

## **Comprehensive Plan Overview**

The Comprehensive Plan sets the vision for growth in the unincorporated areas of Douglas County over the next 20 years. The plan is a requirement of the Growth Management Act (GMA) and must be periodically reviewed (ten years) and, if needed, revised to respond to changes in state law and to address new information about land use, community needs, and population growth. The next major update to the Douglas County Comprehensive Plan is required to be completed by June 30, 2026.

The 2026 Comprehensive Plan Update will plan for population and employment growth through the year 2046. The County's Comprehensive Plan and implementing regulations will be updated to reflect state, regional, and local requirements as well as the community's priorities and vision. To complete this body of work, County staff will be reviewing and updating information and reaching out to residents, community groups, and businesses to inform, engage, and obtain input. An effective comprehensive plan is integrated, inclusive, implementable, scalable, and visionary in anticipating change.

While every comprehensive plan is unique, in general, it addresses four topics: (1) existing conditions, (2) goals and objectives, (3) implementation strategies, and (4) the future land-use map. The overarching goal of this Update and outreach efforts is to generate a Comprehensive Plan that ensures a high quality of life and access to opportunities for all residents of the county.

The GMA requires the county to create and broadly disseminate a Public Participation Plan (RCW 36.70A.140) for this update to the Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of this plan is to provide a unified public outreach approach for the various components of the update. This includes determining the county's public participation goals, identifying project key parties, and developing a communications approach and schedule. This plan describes how the county intends to meet the requirements for early and continuous public participation throughout the update process and ensure that effective engagement and outreach are extended to historically underserved communities and residents.

County staff has just begun the update process and gathering all relevant data, land use analysis, demographics, etc. to address and meet the stringent requirements of the GMA. Douglas County Comprehensive Plan 2021 currently has eleven chapters or elements that will need to be updated to meet some additional requirements set forth by GMA – housing and climate change.

Douglas County has recently released a Request for Qualification bid to invite interested parties to submit their proposal on how they can assist the County in updating the Comprehensive Plan. This is made possible by a 100% grant from the Department of Commerce. Once the consultant is on board and the Department of Commerce releases the required funding, it is expected the work can begin July 1, 2024.

## **Engagement Overview**

The County has established a process and milestones in updating the Comprehensive Plan. The public, and all interested parties, will have opportunities for involvement and are encouraged to participate. Throughout the process, Douglas County will:

- Commit to early and continuous engagement.
- Provide timely information on key milestones.

- Consult neighboring cities and towns, tribes, and state agencies as required.
- Use concise and easy-to-understand language in public communications.
- Keep the project website updated with current information that is easy to find.
- Seek opportunities to provide multilingual engagement opportunities and materials in Spanish.
- Utilize a variety of outreach mediums including but not limited to local media, print, web, social media, emails, community meetings, and online surveys.
- This plan is a working document and will be adjusted, as needed.

Please stay tuned, and for any Update related questions or comments, please contact Kazi Haque at [khaque@co.douglas.wa.us](mailto:khaque@co.douglas.wa.us)