



Sub-Area Planning – 2014 Comprehensive Plan

Below is the language found in the 2014 Comprehensive Plan which directly addresses sub-area planning.

Community Values & Vision: Land Use and Urban Design (p. 21):

Our Vision for the Future: A walkable, vibrant city.

Well-implemented neighborhood sub-area planning will help us determine unique neighborhood assets to protect and enhance; where and how to increase density and retain green space; and develop safe and convenient access to everything from grocery stores, to schools, neighborhood parks, community gardens and neighborhood gathering places.

Public Participation and Partners (pp. 29-31, 34):

Our Vision for the Future: Through collaborative and open discussions, Olympians embrace a shared responsibility to make our community a better place.

There are several ways to participate in local government planning and decision-making in Olympia:

- *Participate in planning for a "sub-area" that could include your own neighborhood. As Olympia grows and changes, the City will be collaborating with local citizens and business owners to make key planning decisions on roads, walkways, bike paths, housing densities, and transit – to name a few.*

While Olympians are involved in all aspects of community planning, the land development process is often where neighborhood organizations and citizens first engage. The experience tends to be frustrating because citizen influence over decisions at this stage is somewhat limited. The City's intent in initiating sub-area planning is to give community members a chance to get involved early in the planning process for a relatively small area that includes their own neighborhood. Many communities refer to this type of planning process as "neighborhood planning." To avoid confusion with Olympia's numerous Recognized Neighborhood Associations, the City refers to the process as "sub-area planning."

Through sub-area planning, the City and Coalition of Neighborhood Associations work with stakeholders to identify neighborhood assets, challenges and priorities for development. Activities are geared toward learning; for the City to learn about neighborhood needs and desires, and for these groups to learn about the plans and regulations that guide development in their area; and how land use decisions also must comply with federal, state and local laws. Although this process does not guarantee a neighborhood will get everything it wants, sub-area planning can help it get organized for future projects that will influence the direction of community decisions.

Goals and Policies: GP5 Sub-area planning is conducted through a collaborative effort by community members and the City, and is used to shape how neighborhoods grow and develop.

PP5.1 *Work with neighborhoods to identify the priorities, assets and challenges of designated sub-area(s), as well as provide information to increase understanding of land-use decision-making processes and the existing plans and regulations that could affect them.*

PP5.2 *Encourage wide participation in the development and implementation of sub-area plans.*

PP5.3 *Define the role that sub-area plans play in City decision-making and resource allocation.*

PP5.4 *Allow initiation of sub-area planning by either neighborhoods or the City.*

PP5.5 *Encourage collaboration between neighborhoods and City representatives.*

Land Use and Urban Design (pp. 113-114)

Much of this Plan applies to the entire Olympia community. However, this is a large area of over twenty-four square miles with tens of thousands of residents. Thus this Plan cannot address all of the details of our community. Twelve planning areas, including downtown, are to be established to provide that opportunity. In general, planning areas will be comparable to the scale of an elementary school service area with five to ten thousand residents. As described in the Public Participation and Partners chapter, this scale will provide the opportunity for interested parties to focus on furthering the community's plan for these areas. These sub-area efforts must be consistent with this Comprehensive Plan.

Goals and Policies: GL23 Each of the community's major neighborhoods has its own priorities.

PL23.1 *In cooperation with residents, landowners, businesses, and other interested parties, establish priorities for the planning sub-areas. The specific area, content, and process for each sub-area is to be adapted to the needs and interests of each area. (See Goal 5 of Public Participation and Partners chapter.)*

PL23.2 *Create sub-area strategies that address provisions and priorities for community health, neighborhood centers and places of assembly, streets and paths, cultural resources, forestry, utilities, open space and parks.*

PL23.3 *Develop neighborhood and business community approaches to beautification that include activities in residential and commercial areas.*

Transportation (p. 166)

Goals and Policies: GT Transportation facilities and services are funded to advance the goals of the City and the region.

PT28.3 *Use master plans, sub-area plans and facilities programs to identify improvements to our transportation system and how to fund them.*