

CITY OF PROSSER

COMPREHENSIVE

PLAN



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The City of Prosser Planning Staff would like to thank the following people for their contributions to the creation of this Comprehensive Plan:

The Citizens of Prosser

The Prosser City Council

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Ethan Stuckmayer

Greetings,

I am proud to be the Mayor of Prosser and prouder still to live, work, and recreate here. Prosser is more than a city, it is a family made up of business, Industry, tourists, and residents. This document represents the culmination of nearly 2 years of planning and thought and will be the guide for Prosser's growth for decades to come. It thoughtfully balances the needs, wishes, and requirements to successfully manage growth while protecting the character and cultural assets that we all love.

I would like to commend City of Prosser staff, partners, and elected officials who helped assemble this plan. I would especially like to thank the Prosser High School students and citizens that participated in the process.

I look forward to Prosser's continued growth and success.

Randy Taylor

Mayor of Prosser

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For ease of use, the Prosser Comprehensive Plan has been organized by topic into nine chapters. Each chapter can be viewed as a separate document and includes an introduction to the topic, background information, and a set of goals and policies that will guide the City in its decision making process as it strives to achieve its goal of ***providing dependable service to a safe, sustainable community of businesses, families, and neighbors with integrity, accountability and stewardship.***

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INTRODUCTION

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The City of Prosser Comprehensive Plan, is a legislative planning document that identifies the city's vision, goals, and policies relative to such matters as population, housing, streets, and resource use which is governed by the Washington State Growth Management Act. The Comprehensive plan is a guide and blueprint for growth and development over the next two decades.

The City of Prosser Planning Department created a Comprehensive Plan Development Team which was tasked with engaging the public in the update of the Comprehensive Plan. Planning staff used public meetings, surveys, and interviews to solicit input from the public during the process.

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

The comprehensive plan is the centerpiece of local planning and articulates a series of goals, objectives, policies, actions, and standards that are intended to guide day-to-day decisions be elected officials and local government staff.

Comprehensive planning is a process that determines community goals and aspirations in terms of community development. The outcome of comprehensive planning is the Comprehensive Plan which dictates public policy in terms of transportation, utilities, land use, recreation, and housing. Comprehensive plans typically encompass large geographical areas, a broad range of topics, and cover a long-term time horizon, usually 20 years.

HISTORY

Prosser was long home to Native Americans who lived and fished along the river. They called the area "Tap tut", meaning rapids.

Colonel William Farrand Prosser first surveyed the area in 1879, then claimed homestead in 1882. The Northern Pacific Railroad laid tracks through the area two years later. A town plat was filed by Colonel Prosser in 1885, and in 1886 he was elected Yakima County Auditor. He moved to North Yakima to attend to these duties, and never returned to the town that he founded.

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Lewis Hinzerling built a flour mill at Prosser falls in 1887, encouraging further settlement of the area. The first irrigation canal was completed in 1893 by the Prosser Falls Land and Irrigation Company. Prosser was officially incorporated in 1899 with a population of 229 people.

In 1905, Benton County was carved out of the eastern portions of Yakima and Klickitat Counties. The new town of Prosser was chosen as county seat. In 1907 a power plant was added and began delivering electricity to the town. The following year, a new high school was built, followed a year later by a telephone exchange. In 1910 the city received a grant from the Andrew Carnegie for a public library.



Throughout the 1910s and 1920s various companies drilled in this area for oil and natural gas. There were no large findings and the Great Depression put an end to exploration.

On November 5, 1912, Benton County voters held a referendum to move the county seat from Prosser to either Kennewick or Benton City. Intense rivalry and war of words between Benton City, Kennewick, and Prosser preceded the vote. Despite getting a majority of the vote, Kennewick did not receive 60 percent of the vote as required by law. To date, Prosser remains the county seat.



In 1919, Washington State College (later WSU) established the Irrigation Experiment Station at Prosser. The program's mandate is to study the problems faced by farmers, orchardists, and ranchers in the dry central part of the state. The station originally employed scientists from the college in Pullman, who partnered with scientists from the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The station is still currently in use, and offers a number of agricultural education programs.

Prosser at one point had three newspapers, which were consolidated in the 1920s into the Prosser Record-Bulletin, and a permanent courthouse was built in 1926. The Benton County Historical Museum was dedicated in 1968.



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In more recent years, Prosser's location on a major river (the Yakima) and highway access has encouraged a growing wine business and associated tourist industry. Several Prosser wineries are located within the Yakima Valley appellation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Comprehensive Plan Update Process included several public participation components. Planning staff conducted surveys, visioning forums, public hearings, and an open-door policy with which the public could share their ideas.

Throughout the process the various drafts of the plan have been posted online. Paid advertisements in the local paper were also used to notify the public and seek their input.

FUTURE GENERATIONS

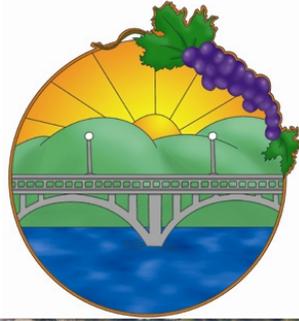
The development team recognized that the Comprehensive Plan would significantly impact upcoming generations of young people. Staff believed it was important to compile input of younger generations who will be working, recreating, and raising families in Prosser. Thanks to the support of the Prosser School District, Planning staff was able to work directly in classrooms to host a Visioning Workshop. This visioning workshop included a background of basic planning principles, the function of a Comprehensive Plan, and the

Approximately 60 Prosser High School students participated in the two-day, in-class visioning workshop.

value of public input. Students worked in groups to identify goals, policies, and services which were important to them.

The goals and policies that were identified as most important to the students are incorporated throughout this document and called out as featured text. These range from their desire to see more affordable housing options, to services and employment opportunities that currently do not exist.

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City of Prosser