

Olympia Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement

Tree lined hills, streams, lakes and well preserved parks and green spaces envelop our community. Clear days offer views of the majestic Mount Rainier and the Black Hills. Our historic downtown opens to Budd Inlet and the Olympic Mountains. We are proud to be home to the Washington State Capital, with its incomparable campus setting and historic buildings and grounds. We have diverse neighborhoods with distinct and unique character. Our businesses, government organizations, philanthropic institutions, non-profit organizations, marine environment and educational institutions contribute to our high quality of life. Our local arts and culture flourish, and we are a popular destination for tourism. As a city and a community, we are dedicated to preserving and enhancing these natural, historic, business and cultural treasures.

While safeguarding what is great about our city, we welcome the future, and anticipate that as many as 20,000 new residents will live here by the year 2030. This Vision Statement reflects our values and the overarching principles that will shape our future while accommodating this growth.

We recognize that the challenges of the future require that we examine the way we live today. Each day we make choices about how to lead our lives that have impacts on our present and future quality of life. We embrace this future and recognize the need to remain adaptive, innovative and resilient as new challenges emerge.

We seek to engage all members of the community to actively define our community, through volunteerism, participation on boards, supporting community organizations, and sharing in dialogue at community meetings. We expect and support a transparent, accountable, and efficient local government. Our city actively seeks partnerships with other local governments, tribes, and the state, so that we can identify strategies to solve problems that transcend our boundaries. As individuals, we have a commitment to leading healthy, active lives, and making daily choices that support a healthy community.

The State of Washington, through its Growth Management Act, requires all communities to develop a Comprehensive Plan to accommodate a share of population growth while conserving natural and cultural resources. The success of our Comprehensive Plan is a shared responsibility. The City of Olympia is responsible for creating strong development regulations to support our plan, for providing the infrastructure to support growth, and for monitoring our success in achieving the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. All members of the community are responsible for making informed choices about how we live, about what kinds of development and land use we support, and what quality of services, amenities and infrastructure we will fund. Together we will define and guide the future of our Olympia community.

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Values and Vision Statements

1. Olympians value a friendly, safe and comfortable community.

- ❖ People connect to each other and the community.
- ❖ We respect and support diversity within our community.
- ❖ People feel safe and secure anywhere in our community.
- ❖ Parks and public spaces offer opportunities for recreation, interaction and reflection.

2. Olympians value the environment.

- ❖ The city accommodates its share of Thurston County's growth.
- ❖ We protect, enhance and regenerate our critical areas, open space, trees and shorelines.
- ❖ We take action as a city and as individuals to reduce our impacts to the environment.
- ❖ Energy efficiency characterizes how homes and other buildings are constructed and maintained.

3. Olympians value transportation options.

- ❖ Whenever possible, we walk, bike, carpool, or ride on public transit rather than driving alone.
- ❖ We integrate our transportation, land use and community design decisions.
- ❖ Our transportation systems allow us to conveniently move throughout the community.
- ❖ Walking is considered in all of our programming, planning and development decisions.

4. Olympians value a healthy and diverse local economy.

- ❖ Employers provide plentiful family wage jobs.
- ❖ Consumers and the city government support local entrepreneurs.
- ❖ We strive to acquire and support goods and services from local sources.
- ❖ Our highly educated workforce, entrepreneurial spirit and culture of innovation energize our economy.
- ❖ Art projects, art events, and support for the arts are integral to the community.

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5. Olympians value planning and growth that enhance our community.

- ❖ The design of new buildings adds to the comfort, visual interest, and function of the urban environment.
- ❖ New infrastructure accommodates growth, anticipates changes, and is cost-effective.
- ❖ Growth pays its share of the cost of providing our public facilities.
- ❖ Housing for people of all income levels is available throughout the city.
- ❖ Development is designed so that our daily needs are within walking distance.

6. Olympians value their history.

- ❖ New building design complements existing buildings and reflects Olympia's architectural history.
- ❖ We preserve important historic resources such as buildings, spaces, trees and other historical artifacts.
- ❖ Local organizations increase awareness, understanding and connection to our history.

7. Olympians value their varied waterfronts.

- ❖ The public has ample access to our shorelines.
- ❖ Impacts of sea level rise are anticipated and addressed.
- ❖ Shoreline ecological function is enhanced through preservation, restoration and mitigation.
- ❖ Downtown's shoreline is a lively and inviting place.

8. Olympians value their neighborhoods.

- ❖ We preserve the distinctive characteristics of our neighborhoods.
- ❖ Community members, developers, and the city work together to ensure development of differing scales, intensities and densities is compatible with the existing neighborhood.
- ❖ Individuals, families, groups and associations help make their communities better places to live.