

Working Draft – 04/15/22

Countywide Planning Policies for Spokane County Statement of Principles

Abstract

create after substance is confirmed.

Introduction

Update introduction

The Growth Management Act (GMA) mandates that each county develop Countywide Planning Policies (CWPPs) which shall serve as “...*written policy statements used solely for establishing a countywide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are developed and adopted...*” The policies are intended to guide interaction between the cities, towns and county government and ensure consistency between individual jurisdictions’ comprehensive plans.

Spokane County and the constituent cities within hold the following topics as fundamental for the preservation and growth of the county and its cities:

Citizen Participation

Updated Public Participation Policy Guidelines

Rewrite

Neighborhood Character Preservation and Protection

Spokane County has well-established neighborhoods, each with its unique identity and character. For most citizens, neighborhood character is one of the primary ingredients in their perceived quality of life. While supporting growth in the region is fundamental, these policies shall reinforce the identification and preservation of neighborhood character to prevent neighborhoods from becoming segmented, fragmented or degraded by that growth.

Aquifer Protection

Much of Spokane County’s developed area is dependent upon the Spokane Valley/Rathdrum Prairie aquifer for its drinking water supply. Protection of that aquifer is vital for both the economic and physical health of the area. Aquifer protection is identified in several specific policies, and numerous other policies support and strengthen that philosophy.
needs strengthening

Urban and Rural Character

Rewrite

The designation, review, and update of Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) is the most significant tool in the Countywide Planning Policies for managing growth. Within UGAs, lands will be developed with an urban character, while lands outside will remain rural or retain the character they have today. In urban areas, land will be used intensively and have adequate public facilities and services to support that intensity. In rural areas, lower densities protect the rural character and avoid the need for extensive government services and facilities.

Economic Vitality and Growth

Rewrite

The economic vitality of Spokane County is brought about by a collaborative effort of the public and private sectors. A healthy economy maintains jobs, creates job opportunities and provides for residential development for all economic segments of the community. A jobs-based economy brings together the environmental and the economic implications of managed growth and seeks a balance, which will help secure a quality community for future generations.

The provision of utilities and other supporting urban services to growth area projects shall be supported through coordinated partnerships and assigned a high priority by utility purveyors and service providers.

Fairchild Air Force Base

Fairchild Air Force Base is a critical national security asset and installation. Spokane County and its constituent jurisdictions commit to protecting the current and future missions of Fairchild AFB and shall adopt land use plans and zoning code in conformance with current Joint Land Use Study and AICUZ standards. Spokane County and its constituent jurisdictions shall work to redevelop areas of encroachment into compatible uses.