differ. Guidelines will also be developed for mixed-use centers and corridors planning.

E. Planning Process Roles

Define mutually acceptable roles for citizens, city staff, and all other stakeholders or interested groups in the neighborhood planning process.

Discussion: In addition to a detailed description or outline of how to create a neighborhood plan, the guidelines will outline ways for those involved in the planning process to gain a better understanding of issues and to share knowledge in order to seek solutions to neighborhood problems that are in the best interest of the entire neighborhood as well as the city.

F. Planning Kit

Support the neighborhood planning process by providing neighborhoods with a planning kit.

Discussion: The planning kit will include the necessary tools for neighborhoods to conduct neighborhood planning and may include such items as a guidebook describing city regulations, programs, and capital facility plans for growth management and community building. The kit may also include a list of city resources or contacts for each neighborhood, the skills required for neighborhood planning tasks, surveys, maps, and neighborhood inventories. The kit is also designed to facilitate the education and development of neighborhood "citizen planners," so that they are sufficiently prepared to participate and plan for their neighborhood's future.

G. Pilot Centers and Corridors Planning Process

Conduct a pilot centers and corridors planning process, if warranted.

Discussion: If there are opportunities to conduct a pilot process, one to three locations within neighborhoods will be chosen to participate in the pilot planning process. Opportunities can be described as developer readiness, neighborhood interest, and available city and community resources. The purpose of the pilot planning process will be to successfully plan for and implement one or more centers and corridors and help determine an effective and efficient process for planning and designing centers and corridors for the rest of the city. The pilot process will be an open process that includes all interested stakeholders.

H. Planning Process Initiation

Permit both neighborhoods and the city to initiate neighborhood planning, with the city providing support.

Discussion: Any initiation should be based on neighborhood planning priorities as established in Section C, "Planning Resources."

N 8.3 City Participation in Neighborhood Planning

Require neighborhoods to coordinate and consult with the City of Spokane Planning and Development Services when conducting neighborhood planning.

Discussion: It is important that neighborhoods coordinate with the city when developing their plans to ensure that the plans do not conflict with the comprehensive plan or federal, state, and/or local regulations. Only those neighborhoods that coordinated with the city will have reasonable assurance of neighborhood plan review, adoption, or action by the city. ~~The city encourages neighborhoods to seek outside funding to assist in neighborhood planning.~~ The city will provide staff to coordinate and consult with the neighborhoods to ensure that neighborhood goals, policies, and implementation measures are viable.

N 8.4 Consistency of Plans

Maintain consistency between neighborhood planning documents and the comprehensive plan.

Discussion: Neighborhood planning shall be conducted within the framework of the comprehensive plan, and further, the Growth Management Act requires that these plans be consistent with the comprehensive plan. The

The new language in this discussion was originally sourced from the introduction to Goal N 8.

~~“framework” comprehensive plan guides all aspects of the city’s growth and development for the next twenty years. The plan provides the overall scheme of city development: the major land uses, transportation systems, parks, recreation, and open spaces, and centers of shopping and employment. The comprehensive plan establishes the framework for all other planning activities and documents.~~

~~It is recognized that in some cases neighborhood planning may result in recommended changes to the comprehensive plan. Comprehensive Plan changes will be reviewed and decided upon once each year~~

N 8.5 Neighborhood Planning Coordination

Require neighborhoods to coordinate planning and review of individual neighborhood plans so that neighborhood projects have minimal negative impacts on other neighborhoods.

Discussion: Neighborhoods need to work cooperatively with each other to ensure that visions and plans do not conflict. In the past, solutions to one neighborhood’s traffic, safety, air pollution, noise, and design problems often negatively impacted another neighborhood. Spokane should be defined as a city of neighborhoods with interwoven plans and policies.

N 8.6 Neighborhood Planning Recommendations

Consider recommendations from neighborhood planning in the context of the city as a whole.

Discussion: Incorporate neighborhood planning recommendations into city prioritization processes for capital expenditures or other decision-making only after any required studies, analyses, review, public process, and proper procedure have been performed in a city-wide context.

N 8.7 Agreement for Joint Planning

Agree with the county, affected neighborhoods, and interested stakeholders on a consistent process for developing neighborhood plans within the city’s unincorporated Urban Growth Area.

~~This task should be completed soon after comprehensive plan adoption yet prior to beginning neighborhood planning in these neighborhoods. The process should be initiated by convening all interested stakeholders and neighborhoods to discuss how best to form an agreement. The agreement will attempt to reach resolution on these topics:~~

- ~~◆ Neighborhood planning resources~~
- ~~◆ Application of city and county comprehensive plan directives~~
- ~~◆ Neighborhood planning boundaries~~
- ~~◆ Planning timeline~~
- ~~◆ Citizen participation~~
- ~~◆ Other topics~~

The Focus Group decided to remove this discussion as it is already covered in other parts of the Comprehensive Plan and the policy is self-explanatory. Furthermore, the discussion included excessive detail that may or may not occur.

N 8.8 Neighborhood Planning Outside the City

Use the City of Spokane and Spokane County planning processes when conducting planning in neighborhoods within the city's unincorporated UGA.

Discussion: It is anticipated that neighborhood plans shall be completed for neighborhoods within the city's unincorporated UGA.

N 8.9 Consistency of Plans Outside the City

Maintain consistency between the city's unincorporated UGA neighborhood plans and the City of Spokane and Spokane County Comprehensive Plans.

Discussion: The city and county will work with these neighborhoods to help them develop a document that is consistent with both comprehensive plans, yet achieves the goals of the neighborhood. It is expected that this process will result in the development of one neighborhood plan, even though the neighborhood may be in both jurisdictions.