



## General Plan Comprehensive Update

### City of Marysville

#### **What is a General Plan?**

A general plan is the principal long-range policy and planning document guiding the physical development of the City. As the City's "constitution," the General Plan fulfills state legal requirements and provides a framework for the City to exercise its land use entitlement authority, as provided under state law. Specifically, it establishes goals and policy direction to achieve a shared vision for the community for its residents, businesses, and visitors.

#### **What goes into the General Plan?**

The General Plan covers topics related to community growth and development. State law requires all general plans to include nine mandatory elements described below. At the direction of the City Council, the City is updating seven of the nine required elements since the Housing Element and Safety Element were recently updated.

The General Plan will outline the desired future conditions, values, and characteristics to be achieved or reinforced by the plan and lays the foundation for the implementation programs developed for each General Plan Element. During the General Plan process, the public is invited to provide input to decision makers regarding the content. Community input is important to ensuring acceptance and ownership of the General Plan's goals, objectives, policies, and implementation programs.

#### **Why Update the General Plan?**

General plans typically address a period of approximately 20 years. In Marysville's case, the last comprehensive update occurred in 1985, therefore, it is critical to update the General Plan at this time. It is expected that this General Plan will have a planning horizon of 2040. The City received planning grants from the state of California and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) that will be used to prepare a specific plan and environmental impact report (EIR) concurrently. The City is leveraging these funds along with its own General Fund

monies in order to advance the General Plan work. Many of the same technical studies will cover both the General Plan and Specific Plan effort and one EIR will cover both actions.

### **What is the Purpose of the General Plan?**

The General Plan is intended to be used by the residents, businesses, City officials, community organizations, and others interested in the City's future.

- The Planning and Historic Preservation Commission and City Council will regularly use the goals and policies of the General Plan as a basis upon which to make both long-term and short-term decisions, determine long range objectives, generate and evaluate budgets, plan capital improvements, and prioritize tasks.
- City staff will use the General Plan when considering development applications, capital improvements, service programming, and departmental budgeting, and to help compete for grants and other funding to implement the plan.
- Individuals and developers will use the General Plan to determine how and where to develop projects and include amenities to serve the community.
- Local, regional, and state agencies (e.g., schools, utilities, community-based organizations) will refer to the General Plan when projecting future needs and services.
- The General Plan will establish policies that will set expectations for environmental review (roadway standards, noise standards etc.).

### **What are the Elements of a General Plan?**

- **Land Use:** The land use element establishes goals, objectives, policies, and programs. It includes both text and a land use map that describes type and location of allowed land use, building intensity, etc. Land use categories are used to depict the general distribution, location, and extent of public and private uses within the corporate boundaries. It also establishes the intent outside of existing City limits in an area designated as the City's Sphere of Influence The land use element could identify areas to be considered for future annexation.
- **Open Space:** Provides a plan for the preservation of active and passive open space, for natural resources, for managing the resources, and addressing outdoor recreation.
- **Conservation:** This element identifies natural and energy resources and methods to preserve these resources.
- **Housing Element:** This element identifies the needs for all income groups and demonstrates how to meet those needs and accommodate the City's share of its Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). The element is the only element requiring state review and approval by the Department of Housing and Community Development and is required to be updated every eight-years. The current Housing Element covers years 2021-2029.

- **Safety Element:** Recent state law requires that the Safety Element now be updated on the same schedule as the Housing Element. The City updated the Safety Element in January 2022. It is required to address seismic, geologic, flood, climate change, wildfire hazards, and evacuation routes, and establishes policies to protect the community.
- **Circulation:** This element includes the location and design of existing and proposed major throughfares, transportation routes, pedestrian connections, bicycle facilities, public transit options, and trails. It requires a map showing the circulation routes in addition to objectives and policies and funding for facilities identified in the circulation element.
- **Noise:** This element identifies existing and projected noise sources and contours (maps of noise exposure) and must include measures to reduce potential noise levels. Noise sources can include roadway/traffic, railroad, and commercial and industrial operations.
- **Environmental Justice:** A new requirement as of 2020, the General Plan must address objectives and policies to reduce the unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by means that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity. Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process. Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities. Most of Marysville and surrounding areas are considered a disadvantaged community according to state law and indicators maintained by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

### **For More Information**

Information will be posted to the City of Marysville's Website: [www.marysville.ca.us](http://www.marysville.ca.us) as it becomes available.

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