

Neighborhood Planning Glossary

Affordable Housing: A rental housing unit in which the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of household income for gross housing costs, including utility costs paid by the occupant; a homebuyer unit for which the occupant is paying no more than 35 percent of household income for gross housing costs, including housing expenses.

Alcohol Impact Area (AIA): A framework to recognize a geographic area within the City so that communities, the Liquor Control Board, and the alcohol industry can work together to mitigate the communities' problems with chronic public inebriation or illegal activities linked to the sale of consumption of alcohol.

Business Improvement Areas (BIAs): A mechanism for businesses, property owners or a combination to collectively obtain the improvement they want to see in their neighborhood business district. Special assessments may be made to accomplish this.

Climate Change: Also known as "Global warming", the phenomenon that the earth's average annual temperature is rising. This in turn can cause things like increased storm intensity, extended periods of drought and unpredictable weather. Climate change is the most pressing environmental, social and economic problem facing the planet.

Neighborhood Commercial District: The neighborhood centers where people interact and essential goods, services, and jobs are provided.

Community-Based Organization (CBO): Not-for-profit organizations that provide programs, offer services and engage in other activities that promote and support a community. CBOs usually serve a geographic area. They often focus on serving lower-income residents or struggling neighborhoods. They can be involved in a variety of activities including economic development, education, community organizing, affordable housing and real estate development.

Comprehensive Plan: Seattle's 20-year policy plan designed to articulate a vision of how the city will grow in ways that sustain its citizens' values.

Core Values: Fundamental principles that guide the Comprehensive Plan and act as categories for measures success and failure. Seattle Comprehensive Plan core values include *community, environmental stewardship, economic opportunity and security, and social equity.*

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED): A multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior through environmental design. CPTED strategies rely upon the ability to influence offender decisions that precede criminal acts by affecting the built, social and administrative environment.

Department of Neighborhoods (DON): The Department of Neighborhoods works to bring government closer to the residents of Seattle by engaging them in civic participation; helping them become empowered to make positive underrepresented residents, including communities of color and immigrants, in civic discourse, processes, and opportunities.

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR): Seattle Parks and Recreation will work with all citizens to be good stewards of our environment, and to provide safe and welcoming opportunities to play, learn, contemplate, and build community.

Department of Planning and Development (DPD): City of Seattle department which develops, administers, and enforces standards for land use, design, construction, and housing within the city limits. DPD is also responsible for long-range planning in Seattle.

Department of Transportation (SDOT): City of Seattle department working to improve and ensure a safe, reliable, and efficient transportation system that enhances Seattle's environment and economic vitality.

Eyes On the Street: A term that refers to the relationship between safety and urban design. These "eyes on the street" may include business owners, residents, shopkeepers, passerby, and other individuals. The concept implies that increased human activity in an urban area will help deter crime and increase public safety.

Farmer's Market: A public market at which farmers and often other vendors sell directly to consumers.

Goals: The results that the neighborhood hopes to realize over time to achieve its Vision.

Greenbelt: A policy and land use designated area used to retain areas of largely undeveloped, wild, or agricultural land surrounding or in neighboring urban areas.

Green Building: Development that minimizes energy consumption and minimizes pollution and the generation of wastes, while maximizing the re-use of materials and creating healthful indoor environments. It is an approach to building that minimizes harmful effects on human health and the environment.

Greenhouse Gases: Gases which trap the heat of the sun in the earth's atmosphere, thus producing the greenhouse effect and impacting climate change.

Incentive Zoning: A strategy that requires public benefit in return for increased development capacity..

Mixed Income Housing: A type of residential development composed of housing available to a varying range of income levels.

Multifamily: Properties that are constructed for multiple-family use, such as apartments, condos or duplexes.

Neighborhood Business District Funding Awards Program: An annual competitive project funding program for neighborhood business organizations to complete projects that support businesses in the neighborhood commercial districts throughout the city.

Neighborhood Design Guidelines: Guidelines developed during the neighborhood planning process that serve as recommendations as to how future residential, and commercial development should be constructed to be more compatible within an existing neighborhood.

Neighborhood Matching Fund: A competitive City funding program that community groups apply for and that provides cash awards to neighborhood and community organizations for a wide variety of neighborhood-based projects.

Neighborhood Plan: A document that outlines vision, goals, strategies, and recommendations for the growth and development of a specific neighborhood planning area.

Neighborhood Street Fund: Competitive project funding used for street or parks improvements, such as sidewalk repair, traffic circles and traffic calming, sidewalks, school zone speed limit signs, etc. Neighborhood Street Fund projects are submitted by community members and must be transportation-related.

Non-Motorized Connections: A continuous network of non-motorized facilities that represent the principal commute, school, and recreational travel corridors. Examples of non-motorized connections include but are not limited to sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and trails.

Open Space: Undeveloped land or common areas in a planned community reserved for parks, walking paths, or other natural uses.

Parks and Green Spaces Levy: A levy on the November 2008 ballot to fund a variety of projects including green spaces, neighborhood parks, and playfields.

Planning Outreach Liaisons (POLs): Bilingual and bicultural people from historically underrepresented communities who partner with the City in its neighborhood planning outreach efforts.

Policies: Statements intended to guide future actions and decisions that will further the neighborhood plan goals.

Public Space: An area or place that is open and accessible to all citizens.

Rainier Valley Community Development Fund (RVCDF): A catalyst for economic development that promotes the diversity and livability of the Rainier Valley.

Rezones: A change from one zoning classification to another intended to accommodate a change in land use.

Counselors to America's Small Business (SCORE): A national non-profit association dedicated to entrepreneur education and the formation, growth and success of the nation's small businesses.

Seattle Bicycle Master Plan: Approved in 2007, the Seattle Bicycle Master Plan defines a set of actions to be completed within 10 years, including to increase use of bicycling in Seattle for all trip purposes and improve safety of bicyclists throughout Seattle.

Seattle Pedestrian Master Plan: A long-term action plan that establishes the policies, programs, design criteria, and projects that will further enhance pedestrian safety, comfort, and access in all of Seattle's neighborhoods.

Setbacks: The minimum allowable horizontal distance from a given point or line of reference to the vertical wall of a building or structure.

Single Family Housing: Relating to or being a dwelling designed for one family.

Southeast Transportation Study (SETs): This study identified recommendations for physical improvements, as well as transit speed and reliability improvements, within the neighborhoods of Southeast Seattle.

Station Area Overlay District (SAOD): A legislative planning concept composed of actions to support Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and forward neighborhood goals for walkable town centers. An SAOD also

provides flexibility for existing businesses, new development and prohibits certain auto-oriented land uses near the stations.

Strategies: Courses of action that help to achieve plan objectives.

Student-Teen Employment Preparation (STEP): A job readiness program designed to provide youth with education, job skills and career development training with work that focuses on addressing community needs.

Subsidized Housing: A type of housing that receives some manner of financial government assistance or subsidy.

Super Block: Much larger than a traditional city block, a super block is equipped with greater setbacks for buildings and is typically bounded by widely spaced, high-speed, arterial or circulating routes rather than by local streets.

Town Center: A compact area with a mix of retail, office, commercial, and housing that serves as a gateway to the community and that provides a central location for community activity.

Transit-Oriented Town Center (TOTC): A town center designed to maximize access to public transport and often encourage increased transit ridership.

Urban Design Framework (UDF): A strategic planning tool used to advance Neighborhood Plan goals and strategies that can be influenced through the use and design of buildings, streets, and public spaces.

Urban Village: Compact, walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods and towns that offer a variety of shops, restaurants, movies, public spaces and other services within walking distance.

Vision: A 'snapshot of the future' that provides a strategic planning framework for how Seattle will accommodate residential and employment growth over the next 20 years, while promoting the values of its citizens, a vibrant economy and livable neighborhoods.

Zoning: Set of laws that restrict and define the type of land uses and development that can occur on each parcel of land in a community.