



CHAPTER 2

VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

OVERVIEW

The Vision and Guiding Principles set forth in this chapter describe the community’s collective values and aspirations for Carson City based on where we are today and where we’d like to be as we look toward the future. The Vision and Guiding Principles are based on the premise that the vibrancy of the City and the quality of life of its residents are dependent upon the balancing of multiple factors, including economic, social, and environmental considerations. These factors are interrelated and essential to the continued health and sustainability of the community.

VISION

Carson City is a community proud of its past and confident of its future. We take pride in our role as a state capital and offer a balanced community with housing, employment, education, shopping, and recreation opportunities. We value productive collaboration between residents, businesses, partner organizations, neighboring municipalities, and State and Federal agencies to engage in opportunities and challenges that affect our quality of life and sense of community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Carson City’s vision is grounded in seven Guiding Principles. The Guiding Principles reflect the community’s vision at a broad policy level; highlighting areas where the City has opportunities to build on its strengths—as well as those areas where a change in policy direction is needed to improve a condition that is not consistent with the Vision. The Guiding Principles, listed in no particular order of importance, serve as an organizing framework for the goals and policies contained in Chapters 3 through 9, and for the implementation actions contained in Chapter 12. Some of the policies identified in Chapters 3 through 9 will be carried out as part of day-to-day decision-making. Other policies require multiple actions to be taken to support their implementation. As such, actions included in the matrix in Chapter 12 do not align one-to-one with the policies identified in Chapters 3 through 9.



WELL-MANAGED GROWTH

Goals and policies for achieving well-managed growth support efforts to:

- Promote the efficient use of land, water, and infrastructure;
- Mitigate the potential risk and effect of natural or human-caused hazards on life, property, and infrastructure;
- Protect sensitive natural and visual resources; and
- Foster cooperation on Master Plan issues.



ACCESS TO OPEN LANDS AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Goals and policies for providing access to open lands and recreational opportunities support efforts to:

- Enhance the City’s parks, trails, and open space network;
- Improve access to parks and recreation at a neighborhood level;
- Expand the City’s capacity and excellence in community-wide recreation facilities, programs, and gathering spaces; and
- Promote access to state and federal lands as a community amenity.



ECONOMIC VITALITY

Goals and policies for achieving economic vitality support efforts to:

- Promote a collaborative approach to economic development;
- Maintain and enhance primary job base;
- Recognize and adapt to the impact of technology on work and workforce patterns;
- Promote revitalization and reinvestment in underutilized areas; and
- Promote the City’s assets as economic development tools.



VIBRANT GATEWAY CORRIDORS AND DOWNTOWN

Goals and policies for creating vibrant gateway corridors and preserving downtown support efforts to:

- Enhance the safety, functionality, and appearance of gateway corridors;
- Facilitate the revitalization of vacant and underutilized properties along gateway corridors; and
- Promote the ongoing revitalization of Downtown.



LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

Goals and policies for creating livable neighborhoods support efforts to:

- Expand housing options to meet the needs of existing and future residents and workers of all ages, abilities, and income levels;
- Support the retention and expansion of affordable and workforce housing options within the community;
- Maintain the quality, character, and livability of established neighborhoods; and
- Promote reinvestment in declining neighborhoods.



UNIQUE HISTORY AND CULTURE

Goals and policies that bolster Carson City’s unique history and culture support efforts to:

- Protect and preserve Carson City’s historic and cultural resources;
- Promote heritage tourism; and
- Support the expansion of artistic and cultural programs and events.



A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Goals and policies for creating a connected community support efforts to:

- Provide a safe and efficient multi-modal transportation system for all users;
- Improve major corridors consistent with the Complete Streets concept to accommodate multi-modal transportation and create a community identity;
- Improve connectivity by constructing roads consistent with the City’s transportation plan, prioritizing the creation of parallel routes;
- Coordinate land use and transportation decisions to support the use of alternative modes of transportation; and
- Establish a city-wide system of sidewalks, multi-use pathways, and bike lanes by identifying and closing gaps in connectivity.

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