



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 FORWARD

1.1.1 REGIONAL CONTEXT

Riverton City is a community located within the Wasatch Front area, and part of the Great Basin, in Salt Lake County. Riverton City lies 19 miles south of Salt Lake City and 25 miles north of Provo/Orem. The city was founded in 1865, and its estimated population was 30,000 residents, as of 2000.

1.1.2 WHAT IS THE GENERAL PLAN?

The General Plan is a state-mandated document that represents the city's long-range vision. It also is Riverton City's primary tool to plan for all aspects of operating and maintaining a full-service, top-quality municipal government. When evaluating development proposals, decision-makers refer to the General Plan to see how the proposal achieves the community's desires. It provides a guiding document initiated by public participation and consent, technical research, in-depth planning analysis, advisory recommendations, and support by both the Planning Commission and City Council. These specific General Plan components and the plan's organization are detailed below.

Under Utah State Municipal Code (UMC 10-9-302), municipalities shall prepare a General Plan. The General Plan and accompanying maps, charts and text shall show the development of the land covered by the plan and may include, among other things:

- Land Use Element;
- Transportation and Circulation Element;
- Environmental Element;
- Public Services and Facilities Element;
- Rehabilitation, Redevelopment and Conservation Element;
- Economic Development Element;
- Recommendations for implementing the plan; and
- Any other elements the municipality considers appropriate.

The General Plan is an advisory guide for land use decisions. The municipality may adopt an ordinance mandating compliance with the General Plan (UMC 10-9-303 (6)(b)). To comply with the General Plan, proposed land uses, densities, and intensities in the zoning ordinance would be consistent with those factors designated in the Land Use Element of the General Plan.



1.2 GENERAL PLAN PROCESS AND CONTENT

1.2.1 GENERAL PLAN PROCESS

In January 2000, Riverton City initiated an update to the General Plan. The process required approximately one year of research and preparation, public involvement, plan preparation and public hearings to culminate in the Riverton City General Plan.

Preparation of the General Plan included an extensive citizen participation program that included a General Plan telephone survey, questionnaire survey, four community meetings, three newsletters detailing the planning process and announcing upcoming meetings, one Planning Commission public hearing, one Planning Commission work session, two City Council work sessions and one City Council public hearing. The citizen participation process emphasized feedback regarding major issues the city faced, future land use and economic development goals, and planning an efficient transportation network. Other issues specifically addressed during the citizen participation program include public safety, public facilities, open space and recreation needs, and development preferences.

The citizen participation program was an effective ignition tool within the community sparking local support for the General Plan. This Plan is representative of the community's vision, goals, and objectives.

1.2.2 GENERAL PLAN ELEMENTS

The General Plan is organized into seven Elements:

- Introduction;
- Land Use Element;
- Transportation Element;
- Urban Design Element;
- Public Facilities and Services Element;
- Recreation, Historic and Cultural Resources Element; and
- Natural and Environmental Resources Element.

Other than the Introduction, each Element contains:

- Introduction;
- Existing Conditions;
- Element Concepts;
- Goal, Objectives and Policies;
- Element Plan; and
- Implementation Program.



The Introduction section of each element provides an overview of the element summaries key issues. The Existing Conditions provides a background that serves as the foundation for Element Concepts. Objectives and Policies guide day-to-day decision-making so there is continuing progress toward the goals. The Element Plan and Supportive Map communicates the intent of citizens for future growth and development of the City. The Implementation Program identifies specific actions over the next five years that will achieve the goals and objectives of the Riverton City General Plan. Because the General Plan is comprehensive, the subject matter addressed by each element provides a portion of a larger picture. Every aspect of the General Plan is dedicated to meeting Riverton City's vision.

1.2.3 GENERAL PLAN THEMES

The goals and objectives of the General Plan reflect several overall themes that address key issues and aspirations that residents have identified for the community.

- ***SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:*** Sustainable development is the balance of growth and quality of life. Balancing the future growth and enhancing a livable city is a key premise of the plan. Retaining open space and the open "feel" of the community is addressed in the General Plan by balancing the developed areas and open spaces. The plan will provide new homes and jobs in the community, as well as integrate open space into future residential development. To serve the growing population and employment, new commercial centers for shopping and services will be added and the transportation network will be expanded and upgraded. While the plan does not dictate a specific growth rate, it seeks to ensure that growth does not erode the qualities of Riverton that make it an attractive place to live and work. Quality of life will be enhanced by establishing development limits for all sub-areas of the city.
- ***ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FISCAL STABILITY:*** The General Plan ensures that appropriate locations are available for future commercial and industrial development. The commercial and industrial land uses are proposed as part of an economic development strategy for job creation and retention, resulting in fiscal stability for the city and a vibrant local economy. A larger job base with New Economy jobs as the core serves the community by providing livable wage jobs and a tax base to offset residents' tax burden. The General Plan supports the creation of, at a minimum, one job per household.
- ***ENHANCEMENT OF COMMUNITY CHARACTER AND IDENTITY:*** The General Plan reinforces the city's small-town character and identity and ensures that new development builds on Riverton's traditional character. The General Plan enhances community character by respecting historic resources, supporting the revitalization of downtown, responding to the needs of pedestrians, equestrians and bicyclists, and guiding high-quality development to maintain Riverton as a desirable place to live.



1.3 VISION

The General Plan is organized to efficiently and logically define and realize the citizens' vision for the city. The vision is an overarching statement that defines the future desired condition or state of the city in terms that are meaningful to its citizens. The vision for Riverton City is defined below:

“Riverton City is an outstanding place to live, work and play with its family-friendly atmosphere, superior recreational facilities, municipal services, and transportation accessibility to local and regional attractions. Riverton strives to be an advantageous city for commerce and business with superior schools, outstanding residential neighborhoods, and a thriving economy. It is a city, with small town friendliness and historic charm, attracting visitors, both near and far, for business and recreation.”

1.4 GENERAL PLAN GOALS

The General Plan Elements commence with a goal statement for each specific element. These overall goals form the foundation for the General Plan and are presented below to provide a glimpse of the direction taken in each element.

LAND USE ELEMENT

GOAL: Promote land use patterns that maintain safe residential neighborhoods, bolster economic prosperity, preserve open space and enhance the quality of life.

TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

GOAL: Provide a balanced transportation system that will accommodate several modes of safe and efficient circulation.

URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT

GOAL: Achieve an enriched quality of life and community image.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES ELEMENT

GOAL: Provide a full range of necessary public facilities and services that are convenient to users, economical, and reflect the needs of citizens.

RECREATION, HISTORICAL, CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

GOAL: Develop park and recreation facilities to serve all ages, and organized and individual activities, and encourage increased understanding and appreciation of the community's historic and cultural heritage.

NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

GOAL: Promote a high level of environmental quality with a safe, healthy and enjoyable environment for Riverton City citizens.