

Frequently Asked Questions

What is OurLA2040? OurLA2040 is an effort to update six citywide General Plan elements. The General Plan is the heart and foundation of the City's long range planning endeavors and serves as the basis for physical, economic, social, cultural, and environmental decision making. It affects all aspects of our everyday lives – from where we live and work to how we move about.

What is a General Plan? A General Plan is a comprehensive declaration of goals, objectives, policies, and programs that guide and establish the future form and development of the City. A General Plan typically plans for a future period of approximately 20-30 years and should be updated periodically. The State requires that the General Plan include seven mandatory topics, called Elements: Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Safety, and Noise. Cities may add, rename, or combine elements that are tailored to meet city needs and concerns.

Why does the city have a General Plan? The State of California and the Los Angeles City Charter require the City to create and adopt a General Plan. The General Plan is a document upon which the City bases its land use decisions and infrastructure investments.

How long will it take to update existing citywide General Plan elements into six new consolidated elements? The General Plan update process is estimated to take four years and will conclude in 2020. Please refer to the project website for regular updates and details on the timeline.

The city recently adopted three General Plan elements, will those elements also be updated?

The Housing Element 2013-2021 (adopted 12/3/13), Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles (adopted 4/1/15), and Mobility Plan 2035 (adopted 1/20/16) will not be revised as part of OurLA2040.

Where do Community Plans fit in with the General Plan? The City's 35 Community Plans, along with the two Special Purpose Districts (Port of Los Angeles, Los Angeles World Airports) comprise the City's General Plan Land Use Element. The City has embarked on a separate, but related, effort to update these plans.

What is the relationship between the citywide elements, the Community Plans, and the Zoning Code?

Citywide General Plan elements establish broad citywide policies across a variety of topics including where and how the city responds to and prepares for change. This overarching vision helps Community Plans establish much more local policies but most importantly, establish the land use and zoning for each parcel of land in the city. The zoning code establishes the variety of zones (intensity, variety of uses, design standards) available to each community plan to help them identify the appropriate zoning at the parcel level.

How does Re:Code, the city's current effort to update the zoning code, fit in with OurLA2040?

Re:Code is preparing a new zoning code that will enable the City apply more tailored zoning that responds to the needs of the community. The new code will be available for the upcoming Community Plans to use in their update efforts and to help implement the vision of the updated General Plan.

How can I participate?

OurLA2040 is considered a community document which captures a collective vision for the future of Los Angeles. Therefore, everyone's voice is important for this process. Current opportunities to get involved will be regularly posted on our website at www.ourla2040.org.



#ourla2040
ourla2040@lacity.org
Website: ourla2040.org



OurLA2040

Our City. Our Future. Our Plan.



DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING, CITYWIDE POLICY PLANNING DIVISION

Creating a shared vision for the future of Los Angeles.

The Department of City Planning is charged with the responsibility of preparing, maintaining, and implementing a General Plan to guide the City. The General Plan is the heart and foundation of the City's long range planning endeavors and serves as the basis for physical, economic, social, cultural, and environmental decision making.

For this first time in almost 50 years, the Department will comprehensively update its most vital planning document to better reflect the City's current values to form a shared vision of the future. Called OurLA2040, this effort is a collaborative and public-driven process to update significant portions of the City's General Plan into six new consolidated elements. Updating the General Plan will ensure that all Angelenos have the opportunity to shape our future together.



OurVoice

The General Plan is a community document which captures a collective vision for the future of our City. By bringing together the community's best ideas for solving problems and realizing opportunities, and by making deliberate, well-informed, well-thought out choices about how to direct resources and development in the future, we create the community we want. Therefore, the voice of every Angeleno is important for this process.



Residents across the city are speaking up by telling us what they value most about Los Angeles and what they envision for its future.

Join the conversation at:

www.ourla2040.org

where more opportunities to share your ideas will be posted.

OurLA2040: Timeline



OurLA2040 Content Overview:

The contents of the citywide General Plan elements that will be updated as part of **OurLA2040** will be divided into **six elements**. Each element will contain several chapters and associated topics.

Our Land Use and Economy

Where and how residents will live and work will largely depend on how we design and build our city. As we mature, we will need to plan for future changes and create potential for new economic opportunities while addressing equity throughout our city. Chapter topics will include: Demographics, Economy, Land Use, and Urban Form.

Our Resilience

We face major uncertainties, including the effects of climate change and potential natural disasters. Like other West Coast cities, Los Angeles is also at risk of a major earthquake. Reducing our vulnerability to these natural hazards with adaptive and responsive policies will make us a more resilient city. Chapter topics will include: Seismic and Geologic Disturbances, and Adapting to a Changing Climate.

Our Community Assets

Our historic and cultural assets are a source of pride and their diversity and scope are among our strengths as a city. The range of our assets also encompass our capacity to address our wide-ranging needs with reliable and high quality services and facilities that augment our well-being. Chapter topics will include: Community and Public Services, Historic Resources, and Cultural Resources.

Our Conservation

Moving towards a more sustainable future means balancing the negative effects of development with environmentally protective measures. This also includes ensuring all communities benefit from efforts to conserve our environment. Chapter topics will include: Energy, Pollutants, and Solid Waste.

Our Open Space

Open spaces play a vital role in enhancing our quality of life. Ensuring that we have equitable distribution, access, and meaningful connections between sufficient open space areas will ensure that we can enjoy their multiple and exponential benefits. Chapter topics will include: Parks and Recreation, Rivers and Beaches, Wildlands, and Connections.

Our Water

Our infrastructure, topology, and climate impact how we consume and source our water. Successful management of our water's lifecycle will help protect this valuable resource for current and future generations of Angelenos. Chapter topics will include: Potable Water, Stormwater and Watershed, and Wastewater.