

What is Sub-Area Planning?

Sub-area plans refer to planning areas that are on a smaller scale than the Comprehensive Plan but may encompass multiple neighborhoods nearby each other. What's in each plan varies from city-to-city, and even "sub-area"-to-"sub-area." Elements may include emergency preparedness, walkability, land use, open space and neighborhood character, among others. Such plans must be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

What about the Downtown Area?

Downtown Olympia is one of the 12 proposed planning sub-areas. Thus the Downtown Master Plan may be updated soon. This process and plan would be different than other neighborhood plans because of the special role this area plays in our community. At minimum, this update would address housing, public spaces, parking management, rehabilitation and redevelopment, architecture and cultural resources, building skylines and views, and relationships to the Port peninsula and Capitol Campus.

Why is Sub-Area Planning important to our Community?

The City Council, staff and community members are always looking for ways to increase public involvement. In the neighborhood focus meetings held as part of the Comprehensive Plan update, participants expressed support for neighborhood or "sub-area" plans to enhance citizen participation in shaping how the City grows. Sub-area planning can be a powerful tool to increase people's understanding and influence of the development of their neighborhood.



How is Sub-Area Planning addressed in the Planning Commission's Recommended Draft?

The Planning Commission recommends that sub-area planning be part of the Comprehensive Plan. Specific goals and policies are found in the Public Participation Chapter, Goal 5; and in the Land Use Chapter, Goal 23. The Draft includes a proposed map of sub-areas, but it gives just a general sense of them, since designation of the borders would be part of the planning process still to come.

What might implementation look like?

The proposed Comprehensive Plan update's description of sub-area planning is intentionally broad in the description of both the process and plan structure. Ideally, community members would gather together with staff to design a plan that meets their neighborhood's needs. How these plans integrate with other City processes remains to be decided as part of this process.