

St. Helena General Plan Update

General Plan Goals



May 2008

General Plan Update Steering Committee
City of Sr. Helena
1480 Main Street
St. Helena, California 94574
Fax: 707-555-5555
E-mail: info@sthelena.com
www.sthelena2030.com

The General Plan Update Committee was appointed by the St. Helena City Council in January 2007. The text in this document reflects the input gained from the community, the consultants and the extensive work of the committee between April 2007 and March 2008.

Ms. Anne Cottrell

Ms. Sandy Ericson—Planning Commissioner

Mr. Joel Gott

Ms. Grace Kistner

Mr. Wayne Leong

Ms. Bonnie Long

Ms. Maria Milagros-Castro

Ms. Tracy McBride

Mr. Peter McCrea—Planning Commissioner

Ms. Mary Lou Peterson

Mr. Greg Pitts—Alternate

Mr. Joe Potter—City Council Member

Mr. John Sales

Mr. Bill Savidge

Mr. Eric Sklar—City Council Member

Mr. Beau Van Deren—Alternate

Mr. Kirk Wrede

General Plan Goals

This section provides nine project goals and identifies which elements of the current General Plan should be revised for Phase II of the General Plan update. These goals were drawn from public input, the Community Vision, Steering Committee work and findings and conclusions from the working papers described in the Findings Report Annex. The ultimate goal of the General Plan update process is to modify the policies and programs of the City's General Plan so that the updated plan provides a framework for the achievement of St. Helena's vision. The Phase II process should first develop land use and policy alternatives to meet the stated goals while resolving conflicts identified during Phase I. The preferred approach should then be expressed in a draft General Plan document and paired with effective implementation measures. Additional objectives may be determined during the initial stages of the Phase II process.

The Community Vision's three themes – to **Increase community sustainability, economic stability and environmental stewardship** – will be used as the organizing principles for the nine project goals of the Update.

Sustainable Community

Goal One: Create affordable workforce housing opportunities and improve the City's jobs-housing imbalance. Policies and programs to further this goal should recognize that St. Helena will continue to have more jobs than resident workers, but strive to achieve measurable improvements. The updated plan should address the mismatch between the types of jobs available in the City compared to the available housing and other effects of a continuing imbalance. This goal will require changes to the 1993 Land Use and Growth Management Element.

Goal Two: Improve parks, natural resources and recreational trails. Policies and programs to further this objective should focus on future plans for the Napa River and all other natural waterways. They are key elements of St. Helena's green infrastructure, providing habitat, recreation and flood control benefits. The updated Plan should also identify options to increase the amount of parkland available in the City to meet resident needs. This goal will necessitate changes to the 1993 Open Space and Conservation Element, Public Facilities and Services Element and the Parks and Recreation Element.

Economic Stability

Goal Three: Re-align land use plan with community goals. Policies and programs to further this goal should emphasize mixed-use strategies, changes to land use designations, changes to design guidelines and blending of new housing and commercial/office spaces into their surrounding environment. This goal will require changes to the 1993 Land Use and Growth Management Element and Community Design Element.

Goal Four: Meet the basic needs of residents while balancing the benefits and effects of tourism. St. Helena residents will continue to travel to larger cities in the region for certain goods and services. The update should strive to meet a better proportion of residents' basic needs locally to reduce vehicle trips, promote environmental health and improve economic parity. At the same time, the plan should recognize St. Helena's dependence on tourist dollars and establish clear criteria defining the types of tourist activities the City wishes to attract and maintain, and the relationship of these to economic stability. This objective will require changes to the 1993 Land Use & Growth Management Element, the Tourism Management Element and/or the addition of an Economic Element.

Goal Five: Create a strategic plan for public infrastructure investments. This plan should emphasize efficient use of fiscal resources, clear community priorities and understandable phasing of investment choices. This goal will require changes to the Public Facilities and Services Element, the Parks and Recreation Element, the Public Health and Safety Element and the Transportation Element, as well as influencing the proposed additional Economic and Climate Action Elements.

Goal Six: Create a comprehensive circulation plan that addresses access and congestion for all modes of travel. Policies and programs to further this goal should include north-south roadway route alternatives to SR 29, including the potential for a bypass. The updated Plan should revisit proposed roadway improvements contained in the 1993 Transportation Element and should address the safety and convenience of alternative modes of transportation. This objective will require changes to the 1993 Transportation Element, the Land Use & Growth Management Element and the Open Space and Conservation Element.

Environmental Stewardship

Goal Seven: Maintain St. Helena's sense of place and visual character. Policies and programs to further this objective should include maintaining Downtown as the City's main activity district and core identity, re-visioning the entrance and exit corridors and placing continued emphasis on historical and agricultural preservation. This goal will result in numerous changes to policies and programs in the 1993 Community Design Element, the Transportation Element and the Land Use & Growth Management Element.

Goal Eight: Ensure reliable water supplies and promote water conservation. The updated General Plan should build upon the City's current efforts to address the future availability of water in St. Helena. This goal will require changes to the 1993 Open Space and Conservation Element and Public Facilities and Services Element.

Goal Nine: Anticipate and adapt to climate change. Policies and programs to further this goal should include actions which can be taken to reduce our current impacts on climate change and actions the City can take in response to physical and economic changes in the community which arise due to climate change. This goal will require changes to the 1993 Transportation Element and Open Space and Conservation Element and, possibly, a new Climate Change Element.