

CITY OF WESTMINSTER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



The Comprehensive Plan (Plan) is an official policy document of the City of Westminster. It establishes a consistent statement of the city's plans and policies for future development, and is meant to be a living document that is updated over time to respond to changing conditions and the evolving needs of the community. All parts of the Plan, in conjunction with partner plans, work together towards the realization of the city's vision for the future.

WESTMINSTER VISION

Westminster is a city of beautiful, safe, well-maintained neighborhoods and destinations with a vibrant, diverse economy, rich and resilient environment, and a strong sense of community and belonging. We are a thriving community of safe neighborhoods and beautiful open space that is sustainable and inclusive.

PLAN CORNERSTONES

Four guiding principles serve as the aspirational platform for the goals and policies of this Plan.

THRIVING CITY: Westminster has a strong identity that values being bold, innovative, and different. We promote diversity and inclusiveness, and celebrate cultural and artistic expression. Westminster cultivates a diverse, healthy, and resilient economy with an emphasis on financial sustainability, leveraging the city's role in the region and adapting to changing trends and technologies.

HEALTHY PLACES: Westminster embraces the outdoors through a comprehensive, integrated parks and open space system. Westminster strives to be one of the most sustainable, safe, and healthy cities in America.

GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS: Westminster has a strong sense of local pride in our well-designed and attractive neighborhoods. Westminster is a leader in affordable housing, providing a balanced mix of housing opportunities for a range of incomes, age groups, and lifestyle choices.

MANAGED GROWTH: Westminster is a mature city that will continue to evolve and thrive through targeted infill and redevelopment opportunities. Westminster supports an inclusive and comprehensive multimodal transportation network that provides safe and well-connected transportation and mobility choices to connect people to local and regional destinations. Westminster responsibly manages water and natural resources, prioritizing environmental stewardship and understanding feasibility of infrastructure and resource availability.

CROSS-CUTTING TOPICS

Through the planning process, five additional topics were identified that impact each of the Comprehensive Plan themes. These cross-cutting topics are integrated within each theme chapter.



EDUCATION

The city is committed to equitable access to education by supporting literacy, community engagement and empowerment, and public outreach and education.



EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

As part of the Welcoming America's Welcoming Cities and Counties Initiative, the city strives to be more than merely diverse—it strives for equity and inclusion.



HEALTH

To support the community's health, safety, and wellbeing, this Plan emphasizes the relationship between the built environment and public health, with intentional design practices and land use planning.



RESILIENCE

Westminster strives to maintain its fiscal resilience despite the low points in economic cycles, and pro-actively plans for natural hazards.



SAFETY

Working to ensure a safe and secure living and working environment is a city priority, as is reflected in the partnerships with the municipal police and fire departments, as well as Westminster's built environment.



CLIMATE

With the desire to be an environmentally responsible city, Westminster strives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the impacts of climate change.

PLAN PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION

The Comprehensive Plan builds on key concepts from the prior Comprehensive Plan with updated goals and policies relative to housing, proactively addressing changing demographics and employment trends, and supporting existing neighborhoods.

Chapter 1: Introduction & Vision includes the purpose and overall planning context for the Plan, as well as the guiding principles that provide the framework for the goals and policies in the following chapters.

Chapter 2: Utilities & Resources outlines policies to support the sustainability and resiliency of existing and future neighborhoods with the provision and availability of city utilities, infrastructure systems and public service. Functional plans that supplement these policies include the Sustainability Plan, Water Efficiency Plan, and Water Supply Plan.

Chapter 3: Land Use & Development provides direction for a balanced mix of land uses, sustainable design, development standards and regional collaboration. This chapter includes high-level direction for this element, with more detailed standards for development included with Code Forward.

Chapter 4: Transportation, Mobility & Connections includes direction for all modes of travel in the city, ensuring that vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit movement is balanced and coordinated. This chapter includes high-level direction for this element, with more detailed goals, actions, and policies included within the city's Transportation & Mobility Plan.

Chapter 5: Health, Wellness & Community Services outlines the framework for provision, creation, and maintenance of parks, open space, recreation and library facilities, and arts and culture in the city. This chapter also identifies needs associated with schools, health and human services, and public safety. Chapter 5 includes high-level direction for this element, with more detailed goals and policies included within the Parks, Recreation & Libraries Plan.

Chapter 6: Economic & Financial Resilience establishes high-level economic goals and introduces financial policies to promote economic health, opportunity and diversity in the community that are necessary to generate the revenue to maintain a stable fiscal base at the municipal level, ensuring long-term financial sustainability.

Chapter 7: Housing & Neighborhoods supplements policies in the Sustainability Plan relative to neighborhood services and addressing housing needs with additional context on city identity and heritage.

Chapter 8: Community Places provides a planning framework for key areas in the city, and references specific area plans that include more specific goals and policies to guide future planning and development in these areas.

Chapter 9: Plan Compliance & Implementation delineates the applicability, administration and toolkit of city programs that are interrelated with the Comprehensive Plan.

For more information on the Draft Plan and to provide comments, please visit the city's website. If you have questions about the Comprehensive Plan, please email westminsterforward@cityofwestminster.us.

