



**City of Georgetown 2030 Comprehensive Plan
Chapter 5. - Appendices**

5. Appendices

GLOSSARY OF TERMS/DEFINITIONS

Amendment: A change in the wording, context, substance or a change in the district boundaries of the official plan.

Annexation: The act or process of adding land to a governmental unit, usually an incorporated place, by an ordinance, a court order, or other legal action.

Capital Improvements: A permanent addition to the city's physical assets including structures, infrastructure (sewer and water lines, streets), and other facilities such as parks and playgrounds. May include new construction, reconstruction or renovation that extends the useful life of these assets. The cost of land acquisition, design, construction, renovation, demolition, and equipment are all included when calculating capital expenditures.

Capital Improvements Program (CIP): A multi-year (usually 5-6 year period) scheduling of public physical improvements, based on studies of available fiscal resources.

Community-Based Planning: A planning method that allows communities to be responsible of planning, managing, and implementing developmental change with little, if any, intervention from governments, non-governmental organization, or other external actors.

Community Character: The distinguishing identity or elements of a place, neighborhood, or any other part of the city. See also "Sense of Place".

Community Facility: A non-commercial use established primarily for the benefit and service of the population of the community in which it is located. Shall include schools, police and fire protection, on-site pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the public right-of-way, etc.

Comprehensive Plan: Refers to a plan, or any portion thereof, as adopted by a local government, to manage the quantity, type, cost, location, timing, and quality of development and redevelopment in the community

Conservation Development: An innovative form of residential development that reduces lot sizes so as to set aside a substantial amount of the property as permanently protected open space.

Density: Gross: The average number of families, persons or housing units allocated per gross unit of land. Net – The maximum density permitted to be developed per unit of land after deducting any required open space, easements and publicly dedicated rights-of-way.

Development Pattern: The configuration or organization of the built environment.

Dwelling Unit: One or more rooms physically arranged to create a housekeeping establishment for occupancy by one family only.

Economic Development: A development that provides a service, produces a good, retails a commodity, or emerges in any other use or activity for the purpose of making financial gain.

Future Land Use Plan: The long-range plan for the desirable use of land in the city as officially adopted and as amended from time to time by the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council. The purpose of such plan includes serving as a guide in the zoning and progressive changes in the zoning of land and to meet the changing needs of the community, in the subdividing and use of undeveloped land, and in the acquisition of rights-of-way or sites for public purposes such as streets, parks, schools, and public buildings.

Goal: Refers to a concise but general statement of a community's aspirations in addressing a problem or an opportunity, in terms of a desired state or process toward which implementation programs are oriented.

Growth Management: A framework developed to address the provision of public facilities and services to support development.

Historic District: An area containing buildings or places in which historic events have occurred or which have special public value because of notable architectural or other features relating to the cultural or artistic heritage of the community which warrant conservation and preservation.

Historic Preservation: The adaptive use, conservation, protection, reconstruction, rehabilitation, restoration, or stabilization of an historic resource.

Household: A household includes all the persons who are current residents of a housing unit. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or a group of related or unrelated persons who share living arrangements.

Housing Unit: A house, an apartment, a mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms or a single room occupied as separate living quarters or, if vacant, intended for occupancy as separate living quarters.

Infrastructure: The basic facilities and equipment necessary for the effective functioning of the city, such as the means of providing water service, sewage disposal, electric and gas connections, and the street network.

Intensity: The degree to which land is used, generally measured by a combination of the type of land use and the amount of land devoted to that use.

Land Development Regulations: The city's regulations controlling the development of land, e.g., zoning, subdivision, building, etc.

Land Use: A description and classification of how land is occupied or utilized, e.g., residential, office, parks, industrial, commercial, etc.

Level of Service: The quality and quantity of existing and planned public services and facilities, rated against an established set of standards to compare actual or projected demand with the maximum capacity

of the public service or facility in question.

Lot: A parcel of land occupied or intended for occupancy by an individual use, including a principal structure and any ancillary/accessory structures.

Median Income: Income distribution that is divided into two exactly equal parts, one having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below the median. For households and families, the median income is based on the distribution of the total number of units including those with no income.

Mixed-Use: Refers to development projects or zoning classifications that provide for more than one use or purpose within a shared building or development area. Mixed-use allows the integration of commercial, retail, office, medium to high-density housing, and in some cases light industrial uses. These uses can be integrated either horizontally, or vertically in a single building or structure.

Objective: A clear and specific statement of planned results, derived from a goal, to be achieved within a stated time period.

Open Space: Land devoted to uses characterized by vegetative cover or water bodies, such as agricultural uses, pastures, meadows, parks, recreational areas, lawns, gardens, cemeteries, ponds, streams, etc.

Parcel: Any quantity of land and water capable of being described with such definiteness that its location and boundaries may be established and identified.

Platted Lot: A lot which is identified on a plat approved by the local government and duly recorded in the municipality's public records.

Policy: The specific approach through which objectives are achieved.

Public Land: Refers to land owned by the City of Georgetown, Williamson County, or any other governmental entity or agency thereof.

Public Transit: Public transport systems that consist of the means and equipment necessary for the movement of passengers.

Public Safety: The protection of the general population from all manner of significant danger, injury, damage, or harm, such as may occur in a natural disaster. Such protection is typically provided by emergency services organizations such as police, fire, EMS.

Redevelopment: Refers to public and/or private investment made to re-create the fabric of an area which is suffering from physical, social or economic problems related to the age, type, and condition of existing development. Redevelopment can help to meet market needs for residential and/or commercial development in older parts of the city.

Rezoning: Process by which the authorized uses of a property are changed or modified.

CITY OF GEORGETOWN HOME RULE CHARTER***Section 1.08. Comprehensive plan.***

(1) Purpose and Intent. It is the purpose and intent of this Article that the City Council establish comprehensive planning as a continuous and ongoing governmental function in order to promote and strengthen the existing role, processes and powers of the City of Georgetown to prepare, adopt and implement a comprehensive plan to guide, regulate, and manage the future development within the corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City to assure the most appropriate and beneficial use of land, water and other natural resources, consistent with the public interest. Through the process of comprehensive planning and the preparation, adoption and implementation of a comprehensive plan, the City intends to preserve, promote, protect and improve the public health, safety, comfort, order, appearance, convenience and general welfare; prevent the overcrowding of land and avoid undue concentration or diffusion of population or land uses; facilitate the adequate and efficient provision of transportation, water, wastewater, schools, parks, recreational facilities, housing and other facilities and services; and conserve, develop, utilize and protect natural resources.

It is further the intent of this Article that the adopted comprehensive plan shall have the legal status set forth herein, and that all public and private development should be in conformity with such adopted comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof.

(2) The Comprehensive Plan. The Council shall adopt by ordinance a revised comprehensive plan within two (2) years from the date the amended Charter is adopted, which shall constitute the master and general plan. The comprehensive plan shall contain the Council's policies for growth, development and beautification of the land within the corporate limits and the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City, or for geographic portions thereof including neighborhood, community or area-wide plans. The comprehensive plan should include but not be limited to:

- A. A future land-use element;
- B. A traffic circulation and public transit element;
- C. A wastewater, electric, solid waste, drainage and potable water element;
- D. A conservation and environmental resources element;
- E. A recreation and open space element;
- F. A housing element;
- G. A public services and facilities element, which shall include but not be limited to a capital improvement program;
- H. A public buildings and related facilities element;
- I. An economic element for commercial and industrial development and redevelopment;
- J. Health and human service element;
- K. Historic preservation element;
- L. Citizen participation element;

- M. Urban design element; and
- N. Public safety element.

The several elements of the comprehensive plan should be coordinated and be internally consistent. Each element should include policy recommendations for its implementation and should be implemented, in part, by the adoption and enforcement of appropriate land development regulations. The comprehensive plan shall be amended only once per year and revised not more than once every five (5) years unless such amendment or revision is adopted by a majority plus one of the City Council. An amendment is defined as a minor change in the plan. A revision is defined as a substantial change to the plan.

(3) Legal Effect of Comprehensive Plan. Upon adoption of a comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof by the City Council, all land development regulations, including zoning and map, subdivision regulations, roadway plan, all public improvements, public facilities, public utilities projects and all city regulatory actions relating to land use, subdivision and development approval, should be consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan, element or portion thereof.

(4) Legal Effect of Prior Comprehensive Plan. Any comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof adopted pursuant to law, but prior to the effective date of this Charter shall continue to have such force and effect as it had at the date of its adoption, until further action pursuant to this section is taken by the City Council.

(Res. No. 050603-B, 5-3-03; Amended by voters in the May 1994 General Election; Ord. No. 880170, Amend. No. 1, 5-10-88; Ord. No. 86-12, Amend. No. 3, 2-25-86)

This Section reserved for future elements.