

**FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MILLWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION FOR
2026 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE
September 24, 2025**

Background:

1. The Growth Management Act was established in the State of Washington in 1990 to provide a framework for land use planning and development regulation.
2. Spokane County and the cities within it were mandated to plan under the GMA in 1993.
3. As a City within Spokane County, Millwood crafted a Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations which reflect and implement the community's vision for land use.
4. The Growth Management Act, RCW 36.70A.130 requires the City of Millwood to enact a Comprehensive Plan, and to review and revise, if necessary, the Plan and development regulations periodically (currently every 10 years) to ensure that it complies with the requirements of the Growth Management Act.
5. Updates to the City of Millwood Comprehensive Plan must be consistent with the Countywide Planning Policies for Spokane County, as amended, and must plan to accommodate the urban growth projected to occur within the next 20 years as well as the City's housing allocation.
6. The WA State Department of Commerce provided a "Periodic Update Checklist for Cities" to guide cities through the periodic update requirements along with guidance for updating comprehensive plan elements such as housing to comply with recent changes to the GMA.
7. The City of Millwood completed the "Periodic Update Checklists for Cities" to determine which elements of the Comprehensive Plan would need to be reviewed and updated.
8. Millwood also prepared a Land Capacity Analysis (LCA) consistent with the Countywide Planning Policies for Spokane County, as well as a Racially Disparate Impacts Analysis (RDI) and updates to its Housing Element consistent with guidance provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce for Tier 3 cities.
9. Millwood's 2026 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update process has followed the City of Millwood Periodic Update Public Participation Plan and the Periodic Update Work Plan that were adopted by the City Council on August 13, 2024, and provided extensive public participation opportunities consistent with these plans, as identified in the Staff Report to the Planning Commission.
10. In accordance with WAC 197-11, notice was given that a SEPA Checklist had been completed on the periodic update to the Comprehensive Plan. The City of Millwood determined that the proposal would have no significant adverse environmental impacts and issued a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) on August 8, 2025. Copies of the SEPA Checklist and the Non-Project DNS Threshold Determination were available for review beginning on August 8, 2025 through 4pm, August 25, 2025. In addition to the publication and posting, notice was provided to:
 - a. City of Millwood Staff, City Council, & Planning Commission
 - b. City of Millwood Engineer
 - c. Millwood Periodic Update Notice List

- d. Utility & Service Providers
 - e. Public Agencies
 - f. Adjacent Jurisdictions, Felts Field, and Tribes
 - g. SEPA Review Agencies
 - h. WA State Dept. of Commerce - Growth Management Services Contacts
11. Notice of Public Hearings (8/27/25 & 9/24/25) & SEPA Availability was issued, posted on the City's Periodic Update webpage, and emailed to interested parties / agencies on August 8, 2025. The comment deadline was identified as 4pm, August 25, 2025.
 12. Notice of Public Hearings (8/27/25 & 9/24/25) & SEPA Availability was published in the Spokesman Review on August 11, 2025.
 13. Notice of Public Hearings (8/27/25 & 9/24/25) & SEPA Availability was posted on the City notice boards on August 15, 2025.
 14. The proposed updated Comprehensive Plan was reviewed for consistency with WA State Law and was sent to the Washington State Department of Commerce and other state agencies on August 28, 2025, for the required 60-day state notification (under RCW 36.70A.106) and solicited agency comments. The comment period ends on October 27, 2025.
 15. The 2026 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update is complete, with the exception of the Climate Change & Resiliency Element which is being coordinated with Spokane County and is planned to be completed in 2026.
 16. A staff report to the Planning Commission was issued on August 16, 2025, posted on the City's Periodic Update webpage, and emailed to the periodic update notice group.
 17. The Planning Commission held a properly noticed public hearing on Wednesday, August 24, 2025 where they voted 5-0 to recommend approval of the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update with modifications, to the City Council.

Planning Commission Findings:

The Planning Commission recommends approval with modification(s) of the August 28, 2025 version of the Millwood Comprehensive Plan and finds that the factors in MMC Section 14.04.020(D)(2) have been considered and the criteria in MMC Section 14.04.020(D)(1), as applicable, have been met. The following proposed modification(s) are to be included with the recommendation:

1. P. 206, re-write 1st paragraph under Table 11-8

As shown in Table 11-8 (Table 6) above, According to Welch Comer, the City did not meet their goal to reduce consumption per connection by 1% during the peak months, as shown in Table 11-8 (Table 6) above. Consumption per connection increased 19,000 gallons or 16% from 2010 to 2023. Consumption per connection for the 2021-2023 average was 6% higher than the 2016 baseline or 6,415 gallons.

Conclusion(s):

1. The review process for Millwood’s 2026 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update complies with MMC requirements, as applicable, and WA State Law.
2. The City of Millwood 2026 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update meets all applicable criteria for amendment under MMC Section 14.04.020(D)(1).
3. All of the factors listed in MMC Section 14.04.020(D)(2) have been considered during the City of Millwood 2026 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update.
4. The City of Millwood 2026 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update has met internal consistency review.
5. The Climate Change & Resiliency Element is being coordinated with Spokane County and is planned to be completed for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan in 2026.
6. The GMA requires proposed comprehensive plans and development regulations, including proposed amendments, be forwarded to the WA State Department of Commerce Growth Management Services for review and comment 60 days prior to the final City Council adoption, unless expedited review is requested and approved under RCW 36.70A.106. The proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment for the GMA periodic update was received by Commerce on August 28, 2025, and processed with the Submittal ID 2025-S-9800. The procedural requirement has been met.

Signed this 24 day of September 2025



Mike Ankney, Chair

ATTEST



Amanda Tainio, Contract City Planner