



What is Neighborhood Planning?

Neighborhood planning is comprehensive, in-depth planning for the future of one neighborhood. Neighborhood planning focuses on meeting residents' needs and accommodating new development while maintaining the character of the neighborhood. The City staff is asking for help in making decisions about what will best serve South Chelan as it grows over the next 20 years.

Neighborhood planning may address things like:

- Protecting views and view corridors
- Housing types and housing density
- Allowed uses in the neighborhood
- Design and development standards
- Sidewalks, bike lanes, planting strips, and median islands
- Parking and traffic

Benefits of neighborhood planning can include:

- A variety of housing options
- Fewer deteriorated and dilapidated structures
- Transportation options like sidewalks and bike lanes
- Retaining neighborhood character
- Getting to know neighbors and working together to create the neighborhood you want
- Increased density
- Increased value

The South Chelan neighborhood planning project may include:

- Defining neighborhood boundaries
- Setting goals, identifying objectives, and developing strategies and an action plan
- Defining neighborhood compatibility standards
- Discussing infill housing (new housing on vacant or partially-used lots)
- Talking about housing options such as accessory dwelling units, cottage housing, duplexes, or townhouses
- Identifying appropriate uses within the neighborhood
- Developing a zoning overlay within which certain options may be allowed, and identifying overlay boundaries

- Evaluating streets and utilities and identifying needs, such as replacing or re-sizing water and sewer lines; installing sidewalks, traffic calming devices, and other road infrastructure; developing street diagrams (which could include landscaping); and adding bike lanes
- Assessing housing condition and targeting resources to improve deteriorated properties
- Finding resources to meet needs in the neighborhood. For instance, street improvements identified during neighborhood planning can be identified in the City's street plan and funding earmarked to make the improvements
- Letting residents of the neighborhood know about neighborhood needs, and encouraging them to become involved
- Organizing a neighborhood group or a Block Watch program

Sustainability and neighborhood planning

The Chelan City Council formed a Sustainability Committee in 2008. That committee is now working with a group of citizens (the Sustainability Steering Committee) to create a Sustainability Element for the City's Comprehensive Plan, and a Sustainability Action Plan for the City.

Neighborhoods can be an important part of a sustainable city. Compact development, energy efficiency, environmentally-friendly building, sidewalks and bike lanes, and trees and landscaping all contribute to sustainability.

Neighborhood preferences will be one of the factors that the City considers as it develops its plan for the long-term sustainability of Chelan. Neighborhoods that choose to may work together to create a more sustainable city.

For more information, please visit <http://sustainablechelan.blogspot.com/> or contact Agnes Kowacz. The City expects to post information about sustainability planning on its web site soon.

For more information:

The City's Housing Manual is available online at: <http://cityofchelan.us/planbuild/planning.aspx>. Select "Long-range planning" under the heading "Planning topics", and then select "City of Chelan Housing Manual"

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