



ENVISION GLENDALE 2040

Fact Sheet #1: General Plan Update

What is a General Plan?

Every city and county in Arizona is required by state law to prepare and maintain a planning document called a general plan. A general plan is designed to serve as the jurisdiction's "constitution" or "blueprint" for future decisions concerning land use and resource conservation. All specific plans, subdivisions, public works projects, and zoning decisions must be consistent with the City's General Plan.

General Plan Update

The City of Glendale's General Plan Update will serve several purposes:

- ◆ Provide the public opportunities for meaningful participation in the planning and decision-making process
- ◆ Provide a description of current conditions and trends shaping the City of Glendale
- ◆ Identify planning issues, opportunities, and challenges that should be addressed in the general plan
- ◆ Explore land use and policy alternatives
- ◆ Ensure that the general plan is current, internally consistent, and easy to use
- ◆ Provide guidance in the planning and evaluation of future land and resource decisions
- ◆ Provide a vision and framework for the future of the City of Glendale

A general plan typically has three defining features:

General. As the name implies, a general plan provides general guidance that will be used to direct future land use and resource decisions.

Comprehensive. A general plan covers a wide range of social, economic, infrastructure, and natural resource factors. These include land use, housing, circulation, utilities, public services, recreation, agriculture, biological resources, and many other topics.

Long-Range. General plans provide guidance on reaching a future envisioned 20 or more years in the future. To reach this envisioned future, the General Plan will include policies and actions that address both immediate and long-term needs.



Who Will Guide the General Plan Development?

City Council / Planning Commission

The City Council and Planning Commission will be involved throughout the update process. Several presentations will be made to these elected and appointed officials at public hearings and workshops to gain insight and direction.

Steering Committee

To help in the development of the General Plan Update, the City created an advisory working group – the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is made up of individuals selected from the community and is designed to provide additional community input to City staff and the General Plan consulting team during the development of the General Plan. The Steering Committee typically meets every two months.

Public Participation

More than any other planning document, the General Plan needs to be a reflection of the collective aspirations of those who live, work, and own property in the city. There are a number of ways to get involved and stay up-to-date on the General Plan Update.

Website. From a link on the City's website, or directly at www.glendale2040.com, up-to-date information on the General Plan Update process can be found. This General Plan Update website contains schedules for future meetings and provides a location to download documents prepared during the project.

Fact Sheets. This is the first of several fact sheets that will be prepared to provide updates on the progress of the General Plan Update.

Public Workshops/ Neighborhood Meetings. There will be a minimum of three public workshops and six council district neighborhood meetings held with the community and elected officials to gain input on issues and opportunities, alternative futures, and the General Plan documents.

Public Hearings. Formal public hearings will be held with the Planning Commission and the City Council to consider the General Plan and its supporting documents. Public input at these meetings is encouraged.



Keeping Up to Date

During the General Plan Update process, the city will maintain a mailing list of individuals who want to be kept informed on the latest program events. If you would like to be added to this list, please check out the mailing list directions on the General Plan Update 2040 website – www.glendale2040.com.



What Will the General Plan Update Address?

The Glendale General Plan will be organized into six themes (listed below). Each theme will contain a number of topical sections called “elements”.

Land Use and Development

Land Use. This element will cover land use types, distribution, and intensity; population and building density; existing specific plans; and future growth areas.



Housing. Contains goals, policies, implementation measures, and quantified objectives to facilitate the development of housing for all economic sectors.

Conservation, Rehabilitation, and Redevelopment. This element will cover redevelopment of aging infrastructure, and conservation or rehabilitation of city assets that complement a “renewed” community.

Growth Areas. Contains an inventory, analysis and potential solutions for high potential developable, accessible land that can be utilized by the city during the next 20-30 years.

Urban Design. Provides overall direction and emphasis regarding design of the city’s buildings and neighborhoods, and future direction for designing Glendale’s built environment which includes building setbacks, and removal of slums and blighted areas.

Historic Preservation. Provides a comprehensive look at the importance of preserving historic structures and landmarks, as well as honoring the city’s heritage and culture.

Neighborhood Preservation and Revitalization. This element identifies components that make up great neighborhoods, which are the foundation of communities. This section also provides key elements needed for the preservation and revitalization of neighborhoods to maintain community character and instill a sense of pride.

Transportation

Circulation. Provides guidance on the movement of people and goods in and through the city. This includes planning for roads and highways, transit, bicyclists, pedestrians, and aviation uses.

Bicycling. Provides a comprehensive look at the importance of bicycling as an alternate mode of transportation and as a form of recreation.

Public Facilities and Services



Public Services and Utilities. Provides a comprehensive look at the city’s public utilities and services, including water, wastewater and sewer service, fire protection, and law enforcement.

Public Buildings. Provides an overview of the city’s investments in other public buildings, including recreation facilities, police and fire stations, libraries, public schools and other city owned facilities.

Public Health and Safety. Addresses a wide range of public health and safety issues, including air quality, health services, flooding, natural and man-made hazards, noise, and emergency response / evacuation routes.

Economic Vitality

Fiscal. Looks at sustaining municipal economic growth and financing cost-effective services.



Economic Development. Provides policies/strategies for pursuing/retaining commercial and industrial uses and job creation by helping the city target locations, development types, compatible uses, business assistance, and timing/phasing.

Cost of Development. This element details fiscal responsibilities for the city, including general fund and municipal bond expenditures that ensure adequate infrastructure maintenance and improvements.

Open Space and Recreation

Open Space. Addresses the conservation, development, and use of natural resources; agricultural lands; and plans and actions for preserving open space.



Recreation. This element will provide guidance on the recreation facilities and programs needed to meet the needs of the community.

Resource Conservation

Conservation of Resources. Will address the goals and objectives associated with the development, utilization, and conservation of natural resources such as soils, floodplains, watersheds and aggregates.

Environmental Planning. Linked to the conservation of resources, energy, safety and water resources elements, this element describes all environmental planning within the city, including air quality, water quality, and natural resource planning.

Energy. A new state required element, this section will provide information on energy utility services provided by the city, programs that encourage energy efficiency, and the promotion of renewable energy resources.



Water Resources. Addresses the use, protection, and enhancement of the water resources in the Planning Area. This element will provide guidance on the protection and maintenance of municipal water systems, facilities and associated resources.

What is the Process?

The General Plan Update process will take about two years to complete, wrapping up with a public vote in August 2016. As the General Plan is prepared, a number of other documents will be available for public review and comment. These documents are described below.

Map Atlas. This document provides a snapshot of the existing conditions and trends that are influencing the City of Glendale today. The information on existing conditions will be used to better understand the issues facing the city and to be able to develop a plan that helps the city address each issue appropriately. Each topic presented in the Map Atlas will include associated maps or visual representation to provide a quick reference and user-friendly tool.

General Plan Update. This report is the essence of the General Plan. It contains the goals and policies that will guide future development within the city. It also identifies a full set of implementation measures that will ensure the policies of the General Plan are carried out. A public draft will be available to the community to review and provide comments.

What are the Steps Involved?

The General Plan Update is made up of several steps that build on the accomplishments of the previous steps. The figure to the right illustrates project steps.



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