

# CHICO 2030

## GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

## THE BLUEPRINT

Our General Plan can be described as the "blueprint" for the future. It represents the community's vision, a constitution made up of goals and policies to direct decision making.

## YOUR PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED!

Over the next two years, the City will be holding a series of public meetings and workshops to help guide this process. You will also be able to get information about the process, as well as provide feedback, via the Internet at [www.chicogeneralplan.com](http://www.chicogeneralplan.com). Help plan for Chico's future!

## APPROVING THE PLAN

The process of adopting a general plan requires active public participation. Chico will hold public hearings and provide advance notice of the place and time of the hearings via the newspaper and local postings.

## WHAT'S IN THE GENERAL PLAN?

State law requires that each city adopt a general plan addressing the following seven mandatory components or "elements": Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Noise, and Safety. The City's existing General Plan also includes Community Design, Economic Development, and Parks and Public Facilities and Services elements, which will be retained and the City will be adding a Downtown element and a Sustainability element within this update. Here is a summary of the basic issues, by element:

- The **Community Design** element ties together strategic land use placement while maintaining community character. In updating the General Plan, the City will be working with the community and experts to identify characteristics that define Chico to preserve and build upon what is working and what needs improvement.
- The **Downtown** element will focus on preserving the historic aspects of the heart of Chico, while revitalizing areas that need special attention. Revitalizing the downtown core will also provide cultural and economic benefits to the surrounding community.
- The **Economic Development** element consists of policies focused on balanced land use and opportunities for commercial, technological and industrial use and development.
- The **Sustainability** element will pool all relevant goals and policies from throughout each element within the General Plan into one specific location. In addition, sustainability goals and policies that did not fit into other elements could be included here, such as greenhouse gas reduction strategies or green building programs.
- The **Land Use** element designates the general location and intensity of housing, business, industry, open space, education, public buildings and grounds, waste disposal facilities, and other land uses.
- The **Transportation** element identifies the general location and extent of existing and proposed major roads, transportation routes, terminals, bike routes, bus routes, and parking. It must be correlated with the land use element.
- The **Housing** element is a comprehensive assessment of current and projected housing needs for all economic segments of the community. It sets forth local housing policies and programs to implement those policies.
- The **Parks and Public Facilities and Services** element addresses policies regarding parks, recreational facilities, educational facilities, water and wastewater, and storm drainage and other infrastructure services.
- The **Conservation and Open Space** element details plans and measures for preserving open space for natural resources, the managed production of resources, outdoor recreation, public health and safety, the identification of agricultural land as well as the conservation, development, and use of natural resources including water, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, and mineral deposits.
- The **Noise** element identifies and appraises noise problems within the community and forms the basis for distributing new noise-sensitive land uses.
- The **Safety and Safety Services** element establishes policies and programs to protect the community from risks associated with seismic, geologic, flood, and other hazards.

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