

Community Conversation Toolkit



Reflecting Raleigh

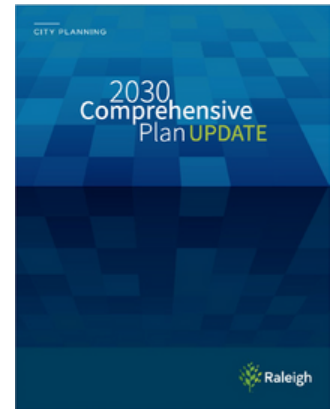
The Next Comprehensive Plan



Raleigh
Planning

What is the Comprehensive Plan?

The Comprehensive Plan is a document that provides long-range vision and policies guiding the growth and development of the City of Raleigh. The current plan offers city staff guidance until 2030 with policies that help drive important decisions on how to shape the future of Raleigh.



[View the 2030
Comprehensive Plan](#)

Reflecting Raleigh: The Next Comprehensive Plan

The City of Raleigh is on a multi-year journey to write Raleigh's next Comprehensive Plan. We will be engaging with residents to help us develop, draft, and implement new ideas so we can ensure the needs of all Raleigh's community members are reflected in the plan.

[Learn more about Reflecting Raleigh](#)

Purpose of the Toolkit

As part of the Next Comprehensive Plan, we have hosted six community conversations around important topics. This toolkit provides instructions for hosting your own community conversation and sharing feedback with City staff.

Toolkit Components

- Community Conversation Presentation Recordings
- World Café Discussion Questions
- Additional Resources
- [World Café Note Taking Template](#)

Stay connected by [subscribing](#) to the Reflecting Raleigh monthly newsletter.

Hosting Your Own Conversation

Step 1

View the Keynote and State of the City presentations for each of the six conversation topics with your group.

Each video is about 45 minutes.

Step 2

With your group, discuss the three questions provided. Take notes on your conversation using the template provided. We recommend spending 10-12 minutes on each discussion question.

Step 3

Email your notes to reflecting@raleighnc.gov. Your group reflections will help shape the vision and goals of Raleigh's Next Comprehensive Plan. **Please send us your notes by July 13** to ensure that your feedback is included in this phase of engagement.

How We Conducted Community Conversations

The goal was to collect community feedback to inform the Next Comprehensive Plan.

The Community Conversations were centered around six topics:



Affordable Housing



Stormwater Management



Traffic and Transportation



Trees and Urban Ecosystems



Neighborhood Change



Infrastructure and Services

The conversations were two-part events designed to accommodate and inform as many participants as possible.

Part 1

Featured a keynote presentation and/or a panel discussion covering strategies and opportunities unique to each topic.

Part 2

Featured a State of the City presentation by City staff members and other experts centered around future plans to implement policies related to each topic. Residents also participated in a World Café Discussion in small groups with guided questions to reflect on the conversation.

Creating and maintaining existing affordable housing is a pressing issue in growing cities across the country, and Raleigh is no exception. Our ability to provide safe and affordable homes for all Raleigh residents is a key focus of the Next Comprehensive Plan.



Discussion Questions

1. *What has been your experience with housing in Raleigh?*
2. *While building more homes can be good for the city, putting too many in one area could cause certain issues for a neighborhood. What do you think is a good way to distribute development equally across the city?*
3. *How important is affordable housing to you compared to other city priorities? What do you think the biggest tradeoffs are in making housing more affordable?*

Resources

- [Watch the Keynote Address](#)
- [Plenary: Homelessness is a Housing Problem](#) (Gregg Colburn, University of Washington)
- [Affordable Housing 101](#) The State of Housing in Raleigh (Emila Sutton and Patrick Young City of Raleigh)
- [Affordable Housing 201](#) Affordable Rental Development (Mark Shelburne, Novogradac)
- [Innovation in Affordable Housing](#) (Nate Fields, New Orleans Director of Homelessness Services & Strategy)
- [Innovation in Affordable Housing](#) (Sheree Bouchee, Center for Public Enterprise)
- [Innovation Applied](#) Using Creative Tools in Raleigh (Ashley Lomers-Johnson, Raleigh Housing Authority)
- [Innovation Applied: Using Creative Tools](#) in Raleigh (Keegan McDonald and Ken Bowers, City of Raleigh)
- [Housing & Community Indicators Dashboard](#)

Weathering the Storm: Stormwater Management & Priorities

To protect Raleigh's residents from flooding, effective and sustainable stormwater management is essential. The Next Comprehensive Plan will address flood resilience in the context of growth and change. By prioritizing reliable stormwater infrastructure and policies, Raleigh will be better equipped to face the challenges of a changing climate.



Discussion Questions

1. *What are your biggest concerns related to stormwater in Raleigh? How much of the City's growth should focused on already developed areas and how much should be closer to the edge of the city limits?*
2. *What do you think would motivate private residents and developers to make voluntary stormwater improvements beyond what the city can require?*
3. *Have you heard of stormwater management strategies in other cities that you think could work in Raleigh? What local organizations or other groups should Raleigh partner with to improve stormwater management or expand existing programs?*

Resources

- [Watch the Keynote Address](#)
- [Watch the State of the City](#)
- [View the Presentation](#)
Stormwater Management & Priorities (Ted Brown, Biohabitats)
- [View the Presentation](#)
(Wayne Miles, Raleigh Stormwater Program Manager, & The Reverend Jemonde Taylor, Chair of Raleigh Stormwater Management Advisory Commission)
- [Stormwater Management Dashboard](#)

A City in Motion: Traffic and Transportation Solutions

Traffic and transportation strategies are key to building vibrant, equitable, and sustainable communities. Cities with strong transportation systems can protect the environment by reducing car usage and easing traffic. Raleigh should have a transportation system that allows everyone to move easily, safely, and is well-connected.



Discussion Questions

1. As Raleigh expands outward, how do you think we should get people where they need to go?
2. Think about a trip you made today: to the store, to your kid's school, to work, to this meeting. How did you travel? What made your trip easy, or challenging?
3. Have you heard of transportation solutions in other cities that you think could work in Raleigh? What partnerships should Raleigh pursue to improve or expand existing programs?

Resources

- [Watch the Keynote Address](#)
- [Watch the State of the City](#)
- [View the Presentation](#) (Charles Brown, Equitable Cities)
- [View the Presentation](#) (Het Patel, Transit Supervisor)
- [Transportation Dashboard](#)

Branching Out: Trees and Urban Ecosystems

As the City of Oaks, trees are an important part of Raleigh's identity and charm. Beyond their beauty, trees provide essential benefits like shade in urban areas, cleaner air, and improved quality of life. As the city grows, decisions around preserving our tree canopy will ensure Raleigh remains a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable community.



Discussion Questions

1. *Raleigh is expected to continue growing. In what areas of the city should Raleigh focus new development to accommodate this growth?*
2. *Which groups do you believe are responsible for supporting and protecting Raleigh's natural resources? What are their specific responsibilities? How should they coordinate their efforts?*
3. *Have you heard of tree protection and expansion programs in other cities that you think could work in Raleigh? What partnerships should Raleigh pursue to improve or expand existing programs?*

Resources

- [Watch the Keynote Address](#)
- [Watch the State of the City](#)
- [View the Presentation](#)
(Greg Levine, Trees Atlanta)
- [View the Presentation](#)
(Justin Bucher, Planning Supervisor, and Zach Manor, Urban Forester)

Rooted and Growing: Neighborhood Change

As one of the nation's fastest growing cities, change is inevitable. Raleigh's Next Comprehensive Plan will continue to explore how we balance existing neighborhoods with future development. Planning for a city that reflects us all, both current and future residents, will be a key discussion in shaping Raleigh's future.



Discussion Questions

1. *Share a story about how your neighborhood has changed over time. What has been your experience with that change?*
2. *How do you feel about your neighborhood accommodating a wider range of housing types, such as four-unit apartments or townhouses, even if that means more physical change?*
3. *What is your vision for your neighborhood? In the next 20 years what would you like to see your neighborhood become?*

Resources

- [Watch the Keynote Address](#)
- [Watch the State of the City](#)
- [View the Presentation](#) (Allan Mallach, Center for Community Progress)
- [View the Presentation](#) (Bynum Walter, Planning Assistant Director)
- [Neighborhood Change Photo History](#)

Sustain-A-City: Infrastructure and Services

As Raleigh's population continues to grow, the need to improve infrastructure and services will be necessary. Whether it be emergency services, access to parks and open spaces, or trash collection, these services help keep Raleigh happy and healthy. Making city resources sustainable will ensure all Raleigh residents will have equitable access.



Discussion Questions

1. Which city services are working well, and which ones need improvement? Which additional services and resources would you be willing to pay more for?
2. Which two of the three are most important to you: density of development, quality of services and infrastructure, cost of property taxes? What do you think the relationship is between development density, public services, infrastructure, and cost of property taxes?
3. What do you think are the biggest challenges for serving new and existing residents as Raleigh grows? What do you think are the biggest opportunities?

Resources

- [Watch the Keynote Address](#)
- [Watch the State of the City](#)
- [View the Presentation](#) (Joe Minicozzi, Urban3)
- [View the Presentation](#) (Patrick Young, Planning and Development Director)