

Planning Process



"Planning with People for a Better Phoenix"

City of Phoenix
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Phoenix General Plan Frequently Asked Questions

Below are some common questions and answers about the Phoenix General Plan:

What is the General Plan?

The General Plan is Phoenix' action plan for the future. It outlines City policies that address neighborhoods, open space, transportation, economic vitality, sustainability and many other components of our city for the next 10 to 20 years or longer.

Why do we have a General Plan?

The General Plan is required by state law to set policy for the City's physical development. Good planning minimizes traffic congestion and pollution, ensures compatible development patterns and protects and improves the quality of life. Moreover, the Growing Smarter legislation enacted in 1998 and 2000 requires Phoenix and other cities throughout the state to update General Plans every 10 years and to add five new elements. Phoenix' General Plan had not been completely updated since 1985. Legislation adopted more recently requires that cities achieve ratification of their general plans through a public vote.

Why should I care about the General Plan?

If you do not shape Phoenix' future, others will. Perhaps this will be someone driven by desires or intentions that may not represent your concerns or needs. Public input is valued and welcomed at the City of Phoenix. Without you and your neighbors' ideas, the General Plan may not reflect the values found important in your community.

How are we supposed to make decisions when no one seems to agree on anything?

Phoenicians have one important thing in common. We all live here! Because of shared space and common needs, a plan is needed that represents the best interest of everyone. Phoenix recognizes the many challenges to planning the City's future. No decision is purely black and white. For instance, it is not a question of growth or preservation. The goal is a balance of development and preservation so that all Phoenix residents enjoy a wonderful quality of life. Sharing your opinions and strategies helps Phoenix achieve balanced development and preservation.

Upon request this publication will be made available in alternate formats including large print, Braille, audiotape or computer disk to accommodate a person with a disability if given reasonable advance notice. Please contact Nici Browe at voice 602-495-0256 or via the City TTY Relay at 602-534-5500.