

What is APA?

The American Planning Association (APA) elevates and unites a diverse planning profession as it helps communities, their leaders and residents anticipate and meet the needs of a changing world.

APA's Vision is to lead the way to equitable, thriving communities by creating unique insights, as well as innovative and practical approaches that enable the planning community to anticipate and successfully adapt to the needs of a rapidly changing world.

APA's 40,000+ members are planners, commissioners, public officials, educators, students, and engaged citizens who are committed to creating vital communities. Four in 10 APA members have obtained required education, professional experience and passed a rigorous exam to become certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

The Planning Officials Program provides fundamental onboarding and training materials for those who serve as appointed planning and zoning officials for their communities.

The program provides essential information, insights, and sound practices applicable to zoning entitlement for most every community. However, it is essential to know that each state has unique and specific requirements for planning and zoning.

Throughout the videos we use terms to describe these officials and their actions that differ from what is used in your state. Though the terms may differ, the lessons are universal.

There is no “one size fits all” training for planning officials, check local state codes or state enabling legislation for relevancy to your community.

If there are any questions about what is appropriate or legal in your community or state, please contact your local staff or municipal officials.

Comprehensive Plans



Linda Amato, AICP

Senior Consultant, SCJ Alliance

Seattle, Washington

Over 30 years of experience preparing planning studies

Developed training materials and instructed local planning officials

Served on and chaired the Seattle Planning Commission



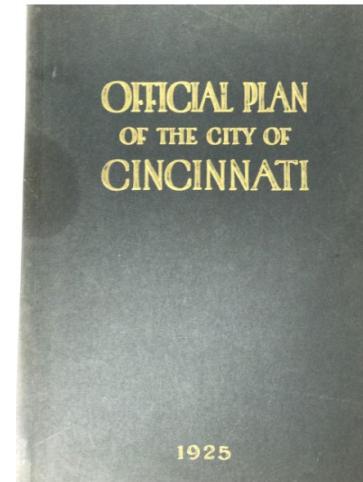
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American Planning Association
Creating Great Communities for All

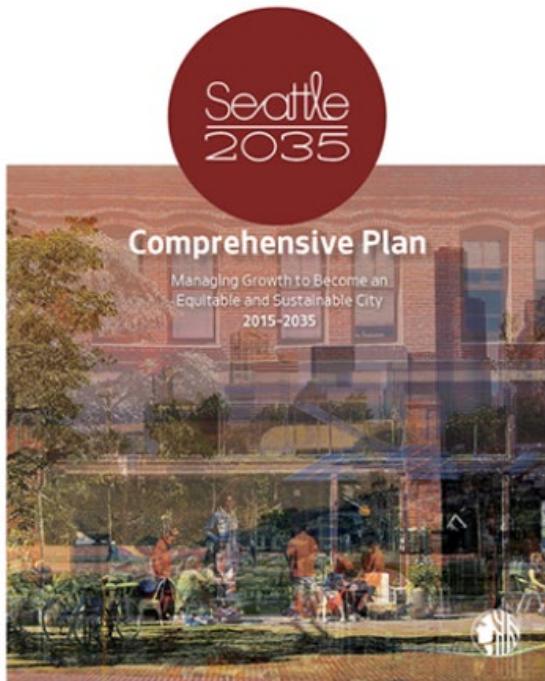
What is a Comprehensive Plan?

- Referred to as "Master Plan", "General Plan", "Comp Plan" or "Comprehensive Plan"
- Established by state and/or county and/or city
 - Community's Roadmap or Guidebook for its Future
 - Goals
 - Policies
 - Vision

First US Comprehensive Plan to be adopted was:



How are Comprehensive Plans Used?



- Used by local governments as planning tool
- Long-range perspective--typically 10-20 years
- Cities plan within city boundaries
- County plans the unincorporated portions of the county
- Regional plans look at broader picture

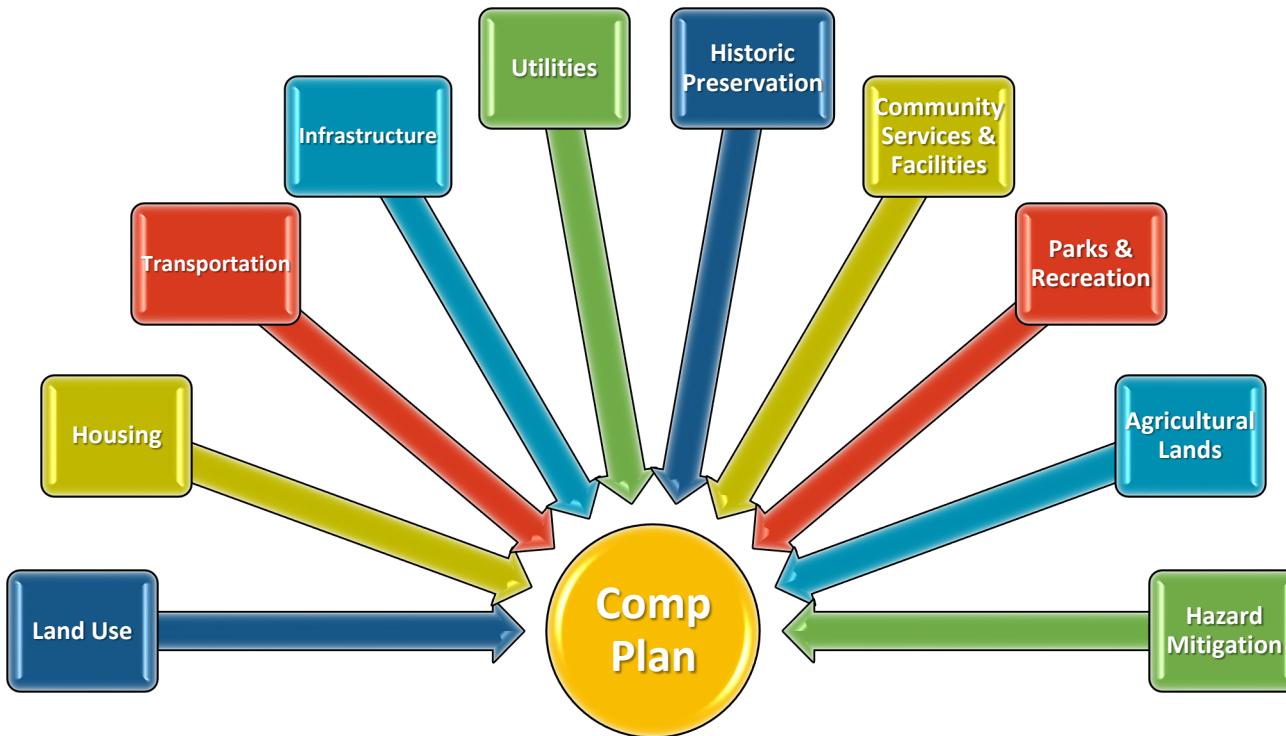
What is included in a Comprehensive Plan?

- Goals & Policies of a Community
- Small Area/ Neighborhood Plans
- Interrelationships of Various Elements
 - ▶ Land Use
 - ▶ Transportation
 - ▶ Utilities
 - ▶ Recreation
 - ▶ Historic Preservation
 - ▶ Natural Resources



*Each element has its own section
within the Comprehensive Plan.*

Elements of a Comprehensive Plan



As a Planning Commissioner, your role is to:

- **Make decisions within the context of the Comprehensive Plan**
- **Revise the Comprehensive Plan on a regular basis**
- **Advise local officials on goals of the community outlined in the Plan**

Why is this important?

How are Comprehensive Plans Implemented?

- Are not regulations
- May be adopted by ordinance or just considered as guidance
- Land use ordinances are necessary for plan implementation



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