

Comprehensive Plan Update – Olympia Planning Commission Final Draft

Highlights of Changes from Existing Comprehensive Plan

Olympia’s proposed comprehensive plan update includes a variety of changes from the current plan. The list below highlights some of these changes that may be of special interest. For more information see the [December 2013 Draft Comprehensive Plan](#), and the Comparison Matrix on the [Imagine Olympia website](#).

Specific Goal or Policy in Draft Comprehensive Plan	Topic of Change	Why does it matter?	Chapter Reference in Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
Natural Environment policies 1.5 & 1.7	Increased emphasis on keeping existing topography, i.e., less grading of land	May lead to stricter regulations, especially of hillside development	Section IV, Ch. 7 Pgs. 69-71
Natural Environment Goal 2 & its policies	New goal and policies regarding land management in urban setting	May lead to new open space preservation & other initiatives	Section IV, Ch. 11 Pgs. 79-80
Natural Environment Goal 5 & its policies	Guide to how City will develop and implement a ‘sea level rise strategy’	A topic new to Olympia’s comprehensive plan	Section IV, Ch. 14 Pgs. 87-88
Natural Environment Goal 9 & its policies	Guide to how City will manage green-house gas emissions	A topic new to Olympia’s comprehensive plan	Section IV, Ch. 17 Pgs. 93-95
Natural Environment Goal 10 & its policies	Goal for control of ‘light pollution’	‘Dark skies’ is a topic new to Olympia’s comprehensive plan	Section IV, Ch. 18 Pgs. 97-99
Land Use and Urban Design policy 3.3	New policy of preserving “historic vistas” to and from Capitol Campus	May lead to new building height and vegetation management rules	Section IV, Ch. 24 Pgs. 113-115
Land Use Goal 15 & its policies	Three new ‘focus areas’ (special planning areas) identified	May lead to more detailed planning for Lilly/Pacific, Martin Way, and Harrison Avenue / Capital Mall areas	Section IV, Ch. 28 Pgs. 123-125
Land Use policy 15.6	New policy of allowing long-term approval of ‘campus plans’	May result in long-term ‘vesting’ for SPSCC and other master plans	No applicable chapter
Land Use policy 16.2	Reduce from 10 to 5 acres the size of projects that must mix housing types	May lead to amending multi-family development code	Section IV, Ch. 30 Pgs. 129-130
Land Use policy 16.14	New ‘annual housing report’ policy	Cost of producing annual report	No applicable chapter
Land Use policy 17.1	Planning for downtown – much of content of current plan to be removed and re-adopted in a ‘Downtown Plan’	Moving details for downtown from comprehensive plan to a separate document may change emphasis	No applicable chapter

Land Use policy 18.8	Capitol dome view protection policy formerly part of downtown detail	Move to a specific policy may increase emphasis	Section IV, Ch. 24 Pgs. 113-115
Land Use Goal 23, Public Participation Goal 5 & their sections	New program of 'subarea planning' in both the Public Participation and Land Use and Urban Design chapters	Significant commitment of resources to working with public to implement plan in twelve geographic subareas	Section IV, Ch. 4 Pgs. 61-63
Land Use goal 25 and its policies	New food production and self-sufficiency goal and policies	May lead to new initiatives and programs	Section IV, Ch. 32 Pgs. 133-134
Transportation policy 1.11	Require connecting parking lots in commercial areas	No policy requiring commercial parking lots to connect	Section IV, Ch. 46
Transportation policy 2.5	Include sidewalk access to all designated transit stops	No policy requiring development to build off-site sidewalks except for safe routes to schools	Section IV, Ch. 49
Transportation policy 16.7	Eliminate minimum parking requirements along bus corridors	Minimum parking requirements for new developments. Reduce requirements over time.	Section IV, Ch. 48
Transportation policy 25.11	Require end-of-trip facilities such as clothes lockers, showers and bike parking	End-of-trip facilities encouraged; some required	Related discussion in Section IV, Ch. 49
Utility policy 3.8	New policy for dispersing funds from all utilities to community programs	Current policy is limited to the drinking water utility	No applicable chapter
Utility Goal 11 and its policies	A second new 'sea level strategy' goal – this one for stormwater utility	Must be consistent citywide strategy listed above	Section IV, Ch. 14 Pgs. 87-88
Parks policy 6.2	New effort to secure sources of funds for maintenance of City grounds	Could result in significant change in budget	No applicable chapter
Parks policy 8.1	New policy of pursuing a regional community arts center	May lead to new initiatives or significant budget impact	No applicable chapter
Parks policy 8.2	New policy of pursuing artist space	May lead to new initiatives	Section IV, Ch. 53 Pgs. 189-191
Parks policy 8.7	New policy supporting a downtown theatre and arts district	Topic not previously addressed in Plan	No applicable chapter
Parks policy 8.9	New policy of encouraging 'early arts education'	May result in new programs or initiatives	No applicable chapter
Economy policy 11.2	Policy of 'allowing more' home-based businesses	May lead to relaxing zoning limits on home occupations	Section IV, Ch. 55 Pgs. 197-198
Public Service goals 10 to 12 and that section	Plan-support for development code enforcement program	A topic new to Olympia's Comprehensive Plan	Section IV, Ch.56 Pgs. 199-200
Policies that require changes to	Amend a variety of engineering standards that	Current engineering standards are revisited and	Section IV, Ch. 46

engineering standards	guide size and specifications for constructing public facilities	amended regularly	
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