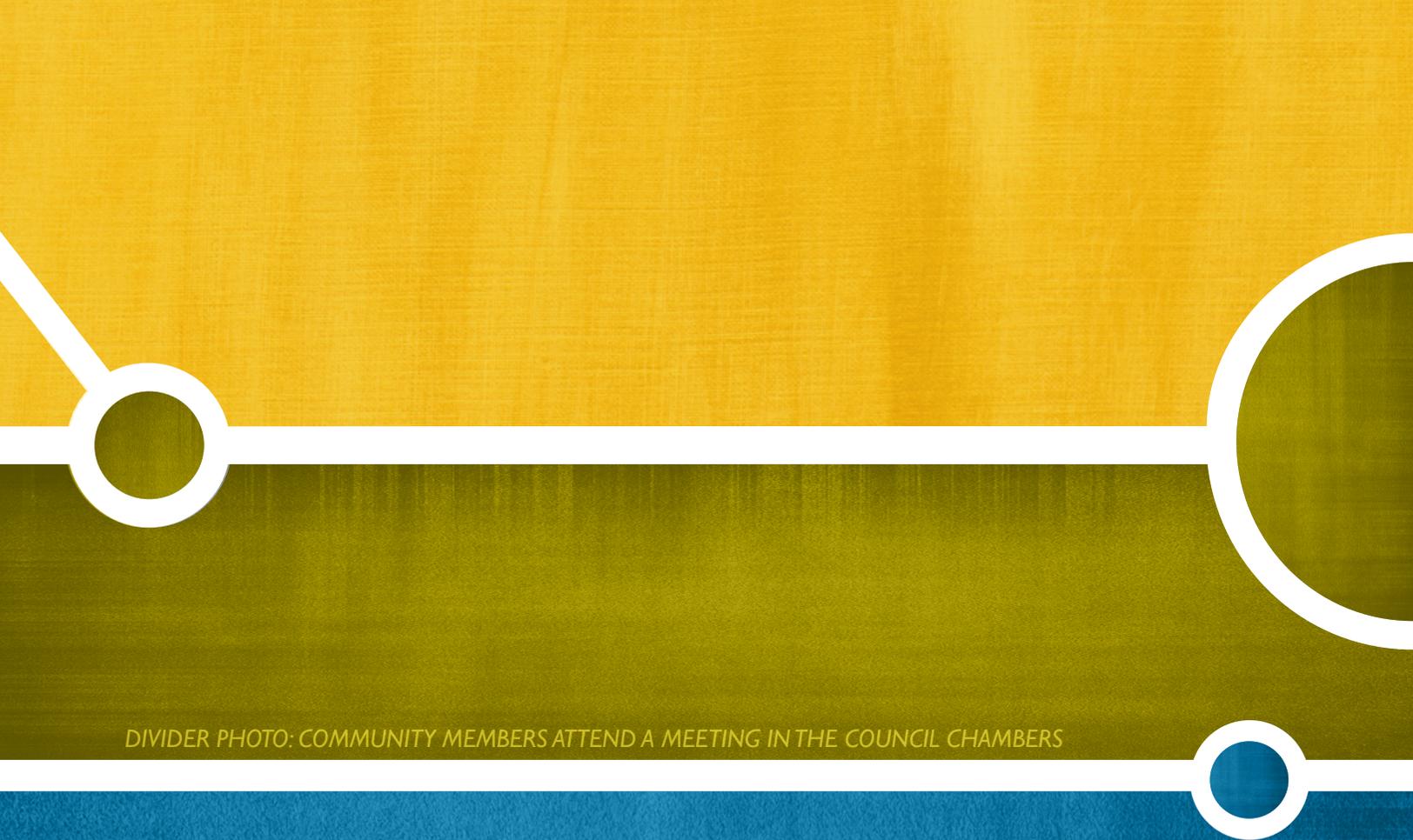




# Participation, Implementation and Evaluation





DIVIDER PHOTO: COMMUNITY MEMBERS ATTEND A MEETING IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

What tender artistry  
it takes to make a town,  
and watch it grow,  
and then, to set it free  
to find its way,  
even after we are gone,

# Future Vision for Redmond: Participation, Implementation and Evaluation

Redmond has an effective, responsive local government that responds to and anticipates the changing needs of the community. Many people actively participate in Redmond's planning process and system improvements, and their preferences are incorporated so that Redmond continues to be the place desired by members of the community.

In 2030 Redmond citizens describe their community as one that is complete, offering a wide range of services, opportunities and amenities. It's a community that has acted to maintain a balance among the three pillars of sustainability, while gracefully accommodating growth and change; as a result, Redmond's high quality of life, cherished natural features, distinct places, and character are enhanced. The community's evolution has successfully woven the small town feel of older, established neighborhoods with the energy and vitality of Redmond's urban centers. The result is it's a place where people are friendly, often meet others they know, and feel comfortable and connected. It's a place where diversity and innovation are embraced and collaborative action is taken to achieve community objectives. It's a place that is home to people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, which contributes to the richness of the city's culture.

Achieving a balance between accommodating growth and preserving Redmond's unique features and livability was challenging, but over the past 20 years, through the clear, shared direction contained in the Comprehensive Plan, the vision has taken shape and throughout Redmond the results are apparent.

## Organization of This Element

### A. Public Participation

### B. Consistency

### C. Plan Amendments

### D. Development Review

### E. Implementation and Monitoring

## A. Public Participation

- Broad-based community participation is essential to maintaining an effective and useful Comprehensive Plan for the future. Redmond has a long tradition of public involvement in planning processes, and the Comprehensive Plan is based on extensive public involvement.

However, public participation in Comprehensive Plan updates is just part of the process. The community also must be involved as the Plan is implemented, including opportunities to review proposed updates to regulations and functional plans, as well as to review public and private projects. Different levels of involvement are appropriate at various stages of Plan preparation and implementation.

### **PI-1 Value public participation and promote broad-based involvement**

**by members of the Redmond community in the update and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, as well as in other issues and opportunities of significance to the City.**

**PI-2 Provide opportunities for public review of plans, regulations and development proposals, while tailoring the review approach and specific issues to the appropriate stage of plan preparation and implementation.**

**PI-3 Treat all members of the public fairly; respect and consider all citizen input as an important component of the planning and implementation process.**

**PI-4 Promote as part of Comprehensive Plan updates and implementation a culture of dialogue and partnership among residents, property owners, the business community, organizations, other interested citizens and City officials.**

**PI-5 Ensure that public involvement opportunities, particularly for Comprehensive Plan updates and significant implementation actions, support the following:**

- Respect the diversity of the Redmond community and provide opportunities for all members of the community and other interested citizens to participate;
- Use a wide variety of types of announcements and outreach methods, such as RCTV, web, non-City media, mailings, flyers and signs to help share timely information with citizens in the places where they live, work, learn, and recreate;

- Use existing community groups and other organizations, as feasible;
- Encourage active public participation at the initial stages of the process, as well as throughout the process;
- Provide communications that are clear, timely and broadly distributed; and
- Promote mutual understanding of issues, options, concerns and preferences.

**PI-6 Enable citizens to learn more about local government and promote public discussion of community issues through use of techniques, such as educational materials, workshops and special programs.**

**PI-7 Facilitate citizen access to information concerning Redmond City Government, such as meeting times and related documents for City Council, boards and commissions; opportunities for public input; the Comprehensive Plan, the Zoning Code and other implementing measures; and project updates. Provide access to this information via the City's website, as feasible.**

**PI-8 Use all public involvement and communication options at the City's disposal, such as websites; surveys; workshops, open houses and other meetings; and citizen advisory groups.**

**PI-9 Evaluate the effectiveness of public involvement methods and take action as needed to improve them. For example, survey citizens as part of current public processes to obtain feedback when considering changes to process, format and frequency.**

## B. Consistency

The Growth Management Act requires local governments to make decisions on planning activities, including development regulations and functional plans, as well as the capital budget, in a manner that conforms with and supports their comprehensive plans. Redmond's development regulations are located primarily in the Redmond Zoning Code. The City has adopted several functional plans, such as the General Sewer Plan; the Water System Plan; and the Parks, Arts, Recreation, Culture and Conservation Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is also implemented through specific plans that address policies related to a particular geography or topic in more detail, such as the Downtown East-West Corridor Study and the Economic Development Strategic Plan. In addition, the City implements the Comprehensive Plan through provisions in the Municipal Code, such as those dealing with building construction.

The Growth Management Act also requires consistency among all the elements of a comprehensive plan. While the City takes steps to ensure this consistency, sometimes conflicts and questions of priority arise in the implementation of policies. In deciding these conflicts and questions, the City needs to carry out the adopted community goals for how Redmond should look and feel over the next 20 years.

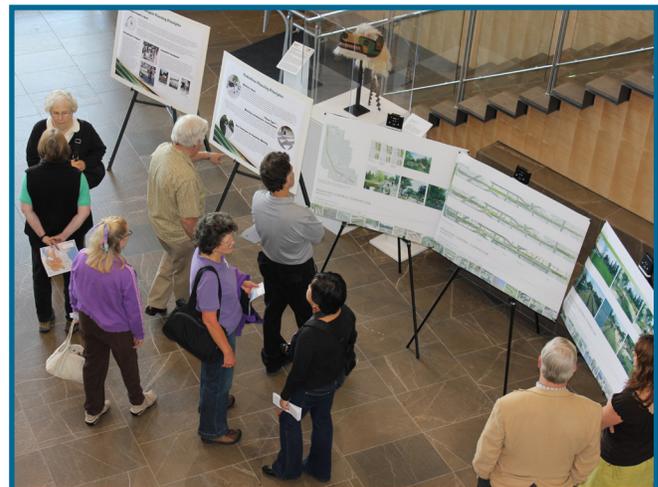
**PI-10 Maintain a Comprehensive Plan that embodies broad community agreement on the future vision for Redmond and carries out the City's local, regional and state responsibilities.**

**PI-11 Ensure that development regulations, functional plans, budgets, and other implementing measures and actions are consistent with and reinforce the Comprehensive Plan.**

**PI-12 Resolve any conflicts that arise when applying Comprehensive Plan policies or implementing measures in a manner that supports the goals for Redmond**



*Sustainable Redmond event*



*Public participation at a planning event*

**in the Comprehensive Plan and considers the City's intent in establishing a policy or regulation.**

**PI-13 Use the following guidelines for resolving conflicts within the Comprehensive Plan or for resolving conflicts between the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations or other functional plans in use by the City:**

- If there are conflicts within the Comprehensive Plan, base decisions on the map or policy that most specifically addresses the issue.
- If there are conflicts between the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Map and the land use designation policies, base decisions on the Land Use Plan Map.
- If there are conflicts between the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations or functional plans, base decisions on the Comprehensive Plan.

## C. Plan Amendments

Redmond's Comprehensive Plan looks out over the next 20 years. Plans take this long-range perspective so that community members can evaluate opportunities and issues with an eye toward the long-term health of the community.

While a long-term perspective is important, a plan must be periodically reviewed to ensure it reflects the best available information, current community views, and changing circumstances. For this reason, the Growth Management Act requires regular review and evaluation of plans. The Growth Management Act also provides that local governments must consider amendments to a comprehensive plan not more than once a year to avoid piecemeal erosion of the plan's integrity.

**PI-14 Establish the docket for any proposed amendments to the Redmond Comprehensive Plan once a year, considering the Plan amendments as a package in**

**order to better evaluate their cumulative impact. Recognize that the need for emergency amendments may require modification to this process.**

**PI-15 Conduct a major Comprehensive Plan review no less frequently than once every seven years. Analyze the opportunities and issues facing the City, review changes in state law, complete a thorough review of existing policies, and update the Plan and implementing measures as needed.**

**PI-16 Take the following considerations, as applicable, into account as part of decisions on applications for amendments to the Comprehensive Plan:**

- Consistency with the Growth Management Act, the Procedural Criteria, VISION 2040 or its successor, and the Countywide Planning Policies;
- Consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, including the preferred land use pattern in the Land Use Element;
- The capability of the land for development, including the prevalence of sensitive areas;
- The capacity of public facilities and services, and whether public facilities and services can be provided cost-effectively at the proposed density/intensity;
- Whether the proposed land use designations or uses are compatible with nearby land use designations or uses;
- If the amendment proposes a change in allowed uses in an area, the need for the land uses which would be allowed and whether the change would result in the loss of capacity to accommodate other needed uses, especially whether the proposed change complies with Policy HO-17, the City's policy of no net loss of housing capacity;

- Potential general impacts to the natural environment, such as impacts to critical areas and other natural resources;
- Potential general economic impacts, such as impacts for business, residents, property owners or City Government;
- Potential general impacts to the ability of the City to provide fair and equitable access to services; and
- For issues that have been considered within the last two annual updates, whether there has been a change in circumstances that makes the proposed amendment appropriate, or whether the amendment is needed to remedy a mistake.

**PI-17 Update development regulations concurrently with Comprehensive Plan amendments or, where a major revision to the Comprehensive Plan is adopted, update development regulations within one year of the Comprehensive Plan amendment.**

**PI-18 Update functional plans and any other applicable City code provisions in a timely manner following amendments to the Comprehensive Plan to ensure consistency between the Comprehensive Plan and other planning documents.**

## D. Development Review

The administrative policies below guide how Redmond should implement the Comprehensive Plan policies to meet community goals in cooperation with the public and private sector. Time is a critical factor in financing development projects. Promoting predictability and clarity as part of development review and reducing the time needed to receive final approval from the City can translate into savings to the applicant and, eventually, to those who live or work in the development. Predictability and clarity in the development review process are also important

for the community as a whole so that residents and businesses can have confidence regarding the potential nature of future development and redevelopment in Redmond.

Major or potentially controversial projects can benefit from consulting with neighbors early in the process. Early involvement can often lead to project design that more successfully meets goals for both the applicant and neighbors. Undertaking this process before substantial sums have been spent on detailed design can reduce costs and expedite approvals.

**PI-19 Prepare and maintain development regulations that implement Redmond’s Comprehensive Plan and include all significant development requirements. Ensure that the development regulations are clearly written, avoid duplicative or inconsistent requirements, and can be efficiently and effectively carried out.**

**PI-20 Ensure that Redmond’s development review process provides applicants and the community a high degree of certainty and clarity in timelines and standards, and results in timely and predictable decision making on development applications.**

**PI-21 Ask applicants to carry out the following responsibilities during the development review process:**

- Use processes for early review of proposals, such as pre-application conferences, where appropriate to the scale and nature of the proposal;
- Involve the community early in the design process in a manner appropriate to the scale and nature of the proposal;
- Provide project information appropriate to the level of review as soon as possible; and
- Respond to requests for information and review comments in a timely manner.

**PI-22 Provide community involvement assistance, on a time-available basis, to applicants proposing major or potentially controversial projects, as follows:**

- Help identify interested parties who should be contacted and involved in the review process;
- Participate actively in the community review process if the project is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan or could have a significant benefit to the city; and
- Establish an agreement in advance with the applicant for reimbursement of costs if substantial staff time will be devoted to the community review process.

**PI-23 Allow voluntary, concurrent development review and permit processing where appropriate.**

**PI-24 Establish in the development regulations a reasonable time period during which approved development permits remain valid to enable an applicant to complete a project, while ensuring new development regulations will apply if a project does not proceed in a timely manner.**

The City’s monitoring program for the Comprehensive Plan will provide a framework for accomplishing these objectives. This monitoring program will be guided by the policies below.

**PI-25 Establish a program for measuring the effectiveness of the Comprehensive Plan as implemented. Report annually on progress toward carrying out the Comprehensive Plan, success in achieving community goals, and any suggested amendments needed to meet community goals.**

**PI-26 Report on progress toward achieving short- (zero to two years), mid- (two to five years), and long-range (five to ten years) priorities needed to implement the Comprehensive Plan. Such priorities may include new programs, regulatory updates, or capital investments needed to carry out adopted policies.**

**PI-27 Seek extensive community participation in evaluating the effectiveness of the Comprehensive Plan. For example, broadly disseminate the results of annual Comprehensive Plan monitoring reports and seek periodic feedback on the format and distribution methods of the reports.**

## E. Implementation and Monitoring

Achieving the values and goals held by people in the community for how Redmond should look and feel depends on taking action. Similar to many family budgets, while there are not sufficient resources to accomplish all of the strategies simultaneously, the City can make progress on carrying out the Comprehensive Plan by identifying priorities. Successful implementation of the Plan also depends on evaluating the actions taken to determine if they are meeting community goals. Finally, implementing the Comprehensive Plan requires the cooperation of and partnerships among the private sector; the public; the City of Redmond; and other local, state and federal agencies.