



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 Changes Table

Comment	Response	Original Text	Updated Text
Dept of Commerce: Integration with SEPA public participation requirements	Staff has updated the public participation program to reflect the requirements of SEPA	N/A	Consistent with WAC 197-11-210, Spokane County will integrate the requirements of SEPA and the Growth Management Act (GMA) to ensure that environmental analyses under SEPA can occur concurrently with and as an integral part of the planning and decision-making under GMA. Where a formal SEPA document is issued concurrently with a proposed GMA action that has a public comment period, the public comment period on the formal SEPA document shall be the same as the comment period on the GMA action, provided the comment period is not less than otherwise required of a SEPA document consistent with WAC 197-11-230.
Public comment: Concerns with 7-day notice for public forums	Staff agrees with the public’s comment and has updated the text to reflect their concern.	Public forum notices shall be advertised via the Spokesman-Review and Spokane County Comprehensive Plan web page no fewer than seven (7) days before the date of the forum.	Public forum notices shall be advertised via the Spokesman-Review and Spokane County Comprehensive Plan web page no fewer than fifteen (15) days before the forum date.
Public comment: Adding Comprehensive Plan Chapters	Staff has added a qualifier in response to said comments	N/A	Each topic will be considered in the context of relevant GMA Elements, its role in cumulative impacts, and its role as part of the Spokane County vision for growth.
Public comment: Concern with document availability prior to public forum	Staff will provide preliminary documents attached to the public notice of scheduled forums; however, documents posted are considered “working documents” and are subject to refinement before the public forum. Any changes between postings will be clearly shown.	Digital and hard copies of documents related to the comprehensive plan update shall be made available for in-office review at the Building & Planning office, and, as appropriate, through other divisions or agencies.	Digital and hard copies of documents related to the scheduled forum shall be made available via the Building & Planning webpage and at the Building & Planning office at least seven days prior to the public forum and, as appropriate, through other divisions or agencies.



Timeline

- July 19, 2022: Public Participation Program Guidelines adopted by BoCC
- December 13, 2022: Countywide Planning Policies adopted by BoCC
- March 28, 2024: Planning Commission Public Hearing and Recommendation
- April 09, 2024: *scheduled* BoCC briefing on the Public Participation Program
- April 30, 2024: *scheduled* BoCC consideration of PC recommendation for the PPP





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*Questions &
Comments*

Spokane County Building & Planning