

Guiding Principles

The Envision Lakewood 2040 Guiding Principles expand on the Vision Statement by outlining five core values that will guide all decisions related to implementing the Plan.

Guiding Principles

The Guiding Principles (GPs) embody the values of the community. They provide formal statements that commit the Comprehensive Plan and its implementation to furthering these values, promoting that every decision and action be taken with them in mind.

The Guiding Principles are:

- » **Civic Participation**
- » **Community Wellness and Vitality**
- » **Equity**
- » **Opportunity and Mobility**
- » **Sustainability and Climate Action**

These five guiding principles are listed in alphabetical order and they are all equally important. They were initially developed based on themes from a citywide Vision and Values survey and then further refined based on input from Advisory Group members, the community, Planning Commission, City Council, staff, and consultants.

The Guiding Principles set the tone and priorities for all of the elements within Envision Lakewood 2040. They expand on the Vision Statement and are reflected in more detail across the Goals and Strategies. While some Goals have a more explicit link to the Guiding Principles, such as Equity and Civic Participation, all Goals were designed to further at least one of the Guiding Principles. Thus, the Goals—and their associated Strategies—are tools that outline how the City will work to fulfill its commitment to the Guiding Principles' values and aspirations.

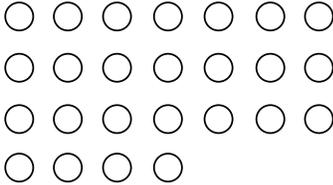
Vision Statement



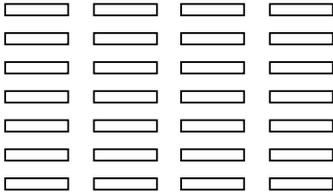
5 Guiding Principles



25 Goals



160 Strategies



Guiding Principle:

Civic Participation

Lakewood’s Comprehensive Plan supports Civic Participation by fostering a community culture where all residents feel seen, heard, and trusted; and where neighbors can rely on one another and on City services that support a high-quality of life.

The Plan’s policies, programs, and practices:

- » Promote transparency and the timely sharing of information in a variety of methods and languages.
- » Encourage a range of methods and opportunities for residents and community members to meaningfully inform the community’s evolution.
- » Encourage and support social interaction and community connection.

What does Civic Participation mean? Civic Participation refers to the involvement of residents, property owners, business owners, employees, and visitors in City-provided services and programs, in democratic processes, and in other organized initiatives or efforts that contribute to a healthy and thriving community. Through successful Civic Participation, all community members are well-informed and there is shared trust, respect, and responsibility among neighbors and with City officials.



A photo collage showing various examples of the Civic Participation guiding principle in action across the city, such as pop-up tabling events, open houses, advisory group meetings, and community workshops.

Guiding Principle:

Community Wellness and Vitality

Lakewood’s Comprehensive Plan supports Wellness and Vitality by fostering a safe community where all people can live a healthy and active life, have the opportunity to experience joy and fulfillment, and have access to inspiring environments, social connection, and creative expression.

The Plan’s policies, programs, and practices:

- » Promote physical, mental, and emotional health for all residents.
- » Encourage and support active lifestyles, social connection, and joy.
- » Encourage and support artistic and cultural celebration throughout the community.

What does Community Wellness and Vitality mean? Community Wellness and Vitality means a community where all have access to the necessary resources and environment that support a high-quality of life, sense of physical, mental, and emotional security, and overall well-being.



A photo collage showing various examples of the Community Wellness and Vitality guiding principle in action across the city through public art, parks, community events, recreation, community gardens, and more.

Guiding Principle:

Equity

Lakewood’s Comprehensive Plan supports Equity by fostering a community culture of inclusivity and accessibility where all people feel like they belong; by celebrating diversity, curiosity, and thoughtfulness; and by acknowledging and accommodating the variety of needs, desires, experiences, and backgrounds of all Lakewood residents.

The Plan’s proposed policies, programs, and practices:

- » Recognize, consider, and respect the differences among our residents, including but not limited to culture, age, gender, race and ethnicity, language, economic status, opinions, abilities, familial status, and others.
- » Intentionally accommodate and celebrate these differences so that every resident can participate and thrive within the community.
- » Acknowledge and address the historical impact of inequitable decisions and take steps to equitably distribute benefits to support those who have been and continue to be disadvantaged.

What does Equity mean? Equity refers to a state where all people—regardless of individual or group characteristics and background—have the necessary resources, support, opportunity, and environment to lead a happy, healthy, and fulfilling life. Equity is the thoughtful, inclusive, and calibrated action that leads to equal outcomes.



A photo collage showing various examples of the Equity guiding principle in action across the city, such as the PossAbilities Expo, Camp Paha, accessible playground design, Lakewood Rides, Spanish-focused engagement, and more.

Guiding Principle:

Opportunity and Mobility

Lakewood’s Comprehensive Plan supports Opportunity by ensuring all residents have access to essential resources, including affordable housing, healthcare, education, and economic opportunities to achieve economic and social mobility.

The Plan’s policies, programs, and practices:

- » Promote housing as a basic need to ensure housing stability.
- » Expand housing options and services for residents to ensure residents are supported and have access to safe, accessible, and affordable housing.
- » Promote access to healthy food and healthcare services for all residents.
- » Foster a strong economy that offers affordable goods and services, living wages, education, and workforce training.
- » Provides accessible transportation options that supports all residents.

What does Opportunity and Mobility mean? Opportunity and Mobility is what allows a community and its residents to achieve social and economic mobility—through the environmental, circumstantial, and programmatic factors that allow residents to develop skills, secure and maintain a job, start a business, find housing, travel between destinations, access healthcare services, and much more.



A photo collage showing various examples of the Opportunity and Mobility guiding principle in action across the city through housing options, transportation access, education, healthy living, and economic opportunities.

Guiding Principle:

Sustainability and Climate Action

Lakewood’s Comprehensive Plan supports urban Sustainability and Climate Action by fostering a community culture that commits to creating and maintaining a healthy natural environment that underpins the existence and health of our economy, the industries upon which we rely, and quality of life for current and future generations of all living things. The Plan promotes environmental stewardship and rapid decarbonization to achieve science-based climate commitments.

The Plan’s policies, programs, and practices:

- » Mitigate climate change: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet the City’s adopted science-based targets of 60.7% below 2018 levels by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. Achieve an interim GHG emissions reduction of 80.4% by 2040.
- » Adapt to climate change: Increase community resilience and preparedness to reduce the impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat, flooding, and other climate-related hazards.

2040 Targets to support this Guiding Principle:

1. Achieve the interim science-based target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80.4% below 2018 levels to stay on track for net zero emissions by 2050.
2. Increase community resilience to the impacts of climate change.
3. Reduce energy-related greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of 80.4% below 2018 levels.
4. Minimize waste generation and achieve 90% waste diversion to advance a circular economy and zero waste culture.
5. Reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of 80.4% below 2018 levels and expand multimodal transportation options.
6. Collaborate with local, regional, and state water service providers and stakeholders to reduce water use on a total and per capita basis.
7. Increase tree canopy coverage, improve water quality, enhance biodiversity and utilize nature and nature-based solutions to strengthen and restore natural ecosystems.
8. Expand equitable access to clean air, water, and renewable energy.
9. Increase resident participation in climate action, especially through the Sustainable Neighborhoods Program and youth engagement initiatives.

What does Sustainability mean? Sustainability means creating a just and rightful balance between the environment, our economy, and an equitable society. Sustainability is not an end goal, but a holistic approach to decision-making that ensures short term needs do not inequitably outweigh the long-term viability of our planet and future generations who will live on it.

What does Climate Action mean? Climate Action refers to strategies and actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and/or that enhance resilience (adaptation) to the impacts of climate change.

Guiding Principle: Sustainability and Climate Action Plan



A photo collage showing various examples of the Sustainability and Climate Action guiding principle in action across the city through community events like Earth Day, emergency response and preparedness, and sustainable transportation options.

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