



CITY OF PROSSER

Washington

601 7th Street
Prosser, WA 99350
(509)786-2332
Fax (509)786-3717
www.cityofprosser.com

PRESS RELEASE **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 18, 2019

Media Contact:

Steve Zetz, Planning and Economic Development Director

(509) 786-8212

szetz@ci.prosser.wa.us

Prosser Wins 2019 Governor's Smart Communities Award

On June 14th, Gov. Jay Inslee's office announced the winners of the 2019 Smart Communities Awards. 13 communities in all were recognized for outstanding achievements in growth management planning; Prosser being one of the 13.

The program, now in its 14th year, recognizes achievements by local leaders who promote smart growth planning and projects that contribute to thriving communities, a prosperous economy, and sustainable infrastructure in Washington. This year's honorees include the first winners in a new category focused on creative solutions to address affordable housing development.

Washington State Department of Commerce Director Dr. Lisa Brown said, "This year's Smart Communities Award Winners recognize that effective growth planning cultivates strong communities by supporting good jobs, affordable housing, reliable infrastructure and innovation for a clean, healthy future. These are some of the key attributes that give Washington its unique sense of place and quality of life."

In the category of Smart Vision, Prosser was awarded for their work on the 2018 Comprehensive Plan rewrite. It was a large undertaking, not only to satisfy the requirement for periodic update, but also to implement new approaches to old problems. Prosser has taken bold steps to address housing needs, new approaches to inclusionary housing, and innovative student engagement in the planning process. The judges recognized Prosser's broad public visioning process as an outstanding model for other communities, noting, "The visioning process, and resulting plan, were exceptional at simplifying zoning, addressing housing issues head-on, eliminating 20-year deed restrictions and creating incentive policies for housing."

Gov. Inslee said, "Creativity, collaboration and public engagement are key to ensuring that communities are successful in meeting future growth and prosperity goals. This year's award-winning plans and projects exemplify some of the reasons why Washington is consistently ranked one of the best states in America."

###