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2.1 LOCAL CONTEXT

Over the decades, Spokane has been shaped by its notable beginning. Capturing the attention of fur traders, miners, missionaries and those with the “westward-ho” spirit, Spokane soon found its place on the map. Prior to 1800, Spokane was a Native American encampment located near the falls of the Spokane River.

It was not long, however, before James N. Glover, the “Father of Spokane,” recognized the beauty and potential of the unscathed Spokane area. He acquired land rights from the first settlers who had arrived in 1871 and eventually established a store where he and his wife worked and resided. Glover grew exceedingly involved in the young town and was elected mayor in 1883.

In 1881, a short time before Glover assumed office, the town was incorporated as “Spokan Falls;” an 1883 amendment changed the spelling to “Spokane Falls.” A few years later in 1891, “Spokane” became the official city name when “Falls” was dropped. The city limits at that time extended north to Garland Avenue, south to 29th Avenue, east to Regal Street and west to “H” Street, to encompass a total of 20 square miles.

In the midst of name changes and growth, Spokane suffered its share of tragic events. In August of 1889, a great fire destroyed large portions of the city with losses totaling more than \$6 million. The need to rebuild the city served as the ideal opportunity to replace the old wood buildings with those made of stone and brick. Noted for their architectural and civic status, these buildings are still treasured by Spokane’s citizens.

In 1911, Spokane citizens approved a one million dollar park bond, which was used to implement the city’s first plan-- a park plan created by the world-famous landscape design firm, Olmsted Brothers. Implementation of the Olmsted plan increased Spokane’s park size from 173 acres to 1,934 acres and firmly established Spokane’s park system as one of the community’s enduring assets.

Spokane grew rapidly in its early years, from a mere 350 in 1880 to over 100,000 in 1910. To ensure that Spokane’s beauty would be protected during the rapid growth period, the “City Beautiful” committee was formed as part of a nationwide planning movement. The committee devoted itself toward making Spokane a desirable place to live by enhancing its natural and built environment, both of which were highly prized by Spokane’s early settlers who proudly used these assets to “boost” their young community and attract growing numbers of people to it. One of the results of Spokane’s City Beautiful movement was the creation of the Park Board in 1907.

After 1910, the city’s growth slowed and even declined between 1960 to 1990. Fifty years following the mighty fire, the threat and formidable presence of war in the 1940s knocked at Spokane’s door and made it a center for wartime activity. Over the next thirty years, Spokane continued to develop both commercially and industrially. Considerable housing developments further shaped Spokane’s neighborhoods, gradually spreading into the unincorporated area of Spokane County where most of the new development began to take place.

In 1974, Spokane hosted EXPO ’74, the World’s Fair. An immediate success, the fair drew huge crowds throughout the summer. The intrigued crowds thronged through the EXPO site, which had only recently been cleared of the railroad lines that had once crowded the river front site. Today, the Great Northern Depot tower remains as a feature of the park and serves as a reminder of the integral role the railroad played in shaping Spokane.

Geological History

Spokane has been patterned over time by a succession of geological episodes. More than 16 million years ago, vast lava flows forged the area, creating a great bedrock plain that extended in multiple directions. During the ice age approximately 12,000 years ago, lobes of large glaciers traveled from the north, barricaded a large river basin in western Montana, and formed a gigantic lake in modern-day Missoula. The lake was 7,600 square kilometers in area and approximately 600 meters deep.

The glaciers eventually began to retreat, which caused the ice dam to fracture, spilling huge walls of water 150 meters in height through Spokane. Such events occurred more than a dozen times during the ice age, carving out deep canyons and leaving small remnants of the original plain. The receding flood waters left mass deposits of sand and gravel in the bottom of canyons. These flat areas made ideal locations for settlement and formed a large ground water aquifer. The aquifer is now identified as the Spokane Valley - Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer and serves as Spokane's water supply.

The aquifer carries between 1,325,000 and 2,460,000 cubic meters of water each day and provides domestic water supply to most of the Spokane urbanized area. Additionally, the aquifer exchanges significant amounts of water with the Spokane River. Sadly, much of the area's sanitary wastewater continues to be disposed of through individual septic tank and drain field systems that are located directly over the aquifer rather than through public sewer. Businesses that use hazardous materials perpetuate the pollution problems when they locate on land above the aquifer. These actions present great threats of contamination to our drinking water and produce much internal community strife.

In relation to the air shed, most of the urbanized area is located in the valley of the Spokane River, enclosed north and south by steep hillsides. Together, with prevailing winds and frequent winter temperature inversions, this tends to impound stagnant air and accumulated airborne pollutants near the ground's surface. Spokane is frequently in jeopardy of violating this country's strict air quality standards, a situation that has severe consequences for our municipality and its citizens. Automobile travel remains as the number one producer of airborne pollutants, which attests to the comprehensive plan's devotion toward exploring other means of transportation and ways in which to reduce automobile usage.

Population

The growth alternatives presented in the draft comprehensive plan are based on projected growth for Spokane County for the next twenty years as decided by elected officials from all jurisdictions in the county.

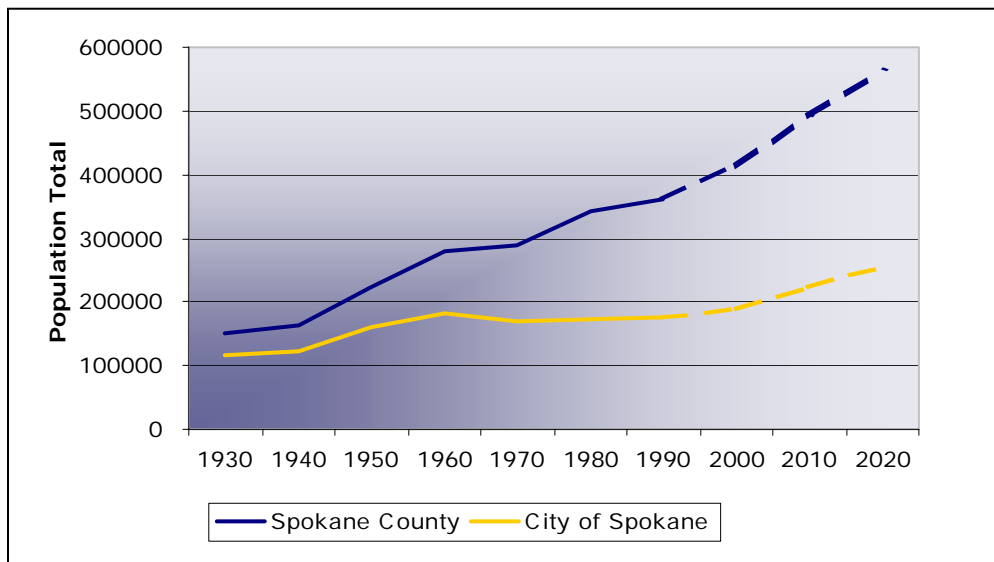


FIGURE 1 POPULATION GROWTH IN THE CITY OF SPOKANE AND SPOKANE COUNTY
CLIMATE AND REGION

City Council Adopted 12-4-06

Located 18 miles west of the Idaho border and 110 miles south of the Canadian border, Spokane enjoys each of the four seasons. Spokane typically averages 16 to 22 inches of precipitation each year. Additionally, the area receives approximately 50 inches of snow and ice annually. The winds remain calm at an average of 8 to 9 mph.

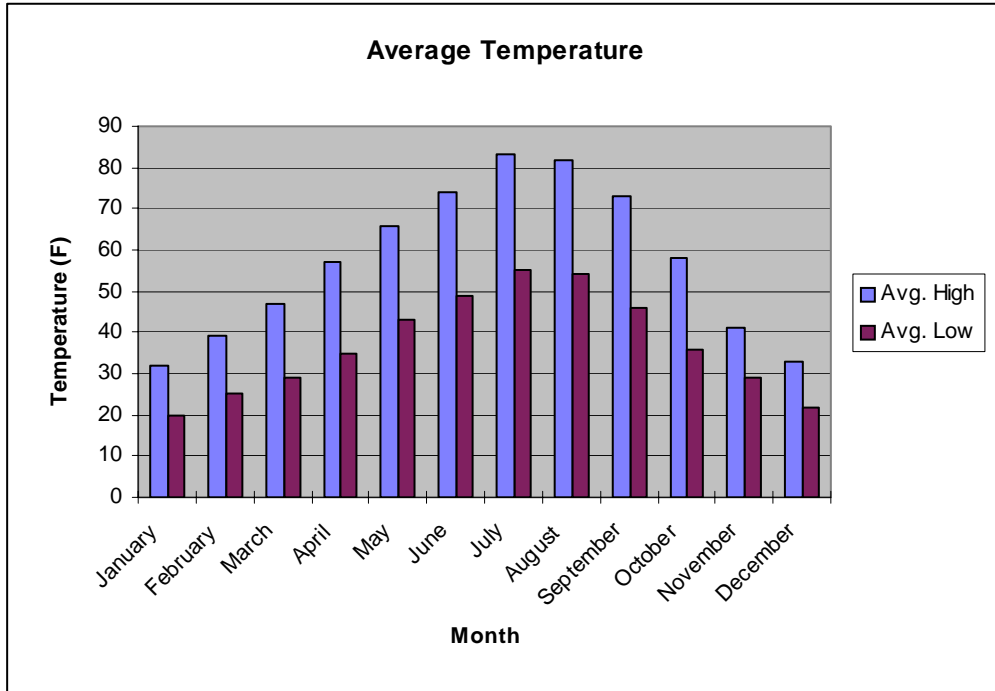


Figure 2 Average Monthly Temperatures for Spokane

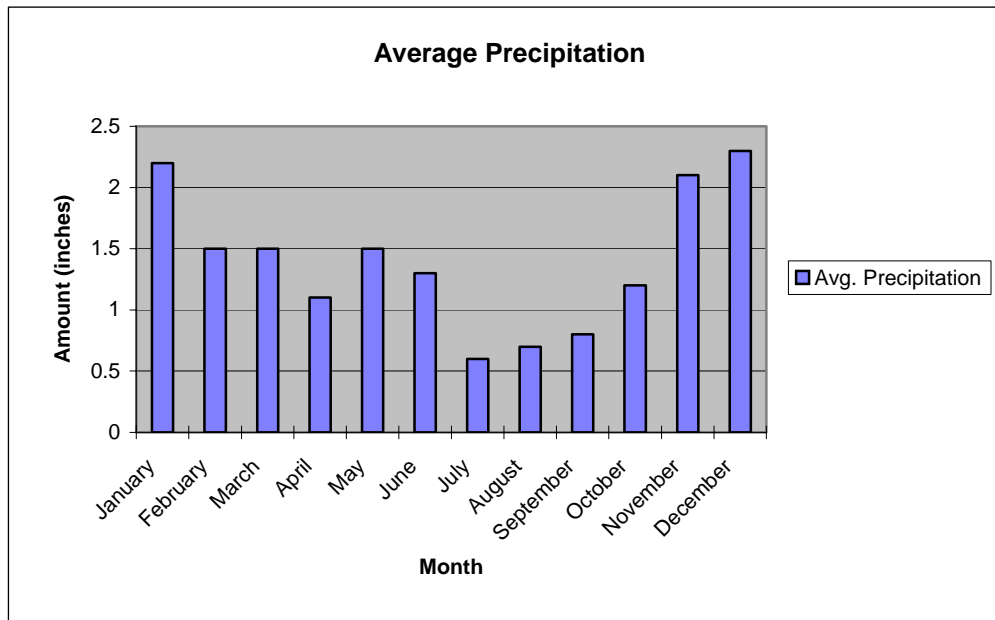


Figure 3 Average Monthly Precipitation for Spokane

Urban Conditions and Poverty

Once the grandest city in the state, Spokane's bustling urban environment and vital community health have faded over the last quarter of the 1900s. Contributors to the new comprehensive plan intend it to be a tool that will turn the tide and ensure that the 21st century is a bright, new era for Spokane. In the course of identifying effective strategies for positive change, the public took stock of Spokane's current urban conditions.

Disparate personal income is perhaps the urban condition that poses the biggest threat to community health. In 1999 David Rusk, one of the nation's foremost social analysts, observed that the Spokane metropolitan area became 40 percent more economically segregated in the twenty years from 1970 to 1990. He noted that, increasingly, higher income households are moving outside the urban core, and the core is predominately becoming the place of poverty. The community has recognized the magnitude of poverty in the area, but it continues to overlook the significance of poverty's geographic concentration in the city.

This condition is even more alarming than it appears on the surface. Spokane, once taking pride as the city of home ownership, now experiences an ownership rate that is lower than the unincorporated Spokane County and 10 percent lower than the national average. In some central city neighborhoods, the number of rental households is significantly greater than owner-occupied homes. This has multiple detrimental effects: high levels of transient residency that undermines social stability, low property maintenance that expresses itself as physical blight, and reduced capacity to create personal financial equity to offset inflation.

Our children are our future, but the city's urban conditions do not support their success. Thirty-seven percent of Spokane's children are in households below the 100 percent poverty level. Some elementary schools in central neighborhoods experience over 75 percent turnover each new school year – nearly four out of five students are not there the succeeding fall. These children can suffer from lack of diverse social interaction, inaccessibility to positive role models, poor nutrition, and sporadic after-school adult supervision. The chances are high that their future, as adults, will also be one of poverty.

There is a direct relationship between household incomes and local government's ability to support the community's desired quality of life. Funds to maintain streets, operate parks, provide police and fire protection, and run libraries come from locally generated sales and property taxes. The cost of these services is highest where the demands are greatest – at the center of population, in the city.

City income levels – nearly 10 percent lower than the unincorporated county and only two-thirds that of Seattle – don't generate sufficient tax revenues to maintain City of Spokane facilities and provide services at levels desired by citizens. The shrinkage in disposable income, and its effect on sales tax, is felt more severely as incomes decrease.

Income level also influences property taxes. People at lower income levels have less capacity to invest in real property, whether a personal residence or a local business. The City of Spokane is increasingly reliant on outside investment to improve property. The area's moderate historic growth and availability of non-city venues for growth and development have not supported investment in the city equal to that outside the city. From 1985 to 1995, total assessed valuation of property in the county grew to almost a billion dollars higher than that in the city, nearly a 400 percent increase in the difference in just 10 years. The City of Spokane's minority share of assessed valuation is greatly inconsistent with the higher demands for urban services created by the city's majority share of urban population, roughly double that of the unincorporated county.

Another dimension to the income problem is access to living wage jobs for those in poverty. Employment in the growth sectors where many of these job opportunities are emerging is largely outside the city at the urban edges. The mobility barriers faced by city households in poverty limit access to entry-level positions at these suburban locations. Mass transit does not offer convenient alternatives to many of these households, particularly when child day care is part of the daily routine. The annual cost of owning one vehicle to commute to distant employment is equal to payments for a \$40,000 home

City Council Adopted 12-4-06

mortgage. So, these house-holds must choose between ownership of one or more vehicles or the ability to have a better place to live.

The answers to these conditions are included in the Comprehensive Plan. Once they are pursued with deliberation, Spokane will no longer be a place that struggles to maintain its quality of life in the face of increasing poverty.

2.2 GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT OVERVIEW

The Growth Management Act (GMA) was adopted in 1990 by the State Legislature in response to rapid population growth in the Puget Sound region on the western side of the state. A few years later, Spokane County also experienced unprecedented growth and was required to become part of growth management. The GMA goals are not listed in order of priority and are used exclusively for the purpose of guiding the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations. ~~includes thirteen~~ The following thirteen GMA goals are what that the City of Spokane must achieve, and are consistent with the community's vision for its future.

- ◆ **Urban Growth.** Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner.
- ◆ **Reduce Sprawl.** Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low density development.
- ◆ **Transportation.** Encourage efficient multimodal transportation systems that are based on regional priorities and coordinated with county and city comprehensive plans.
- ◆ **Housing.** Encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock.
- ◆ **Economic Development.** Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state, especially for unemployed and for disadvantaged persons, promote the retention and expansion of existing businesses and recruitment of new businesses, recognize regional differences impacting economic development opportunities, and encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities.
- ◆ **Property Rights.** Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made. The property rights of landowners shall be protected from arbitrary and discriminatory actions.
- ◆ **Permits.** Applications for both state and local government permits should be processed in a timely and fair manner to ensure predictability.
- ◆ **Natural Resource Industries.** Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forest and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses.
- ◆ **Open Space and Recreation.** ~~Encourage the retention of~~Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities.
- ◆ **Environment.** Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.
- ◆ **Citizen Participation and Coordination.** Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure the coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts.
- ◆ **Public Facilities and Services.** Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards.
- ◆ **Historic Preservation.** Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archaeological significance.

2.3 COUNTYWIDE PLANNING POLICIES OVERVIEW

The Growth Management Act (GMA) calls for coordinated planning efforts among jurisdictions within a county planning under GMA. In response to that requirement, the Spokane County Steering Committee of Elected Officials developed and adopted the Countywide Planning Policies (CWPPs) in December of 1994. The CWPPs address nine subject areas and provide a framework for subsequent development and adoption of comprehensive plans by all ~~twelve-thirteen~~ jurisdictions within Spokane County. The policies address the following topics:

- ◆ The designation of urban growth areas (UGAs)
- ◆ Joint planning within urban growth areas
- ◆ Promotion of contiguous and orderly development and provision of urban services
- ◆ Parks and open spaces
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Siting of capital facilities of a countywide or statewide nature
- ◆ Affordable housing
- ◆ Economic development
- ◆ Fiscal impacts

2.4 HORIZONS PROCESS OVERVIEW



Introduction

Spokane Horizons is the name of the City of Spokane's citizen participation process to develop a new comprehensive plan. It is the city's planning process that is intended to involve all segments of the community in shaping the city's future. Started in the spring of 1995, the Spokane Horizons process was developed to fulfill the city's commitment to active, effective citizen participation as well as the Growth Management Act's (GMA) mandate for early and continuous citizen participation.

From the beginning of its GMA planning, the city made a commitment to provide early and frequent opportunities for the citizens of Spokane to be involved in making decisions that affect the community. Through the Spokane Horizons process, it was hoped that the community could achieve consensus and chart a new course for Spokane's future. These aspirations are expressed in the following goals for this program:

Spokane Horizons Goals

- ◆ To stimulate broad citizen involvement in shaping the future of the community.
- ◆ To forge a new coalition of community-wide interests to broaden the investment within the community for planning Spokane's future.
- ◆ To build affective relationships among government, the community and neighborhoods, business and their constituents to empower citizens and provide a broader perspective on Spokane's future.
- ◆ To understand the public's expectations for growth management planning, including the content and products of the process.

Process Chronology

A chronological summary of the Spokane Horizons process follows. Additional details can be found in the supporting documents cited in the text.

☑ March 1995

Citizen Participation Forum

A citizen participation forum offers comments concerning the current state of citizen involvement and recommendations for how to motivate and involve people in community planning, producing “Key Principles for Public Participation.”

Key Principles for Public Participation

- ◆ Include “input-based outcomes” to build ownership and increase participation.
- ◆ Ensure diversity and inclusiveness in the participation process.
- ◆ With the government, in community/neighborhoods, businesses, and their constituents should work collaboratively to achieve community consensus and build effective relationships.
- ◆ Communicate frequently and through a variety of techniques.
- ◆ Recognize individual time limitations.
- ◆ Focus on specific, direct-impact issues to generate interest and participation.
- ◆ View Spokane Horizons as a positive opportunity for the Spokane community.

Supporting Documents

“Key Principles for Public Participation”

“Citizen Participation Forum Summary Report.” Spokane Horizons Newsletter, April 14, 1995.

☑ Spring to Summer 1995

Identifying Plan Topics

Citizens are asked for community issues of importance and topics that should be included in the city’s comprehensive plan. Ten plan topics are crafted. Four chapters address mandated GMA topics while others are included by local decision. The ten plan topics include the following:

Elements Mandated by GMA

- ◆ Land Use
- ◆ Capital Facilities and Utilities
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Housing

Elements Added by Local Decision

- ◆ Economic Development
- ◆ Urban Design and Historic Preservation
- ◆ Natural Environment
- ◆ Neighborhoods
- ◆ Social Health
- ◆ Leadership, Governance, and Citizenship

Supporting Documents

“Charting a New Course.” Spokane Horizons Newsletter, July 1995

“Salmon swim upstream...” Survey.

☑ Summer 1995

Development of Spokane Horizons Executive Board

The Spokane Horizons Executive Board, whose members represent fourteen diverse sponsor organizations, is formed to design and implement the Spokane Horizons process. The organizations represent neighborhood, business, civic and local government interests and provide expertise or resources normally not available to the city.

Sponsoring Organizations

Chase Youth Commission
City of Spokane
Citizens League of Greater Spokane
Community Colleges of Spokane
League of Women Voters
Pacific Northwest Inlander
Spokane Area Chamber of Commerce
Spokane Neighborhoods
Spokane School District 81
Vision Spokane
AVISTA Utilities, formerly known as Washington Water Power
West Central, East Central, and North Central Community Centers

Fall 1995

Beginning to Identify Visions and Values

Over 80,000 questionnaires entitled, “50,000 People Are Coming to Dinner . . . and They’re Staying the Night!” are distributed throughout the community via city utility bill mailings, organizations and various meetings. The responses serve as the initial steps toward developing the city’s visions and values. It asks the community two questions:

- ◆ What do you really love about Spokane? What should we be sure to keep, even as we grow?
- ◆ Think about 50,000 more people living in our city. What changes are you concerned about or looking forward to with this growth? How do you feel this growth will affect the things that you like and want to keep?

Supporting Documents

“50,000 People Are Coming to Dinner . . . and They’re Staying the Night!” Brochure

March to April 1996

Clarifying and Confirming Visions and Values

Seven sub-area meetings are held throughout the city followed by a citywide meeting on April 17. Through these meetings and the work of the City Plan Commission, a citywide vision is developed, followed by vision and values statements for each of the plan topics.

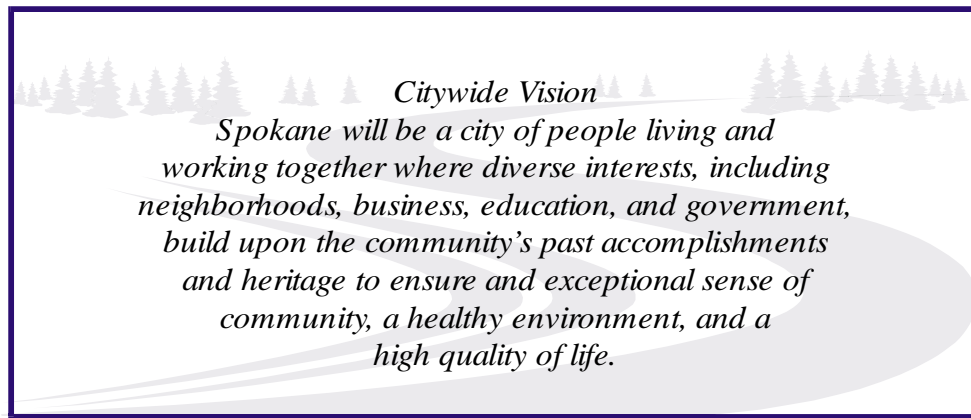
Supporting Documents

Spokane Horizons letter to participants, February 12, 1996
“Why Bother, Who Cares?” Meeting Flyer.

June 10, 1996

Adoption of Visions and Values

The City Council unanimously adopts the visions and values as the basis for the comprehensive plan. Note: The adopted visions and values appear within their corresponding topic section in this document.



July 1996

Ten Topic Work Groups Start Meeting

Ten citizen work groups start meeting to address the plan topics. The groups identify the predominant issues surrounding each topic and select three representatives to serve on the Core Committee, which shares ideas and provides coordination between topics.

October 1996

APA/PAW Honor Award

On October 22, 1996, the city of Spokane receives an Honor Award from the American Planning Association and Planning Association of Washington for Spokane Horizons: Shared Directions.

March 10, 1997

City Council Accepts Community Issues Report

The “Community Issues” report, containing lists of community issues to be addressed in subsequent planning phases, is accepted by the City Council.

Supporting Document

“Community Issues.” Report, undated.

March to July 1997

Ideas for Community Solutions

The Horizons topic work groups continue to formulate solutions to their identified issues. In July, City Council accepts the “Ideas for Community Solutions” document.

Supporting Document

“Ideas for Community Solutions.” July 21, 1997.

July to August 1997

Draft Goals Developed

The ten topic work groups produce the preliminary draft goals, which are approved in August by the Core Committee.

September 1997

League of Women Voters Award

The League of Women Voters presented their 1997 Growth Management Award for Public Participation Programs to Spokane Horizons on September 18, 1997.

August-December 1997

Draft Policies Developed; Growth Concepts Explored

Individual work groups develop draft policies addressing the approved goals. The city staff develops the first graphic representations of potential growth concepts that satisfy the draft goals and presents them to the Core Committee.

Supporting Document

“Draft Goals and Policies, Horizons’ suggestions for The City of Spokane’s Comprehensive Plan,”
November 24, 1997.

January-June 1998

Formulation of Growth Strategies/Alternatives

The Current Patterns and Focused Growth strategies develop from the initial growth concepts. Outreach to the public for feedback on the strategies includes presentations to more than 90 civic organizations, the preparation of a video and a newspaper tabloid, which is inserted in an April edition of The Pacific Northwest Inlander and throughout downtown and city neighborhoods.

Supporting Documents

“Spokane Horizons Progress.” Spokane Horizons Newsletter, April/May 1998.
“Two Strategies for Growth, Which Path to the Future,” Newspaper Tabloid.

Fall 1998 and Spring 1999

Operational Analysis of Growth Alternatives

Information packages fully detailing the three proposed growth alternatives area presented to service providers (both city and non-city agencies) for their evaluation. The second round addresses a larger geographic area than the first round.

Spring 1999

Adjustments

Adjustments to the growth population and the refinement of land capacity and demand start.

Spring and Summer 1999

Market Analysis of Focused Growth

Consultants complete reports on the market possibilities of the focused growth alternatives.

Supporting Documents

Focused Growth Alternatives: Mixed-Use Case Studies, March 1999
Focused Growth Alternatives: Summary of Stakeholder Interviews, July 1999
Focused Growth Alternatives: Summary Analysis Report, August 1999

Summer 1999

Preparation of Integrated Plan

The development of an integrated Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS document containing the three alternatives begins.

Supporting Documents

“Horizons’ Choices to Hit City Streets” Spokane Horizons Newsletter, September 1999

Fall 1999

Further Work on Integrated Draft Plan

Additional narrative work, including background and discussion sections, is added to the draft plan while editing and graphic layout procedures continue.

March 2000

Spokane Horizons Executive Board Reconvened

The Spokane Horizons Board is reconvened and provides review of the citizen participation process.

Spring 2000

Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS Chapters Introduced

Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS chapters are introduced to the City Plan Commission.

May-September 2000

Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS Released

The Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS is released May 22, 2000 for a public comment period that ends on September 26. The document is available in print, on CD-ROM, and on the city's website. 14,000 copies are distributed of a summary magazine titled "Spokane Quest." Public education and outreach efforts include presentations to over 80 civic organizations, booths at nine community festivals, and a standing display in City Hall called the Comp Plan Lab. Feedback instruments include surveys, an email response address, an Open Mike Night, several Tell-Back sessions, and the City Plan Commission hearing on September 6, 2000.

Supporting Documents

Draft Comprehensive Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

"Spokane Quest," Magazine

Public Participation Program Pamphlet

August 2000

Fiscal Analysis of Growth Alternatives

Consults prepare a report analyzing the fiscal impacts of each of the three proposed growth alternatives, which is released for public review on August 30, 2000.

Supporting Documents

Fiscal Analysis for the Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS, August 2000

October 2000

APA/PAW Honor Award

On October 3, 2000, the City of Spokane receives an Honor Award from the American Planning Association and Planning Association of Washington for Draft Comprehensive Plan Community Involvement.

October 2000 – January 2001

City Plan Commission Deliberations

The City Plan Commission deliberates on the Draft Comprehensive Plan/EIS and the three proposed growth alternatives. After consideration of the fiscal, environmental, operational, social and market analyses, and an extensive review of the public comment, the City Plan Commission confirms Centers and Corridors as the preferred growth alternative. Changes are made to policy language and the land use map to address the City Plan Commission's concerns and those raised through the public comment process. The City Plan Commission then recommends this changed version of the plan to the City Council for adoption.

Supporting Documents

135 letters of public comment received

Tell-Back report: "Perception of Comprehensive Plan Strategies"

Findings, Conclusions and Recommendation, dated January 17, 2001

City Plan Commission's Recommended Draft Comprehensive Plan (January 2001 version)

January –May 2001

City Council Review

From January 18 to February 22, the City Plan Commission hold six study sessions with Planning staff to review the January 2001 Plan Commission’s recommended version of the Draft Comprehensive Plan. The City Plan Commission proposes suggested changes to policy language and the land use map in order to address the concerns expressed by City Council members at these study sessions. Preliminary to the City Council hearings o the plan, the Plan Commission holds an open house on February 20 to show the public the February 13 version of the Comprehensive Plan/EIS that contains their recommendations together with the Council’s changes to date.

The City Council holds seven weekly public hearings on the comprehensive plan from February 26 to April 9, 2001. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and final Capital Facilities Program (CFP) are released for public review on March 23. In response to the public comment, changes are made to comprehensive plan policies and the land use map during eleven joint City Council/City Plan Commission study sessions held between March 1 and May 10. All the changes that City Council made to the February 13 version of the Recommended Comprehensive Plan are compiled and released for ten days of public review on May 4. City Council hears public testimony on their proposed changes on May 7 and May 14. The City Council’s first reading of the comprehensive plan adoption ordinance takes place on May 14. The City council hears final testimony, approves several last minute amendments to the plan text and map, and adopts the Comprehensive Plan by ordinance at the second reading on the ordinance on May 21, 2001.

Supporting Documents

“Process Meets Product” Spokane Horizons Newsletter, January 2001

234 letters of public comment received

City Plan Commission’s Recommended Comprehensive Plan/FEIS (2/13/01 public release version)
FEIS and final CFP

City Council’s Recommended Changes to the Plan Commission’s Recommended Comprehensive Plan (released 5/4/01)

Comprehensive Plan Adoption Ordinance No. C32847

January-May 2001

Draft Initial Development Regulations

Draft Initial Development Regulations are released for a 30-day public comment period that runs from January 29 to February 28. The City Plan Commission’s hearing on the Draft IDRs is held February 21. The Plan Commission deliberates on the Draft Initial Development Regulations on May 9, and passes their recommendation on to the City Council. A revised version of the IDRs is posted to the City’s website for public review on May 15. The City Council’s first reading of the revised IDRs takes place on May 14. They are adopted by City Council at the second reading on May 21 with no additional public testimony.

Supporting Documents

Draft Initial Development Regulations, released on January 29, 2001

Initial Development Regulations Adoption Ordinance No. C32843

2.5 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE OF 2006 OVERVIEW

Reason for 2006 Update: For the City's Comprehensive Plan to be effective, it must continue to be evaluated and evolve. When new and updated information that examines trends or patterns of growth and development is available, these are used to help evaluate if the Plan is achieving the goals of the community contained in the Plan. The 2006 update, in addition to annual amendments to the plan, ensure that the Plan is consistent with changes to State and Federal laws and the desires of the community. The Washington State GMA also requires the City to review and, if needed, update the Comprehensive Plan at certain time intervals. The end of 2006 is the first of the State-required review periods.

2.6 OVERVIEW OF PLANNING EFFORTS

In addition to annual amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and other long range planning efforts to ensure that adequate capital facilities are available in the future, the City has participated in additional planning efforts. The City has played both a lead and partnering role with many different groups and their planning efforts for the betterment of the community. Several of these efforts have been initiated and conducted by private groups with interests in certain specific areas of the City and surrounding areas. Examples of a few of these efforts include;

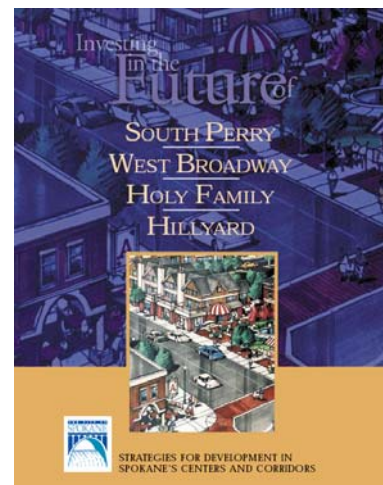
Pilot Centers and Corridors

Pilot Centers and Corridors: Four pilot areas were chosen to help develop and test the process of conducting specific plans for targeted areas of the City. The South Perry, West Broadway, Holy Family and Hillyard Center and Corridor areas were the first areas closely examined after the passage of the Comprehensive Plan in 2001. Strategies were developed and implemented to either revitalize or ensure that these areas continued to be vibrant areas where growth could be focused in the future. These pilot plans amended the Comprehensive Plan as a part of their process.

Footnote: Brochure that summarized strategies.

Neighborhood Planning

Following the pilot Centers and Corridors process and the creation of the Neighborhood Planning Guidebook, several other targeted planning efforts have been conducted. Other Center and Corridor areas that the City has partnered with include the Grand District Center, Maxwell and Elm Employment Center, and Logan Neighborhood Centers. The East Central neighborhood is currently in the process of creating a neighborhood plan.



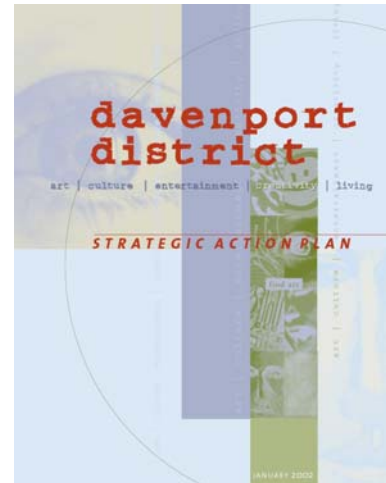
Strategic Plans

Through the Comprehensive Plan, the City would like to acknowledge several planning efforts that have taken place just prior to and after adoption of the 2001 Comprehensive Plan. Acknowledgment means only that the City recognizes these efforts. The Davenport District, Great Spokane River Gorge, and U-District plans contain a significant body of work detailing existing conditions, opportunities, and an outline for many actions designed to enhance these areas of the City. As visionary documents, they will help guide growth and development in these areas in the future. The City has not committed resources for action or project implementation of these plans, and the plans at this time are not intended for adoption as official policy of the City of Spokane. No legislative action has been taken to adopt changes to the Spokane Municipal Code, the Official Zoning Map, or the text or maps of the Comprehensive Plan related to these planning efforts. Implementation of these plans may require amendments to the Comprehensive Plan in the future.

Davenport District Strategic Action Plan

City Council Adopted 12-4-06

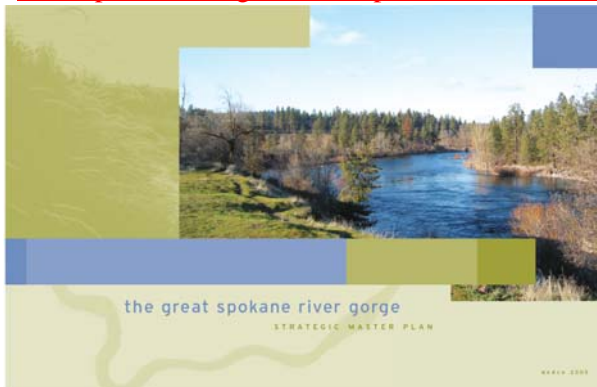
This effort was started in late 2001. The Downtown Spokane Partnership spearheaded a Strategic Action Plan for the district following the momentum begun by the Downtown Plan. During this time the "Davenport District" was selected as the name for the area surrounding the Davenport Hotel from Stevens Street on the east to Madison Street on the west. This plan presents a ten-year vision and action plan to guide the development and evolution of the Davenport District. The plan lays out an agenda for a series of immediate and long-term action items to enable the District to realize its full potential as an exciting district filled with arts, cultural, entertainment and living opportunities. The Strategic Plan is intended to be a flexible development tool and a working document that will change and adapt as the Davenport District evolves.



Cover of the Davenport District Strategic Action Plan

The Great Spokane River Gorge Strategic Master Plan:

A non-profit group "Friends of the Falls", aided by an award of technical assistance from the National Parks Service's Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program, has spearheaded an effort that has developed a strategic master plan for an area that has been named the Great Spokane River Gorge or "Great George Park." The area generally follows the Spokane River Gorge west of River Front Park and includes parts of several neighborhoods. Some of the groups working with Friends of the Falls in the process include Spokane Parks Department, Spokane Tribe Culture Office, Avista Corporation, Summit Properties (now Kendall Yards), West Central Neighborhood, Peaceful Valley Neighborhood, Downtown Spokane Partnership, Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, and the Friends of the Centennial Trail.



Cover of "The Great Spokane River Gorge" strategic master plan.

U-District Strategic Master Plan

Starting in 2003 and continuing through 2004, the City participated in a community effort to develop a strategic master plan around the idea of a University District. As stated in the U-District plan "The University District is a bold vision and plan to attract a critical mass of top students, staff and faculty, cutting-edge researchers, and creative entrepreneurs – all of which are the catalysts for increased commercialization of technology, growth in our health care industry, and overall economic prosperity for the region. It builds upon and incorporates existing plans, activities and assets — leveraging them into a strong economic engine that lays the foundation for Spokane's growth in the next century. It is time to forge Spokane's new destiny."



Cover of the U-District strategic plan.