



# 2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

## REVIEW DRAFT QUICK GUIDE

### SUMMARY OF PROPOSED REVISIONS

The 2030 Comprehensive Plan includes many policies related to the city’s physical and economic growth and development that provide guidance to elected and appointed officials, city staff, and Raleigh residents. These policies convey general principles that relate to action items.

Action items articulate specific tasks for the city to undertake to implement Plan policies. For each action item the Plan documents a time horizon for completion, responsible agency, action type, and whether or not capital funding is required for implementation.

Table 1 shows the number of revised, removed, and new policy items in the review draft Update; Table 2 shows the same for action items. A general summary of the major changes to each Plan section is included in the following pages. An in-depth analysis of why these specific changes are proposed will be brought forward during the formal review process for the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update.

*Table 1. Proposed Changes to Policies in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update*

<b>Plan Section</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>Removed</b>	<b>New</b>
Land Use	18	2	5
Transportation	15	1	12
Environmental Protection	19	-	4
Economic Development	5	-	1
Housing	10	8	2
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space	10	6	16
Public Utilities	-	-	1
Community Facilities and Services	-	-	5
Urban Design	9	2	22
Historic Preservation	2	-	4
Arts and Culture	6	5	4
Regional and Interjurisdictional Coordination	1	1	-
Downtown Raleigh	8	6	-
Area Specific Guidance	2	62	86
Implementation	2	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>162</b>



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Table 2. Proposed Changes to Actions in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update

Plan Section	Revised	Removed	New
Land Use	3	-	1
Transportation	-	2	11
Environmental Protection	-	3	13
Economic Development	2	4	4
Housing	3	10	3
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space	1	7	19
Public Utilities	-	-	-
Community Facilities and Services	5	1	-
Urban Design	1	-	4
Historic Preservation	4	2	5
Arts and Culture	-	12	20
Regional and Interjurisdictional Coordination	1	1	-
Downtown Raleigh	1	12	1
Area Specific Guidance	2	12	64
Implementation	-	1	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>145</b>

### TRACKING REVISIONS

City Planning staff have been cataloging the changes made to the Comprehensive Plan during the Update process. At the same time that the public comment draft of the Update was published online, so also was a blackline comparison of the adopted 2030 Comprehensive Plan and the public comment draft. The blackline comparison shows only the text and maps in the Plan, and clearly indicates the proposed changes. Additions proposed by the public comment draft were visually identified via underlined text; deletions via strikethrough. These documents continue to be available on the [2030 Comprehensive Plan Update project page](#).

Provided with the new review draft of the Update being provided to City Council is also a new blackline comparison. The comparison is provided in a series of files – one for each section of the plan and one each for most of the area plans. The underlining and strikethrough conventions of the public comment blackline comparison have been maintained, but gray highlighting indicates changes between the public comment draft and the new review draft. This new blackline comparison allows the reader to follow the progression of the Update through two rounds of major revisions that have occurred so far.



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### REVISION HIGHLIGHTS BY SECTION

The 2030 Comprehensive Plan comprises 17 sections or chapters. Changes to each section were forecasted in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update White Paper, published in April 2016, and the review draft is remarkably faithful to that preliminary set of recommendations. What follows is a brief narrative explanation of the revisions proposed to each section.

#### Land Use

The Land Use section is the primary source of policy guidance for the regulation of growth and development in the Comprehensive Plan. The “Land Use and Transportation Coordination” and the “Mixed-use Development” subsections received the most substantial revisions in this section and are proposed to better align the 2030 Comprehensive Plan with the Wake County Transit Plan.

#### Transportation

The Transportation section lays out a vision for the future development of the city’s network for motorized and nonmotorized transportation. The changes in this section include policies and actions related to the adoption of the Wake County Transit Plan, the update to the city’s Bicycle Plan, and bikeshare project. Accordingly, the “Public Transportation” subsection was the most heavily revised. A new “Emerging Technologies” subsection creates a policy foundation for preparing for autonomous vehicles, ridesharing, and other transportation innovations.

#### Environmental Protection

The Environmental Protection section examines Raleigh’s policy priorities and goals that contribute toward the city’s environmental sustainability and resilience. The update to this section emphasizes the city’s commitment to resilience and the preparation for expected climate change impacts. The “Energy Security and Climate Change Preparedness” and “Water Quality and Conservation” subsections include the most proposed policy and action revisions and additions.

#### Economic Development

The Economic Development section lays out a vision for the future of Raleigh’s economy and includes policies and actions designed to enhance the city’s competitive advantages and build on its culture of innovation.

#### Housing

The Housing section emphasizes the importance of providing a range of housing types throughout Raleigh and assuring housing opportunities for all segments of the city’s population. The changes in this section are in response to several key planning and policy documents that have come forward since the adoption of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. These critical plans and policies are the Consolidated Plan, the Affordable Housing Improvement Plan, and the Affordable Housing Location Plan. Accordingly, the “Affordable Housing” and “Quality and Diversity of Housing” subsections are proposed to be most heavily altered.



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### Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

This section promotes the social, cultural, mental, and physical wellbeing of the residents of Raleigh by creating a more livable community with a higher quality of life, a sense of place, and stronger feeling of belonging. Since the 2030 Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2009, three major developments have occurred related to city parks; revisions are proposed to reflect each:

1. City acquisition in 2015 of the 308-acre Dorothea Dix Park property;
2. Adoption of the new Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources System Plan in 2014; and
3. Departmental reorganization and name change to “Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources.”

### Public Utilities

The Public Utilities section addresses the city’s publicly provided utility systems such as water, wastewater, stormwater, and reclaimed water, as well as privately provided utilities such as electric and gas. One new policy calls for the monitoring of energy and water usage to establish benchmarks for efficiency goals.

### Community Facilities and Services

The Community Facilities and Services section describes how Raleigh allocates resources to specific service areas to support existing needs and future growth. Key policy additions include measures aimed at improving resiliency in the face of disasters, such as explicitly taking into account the needs of vulnerable populations during emergency management planning. The section also includes new public health-related policies, including the promotion of walking and bicycling and promoting access to healthy food options.

### Urban Design

The Urban Design section guides the form of private and public development projects. The Update includes a new subsection on the topic of transit-supportive design. That addition includes a suite of new policies and actions that will support transit investments by creating an attractive and pedestrian-friendly public realm near transit stations. Other new elements include policies aimed at activating the edges of large city parks and for creating small “parklets” by repurposing underused public space.

### Historic Preservation

The Historic Preservation section offers recommendations to promote resource preservation of Raleigh’s cultural and architectural heritage. New policies and actions envision an expanded effort to acquire properties that preserve the city’s heritage and to use technology and promotional efforts to increase visitation of city historic sites. To help implement those and other goals, the section includes an action to identify funding opportunities for a historic resources and museum plan.



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### Arts and Culture

The Arts and Culture section provides a framework and set of recommendations to support and encourage the growth of arts and culture in Raleigh as envisioned by the recently adopted Community Cultural Plan. The most notable revisions remove the policies and action items relating to the creation of art and entertainment and cultural districts, and propose new policies to encourage incorporation of public art along the greenway system and in private development. A number of policies and actions were added to promote making art more accessible to all citizens by utilizing alternative and nontraditional venues and leveraging partnerships with the private sector; area agencies and institutions; and through intergovernmental coordination.

### Regional and Interjurisdictional Coordination

This section addresses population growth and its impacts throughout the Triangle region by addressing issues such as climate change, community patterns, and shifting economies with the view that cities cannot act in isolation. The changes in this section are primarily to update studies, demographic information, and new initiatives undertaken since the 2009 adoption of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The majority of the policies and action items remain unchanged.

### Downtown Raleigh

The Downtown section guides the future growth of Raleigh's historic, functional, and symbolic heart. Section updates are related to changing development trends and issues since the 2009 adoption of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, and anticipated population growth to come. A number of action items were removed, relating to street grid and design standards, planting standards, and the Moore Square Station redesign.

### Area Plans

The Area Plans section addresses issues unique to particular locations within the city that can only be addressed through policies and actions more specific than those proposed citywide. The bulk of the proposed change in this section is content for new area plans completed since 2009 but not previously incorporated: Blue Ridge, Buffalo New Hope, Blount Street/Person Street, Capital Boulevard, New Bern, and West Morgan.

### Implementation

This section addresses how the policies and actions in all sections of the Comprehensive Plan should be carried out. The most notable proposed revisions in this section are a new Public Input subsection (see below) and a change to the method and frequency for updating the plan. Instead of a five-year schedule, thematic annual revisions are recommended. In addition, the list of internal city departments and extern agencies has been updated to reflect reorganization and renaming that has occurred since 2009.



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### New Public Input Subsection

During the May 16, 2017 City Council Work Session on the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update, Council Member Stephenson requested that staff integrate “interwoven equity” and “authentic engagement” best practices recommended by the American Planning Association’s Sustaining Places program as part of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update process.

Similarly, during the round of public engagement regarding proposed Comprehensive Plan updates that took place in 2017, commenters expressed difficulty in attending the meetings (five were held, each on a different topic) in person. This is a theme often heard more generally – that busy evening schedules, child care, mobility issues, and other barriers make it difficult or impossible for many people to participate in-person in planning processes.

Accordingly, staff has developed a new Comprehensive Plan subsection that addresses the issue of public input. The new subsection is based heavily on the American Planning Association’s recent “Sustaining Places” initiative, an effort that addresses the connections between planning and sustainability. It includes policies aimed at making it easier for residents to take part in important plans and decisions. The new language is broad and aspirational rather than specific and prescriptive – with the expectation that details would be filled in with a combination of direction from the City Council and public input during a focused process.

As this topic is important to Council and also is complex, staff decided to present the new subsection as a standalone insert alongside the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update review draft. This approach will allow Council to have a more in-depth discussion about this wholly new content without delaying the review of the remainder of the Plan.