



Comprehensive Plan

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

Olympia's Comprehensive Plan describes the community's long-term vision and goals, looking twenty years into the future. It covers issues like housing, land use, transportation, parks and open spaces, utilities and public safety services, and the economy. It also reflects community values around things like public participation, climate change, and diversity and equity issues. There are "required elements" and "optional elements" in our plan.

The Plan also informs our partners, like transit providers and school districts, with information to help coordinate provision of services for all of us.

To be the most meaningful, it needs to be developed with input from all segments of our population. Community members help shape the plan! All of the chapters within the plan must be consistent with each other, to ensure coordinated provision of services, infrastructure and utilities. But it also more than that - it's about creating the community we want to live in and be a part of.

How does it affect our actions?

The Comprehensive Plan is used in several meaningful ways. It provides a shared vision of our future, based on our collective values, the public and City can work to achieve. It informs the City's Master Plans about where growth will occur and at which intensities, so utility and infrastructure improvements are sized for the anticipated need. It provides the policy direction for city programs and budgets.

Cities must plan for at least 20 years into the future. These plans must be updated at least once every 10 years.

What is included in Olympia's Comprehensive Plan?

Each chapter, or "element" of the plan is designed to be consistent with the others. The Growth Management Act includes mandatory elements that have specific requirements that must be satisfied (see [RCW 36.70A.070](#)).

Introduction

A description of what we are planning for and how the plan is used.

Community Values & Vision

An optional element. This chapter includes a land acknowledgement, our equity statement, and the community values and vision statements for each chapter of the plan.

Public Participation & Partners

An optional element. This chapter includes our commitment to working with community members to seek input and diverse points of view that are used to shape outcomes in policy and decision-making.

Natural Environment

An optional element that includes some requirements. This chapter includes our appreciation of and commitment to the natural environment and the benefits it provides. It includes the goals and policies from the City's Shoreline Master Program.

Land Use & Urban Design

A required element. This chapter includes the Future Land Use Map, which shows the type of land uses that are anticipated where and at what levels of intensity within the Urban Growth Area. This means utilities and urban governmental services are or will be provided there. It addresses residential, commercial, and industrial land uses. It includes historic preservation and neighborhoods. It talks about areas for future planning work to further implement the plan.

Transportation

A required element. This chapter addresses all modes of transportation, including vehicles and freight, pedestrians, bicyclists, and coordination with public transit. It discusses coordination with land use, transportation partners, regional planning efforts, and key corridors. This chapter is also tied to the City's Transportation Master Plan.

Utilities

A required element. This chapter includes public and private utility providers, with the most emphasis on city utilities (drinking water, sanitary sewer, storm and surface water, and waste and recycling). Electricity and cable or fiber optics are provided primarily by private utility companies. This chapter is also tied to master plans for Drinking Water, Wastewater (sewer), Storm and Surface Water, and Waste Management.

Parks Arts & Recreation

An optional element, technically. This chapter includes guidance on how parks and open space areas will be used and what the demand will be for the future of our community. It talks about the variety of parks and open spaces and how they can be used for different purposes. It includes public art and recreational programming policy. It is directly tied to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Economy

An optional element, technically. This chapter includes guidance to the City on diversifying our economy, the need for economic opportunities for everyone in the community, and the need for stable housing. It focuses on people. It is directly tied to the Olympia Strong Plan, as well as Thurston Strong.

Public Safety

An optional element. This chapter addresses emergency services and code enforcement. It primarily focuses on police and fire protection and how everyone in our community deserves to feel safe. This chapter is directly related to strategic plans for the Police and Fire Departments, and Reimagining Public Safety.

Capital Facilities Plan

A required element. This chapter includes the capital investments that will be needed to provide utilities, services, and infrastructure to the community. It includes inventories, projected needs, estimated costs, and how the projects are likely to be funded.

Housing

A required element. This will be a new chapter in our plan. Our existing housing policies will be incorporated into a single chapter and expanded upon to meet new housing planning requirements. It will incorporate information from the Housing Action Plan and One Community Plan.

Climate Action & Resilience

A required element. This will be a new chapter, although the topic is not a new one for Olympia to address in its plan. The chapter will address both the reduction of greenhouse gasses and addressing the impacts of climate change. This chapter is directly related to the Thurston Mitigation Plan and the City's climate vulnerability assessment, as well as previous climate commitments of the City Council.