

What is Community Planning?

The purpose of **Community Planning** is to guide the future use, character and independent identity of our communities. The County is working with residents and stakeholders to identify how to maintain and improve the quality of life in unincorporated communities through updated goals, policies, mapping, and implementation guides. The resulting plans, guides, and maps will be implemented by County government, community residents, local stakeholders, and/or service providers.

How can I get involved in planning my Community?

The public is encouraged to engage in the planning process by attending outreach events and staying connected through the website: www.countywideplan.com/cp. On this site, the County will have information on meetings and links to provide your input through surveys, social media, photographs, and email.

Have more questions? Send an email to CommunityPlans@lus.sbcounty.gov. You can also visit the website to get on your community's email list to be notified when the planning process will begin.

Don't we already have a Community Plan?

Fourteen existing Community Plans identify goals and policies for select unincorporated areas of the county. Of the existing plans, 13 were adopted in 2007 and one (Oak Hills) was adopted in 2013. The County is proposing to update and consolidate all goals and policies into one County Policy Plan to eliminate redundancy, resolve consistency issues, and expand the application of key goals and policies to multiple communities and regions. The existing Community Plan content will also be used to inform outreach efforts and prepare Community Action Guides for over 30 community planning areas.

What are Community Action Guides?

The **Community Action Guides** provide action-oriented direction for each community to remain and become the type of community that current and future residents desire. The Guides include Action Plans that place a focus on self-reliance, grass-roots action, and implementation, allowing the community to take the lead in moving actions forward. Furthermore, the Guides frame these potential actions in a set of community-driven values and aspirations generated through three years of outreach involving thousands of residents in over 70 communities.

The Guides will also link to a **Community Development Toolkit** to help residents engage in self-help and/or partnership activities that will facilitate the changes they would like to see in their community.

Get Involved & Stay Connected

What is the Community Planning Continuum?

The **Community Planning Continuum (CPC)** is an all-new system of community planning that will guide local expectations for County services and set a clear direction for the future of our unincorporated communities. The CPC will consist of updates to existing plans, goals, policies, and maps as well as the creation of new action-oriented guides and tools. The CPC will be implemented by both County government (Policy Plan and Implementation Plan) and community residents and stakeholders (Community Action Guide and Community Development Toolkit). The resulting plans, guides, maps, and tools will be web-based, living documents that will be updated regularly to reflect progress and change.

The CPC will include a hierarchy of community planning areas (CPAs – see below) that will ensure that planning details, tools, and resources match the conditions and needs of each community:

- **Detailed CPAs.** Includes communities that contain, or have the potential for, a variety of housing opportunities and supporting uses, such as commercial and industrial businesses, schools, a library, parks and recreation facilities, and religious and civic organizations.
- **Framework CPAs.** Includes communities that are primarily characterized by single-family residential properties and a limited number of supporting uses, such as a school, post office, and commercial businesses.
- **Foundation CPAs.** Includes communities that are primarily characterized by single-family residential properties. Residents of these communities typically drive to nearby towns or cities for employment, shopping, entertainment, education, and recreation opportunities.
- **Fundamental CPAs.** Includes communities that are primarily characterized by open space or farmland with a scattering of residential homes and/or highway commercial uses, or an area where growth is constrained by adjacent land ownership, such as federal lands and state lands.

How does Community Planning relate to the Countywide Plan?

Driven by the **Countywide Vision**, the **Countywide Plan** is a comprehensive strategic plan that will guide the County's future. One component of the Countywide Plan is the creation of a Policy Plan that updates the County's existing General Plan for unincorporated areas and expands policy direction to address regional issues and services for the entire county.

The **Community Action Guides** will update and replace the existing Community Plans, with a greater focus on action and implementation. The policy direction found in the existing Community Plans will be placed into the overall County Policy Plan. Both the Policy Plan and Community Action Guides will be web-based, allowing for policy direction and implementation to be applied at multiple scales (e.g., Valley Region and Bloomington), and topics (e.g., land use compatibility, health and wellness, and trails).

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Questions? Want more information?

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