

Citizen Participation Element

GOAL:

To continue active community involvement in planning decisions.

OVERVIEW

Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan has evolved with extensive and continuous community involvement. The city recognizes that changes to the Plan affect the entire city, but acknowledges that the major impacts of development allowed by these changes are usually borne by residents in the immediate vicinity. As a result, public input is vital to appropriate and effective planning.



Bellevue emphasizes open communication for effective community planning (Planning Commission hearing held in the community).

In recognition of the important role that public input plays, the city ensures that the public has opportunities to participate in all planning efforts. To this end, the following policies should guide all future planning efforts.

POLICIES

POLICY CP-1. Encourage and facilitate expanded public participation in all planning processes. Design user-friendly processes that inform and educate the public about the substance of issues and how they can be involved.

POLICY CP-2. Consider the interests of the entire community and the goals and policies of this Plan before making land use decisions. Proponents of change in land use should demonstrate that the proposed change responds to the interests and changing needs of the entire city, balanced with the interests of the neighborhoods most directly impacted by the project.

POLICY CP-3. Ensure that the process which identifies new commercial areas or expands existing areas considers the impacts of potential development on affected residential neighborhoods and results in decisions that are consistent with other policies in the Comprehensive Plan.

POLICY CP-4. Balance the interests of the commercial and residential communities when considering modifications to zoning or development regulations.

POLICY CP-5. Develop and maintain Land Use Code provisions that define the process and standards relevant to each stage of land use decision making, and educate the public about these processes and standards to promote meaningful citizen participation.

Discussion: The specific criteria to be considered are defined in the Land Use Code and differ according to the land use decision under consideration.

POLICY CP-6. Encourage and emphasize open communication between developers and neighbors about compatibility issues.

POLICY CP-7. Prepare a public involvement program that is tailored to effectively and efficiently involve the public in major revisions to the General Elements and Subarea Plans of the Comprehensive Plan. Utilize citizen advisory committees or other methods that represent a broad spectrum of viewpoints as part of the public involvement program.

POLICY CP-8. Utilize a number of forums including commissions, boards, and the community council and newer technologies such as the Internet and email to facilitate citizen participation in the planning process.



Bellevue citizens are actively involved in planning improvements for their neighborhoods.