

# **OUR VANCOUVER**

**OUR FUTURE 2045**

**GOALS FRAMEWORK**

December 18 , 2023

## Introduction

The City of Vancouver’s Comprehensive Plan is an important tool that helps us navigate and plan for the future. The plan provides the overall long-term vision and policy direction needed to manage the built and natural environment in Vancouver and provide necessary public facilities needed to achieve that vision. The reality of long-term policy making in our community is recognizing that there is a wide range of complex, interconnected systems that influence how our community looks, operates, feels and functions, including market forces, federal and statewide policy, changing demographic and socioeconomic conditions, among other factors that will change over time. Within these larger forces there are areas where the City can shape and influence outcomes, like the delivery of municipal infrastructure and urban services, constructing, repairing, and maintaining roads, providing municipal services like water, sewer, fire and police protection, as well as parks & recreation programs and arts and cultural services. The City also administers land use policy and takes an active role in reviewing Vancouver’s residential, commercial and industrial development for building safety, appearance, design, and function.

In these areas where the City can influence outcomes, Vancouver’s next Comprehensive Plan, called **OUR VANCOUVER** will define the goals, policies, and implementation measures to guide the growth and development of our community over the next 20 years, with 2045 identified as the year for realizing the vision set forth in the plan. The City acknowledges that it has a deep responsibility to ensure that the intended and potential unintended consequences of policies developed through the Comprehensive Plan benefit community members that have typically been historically underrepresented, excluded or negatively impacted from public decision-making processes. Because of this, a specific equity focus has been integrated into the goals framework, to ensure insights and perspectives from these communities are emphasized and uplifted.

The last time the Plan was updated was **2011**, and since then, there have been significant demographic and socioeconomic changes that have occurred in our community.



### How has our community changed since the last plan?

↑ 18%  
Population increase

↑ 64%  
Communities of color increase

↑ 34%  
Median income increase

↑ 174%  
Average home value increase

## What is a Goals Framework?

The goals framework for the Comprehensive Plan will help to define the structure and organization by which we go about designing more specific goals, policies and implementation measures throughout the plan development process. The framework includes 12 chapters in which categories of policies will be integrated, as well as a set of key themes that will inform more specific goals in subsequent phases of the planning process.

## What elements are legally mandated by law?

The Growth Management Act specifies mandatory elements that Cities in the State of Washington are legally required to integrate into their Comprehensive Plans. For Cities, this includes land use, housing, capital facilities, utilities, transportation, economic development, parks and recreation, and climate change and resiliency. As you read the goals framework, you will notice a number of chapters and elements that are included that aren’t mandated by state law. These additional chapters were informed during the plan scoping process, the initial phase of community engagement, and input from the Community Partners - who are the core committee of City residents tasked with co-creating the plan with the City.

## How was the Framework Developed?

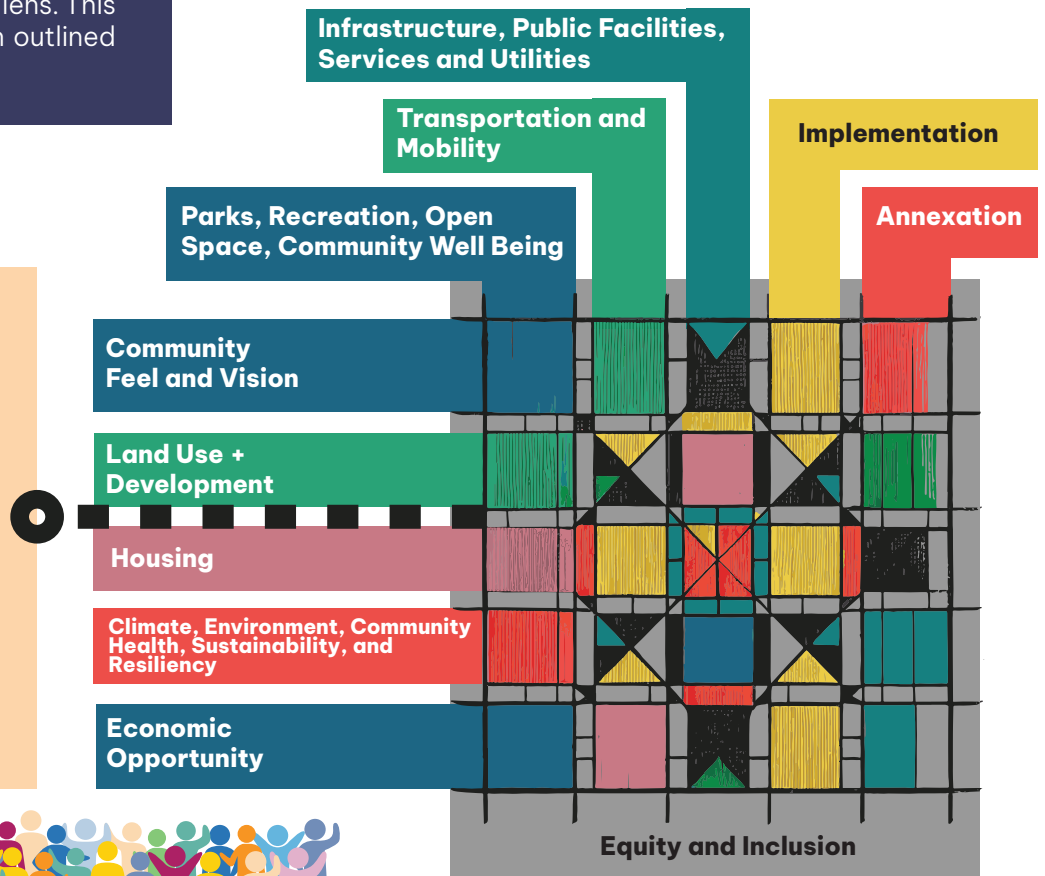
The basis of the Goals Framework is the plan’s vision statement – which was the result of a detailed visioning process which engaged more than 1,015 community members between June 2022 and February 2023. During this process, community members were asked about their hopes, needs and concerns, and their big ideas for the future of Vancouver. Some of the most frequently mentioned concerns included public safety, economic opportunity (jobs, business development and growth), housing affordability, houselessness, and climate change. These themes were reviewed with the City’s Strategic Plan Advisory Committee, and then incorporated into a vision statement for the Comprehensive Plan. The plan vision statement serves as the basis from which all other goals and policies in the plan are developed, and helped to prioritize additional elements to integrate into the framework, beyond what’s legally mandated by state law. The Community Partners – who are the core committee of City residents tasked with co-creating the plan with the City, also played a major role in forming the goals framework – particularly in developing more detailed vision statements for each of the plan elements, which will serve as the foundation for the land use alternatives and policy development phases of the plan. They provided input on the community partnership framework, and established the equity priority outcomes in the equity framework, which heavily influenced the goals framework structure, which is shown below.

### Equity

The graphic of the goals framework shown below represents a quilt, where the different elements of the Goals Framework of the Comprehensive Plan are weaved together. Equity represents the base fabric in which all of the plan elements are weaved into, symbolizing the approach of integrating equity into all aspects of policy development. The Goals Framework includes a chapter specific to equity and inclusion with goals and policies that will be developed, but all elements of the Goals Framework are evaluated through an equity lens. This is consistent with the approach outlined in the plan’s equity framework.

**Plan Vision Statement**

“Vancouver is an equitable and prosperous community, which ensures that all residents, businesses and organizations benefit from the growth and advancement we make together. Vancouver will be recognized for our quality of life, as evidenced by affordable housing in vibrant, safe and walkable neighborhoods, access to jobs and economic opportunity for all, and resilience to the impacts of climate change.”



## Goals Framework

The framework for the plan includes chapters, represented in **bold text**, along with the **key themes and desired community outcomes** that will guide the development of more specific goals during the policy development phase of the planning effort.

- 1 **Introduction.** City's Core Values, Focus Areas.
- 2 **Community Feel and Vision.** Inclusive, Affordable, Safe, Vibrant, Accessible, Prosperous, Livable.
- 3 **Land Use and Development.** 15-minute neighborhoods, access to jobs & essential spaces, healthy, connected, resilient, harmony between built and natural environment.
- 4 **Housing.** Affordable, Accessible, Choice, diversity in sizes and types, Universal Design, Culturally Appropriate, Neighborhood Cohesion, reduce houselessness, Homeownership and opportunities for wealth creation.
- 5 **Equity and Inclusion.** Inclusive, Reparative, Promote health and wellness, Universal Access to Resources, Nurturing and Valuing All People.
- 6 **Climate, Environment, Community Health, Sustainability, and Resiliency.** Equitable and Just Transition, Increase Tree Canopy, Decrease Emissions, Community Preparedness, Community Stewardship and Resilience, Holistic Cycles of Consumption and Production, Access to Healthy Food, Built Environment Promotes Health.
- 7 **Economic Opportunity.** Support Business and Industry, Job Growth, Facilitate Startups and Innovation, Resilient Green Economy, Equitable Access, Wealth Creation, Access to Childcare.
- 8 **Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Community Well Being.** Increase access, More Trails and Green Spaces, Inclusive and Safe Public Spaces, Climate Adaptation, Native Plants and Species, Increase Health Opportunities Through Recreation, Diversity in Amenities, Youth Programming.
- 9 **Transportation and Mobility.** Reliable, Frequent, Safe, Accessible, Equitable, Multi-Modal, Climate Friendly, Enhanced Transit, Regional Connectivity.
- 10 **Infrastructure, Public Facilities and Services and Utilities.** Utilize Existing Infrastructure, Expand Services and Programs, Equity Lens, Community Safety, Green Infrastructure.
- 11 **Annexation.** Sustainable Growth, Maintain Levels of Service.
- 12 **Implementation.** Actionable Policies, Alignment with Strategic Plan, Local and Regional Coordination, Accountability.