

# General Plan Structure

## Summary of the General Plan Elements



The State of California and the Los Angeles City Charter require that Los Angeles create and adopt a general plan. The City's General Plan is the constitution for all future developments and as such is the heart and foundation of the City's long-range vision for growth. The State requires that each jurisdiction's general plan include seven mandatory elements: Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Safety, and Noise, but communities may also include additional elements that are tailored to meet specific needs and concerns. While State law requires that the various plans be internally consistent, cities are free to select a distinct name for each element and are permitted to combine and/or disaggregate the individual components of the elements in a manner that is practical for the jurisdiction.

In Los Angeles, the General Plan is a comprehensive declaration of purposes, policies and programs that guide and establish the future form and development of the City. Adopted by the Planning Commission and approved by the City Council and the Mayor, the General Plan serves as a basis for decisions that affect all aspects of our everyday lives from where we live and work to how we move about. It is both a strategic and long term document, broad in scope and specific in nature. It is implemented by decisions that direct the allocation of public resources and that shape private development. The City's official General Plan description consists of:

- Framework Element (Adopted 1996)
- Land Use Element- divided into 35 Community Plans and two Special Purpose Districts (Adoption dates vary)
- Urban Form and Neighborhood Design Element (New- development pending)
- Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles (New Health and Wellness Element adoption expected in 2014)

### 10 technical elements intended to consolidate 23 disparate plans developed in the 1960s and '70s:

- Housing (Adopted 2014)
- Transportation (Adopted 1999, Bicycle Plan Chapter Adopted 2011, and updated adoption expected in 2014)
- Infrastructure Systems (various plans adopted 1968-72, update pending)
- Noise (Adopted 1999)
- Air Quality (Adopted 1992)
- Conservation (Adopted 2001)
- Open space (plan adopted 1973, update pending)
- Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources (plan adopted 1969, update pending)
- Safety (Adopted 1996)
- Public Facilities and Services (various plans adopted 1968-80, update pending)

For more information please visit:  
[planning.lacity.org/General Plan](http://planning.lacity.org/GeneralPlan)

Currently the City is updating the Transportation Element (renamed Mobility Plan 2035) and is adding a new Health and Wellness Element, the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles. In addition, updates to six community plans are in-progress and expected to be adopted in 2014. An update to the Boyle Heights Community Plan kicked off in October 2012.

The Department of City Planning is currently reviewing all of the General Plan elements and establishing a suggested schedule for updating those plans that are still pending as well as developing a sequence for updating other existing elements.

# Updates In-Progress

## Land Use Element

### Community Plans

The 35 Community Plans guide the physical development of neighborhoods by establishing the goals and policies for land use. While the General Plan sets out a long-range vision and guide to future development, the Community Plans provide the specific, neighborhood-level detail, relevant policies, and implementation strategies necessary to achieve the General Plan objectives. The Department is currently updating several of the plans (see plans in bold on next page), as part of an on-going program, to ensure that the plans effectively guide potential growth and development in the City's neighborhoods. The New Community Plans encourage sustainable residential, commercial and industrial development while maintaining the unique character of individual communities. The Plans focus on:

- integrating land use, infrastructure and transportation improvements
- directing growth to centers while preserving established residential neighborhoods
- creating healthier, more livable neighborhoods and economically viable business districts
- facilitating improved design of new and renovated structures and public spaces.

For information on each of the 35 plans please visit: [planning.lacity.org/](http://planning.lacity.org/) General Plan/Community Plan. For information on the plans that are currently being updated please visit: [planning.lacity.org/New Community Plans](http://planning.lacity.org/New%20Community%20Plans)

### Special Purpose Districts

- **The Port of Los Angeles Plan** - The Port of Los Angeles Plan, last adopted in 1991, is the official guide to the continued development and operation of the Port. The plan promotes an arrangement of land and water uses, circulation and services that will encourage and contribute to the economic, social and physical health, safety, welfare and convenience of the Port. The Plan also provides for additional public recreation facilities within the Port of Los Angeles consistent with sound and compatible port planning. The Plan is designed to be consistent with the Port Master Plan.
- **LAX Plan** - The LAX Plan is intended to promote an arrangement of airport uses that encourages and contributes to the modernization of the airport in an orderly and flexible manner within the context of the City and region. It establishes a framework for the development of facilities that promote the movement and processing of passengers and cargo within a safe and secure environment while continuing to serve as the region's principal international gateway. The LAX Plan is intended to also allow the airport to respond effectively to emerging new technologies, economic trends and functional needs. The plan was first adopted in 2004 and more recently amended in 2013. The plan can be found at: <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/complan/pdf/LAXCPTXT.PDF>.

## Land Use Element (35 Community Plans)

### North Valley Area

- Arleta-Pacoima (Adopted 1996)
- Chatsworth-Porter Ranch (Adopted 1993)
- **Granada Hills-Knollwood (Adopted 1996 and updated adoption expected 2014)**
- Mission Hills-Panorama City-North Hills (Adopted 1999)
- Northridge (Adopted 1998)
- Sun Valley-La Tuna Canyon (Adopted 1999)
- Sunland-Tujunga-Lake View Terrace-Shadow Hills- East La Tuna Canyon (Adopted 1997)
- **Sylmar (Adopted 1997 and updated adoption expected 2014)**

### South Valley Area

- Canoga Park-Winnetka Hills-West Hills (Adopted 1999)
- Encino-Tarzana (Adopted 1998)
- North Hollywood-Valley Village (Adopted 1996)
- Reseda- West Van Nuys (Adopted 1999)
- Sherman Oaks-Studio City-Toluca Lake-Cahuenga Pass (Adopted 1998)
- Van Nuys-North Sherman Oaks (Adopted 1998)

### West Los Angeles Area

- Bel-Air Beverly Crest (Adopted 1996)
- Brentwood-Pacific Palisades (Adopted 1998)
- Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey (Adopted 1997)
- Venice (Adopted 2000)
- West Los Angeles (Adopted 1999)
- Westchester-Playa Del Rey (Adopted 2004)
- Westwood (Adopted 1999)

### Central Area

- Central City (Adopted 2003)
- Central City North (Adopted 2000)
- Hollywood (Adopted 1988)
- Westlake (Adopted 1997)
- Wilshire (Adopted 2001)

### East Los Angeles Area

- **Boyle Heights (Adopted 1998, update initiated 2012)**
- Northeast Los Angeles (Adopted 1999)
- Silver Lake-Echo Park-Elysian Valley (Adopted 2004)

### South Los Angeles Area

- **South Los Angeles (Adopted 2000, updated adoption expected 2014)**
- **Southeast Los Angeles (Adopted 2000, updated adoption expected 2014)**
- **West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert (Adopted 1998, updated adoption expected 2014)**

### Harbor Area

- Harbor Gateway (Adopted 1995)
- **San Pedro (Adopted 1999, updated adoption expected 2014)**
- Wilmington-Harbor City (Adopted 1999)

\* Plans in bold are currently being updated.

## Housing Element

The Housing Element identifies the City's housing conditions and needs, establishes the goals, objectives, and policies that are the foundation of the City's housing and growth strategy, and provides an array of programs the City intends to implement to create sustainable, mixed-income neighborhoods across the City. Housing Element law requires that cities adequately plan to meet the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community. The number of housing units each community must plan and accommodate during the eight-year period is called the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation. The allocation takes housing affordability into account, by requiring that a percentage of units accommodate sufficient density to allow for affordable units. This update launched in the spring of 2012 is expected to be adopted early in 2014. More information about the Housing Element can be found at: [google.sites/losangeleshousingelement.com](http://google.sites/losangeleshousingelement.com).

## Mobility Plan 2035

The Mobility Plan 2035 (formerly the Transportation Element) is the transportation blueprint for the City of Los Angeles. Last updated in 1999, the Transportation Element is being revamped to reflect the policies and programs that will give Angelenos a full range of options to meet their mobility needs, including bicycling, carpooling, driving, transit, and walking. The Mobility Plan 2035 will lay the policy foundation for safe, accessible and enjoyable streets for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and vehicles alike. The update is a three-year effort that launched in 2011 and adoption is expected by the end of 2014. Detailed information about the Mobility Plan 2035 and the schedule are available at: [la2b.org](http://la2b.org).

## Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles

Initiated in the fall of 2012 as a result of a federal Community Transformation Grant (CTG) the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles will be a new element of the General Plan. It will establish City goals, objectives, policies, and programs that will raise the profile of healthy living (physical activity, healthy eating) and will expand institutional awareness of the opportunities to embed healthy choices into daily life and employment activities. Community outreach for this new plan began in the spring of 2013 and adoption is anticipated in late 2014. Please visit [healthyplan.la](http://healthyplan.la) for up to date information on the plan.



# Updates Pending

## Infrastructure Systems

Between 1968 and 1972 the City adopted five plans related to infrastructure as part of the General Plan at that time. These plans included:

- City-Owned Power Transmission Rights of Way (Adopted 1969)
- Power System (Adopted 1968)
- Sewerage (Adopted 1968)
- Water System (Adopted 1969)
- City-Collected Refuse Disposal (Adopted 1972)

When the Framework Element was adopted in 1996, the City identified a revised general plan structure that proposed to condense these five plans into a new element called Infrastructure Systems. While funding and staffing has not been made available to complete this new element, the City has continued to develop and implement long range infrastructure plans for solid resources waste management, energy, watershed protection, recycled water, and clean water management.

## Open Space

The City's Open Space Element was last adopted in 1973. While resources have not been available to allow for a full update, the City's Recreation and Parks Department did complete a Community-Wide Needs Assessment in 2009 that identified both needed improvements and community needs for additional recreation and park land. The Assessment provided a critical first step towards the Department of Recreation and Parks' development of a Citywide Recreation and Parks Master Plan and a Five-year Capital Improvement Plan and will also serve as the foundation for other long range planning initiatives.

## Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources

In 1969 the City adopted the Cultural and Historic Monuments Plan. In addition, the City Council approved a Cultural Heritage Master Plan in 2000 that was not incorporated into the General Plan. While a new Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources Element has not yet been initiated the Department's Office of Historic Resources has embarked on the City's first ever comprehensive historic survey. SurveyLA – the Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey is intended to identify significant historic resources throughout the city. Completion of this survey will prove to be a valuable planning tool and a building block for a future Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources Element.

## Public Facilities and Services

Between 1968 and 1980 the City adopted four plans related to public facilities and services as part of the General Plan. These plans included:

- Major Equestrian and Hiking Trails (Adopted 1968)
- Public Recreation (Adopted 1980)
- Public Libraries (Adopted 1968)
- Public Schools (Adopted 1968)

When the Framework Element was adopted in 1996 the City identified a revised general plan structure that proposed to condense these four plans into a new element called Public Facilities and Services. While resources have not been available to complete this element, a few activities that address some of the topics have taken place. This includes efforts by the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Board of Library Commissioners the Recreation and Parks Department and the Granada Hills and Sylmar Community Plan updates which include maps that identify existing equestrian trails as well as strategies to expand equestrian facilities to accommodate growing demand.

### Infrastructure Systems

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) Power Integrated Resource Plan (2010)

LADWP's Urban Water Management Plan (2010) and Water Supply Action Plan (2008)

Bureau of Sanitation's (BOS) Wastewater, Recycled Water and Stormwater Management Integrated Resources Plan (2006)

BOS's Water Quality Compliance Master Plan for Urban Runoff/Clean Stormwater/Urban Runoff Master Plan (2009)

BOS's Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan (2009)

### Open Space

Community-Wide Needs Assessment (2009)

### Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources

Cultural Heritage Master Plan (2000)

SurveyLA- Los Angeles Historic Resources Survey

### Public Facilities and Services

Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Major Capital Improvements Campaign (launched 2001)

LAUSD's 2008-2009 Planning and Development Branch Strategic Execution Plan (2008)

Public Libraries Strategic Plan 2007-2010 and Branch Facilities Plan (2007)

Community-Wide Needs Assessment (2009)

Granada Hills and Sylmar Community Plan Updates -equestrian maps and strategies (2013)