

Lynden 2045: A Vision for the Community

The major themes identified from community engagement efforts for this periodic update have informed the development of the City's vision statement, as follows, which is intended to guide the City's growth over the 20-year planning period.

Lynden strives to cultivate a vibrant future by honoring its industrious agricultural roots, stewarding its resources, supporting commerce, innovation, and the local agricultural economy, embracing its small-town charm, and committing to nurture its community spirit so as to create a place where families can thrive.

Lynden's vision statement includes a few key "vision principles", as explained below, which are reflected in the goals and policies throughout this Comprehensive Plan. Each vision principle has an icon which is used throughout the plan to indicate goals and policies that relate to each of them.



i Icon graphics will be included for each of these principles.

Vision Principle 1: Honor the city's industrious agricultural roots

Lynden's history is full of hardworking and innovative people which have led some of its small-town businesses to grow to national and international success stories. Although Lynden is well

represented in the building and freight industries it is probably most closely identified with the business of farming.

It is clear that agriculture has been and remains a large part of the city's economy and identity. Locally this is celebrated through events like the Farmer's Day Parade, the Raspberry Festival, and the Northwest Washington Fair. The city's connection to its agricultural roots has, for generations, influenced the culture of the community, its work ethic, and its small town charm. Now, as Lynden grows from a small town to a city this ag connection also influences priorities for growth and development.



Vision Principle 2: Steward environmental and economic resources

The city has a role as a caretaker of the environment to ensure that its natural resources, including land, water, and habitat, are wisely managed for today's residents and generations to come but it also refers to financial stewardship. This sort of resiliency means that the city is prepared to endure and respond to sudden changes or emergencies and can mobilize to assist the most vulnerable in our community. City leaders strive to ensure that the infrastructure of the city can serve residents reliably in order to maintain the community's sense of security and independence. This aspect of the vision statement reflects the concerns of residents in Lynden regarding sustainable stormwater management, flood prevention, water supply and quality, energy capacity, and the longevity of agriculture and ag-related industries.



Vision Principle 3: Support industry, innovation, and the local agricultural economy

While Lynden values its history and traditions this has not stymied business growth and innovation. Industry innovators including Lynden Door, Axiom, Lynden Transport, and Pure Potato hail from Lynden. Agriculture plays a heavy roll in the Lynden economy as evidenced by its implement dealers, irrigation suppliers, cold storage, and dairy and berry processing. This aspect of the vision statement intends to help Lynden remain a place for new businesses to develop while supporting and maintaining existing industry and honoring their role in the city. The city's infrastructure, transportation, quality of life, and climate resilience planning all play a key role in the future economic development of Lynden.



Vision Principle 4: Embrace the city's small-town charm

A 2024 community survey asked residents to identify what contributed to Lynden's small-town charm. The three most common answers pointed to local events and traditions, a historic and recognizable downtown, and the layout of the city's neighborhoods which include wide streets and single-family homes. Others responded that the charm stems from less tangible aspects including a slower pace of life or the feeling of a close-knit community. These answers provide insight into the values held by Lynden residents and can guide policies and priorities as the city grows. Efforts to facilitate community traditions and maintain design standards are just a couple of ways the city can respond.

***Vision Principle 5: Nurture the city's community-oriented spirit***

Lynden prides itself in its community collaboration and self-reliance. Lynden's sense of community spirit has been enhanced and encouraged through acts of caring and kindness, a sense of community trust and understanding, and a strong attitude of volunteerism and citizenship. This is evidenced by a significant network of recreational and social services available to a broad demographic of people including youth and seniors. Organizations such as Project Hope and Lynden churches play an active role in providing emergency and transitional housing. The senior center and Forge Fitness provide discounted resources and beneficial connections for seniors. Mentoring and childcare programs such as Be the One and the Boys and Girls Club walk alongside the city's youth while Lynden Youth Sports and the Future Farmers of America (FFA) create valuable social and educational resources. As the city continues to grow it will benefit from facilitating and encouraging this variety of programs, housing options, services, and business support to meet the diverse needs of its residents and help ensure the city remains a supportive and strong community.



Vision Principle 6: Building a place where families can thrive.

Families of all shapes and sizes thrive in a safe and supportive environment. To ensure Lynden residents can thrive, it is important to facilitate the provision of sufficient housing affordable to all ages and incomes and address the increasingly diverse needs of the population, and to provide visible and reliable public safety resources. It is also increasingly clear that the development of cities, including how residents of all ages are able to move around the city, impacts the health of residents. A healthier population tends to be happier, more productive, and reduces the cost of public and safety services. As it grows, Lynden will strive to implement development patterns and multi-modal transportation networks as well as green spaces and recreational opportunities that foster good health and enhance residents' quality of life.

Looking Forward

Together, these interconnected, overarching principles will guide the City as the Comprehensive Plan is completed, implemented, and revised. The vision, which is adopted as a foundation of this Comprehensive Plan, will remain as a focal point in the plan throughout any and all revisions, and will provide a strong basis for city-wide decisions over the 20-year planning period.

City leadership and the residents of Lynden take ownership of this Comprehensive Plan and are dedicated to this vision. Policies will be implemented to ensure that these principles are attained and that Lynden's quality of life is enhanced in future years. As part of this, Lynden is committed to continuing a positive working relationship with Whatcom County to ensure and enable the implementation of those goals and policies that may reach outside the borders of the City limits.

