Spokane County 2026 Comprehensive Plan Kick-Off

Presented by Spokane County Planning
Purpose

• Begin the early and continuous public participation process
• Gather interest and show the community how they can get involved
• Serves as the beginning stage to both educate and engage conversation with the community on comprehensive planning and its various elements
2026 Comprehensive Plan Kick-Off Locations

Date & Locations:
May 22 — Central Library, 2pm
May 23 — Airway Heights Library, 2pm
May 28 — Cheney Library, 2pm
June 3 — Medical Lake Library, 2pm
June 6 — Spokane Valley Library, 2pm
TBD – 2 more kick-offs
What will the forums entail?

• Brief profile on Spokane County
• Information on
  • Comprehensive Plans (what they are and how they are implemented)
  • Individual elements of the Comprehensive Plan
  • How to get involved and why
  • Growth Management Act
Profile

County Land Area Square Miles: 1,764

13 Incorporated Cities & Towns
33 Unincorporated Urban Growth Areas
Growth Management Act (GMA)

- Series of statutes adopted in 1990 that requires the development of a comprehensive plan to manage population growth
- Contains 15 goals
  1. Urban growth
  2. Reduce sprawl
  3. Transportation
  4. Housing
  5. Economic development
  6. Property rights
  7. Permits
  8. Natural resource industries
  9. Open space and recreation
  10. Environment
  11. Citizen participation and coordination
  12. Public facilities and services
  13. Historic preservation
  14. Climate change and resiliency
  15. Shoreline management
Element example: Land Use

Main purpose is to designate the general distribution and location of the uses of land and provides the basis of the County’s zoning laws.

Works to promote orderly development that promotes adequate housing, social gathering, environmental protection and resource conservation, economic growth, and provide for transportation needs.
Element example: Land Use

GMA Planning Goals

- **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.
Element example: Land Use

Categories:

- **Residential**: establishes the density and types of housing that is allowed to built within the area
- **Commercial**: allows for various commercial uses, such as shopping areas, restaurants, office buildings, and warehouses
- **Industrial**: Categorized by industrial uses that vary in intensity, such as manufacturing facilities, wholesaling, and laboratories
- **Mixed use**: Provides multiple uses, such as commercial, higher-density residences, offices, and recreation
- **Resource lands**: lands with long-term commercial significance (agriculture, forest, and mineral lands)
Element example: Land Use

Importance:

- Ensures compatibility between adjacent land uses
- Allows for informed decisions on development projects
- Promotes safe transportation
- Manages population growth and mitigates urban sprawl
- Facilitates economic growth
- Minimizes hazards and protects the public health
- Protects endangered species and critical areas
- Preserves open space
Element example: Housing

Works to support growth and ensure residents have access to quality, affordable housing through goals, policies, and implementation strategies.

Effects:
- Housing types and densities
- Supply of affordable housing
- Proximity to employment, goods, and services
Element example: Housing

GMA planning goals

• **Reduce Sprawl.** Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development

• **Housing.** Plan for and accommodate housing affordable 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.

• **Historic Preservation.** Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archaeological significance.
Element example: Housing

New State Requirements:

- Planning for sufficient land capacity for housing needs
  - All economic segments of the population
  - Emergency housing, shelters, and permanent supportive housing
- Documenting programs and actions needed to achieve housing availability
- Identifying racially disparate impacts, displacement and exclusion in housing policies and regulations
- Providing for moderate density housing options within urban areas
Element example: Housing

Informed by population growth, land capacity and housing allocations, local data, and public outreach

Data analyses examples:

- Median home and rental costs
- Vacancy rates
- Housing characteristics (household types, household size, owner vs renter tenure, etc.)
- Affordability by Area Median Income (AMI) versus average rent

+ many, many more
Questions or Comments?