

Saint Paul For All 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Focus: Urban Design



URBAN DESIGN is the thoughtful arrangement of the public realm, or the public spaces between buildings (including parks, streets and sidewalks). Good urban design – the interaction between private development and public space – fosters activity, connection, beauty, safety and economic value.

Draft Policy	Chapter	Policy #
Promote high-quality urban design that supports pedestrian friendliness and a healthy environment, and enhances the public realm.	Land Use	LU-9
Activate streetscapes with active first floor uses, street trees, public art, outdoor commercial uses and other uses that contribute to a vibrant street life.	Land Use	LU-10
Ensure that stand-alone parking uses are limited, and that structured parking is mixed-use and/or convertible to other uses.	Land Use	LU-14
Account for seasonality and climate resiliency in the design, maintenance, and programming of Parks and Recreation assets to maximize activity throughout the year.	Parks, Recreation and Open Space	PR-13
Encourage and support private landowners and developers to create and maintain privately owned public space (POPS) and green infrastructure, especially as land use intensity and activity levels increase.	Parks, Recreation and Open Space	PR-30
Encourage creativity in building design and site layout.	Housing	H-8
Encourage high-quality urban design for residential development that is compatible with the pattern and scale of the neighborhood, but allows for innovation and consideration of market needs.	Housing	H-47
Promote visible green infrastructure landscape features, such as rain gardens, constructed wetlands and tree trenches, that contribute to placemaking and welcoming public spaces.	Water Resources Management	WR-3
Be proactive in the identification, evaluation, survey and designation of historic and cultural resources to ensure a consistent and equitable approach to preservation that is time-sensitive and responsive to community needs.	Heritage and Cultural Preservation	HP-7



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Focus: Aging in Community



AGING IN COMMUNITY means that residents can stay in their community as they age. The entire community – not just a house or neighborhood – becomes a resource for health and activity. When people “age in community,” they continue to use the resources of their community – housing, transportation, services, shopping, health care, recreation – to stay active, healthy and engaged.

Draft Policy	Chapter	Policy #
Continue to strengthen Downtown as a residential neighborhood that provides services and amenities for people of all ages.	Land Use	LU-24
Implement intersection safety improvements such as traffic signal confirmation lights, pedestrian countdown timers, and leading pedestrian signal intervals. Reduce pedestrian roadway exposure via median refuge islands, curb extensions and narrowed travel lanes.	Transportation	T-7
Design the rights-of-way for all users, including older people, children and those with mobility constraints, as guided by the Street Design Manual and Safe Routes to School Plans, and by thoughtfully addressing streetscape issues such as curb cut design, level sidewalks, lighting, accessibility to/from bus stops, and the presence of benches and buffers between sidewalks and streets.	Transportation	T-9
Reduce barriers to Parks and Recreation facilities and programming, including those caused by financial, physical, language and perception issues.	Parks and Recreation	PR-2
Prioritize safety and equity when filling gaps in the trail and bikeway system to ensure seamless connections throughout the city for pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities.	Parks and Recreation	PR-34
Encourage the use of universal design elements to make housing accessible for all residents.	Housing	H-9
Explore expanding permitted housing types in Urban Neighborhoods (as defined in the Land Use Chapter) to include duplexes, triplexes, town homes, small-scale multifamily and accessory dwelling units to allow for neighborhood-scale density increases, broadened housing choices and intergenerational living.	Housing	H-48
Support alternative household types, such as co-housing, intergenerational housing, intentional communities or other shared-living models that allow residents to “age in community.”	Housing	H-54
Support housing for older people that is proximate to transit.	Housing	H-55



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Focus: Economic Development



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT includes efforts to improve the economic well-being and quality of life of a community by creating and/or retaining jobs, and supporting or growing incomes and the tax base. In Saint Paul, economic development is a critical component of meeting our equity, diversity and growth goals, especially as we seek out innovative economic models for our culturally rich neighborhoods.

Draft Policy	Chapter	Policy #
<p>Foster equitable and sustainable economic growth by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitating business creation, attraction, retention and expansion. 2. Supporting family-sustaining jobs and enhancing workers' skills to excel at those jobs. 3. Growing Saint Paul's tax base in order to maintain and expand City services, amenities and infrastructure. 4. Proactively directing new development to high-priority geographies, such as Neighborhood Nodes, areas of concentrated poverty and Opportunity Sites. 5. Encouraging cultural and arts-based businesses and business districts, such as Little Mekong, Little Africa, Rondo and the Creative Enterprise Zone. 6. Supporting business, real estate and financial models that keep more money locally. 7. Building and expanding neighborhood economic and cultural assets through the development of the local micro-economies. 8. Enhancing vibrant downtown neighborhoods and connecting them to the Mississippi River. 9. Developing programs and funding sources for site acquisition and parcel assembly. 10. Integrating Saint Paul's historic resources into neighborhood-based economic development strategies. 	Land Use	LU-6
Encourage investment in new employment uses, such as medical technology, maker space and small-scale or custom production.	Land Use	LU-49
Protect intermodal operations and freight railways from encroachment of other land uses that conflict with their safe operation.	Land Use	LU-54
Prioritize support of quality jobs in transportation project selection - both through business support and connection of residents to job centers.	Transportation	T-1
Encourage the development of affordable workforce housing in areas well-served by transit and/or in proximity to employment centers.	Housing	H-37



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Focus: Racial and Social Equity



EQUITABLE CITIES create opportunities for all residents to achieve their highest potential. How Saint Paul grows, develops and invests over the next 20 years must be done in a way that reduces racial disparities in jobs, income, education and homeownership.

Draft Policy	Chapter	Policy #
Invest in measures that minimize displacement in neighborhoods where the proximity to high-frequency transit has increased redevelopment pressure and/or housing costs.	Land Use	LU-4
Prioritize equitable public investments relative to areas of concentrated poverty.	Land Use	LU-3
Prioritize safety and equity benefits in transportation project selection.	Transportation	T-1
Ensure equitable access to Parks and Recreation programs, resources and amenities.	Parks, Recreation and Open Space	PR-1
Reduce barriers to Parks and Recreation facilities and programming, including those caused by financial, physical, language and perception issues.	Parks, Recreation and Open Space	PR-2
Ensure Parks and Recreation staff reflect the demographic diversity of a dynamic city to better inform decisions regarding operations and facilities.	Parks, Recreation and Open Space	PR-12
Collaborate to reduce racial disparities in homeownership that could be attributed to unequal access to fair lending or intentional steering to specific neighborhoods.	Housing	H-20
Ensure the regulatory definitions of family and allowable dwelling types meet the needs of residents and reflect how people want to live, while meeting fair housing requirements.	Housing	H-17
Create awareness around tenant and landlord rights, responsibilities, best practices, and resources to decrease conflicts that could lead to evictions.	Housing	H-26
Improve the stability and health of communities of concentrated disadvantage by implementing place-based investments, such as public infrastructure, improvements and maintenance.	Housing	H-56
Apply an equity lens to policy and funding decisions relating to providing assistance to or coordinating with owners to improve private water connections to the public distribution system.	Water Resources Management	WR-9
Prioritize the recognition of historically underrepresented communities and their histories.	Heritage and Cultural Preservation	HP-19



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Focus: Community Health



COMMUNITY HEALTH is impacted by everything a city does. Housing, transportation, land use, parks and economic development opportunities need to be designed to enhance personal health. A healthy community provides for personal safety, a clean environment, access to nutritious food, and a robust parks and open space system.

Draft Policy	Chapter	Policy #
Encourage the equitable spatial distribution of community food assets, including urban farms, community gardens, food markets, healthy retail food options and food hubs.	Land Use	LU-15
Invest in Neighborhood Nodes to achieve development that enables people to meet their daily needs within walking distance and improves equitable access to amenities, retail and services.	Land Use	LU-30
Adopt and implement a “Vision Zero” program with the long-term goal of achieving zero traffic fatalities and severe injuries.	Transportation	T-5
Implement the Bicycle Plan to make bicycling safe and comfortable throughout the city.	Transportation	T-24
Implement the forthcoming Pedestrian Plan to make walking safe and comfortable throughout the city.	Transportation	T-25
Ensure that programming and facilities support public health and personal improvement efforts, such as education, job training, and fitness and nutrition programs.	Parks, Recreation and Open Space	PR-21
Ensure safe housing through the continuation and refinement, as needed, of the rental Certificate of Occupancy and the Truth in Sale of Housing programs.	Housing	H-2
Work to reduce lead exposure in homes built prior to 1978 through support of lead identification and mitigation programs.	Housing	H-5
Improve indoor air quality by reducing exposure to mold, indoor tobacco smoke, radon, and soil vapors in homes to reduce asthma and address other health issues associated with air quality.	Housing	H-6
Maintain response readiness for emergencies related to water supply contamination or interruption.	Water Resources Management	WR-13
Collaborate with partner agencies on water quality improvement efforts, including capital projects and programming.	Water Resources Management	WR-14



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Focus: Resiliency



RESILIENCY focuses on sustainability strategies aimed at protecting Saint Paul families from the effects of climate change. This includes creating green building standards, developing robust transit, designing multimodal streets, and reducing our carbon footprint through energy and resource efficiencies.

Draft Policy	Chapter	Policy #
Ensure that zoning and infrastructure support environmentally and economically efficient, resilient land use development.	Land Use	LU-8
Significantly reduce carbon emissions from motor vehicles by developing infrastructure that supports vehicle electrification.	Transportation	T-4
Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 40% by 2040 by improving transportation options beyond single-occupant vehicles.	Transportation	T-21
Seek opportunities to improve the environmental sustainability of rights-of-way in the city, such as through shared, stacked-function green infrastructure and planting trees to reduce the urban heat island effect.	Transportation	T-38
Encourage the use of energy efficient mechanical systems and building products in rehabilitation and new construction to decrease building operation costs and impacts on the environment.	Housing	H-10
Encourage the use of low-impact landscaping, such as no-mow yards, native landscaping, and rain gardens, to reduce the consumption of natural resources in yard maintenance and encourage the use of yards as carbon sinks.	Housing	H-14
Improve the environmental sustainability and resiliency of parks through strategies such as shared, stacked-function green infrastructure; best management practices in stormwater management; increased tree canopy; increased plant diversity and pollinator-friendly plantings.	Parks, Recreation and Open Space	PR-19
Continue education and conservation measures identified in the 2016 Water Supply Plan to increase efficiency and reduce water demand.	Water Resources Management	WR-10
Maintain response readiness for emergencies related to water supply contamination or interruption and for damage to treatment and distribution infrastructure.	Water Resources Management	WR-13
Utilize rain as a resource to achieve multiple benefits when managing stormwater, such as harvesting water for irrigation or flushing toilets.	Water Resources Management	WR-1
Explore and support the implementation of green infrastructure practices to increase resiliency to flooding, drought and climate change.	Water Resources Management	WR-7

