

# COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOALS / POLICIES

This document consolidates the Goals and Policies from the seven Framework Topics from Chapter Four - Framework for the Future.

## Managing Growth

### Goals

- ❖ **Goal MG1: Support economic vitality by providing a non-residential land use base.**
- ❖ **Goal MG2: Foster diversity in the land use mix including residential, commercial, industrial, employment and recreational areas citywide.**
- ❖ **Goal MG3: Maintain a land use plan which integrates land uses and facilitates access by multiple modes of transportation.**
- ❖ **Goal MG4: Facilitate infill and redevelopment.**
- ❖ **Goal MG5: Prioritize development and enhancement of the Downtown Sparks Center.**
- ❖ **Goal MG6: Promote compact development to reduce the per capita cost of providing infrastructure, public facilities and public services.**

### Policies

- ◆ **Policy MG1: The Land Use Plan will provide for a diverse and integrated mix of residential and non-residential land uses which, in the aggregate, are fiscally positive.**
- ◆ **Policy MG2: Maintain the area south of Interstate 80 for industrial, office and commercial uses.**

- ◆ **Policy MG3: Retain and promote emerging employment centers.**
- ◆ **Policy MG4: Maintain an adequate supply of land for employment-generating uses.**
- ◆ **Policy MG5: When reviewing master plan amendments for sites over 5 acres, the City will evaluate or cause to be evaluated: a) the impacts on existing and planned public facilities and infrastructure; b) the impacts on existing and planned public services; c) the proposed land use in relationship to existing land uses; and, d) the fiscal implications for public service providers of the proposed land use changes as documented in a fiscal impact analysis.**
- ◆ **Policy MG6: Maintain a current Seven Year Annexation Program.**
- ◆ **Policy MG7: When reviewing annexation requests, the City will consider whether the proposed annexation: a) is included in the City’s Seven Year Annexation Program; b) is needed for the City’s growth within seven years; c) represents a logical extension of the city limits; d) allows for efficient and cost effective provision of public services and capital facilities; and e) would be fiscally positive for a period of at least 20 years. When reviewing land use entitlements (e.g. master plan amendment, zone change, tentative map, conditional use permit) for land annexed within the previous 10 year period, the City may require an updated fiscal analysis if the proposed development materially varies from the development contemplated in the fiscal analysis prepared for the annexation.**
- ◆ **Policy MG8: When identifying lands for expansion of the City’s Sphere of Influence, the City must determine that the proposed expansion: a) represents a logical expansion of the City’s Sphere of Influence; b) is located within the Truckee Meadows Service Area (TMSA) as identified in the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan, or could reasonably be added to the TMSA; c) could be efficiently and cost effectively provided capital facilities and public services. The City’s determination will be based on preliminary infrastructure and facilities plans and a fiscal analysis addressing the cost to provide city services.**
- ◆ **Policy MG9: Promote compact development to reduce the number of miles of roads, sidewalks, sewers and other infrastructure needed per capita and to manage the**

**geographic area to which the City and other public agencies must provide services such as police and fire protection, emergency medical services and code enforcement.**

- ◆ **Policy MG10: Facilitate infill, redevelopment and functionally integrated mixed-use development through targeted infrastructure improvements, additional zoning code amendments (if necessary) and, when feasible and appropriate, public/private partnerships. The identified activity centers on the Land Use Map will promote a broad mix of uses.**
- ◆ **Policy MG11: Require new infill development to consider and be sensitive to the character of existing neighborhoods in regard to zoning, building mass, structure placement, height transitions, landscaping, streetscape, access and other physical features of the existing neighborhood.**
- ◆ **Policy MG12: Encourage reinvestment in existing employment centers such as the area south of Interstate 80 and the Prater Way, Victorian Avenue and Oddie Boulevard corridors.**
- ◆ **Policy MG13: Work with the Union Pacific Railroad to plan for compatible development adjacent to railroad facilities.**
- ◆ **Policy MG14: Work with Reno-Tahoe International Airport to enhance the compatibility of existing and proposed land uses located within the noise contours and airplane approach to the airport.**
- ◆ **Policy MG15: Continue to implement the Victorian Square Development Plan as it may be amended.**
- ◆ **Policy MG16: Enhance Victorian Avenue West of the Downtown Sparks Center.**

# Connectivity

## Goals

- ❖ **Goal C1: Develop a complete, efficient transportation system that gives Sparks residents and visitors access to employment, housing, services and recreation throughout urban Washoe County.**
- ❖ **Goal C2: Provide a transportation network that supports business formation and attraction and economic vitality.**
- ❖ **Goal C3: Facilitate non-motorized travel throughout community.**

## Policies

- ◆ **Policy C1: Work with the Regional Transportation Commission to ensure completion of the Prater Way and Oddie Boulevard corridor enhancements.**
- ◆ **Policy C2: Work with the Regional Transportation Commission to add roadway capacity as necessary to accommodate Sparks' growth.**
- ◆ **Policy C3: Ensure streets with multiple modes of transportation remain multi-modal. If a transportation mode is removed from a street, it must be provided in another facility that provides for comparable multi-modal connectivity in the same area.**
- ◆ **Policy C4: Require sidewalks for pedestrians on all street networks within the City.**
- ◆ **Policy C5: Convert 4<sup>th</sup> Street to a bike boulevard.**
- ◆ **Policy C6: In Spark's Transit Corridor promote infill development and create a pedestrian-friendly environment that facilitates walkability and transit ridership.**
- ◆ **Policy C7: Encourage bus service for special events.**
- ◆ **Policy C8: Ensure the completion and maintenance of the trail network as depicted in **Map Y**.**

## Community Facilities and Services

### Goals

- ❖ **Goal CF1: Maintain or, as necessary, upgrade the condition of City-owned facilities and infrastructure while maximizing their utilization**
- ❖ **Goal CF2: Maintain and, City revenues permitting, enhance the level of public services provided to the City's residents, visitors and businesses**

### Policies

- ◆ **Policy CF1: When reviewing new development, the City will not approve the application unless City services can be provided at acceptable service levels.**
- ◆ **Policy CF2: Any intensification of development within the City or its Sphere of Influence requires connection to city sewer.**
- ◆ **Policy CF3: Adopt criteria, based on the Managing Growth (LU Policies) of the Comprehensive Plan, on how to allocate excess sewer capacity, if available. The criteria will prioritize allocating any such excess capacity to, in order of priority: 1) to serve additional density within the existing city limits of Sparks; 2) to areas identified in the City's Seven Year Annexation Program; 3) to areas within the City's Sphere of Influence not included in the Seven Year Annexation Program; 4) areas outside the City's Sphere of Influence.**
- ◆ **Policy CF4: Manage recreation services to achieve the financial goals for the entire recreation program and allocate recreation programming to reflect residents' priorities.**
- ◆ **Policy CF5: When city parks are eliminated due to development, the park facilities must be replaced with equivalent facilities.**
- ◆ **Policy CF6: The City will strive to increase its internet/web presence and to create a more user-friendly system for permitting and application processes.**

- ◆ **Policy CF7: Continue to identify potential cost savings to reduce per capita administrative costs.**
- ◆ **Policy CF8: The City will continue to pay down debt while increasing the cash reserve and fund balances.**
- ◆ **Policy CF9: Strive to provide a six minute fire response time for 85 percent of the City which will require a sixth fire station.**
- ◆ **Policy CF10: Establish an asset management system to proactively monitor and manage its facilities, infrastructure and other capital investments for use in the Capital Improvement Plan. The establishment of the asset management system will create the Asset Management Department which will streamline predetermined internal City processes / reporting by historical analyzation of City assets through a suitable asset management software solution.**
- ◆ **Policy CF11: Explore providing a satellite office for the Police Department manned by non-enforcement staff for public access.**
- ◆ **Policy CF12: Work in cooperation with Washoe County and City of Reno to maintain and improve joint-use facilities.**
- ◆ **Policy CF13: Work with the Washoe County School District to strategically plan the location of new public schools.**
- ◆ **Policy CF14: New schools will not be located on streets designated as arterials.**
- ◆ **Policy CF17: Work with the Airport Authority of Washoe County to develop a noise overlay zoning or similar measures to ensure compatibility of surrounding development to the operation of the airport.**

# Community Character

## Goals

- ❖ **Goal CC1: Ensure that Sparks' physical environment, services and amenities make it a city of choice for residents and businesses.**

## Policies

- ◆ **Policy CC1: Continue providing parks within proximity of all residential areas of Sparks at the adopted park land standards.**
- ◆ **Policy CC2: Promote a mix of uses, including restaurants and shopping, to create a vibrant downtown district at Victorian Square.**
- ◆ **Policy CC3: Evaluate the creation of a historic district.**
- ◆ **Policy CC4: Increase, as feasible, the number of special events held in Sparks.**
- ◆ **Policy CC5: Coordinate with private partners to make arts and culture programs available and affordable to all citizens.**
- ◆ **Policy CC6: Encourage public art in major private and public works projects and provide opportunities for the display of art in public spaces.**
- ◆ **Policy CC7: Provide equitable access to recreation, children's and other activities and programming to all areas of Sparks.**
- ◆ **Policy CC8: Foster neighborhood diversity and design by permitting varied lot sizes, building materials, building styles and color.**
- ◆ **Policy CC9: Promote quality of design for new construction through development standards that provide well-articulated building facades, defined entrances, clear pedestrian connections and landscaping.**

- ◆ **Policy CC10: Work with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) and Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to plan and design major road capacity expansions to minimize the degree to which the widening of roads divides neighborhoods or adds barriers for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized travel.**



# Housing

## Goals

- ❖ **Goal H1: Facilitate development of housing that is available, affordable and accessible to a diverse and growing population.**
- ❖ **Goal H2: Promote a strong and diverse housing market that supports economic growth and vitality while ensuring environmental and fiscal sustainability.**
- ❖ **Goal H3: Ensure that Sparks' residential and mixed-use neighborhoods are desirable locations to live.**

## Policies

- ◆ **Policy H1: Ensure there are sufficient appropriately zoned areas with the infrastructure, public facilities and services necessary for the production of new housing.**
- ◆ **Policy H2: Promote a variety of housing types, including in mixed-used settings, throughout Sparks to expand the choices available to meet the financial and lifestyle needs of a diverse population and workforce.**
- ◆ **Policy H3: Connect housing with multiple transportation options.**
- ◆ **Policy H4: Enforce property maintenance ordinances in residential areas.**
- ◆ **Policy H5: Utilize the Washoe County Home Consortium as a vehicle for the development and retention of rent- and income-restricted affordable housing.**
- ◆ **Policy H6: The City will create a Housing Plan that addresses the eight components in NRS 278.160(8) including but not limited to maintaining and developing affordable housing to meet the housing needs of Sparks.**
- ◆ **Policy H7: Comply with NRS 278.235 by implementing at least 6 of the 12 specified measures relating to affordable housing in Sparks.**

# Resiliency and Conservation

## Goals

- ❖ **Goal RC1: Conserve and protect natural resources needed to provide for current and future residents, businesses and visitors.**
- ❖ **Goal RC2: Assess, prepare for and mitigate the impacts of environmental changes, including extended droughts and extreme weather events.**
- ❖ **Goal RC3: Identify and anticipate potential environmental, regulatory and other constraints on Sparks' growth and economic vitality.**
- ❖ **Goal RC4: Evaluate and prepare for natural disasters and mass-casualty events.**

## Policies

- ◆ **Policy RC1: Reduce per capita potable water use through conservation, water reclamation and reuse and other water resource stewardship programs.**
- ◆ **Policy RC2: Protect the water quality of the Truckee River and drainages, lakes and aquifers.**
- ◆ **Policy RC3: Maintain the Truckee River corridor as a trail and open space system and require new development to accommodate public trail and river access.**
- ◆ **Policy RC4: Reduce pollution from storm-water runoff, overflow and other non-point sources.**
- ◆ **Policy RC5: Protect groundwater quality through land use management that safeguards recharge areas from inappropriate disturbances and contamination.**
- ◆ **Policy RC6: Implement "Best Management Practices", including but not limited to, Low Impact Development Practices (LID), to control urban storm water runoff.**

- ◆ **Policy RC7: Prevent and mitigate the degradation or destruction of wetlands.**
- ◆ **Policy RC8: Plan for and adapt to increased drought, severe weather and other potential impacts of climate change on the water supply.**
- ◆ **Policy RC9: Coordinate with regional agencies to improve air quality by reducing emissions resulting from motor vehicle use, traffic and congestion, and industrial sources.**
- ◆ **Policy RC10: Increase Sparks' urban tree canopy through the addition of trees in existing developed areas and by requiring trees in new development.**
- ◆ **Policy RC11: Reduce the disposal of solid waste and increase reuse and recycling to conserve natural resources.**
- ◆ **Policy RC12: Work with county, state, tribal and federal agencies to minimize potential impacts to natural habitats and migration corridors.**
- ◆ **Policy RC13: Support regional efforts to develop and implement a strategy to diversify the energy sources, especially solar energy, available to Sparks' residents and businesses.**
- ◆ **Policy RC14: Reduce per capita energy use through conservation and by periodically updating building codes and development standards to make buildings and transportation more energy efficient.**
- ◆ **Policy RC15: Reduce the threats flooding poses to public safety and property.**
- ◆ **Policy RC16: Evaluate and mitigate the impacts on surrounding areas of new development in floodplains.**
- ◆ **Policy RC17: Maintain infrastructure and enhance programs to keep the public safe during emergencies.**
- ◆ **Policy RC18: Protect the public from the impacts of earthquakes and landslide/debris flow areas through compliance with building codes and federal standards.**

- ◆ **Policy RC19: Protect the urban wildland interface from wildfire hazards and require development to be designed to reduce intrusion into fire prone areas by clustering or other methods.**
- ◆ **Policy RC20: The use of diesel oil-fueled, internal combustion power generation units synchronized with the regional electric grid within the Truckee Meadows Service portion of Sparks, except for emergency conditions such as weather related acts of God, unforeseen grid disturbances, maintenance activities including testing, or transmission limitations, is prohibited.**
- ◆ **Policy RC21: Evaluate the feasibility of decentralized wastewater treatment site options, including package plants and satellite facilities, to complement the Truckee Meadows Wastewater Reclamation Facility.**
- ◆ **Policy RC22: Maintain development restrictions and standards in the Sparks Municipal Code as necessary to conform to policies in the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan pertaining to the Development Constraints Area and for slopes with gradients from over 30 percent.**
- ◆ **Policy RC23: Require new development to preserve and protect natural amenities, unique features (e.g. rock outcroppings and drainage ways) and other natural features.**
- ◆ **Policy RC24: Promote the protection of and minimize potential impacts on cultural resources within the City's jurisdiction.**
- ◆ **Policy RC25: Require development to minimize hillside scarring and the impacts of increasing access in roadless areas.**

## **Economic Vitality**

### **Goals**

- ❖ **Goal EV1: Grow and diversify Sparks' economy.**
- ❖ **Goal EV2: Attract capital investment and new, higher-paying jobs.**
- ❖ **Goal EV3: Attract and retain sought-after employers and a skilled workforce.**
- ❖ **Goal EV4: Maintain a physical and regulatory environment that facilitates innovation, entrepreneurship and small business development while providing for long-term environmental and fiscal sustainability.**
- ❖ **Goal EV5: Identify and respond to potential economic development opportunities, including emerging industries, which may arise from environmental and regulatory changes.**
- ❖ **Goal EV6: Provide the capital facilities and public services necessary to support a vibrant economy by maintaining the City's tax base and fiscal strength.**

### **Policies**

- ◆ **Policy EV1: Build on Sparks' position as a leader in special events by investing additional resources in event venues and adding events, including family-friendly events.**
- ◆ **Policy EV2: Enhance Sparks' appeal for visitors to the region by strengthening arts and entertainment offerings.**
- ◆ **Policy EV3: Promote the availability of land designated for business and office park uses in Sparks' master planned developments.**

- ◆ **Policy EV4: Develop and implement a strategy for attracting new investment, more employment-dense and higher-paying industries to the area between the Truckee River and Interstate 80.**
  
- ◆ **Policy EV5: Undertake the analysis necessary to determine the feasibility of expanding the city limits to include the area east of City’s corporate boundary and north of Interstate 80 for job-generating land uses.**
  
- ◆ **Policy EV6: Support entrepreneurs by providing appropriately zoned areas with the infrastructure, public facilities and services necessary to start and grow small businesses.**
  
- ◆ **Policy EV7: Optimize the use of technology and on-line services to facilitate obtaining information, land use approvals, licenses and permits from the City.**
  
- ◆ **Policy EV8: Advocate for and support public and private investments in Sparks that improve the quality of life while providing critical services and facilities to retain current residents and attract a skilled work-force.**
  
- ◆ **Policy EV9: Promote a balanced land-use mix that benefits the City fiscally and environmentally to be sustainable.**
  
- ◆ **Policy EV10: Require, prior to or with application for a land-use approval (Tentative Map, Administrative Review or Conditional Use Permit), all development projects on greenfield sites of 20 or more acres to demonstrate they are fiscally positive to the City for a period of at least 20 years.**