

INTRODUCTION

From a stopping point for Shoshoni tribes, to early settlers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), to a farming community, Providence has had a long and rich history in Cache Valley. Since its establishment as a City in 1859, Providence has maintained its identity as an agrarian community. Forty years of rapid growth has brought with it the benefits and challenges of change for a small community. Providence recognizes the value and need for growth, while still seeking to provide the agrarian quality of life, character, and uniqueness long associated with the community. Having a vision for the City, coupled with the appropriate goals and strategies will provide Providence with the tools necessary to ensure future growth and the character of Providence are united, that both may occur without compromise of the other. This plan seeks to provide these guiding principles and to best manage the look, feel, and function of the City. These are designed to proactively anticipate and guide future changes and achieve the community's shared vision.

Preface

WHAT IS THE GENERAL PLAN?

The general plan is a comprehensive policy document that is used to help guide the City in its future growth and change. In broad terms, the General Plan aims to map and communicate Providence City's future based on a shared vision of the community.

The ideas in this General Plan provide a means to improve the community character and quality of life for residents, increase prosperity and business development opportunities, and address city goals within the context of the growing region and regional impacts outlined in the plan document.

WHY DO WE HAVE A GENERAL PLAN?

This General Plan functions in two roles for the City. First, this document updates and replaces the 2000 General Plan and ensures Providence meets the State requirements set by The State of Utah's Land Use Development and Management Act (LUDMA). Secondly, the Plan is an advisory document that provides a basis for informed future decision making. The General Plan encourages consistency by establishing a framework for decision-making both in the short term and long-term. The plan provides guidance to land owners, current and future business owners, and residents. An understanding of the long-term vision for the City is needed so people can make decisions regarding their land with confidence in understanding the parameters of planning policies and why they are in place. City leaders and citizens have stated that they wish to preserve the character of Providence. This Plan ensures that this can be achieved while still ensuring that landowners are able to exercise their development rights.



WHAT IS THE GENERAL PLAN ABOUT?

The plan covers the topics of land use, neighborhoods, transportation, economics, moderate income housing, environmental stewardship, and public services. Collectively these elements correlate in order to produce a collective vision for the future of Providence. Key Initiatives and a Design Framework Map are utilized to summarize the interconnected nature of the Plan's components, providing a succinct and easy to use 'quick-reference' for the overall goals and vision of the City.

THE GENERAL PLAN PROCESS

The previous General Plan was adopted by the City in the year 2000. There has been significant change and growth since that time, including the addition of Macey's grocery store and several new single-family and multi-family housing developments. The significance of the past 15+ years of progress, along with the expectation of future change, demands a General Plan update that analyzes these changes in the community. From there, the plan takes into account these changes to update goals, policies, and implementation measures to guide future development in the City. To guide the update process the City established a Steering Committee in 2017 consisting of representatives from City Staff, City Administration, City Council, and the public. The consultant team worked under the guidance of the Steering Committee and City staff.

THE BIG PICTURE?

This document contains two sections that function together to create a comprehensive General Plan. The first section of this Plan consists of the vision and key initiatives that provides the overall "Big Idea" for the direction of the City. The remaining chapters are the individual parts that allows the vision to be carried out. Community character can be difficult to define. It is the goal of these chapters to parse out what it is that gives Providence its unique qualities, and what can be done to enhance and preserve them through the many different elements that center around land use, transportation, and economics.

WHO WILL USE THE PLAN AND HOW?

It is the goal of the General Plan to provide an effective and easily understand document that may be utilized by anyone in the City, ranging from City staff appointed to make administrative and planning decisions, to concerned citizens, to land owners and developers. The general plan provides a means for aligning the efforts of different city departments, boards, commissions, and the council, toward achieving the overall vision for the City.

