

Community Engagement Plan for the City of Tumwater's 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update

Balancing Nature and Community: Tumwater's Path to Sustainable Growth



What is the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update?

- Growth Management Act requires a periodic update of the City's Comprehensive Plan and development regulations every ten years
- Last update completed in 2016
- Plan and development regulations are being updated to reflect the community's vision and state requirements



What is a Community Engagement Plan?

- Growth Management Act requires a public participation program for updates to comprehensive plans and development regulations
- Community engagement plan establishes how the City will engage the community and stakeholders during the update using the IAP2 process
- Community engagement practices create the opportunity for participatory local democracy by giving the public the ability to be directly involved in developing policy decisions shaping the future of their City



Community Engagement Goals

1. Provide information to enhance community understanding of issues
2. Seek early and continuous involvement from people who care about the Plan and the community
3. Offer opportunities for the community to provide feedback to staff, and appointed and elected officials
4. Develop an accessible, equitable, and engaging Plan
5. Make community-driven planning a priority



Community Engagement Goals

6. Highlight projects implemented since the last update
7. Use a flexible, phased approach
8. Integrate and consolidate goals from all elements of the Plan
9. Develop a Plan that is in an easy to read and understandable format
10. Rely on multiple communications strategies, tactics, and platforms to share information



Outline for Engaging the Community

- Throughout the update, staff will use the IAP2 process to identify target audiences and stakeholders
- Staff will reach out to stakeholders and stakeholder groups listed in the staff report
- Staff will utilize an email contact list, the update webpage, social media, surveys, news releases, and open houses
- Community will be notified of all public meetings, including open houses, briefings, worksessions, and hearings



Email Contact List

- Staff will maintain a contact list of interested members of the community and stakeholders
- Those on the contact list will be notified of key meetings and other information related to the update by email



Keeping Informed During the Update

- City Council and Planning Commission will be kept informed about the update and community engagement effort throughout the process
- Community will be notified of key meetings and open houses by the update webpage, social media, Tumwater On-Tap e-newsletter, and City email contact list



Surveys

- Online community surveys will be available on the update webpage during 2023 to assess community priorities
- The vision, goals, and policies in the current Plan are the starting point for the survey questions
- Community members will be notified of surveys via email, the update webpage, the City's social media platforms, and other means



Periodic Update Webpage

- All materials associated with the update will be posted on the update webpage on the City's website
- Update webpage will include the following:
 - List of frequently asked questions
 - Background, summary, and meeting information
 - Staff introductions
 - Interactive map of meeting location and times, and visuals
 - Sign up for email notifications



Social Media and News Releases

- Updates and notice of community meetings will be posted on City social media platforms
- Staff will work with community partners to share updates and surveys
- Staff will issue news releases to advertise surveys, key open houses, and other important information



Open Houses

- Open houses will discuss update topics with the community prior to the start of the adoption process
- Goal of the open houses is to meet people where they are, ensuring equity and diversity
- Information about open house dates and other key meeting dates will be distributed through news releases, social network blog, update webpage, social media platforms, and email contact lists
- City staff will create interactive tools to engage involvement and interest such as pamphlets, displays, and comment forms



Phase I - Community Engagement

Summer 2023 – Winter 2024

- Staff reviews visions, goals, and policies in the current Plan and prepares gap analyses of all its elements
- Staff reviews development regulations and prepares gap analyses of relevant chapters
- Community and stakeholders introduced to the update process
- Website launch date expected July 2023
- First public outreach meeting projected August 2023



Phase II – Plan Development

Winter 2024 – Spring 2024

- Feedback gathered during Phase I incorporated into the draft elements and regulations
- Contact and engagement with community continues
- Consultations with the Historic Preservation Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, General Government Committee, Public Works Committee, and City Council
- Focus groups of technical experts reviews elements, such as Transportation and Economic Development



Phase III – Legislative Process

Summer 2024 – June 30, 2025

Draft Plan

- Draft versions of elements and regulations completed
- Drafts will be available to the community through the update webpage, social media platforms, and email contact list
- Boards and Commissions develop recommendations to forward to Planning Commission



Phase III – Legislative Process

Summer 2024 – June 30, 2025

Commission Worksessions and Public Hearing

- Planning Commission will hold a number of worksessions to discuss individual elements and regulations
- Planning Commission will then conduct a public hearing on entire Plan and regulations
- Public notice of the hearing published in accordance with local and state law



Phase III – Legislative Process

Summer 2024 – June 30, 2025

City Council Adoption Process

- General Government Committee and Public Works Committee will hold briefings and worksessions to discuss the Planning Commission recommendation
- City Council will hold worksessions to discuss the Planning Commission recommendation
- Adoption process will culminate in City Council adoption of the updated Plan and development regulations by the state deadline of June 30, 2025



Comments and Contact information

- Written comments welcome any time during the update process
- Staff will address and publish all formal comments on the update webpage
- Project contact:
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- Update email is compplan@ci.tumwater.wa.us
- All update documents will be posted on the update webpage

