



CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION & COMMUNITY VISION (V)

1.1. Goals and Policies

The Woodland Comprehensive Plan includes the essential elements of an inventory of existing conditions and a forecast of future needs. Each chapter contains one or more goals and multiple policies designed to implement the goals. The Comprehensive Plan does not prioritize goals and it does not prioritize policies in support of a goal.

1.2. Woodland Guiding Principals

The Woodland Comprehensive Plan (The Plan) is intended to guide future land use growth and development over the next twenty years, through 204336. The Plan is based on several foundational layers:

- The statutory goals and regulations relating to the Washington Growth Management Act (GMA), RCW 36.70A, et seq.;
- A long-term vision of how our citizens want Woodland to function and to look as it grows over the next twenty years;
- A framework of local goals and policies to guide future growth and development;
- A projection of anticipated growth during the planning period; and
- An inventory of current public services and facilities and a projection of what changes to such services and facilities might be needed to meet the future growth of the city.



1.3. Woodland Community Vision

Woodland has a profound commitment to community values, prudent planning, and careful execution that preserves resources and maintains the integrity of family neighborhoods. Woodland is a community rich in history and proud of its rural heritage. Its vision reflects its history and deep commitment to the preservation of those attributes that have made it a successful and welcoming place to live and work.

Woodland will experience continued population growth, greater diversity, higher citizen expectations, and increased demand for essential public services. These challenges will be met through the innovative use of technology, internal process improvement, creative programs, and careful planning. The city will seek new and broader strategic partnerships, invest more in economic development, and establish integrated services that ensure safe, balanced, wholesome, and harmonious neighborhoods.

Over the next twenty years Woodland will grow to a population of 11,505-9,274 residents. A moderate growth rate of 2.73% annually will allow Woodland to remain a community where local and regional services are readily accessible.

Woodland Welcomes

Woodland is a safe, diverse and welcoming community for current and new residents, businesses, and tourists. Its small-town atmosphere and prime location relative to larger metropolitan areas and recreation areas make it an attractive destination. While we value and respect our heritage, we are committed to adapting to changes in the regional economy, responding to the rapid regional growth pressures, and responsibly managing our local natural and historic resources.

Woodland is Diverse

Woodland is committed to serve all of its citizens and has facilitated the development of more diverse housing opportunities than any nearby city. The city will continue its commitment to provide housing opportunities for a wide variety of personal and family needs at various income levels. The city will encourage construction of well-planned, integrated, and affordable housing while preserving Woodland's close-knit community and commitment to families and harmonious neighborhoods.

Woodland Grows

Woodland has a rich agricultural and resource heritage and a burgeoning industrial Port, both of which can provide cornerstones for Woodland's economic future. Because of our location along the Interstate 5 corridor and access to rail and river transportation, Woodland is, and will continue to be, a commercial service center for southern Cowlitz County and northern Clark County. Woodland will develop and maintain a magnetic, highly active and vibrant business community that generates consistent, stable and sustainable economic growth and local jobs.

Woodland Engages

Woodland residents are highly engaged in community events and festivals, and the city aims to increase engagement in city government. The city believes public participation is essential to good government and is committed to open and transparent governance and will actively reach out to its citizens to participate in the public processes.

Woodland Coordinates

The city will dedicate additional effort to developing local and regional partnerships and strategic alliances that help facilitate coordination and land use consistency among jurisdictions and agencies.

Woodland Moves

The city will improve and expand its transportation and pedestrian infrastructure. Interstate 5 is a boon and a barrier to mobility. The Scott Avenue reconnection and sidewalks from downtown to the Intermediate School will improve mobility. Improved bicycle and pedestrian connections will facilitate cross-town movement.

Woodland Serves

Woodland's school system is an asset that will draw families to the community. Residents enjoy the city's parks, trails and other recreational opportunities. Residents value and fund police, fire and emergency response services. Proficient government agencies maintain existing city assets and coordinate future development.

Woodland Protects and Manages

Woodland values its natural setting, defined by its relationship with places like Horseshoe Lake, the Lewis River, and Mt. St Helens. Future development will be managed to minimize impacts to the city's natural amenities. Parks and trails provide public access to these natural amenities and ensure they are available to future generation.

Vision Principles

- V1** Woodland is a small, relatively affordable, full-service community enhanced by proximity to regional outdoor and metropolitan resources.
- V2** The city will maintain small-town community identity based around livable neighborhoods and quality schools while accommodating moderate growth.
- V3** The city will prioritize future expansion of industrial and commercial economic opportunities to attract family-wage jobs in the community and commercial services for residents.
- V4** The city will expand infrastructure to serve planned development and will maintain adequate levels of service to support the current and future community.

V5 The city will cultivate environmental assets like Horseshoe Lake and the Lewis River for both recreational use in the form of parks and trails, and environmental protection.

1.4 Statutory & Regulatory Framework

Growth Management Act (GMA)

The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), 36.70A RCW, requires counties which meet population and growth criteria to develop, adopt and maintain a comprehensive land use planning process consistent with the requirements of the GMA. Among other requirements, comprehensive plans must ensure that projected growth in urban areas be accommodated through a range of urban densities, that capital facilities keep pace with the growth, and that critical natural resource areas are protected and managed.

Woodland is in an unusual situation in that it is partially in Clark County, which is required to fully plan under the Act, and largely in Cowlitz County, which is only required to partially-plan under the Act.¹ The city crafted this Comprehensive Plan to be consistent with RCW 36.70A, the Clark County Countywide Planning Policies, and the Planning Assumptions adopted by the Clark County Board of Councilors.

What's in the Comprehensive Plan?

Chapter 1, Introduction and Community Vision [\(V\)](#), describes the 20-year visions for Woodland.

Chapter 2, Public Involvement [\(PI\)](#), reaffirms the city's commitment to open and transparent government and its desire to engage and listen to the community.

Chapter 3, Land Use [\(LU\)](#), describes the planning assumptions underlying the Plan, the housing and employment targets, and respect for the city's past.

Chapter 4, Housing [\(H\)](#), describes what will be done to ensure that adequate housing will be available for all economic segments of the community.

Chapter 5, Economic Development [\(EC\)](#), describes what will be done to enhance job growth and retention.

Chapter 6, Transportation [\(T\)](#), describes the vision for transportation and transportation facilities within the city limits and Urban Growth Area (UGA).

Chapter 7, Parks, Recreation and Open Space [\(PR\)](#), describes community-wide goals and standards for parks and recreation facilities.

Chapter 8, Capital Facilities [\(CF\)](#), describes how roads, water, sewer, parks, and other public facilities and services will be provided.

¹ See Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board, Case No. 95-2-0068, finding Woodland must fully plan under the GMA.

Chapter 9, Energy and Utilities (EU), reflects the city’s commitment to ensure that public and private utilities are available to accommodate future growth and ensure its long-term sustainability.

Chapter 10, Environment (E), describes how critical environmental resources will be managed and protected.

Chapter 11, Growth Management (GM), identifies how the city will comply with the Growth Management Act over time and work cooperatively with other agencies and districts.

Woodland Supporting Plans and Regulations

The GMA requires jurisdictions planning under the Act to implement the goals and policies of the local comprehensive plan. Woodland implements The Plan, thereby achieving compliance with the Act, through implementation of the Woodland Capital Facilities Plan and the Woodland Municipal Code, particularly Chapters 15 - Environment, 16 - Subdivisions, 17 - Zoning, 18 - Annexation, and 19 - Development Code Administration.

This Comprehensive Plan adopts the following plans by reference:

- Woodland Capital Facilities Plan, including specific elements for:
 - Transportation
 - Sanitary Sewer
 - Potable Water
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Schools

Impact fees and system development charges are adopted by resolution separately.

