



# Public Participation Program

## 2026 Comprehensive Plan – Periodic Update

Spokane County Building & Planning

# 2026 Public Participation Program

*Growth Management Act* requires...

RCW 36.70A.140 Comprehensive Plans - Ensure Public Participation  
Requires fully planning counties and cities to establish and broadly disseminate a public participation program for comprehensive plans and development regulations relating to comprehensive plans.

WAC 365-196-600(l)(a)- Requirements

Each county and city planning under the act must establish procedures for early and continuous public participation in the development and amendment of comprehensive plans and development regulations. The procedures are not required to be reestablished for each set of amendments.

*Public Participation Program Guidelines* were updated and adopted on July 19, 2022, by the Board of County Commissioners Resolution 22-0470.

*Spokane Countywide Planning Policies* were updated and adopted on December 13, 2022, by the Board of County Commissioners Resolution 22-0859.



# Public Participation Program

The objectives of this program include:

- Identify procedures for early and continuous public participation in the development and amendment of comprehensive land use plans and development regulations implementing such plans.
- Create a roadmap by which Spokane County Planning Staff will involve the public throughout the periodic update process.
- Provide information to the public on how they can participate in the process.
- Create innovative techniques to include underserved community groups.
- Appendix A sets the procedures for early and continuous public participation while amending the comprehensive plan and updating development regulations.



# PPP Overview

Spokane County will provide information for opportunities for the public to be involved throughout all stages of the 2026 periodic update while ensuring the inclusion of all population segments. Throughout the comprehensive planning process, Spokane County will create a calendar of relevant events, meetings, and public forums for the public to attend. Participation opportunities will be updated frequently and noticed to ensure early and continuous public participation.

The Comprehensive Plan Public Participation Program will define opportunities to ensure that all segments of the population. Including those that may have been underrepresented in previous plans, are involved in the 2026 planning process. Spokane County is making a concentrated effort to include these populations that have been historically underrepresented in the planning process. During the 2026 periodic update, Spokane County will also ensure tribal participation to provide consistent planning efforts and representation of the Colville, Kalispel, and Spokane Tribes.



# PPP Initiatives

- Equitable Engagement
  - Including underserved community members
  - Coordination with community leaders and advocacy groups
  - Accessibility
  - Language barriers
  - Social media
- Meeting People Where They Are
  - Reaching out at community events to solicit public thoughts
  - Farmers markets, universities, fairs, community parades, and cultural events for historically underrepresented communities.



# PPP Initiatives

- Communication Engagement Programs and Strategies
  - Social media programs
  - Community consultations
  - Media outlets
  - Direct communication
  - In-person workshops
  - Electronic mailing list
  - Virtual meetings/forums
  - News
  - Printed/digital material
  - Press releases, public service announcements



# PPP Initiatives

- Broad Dissemination
  - Strategies, online presence, physical presence, social media platforms, physical addresses, media outlets, email contact list, and news updates
- Utilization of Website
  - Working draft plans, ideas, visions, and scenarios
  - Surveys
  - GIS story maps
  - Public comments
  - Fact sheets
- Other Public Participation Initiatives
  - Workshops/public forums
  - Community consultations
  - Public Outreach Performance Measures



# PPP Calendar of Activities

## 2024 Project Timeline

- Quarter 1
  - Public Participation Project Launch
  - Launch of Website
  - Public Service Announcements
  - Initial website outreach
- Quarter 2
  - Initial Visioning Session
  - Public Forums
  - Stakeholder Meetings
  - Tabling at public events
- Quarter 3
  - Workshops/meetings with stakeholders to share staff progress
  - Public Participation Summary report
- Quarter 4
  - Workshops/meetings with stakeholders.





# PPP Calendar of Activities

## 2025 Project Timeline

- Quarter 1
  - Public Studio Workshops/Public Forums
  - Stakeholder Meetings
- Quarter 2
  - Tabling
  - Public Forums
  - Stakeholder Meetings
- Quarter 3
  - Public Forums
- Quarter 4
  - Workshops/meetings with stakeholders.



# PPP Calendar of Activities

## 2026 Project Timeline

- Quarter 1
  - Public Forums to share the draft plan update with the public
  - Final Agency Reviews
- Quarter 2
  - Planning Commission Public Hearings
  - BoCC Consideration



# Response to Public Comments

- Spokane County Building and Planning Staff has received comments from agencies and interested parties.
- Spokane County has changed the narrative to reflect select concerns from agencies and interested parties.
- The following table records changes to the public participation program to reflect agency and public concerns.



# Public Participation Program Refinements

- Info on Comprehensive Plan Chapters
- More information on how stakeholders can be involved in updating comprehensive planning chapters
- Information on Technical Advisory Committees
- Information on how stakeholders will be involved
- Clarification on the stakeholder list
- Strengthened language
- Added Civic and Community Groups to the stakeholder example list
- New Section on Virtual/Remote Participation
- New Information on hiring a professional communications/public relations staff consultant
- Added Neighborhood parks as a planning topic.
- Fixed grammatical/stylistic changes
- New Information on performance measures and added clarification that they are current examples that will be refined when professional communications staff member is hired
- Integration with SEPA
- Consider participating in events that are led by underserved, vulnerable, and overburdened community groups
- Added 15-day notice for public forums in the Spokesman Review
- Removed livestreaming on social media.
- Generalization of social media outlets that we will use and generalization of media that we will reach out to
- Documents related to public forums will be made available seven days prior to the public forum online and in person
- Qualifier that Planning Topics will be considered in Spokane County's planning process.



# Timeline

- July 19, 2022: Public Participation Program Guidelines adopted by BoCC
- December 13, 2022: Countywide Planning Policies adopted by BoCC
- **March 16th, 2024: Planning Commission Public Hearing and Recommendation**
- June 04, 2024: Board of County Commissioners Receives PPP
- June 11, 2024: Board of County Commissioners considers PPP





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*Questions &  
Comments*

Spokane County Building & Planning