



2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

Chapter Summary – Community Character

STAFF NOTES:

- Not a required Chapter per RCW 36.70A (Growth Management Act).
- You can find a ~~striketrough~~ and underline (with notes) version online [here](#) and a “clean copy” of the chapter allowing for ease of reading here.
- Community “Key Goals” integrated into the goals and policies.

NOTABLE AMENDMENTS:

Plan Context Update:

The character of a community is influenced by a variety of factors, including its residents, social network, schools, community and business organizations, history, built environment, and natural resources. Although it is not possible to legislate a strong community, public policy can provide a framework that supports desirable characteristics. Community cohesiveness develops in many ways. It can come from a shared vision for the community. It can be nurtured by community events. It can be developed through the use of public places for interaction.

The Community Character Chapter provides a framework for shaping the future form and character of Poulsbo. This chapter focuses on placemaking and on those physical features which shape the setting for life in the community. It addresses the building and site design, public spaces and landscapes, streetscapes, and other physical features.

Community Festival and Events:

Policy CC-1.1

Continue to support traditional and non-traditional community festivals and events that reflect the diversity, heritage, and cultural traditions of the community. Emphasize events that are important to Poulsbo’s history and heritage.

Arts Committee:

Policy CC-1.6

Explore the creation of an arts committee to review and make recommendations on public art, secure funding, and identify locations suitable for art installations.

Wayfinding:

Policy CC-2.2

Enhance the visual appeal of the city by developing a signage and wayfinding program that identifies Poulsbo, is cohesive throughout the city, and links the community’s resources to its citizens.

Downtown Poulsbo:

Policy CC-5.2

Preserve the existing eclectic character of Front Street with its individual small storefronts located at the sidewalk, street-facing building facades, awnings, unique design elements, and up to 35 feet height limit.

Historic Resources and Landmarks:

Policy CC-7.3

Incentivize the protection and conservation of designated historical, archaeological, and cultural sites and resources by allowing for adaptive reuse and providing incentives for historic preservation-