

◇ ◇ **CITY OF COLVILLE** ◇ ◇



**COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN**

Revised: December 2010

FACT SHEET

- Title:** City of Colville Comprehensive Plan
- Purpose:** The Comprehensive Plan Growth Management Plan was adopted in November 1997 to comply with RCW 36.70, 36.70A, 36.70B, and 36.70C. New legislation, ESSB 6427, adopted in 2006, provides a three-year extension of the due date for comprehensive plan updates for small and slow growing counties and cities; extending the deadline for Colville to the end of 2010. This document provides planning proposals into 2030, using population projections from the Office of Financial Management's October 2007 report.
- Proponents:** City of Colville
- Lead Agency:** City of Colville
- Responsible Official:** Mr. Jim Lapinski, Planning Director
City of Colville
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Colville, Washington 99114
- Authors/Contributors:** City of Colville Building & Planning Department Staff
- Public Workshops:** Multiple workshops were held in the summer and fall of 2009 to allow for ample opportunity for public participation. Each element was presented as proposed by staff, and changes to these elements were made based on input received from the general public and affected agencies.
- Time and Place of Public Hearings:** Public hearings were held before the Planning Commission in XXXXXXXX and City Council in XXXXXXXXXXXX, 20XX.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Colville Comprehensive Plan has been updated as required by Washington's Growth Management Act. The City of Colville has chosen to reflect their vision of the future and the process of managing growth that will be followed to achieve it; and, to define a coordinated approach to growth and development that will protect the quality of life enjoyed by all residents.

Although Colville is the largest city in Stevens County, it is a small city with limited resources. The community has worked to maintain and improve public facilities and encourage appropriate development, especially economic development that will support population growth. It is located in a beautiful, scenic agricultural valley, about 90 minutes north of Spokane. Many of the new residents are retirees, or are self-employed.

When Stevens County began to experience a growth boom in the early 1990s, the six incorporated cities joined together to urge the County to participate in growth management planning because the piecemeal rural development was threatening to overwhelm government's ability to provide basic services. The six cities joined together to form the Small Cities Consortium of Stevens County to develop new comprehensive plans and implementing ordinances to meet all the requirements of the Washington Growth Management Act of 1990 (GMA), as amended. This Comprehensive Plan is the result of that effort. The City of Colville has not experienced the growth expected when the original comprehensive plan was adopted. The new vision outlines the city's plan based on growth patterns within the last decade.

The Colville Plan includes information on the history of the City and a description of existing land uses, public facilities and services, housing, and natural resources. The focus of the plan, however, is the goals, policies, standards, and plan maps that will guide the City government's actions over the next twenty years. A brief description of the components of the plan follows.

Summary of the Plan

The Colville Comprehensive Plan contains an introduction, seven elements addressing the specific topics required by GMA, and a series of appendices. In addition, Colville has taken advantage of recent changes in state law and has integrated the evaluation of potential environmental impacts of growth into the Comprehensive Plan, so that mitigation measures are designed into the plan and implementing ordinances also. The purpose and contents of the plan are summarized below.

Chapter 1, the **Introduction** to the plan and planning process, provides a history of the Colville community, including population and employment trends. It describes the planning process used for the original plan adopted in 1997 and for the 2010 update. Summaries are included to demonstrate the plan's relationship to applicable State and Federal laws.

Chapter 2, the **Land Use Element**, describes existing development patterns and what land uses should go where in the future. Colville still has many historic buildings, but as the City continues to grow, substantial changes will occur in the appearance and functioning of the City. Although there is still vacant land in the City, much of it will be difficult to develop, due to steep slopes (to the north and east) or the presence of wetlands and flood hazard zones (in the Colville River valley). Recent annexations have provided some land to accommodate growth. The urban growth area, land that will eventually be annexed to the City, has been adjusted to more realistically depict future growth patterns.

As required by state law, the Land Use Element also describes the sensitive natural resources in the City. Sensitive resources that have been designated as Critical Areas include steep slopes, known habitat for threatened and endangered species, flood hazard areas, and wetlands. Policies to protect these resources are included in the Land Use Element.

Chapter 3, the **Capital Facilities and Utilities Element**, describes existing public and private infrastructure and services (water, sewer, electricity, library, general government, police, schools and fire) that are currently available and will need to expand to serve expected growth. Colville had undertaken an extensive effort to establish a process for identifying needed capital facility improvements and setting priorities among them. For those facilities and services that the City provides, the element sets standards for the level of service that the community will seek to maintain.

To accommodate future growth, the city has been evaluating the possibility of additional essential public facilities such as a new animal shelter and airport. Our Parks and Recreation Department and Library provide services to a population beyond our city limits, which will also require the expansion of these facilities.

Chapter 4, the **Housing Element**, describes the characteristics of the existing population (age, income, household size) and how that affects housing need. The element also identifies how these factors are likely to change over the next twenty years, and what the resulting changes in housing need and demand are likely to be. Colville expects to see an increasing population of retirees, and possibly some younger households as tourist-related businesses are established. As a result, there is likely to be a need for smaller and more affordable units, as well as housing designed for households with disabilities.

Colville expects to grow by XXXXX people (over XXXX percent) by the year 2030 (this plan should be adopted in 2010). The majority of the new housing will be single family homes, in keeping with trends of the past few years. Most of the new houses will be conventional stick-built housing, but some households are expected to live in manufactured housing. Multi-family units, apartments, duplexes, and condominiums are expected to increase over the course of this planning period. Colville housing is still affordable, but the prices have been increasing and are expected to continue to increase over the foreseeable future. The element contains policies to assist lower income households to find affordable housing in the community.

Chapter 5, the **Transportation Element**, which describes the existing transportation systems serving Colville and identifies improvements that will be needed to support growth. Highway 395 (US 395) runs through the City, connecting it to other urban areas and the region. The City also owns an airport offering general aviation service to businesses and residents. The city is currently exploring alternatives to expand or relocate the airport, to offer service to higher classification of aircraft for economic development. There is limited bus service, no rail service, and no water transportation, so most residents rely on the private automobile. Recent discussions have demonstrated the possibility of providing regional bus service between Spokane and Colville.

The City has completed a considerable amount of improvements to their main transportation corridors. This has significantly improved traffic circulation. This plan reflects the plan for future roadway extensions or expansion, to further accommodate growth. Most future improvements will likely be constructed as a part of new development, or will be the resurfacing of existing City streets.

Chapter 6 outlines the City's **Parks and Recreation Element**, new with this version of the plan.

Chapter 7 is the addition of a **Historic Preservation Element**, also included for the first time with this edition.

Chapter 8, the final chapter, addresses the **Annexation Element** and management of development in the Urban Growth Area (UGA) around Colville. The City will work with Stevens County, through the adopted Memorandum of Understanding, to promote urban development within the established UGA. The surrounding areas should be devoted primarily to resource industries and rural development. The City will consider petitions for annexation that accommodate urban development.

Colville hopes to maintain the quality of life and historic character of the community as growth occurs and to encourage new businesses to locate in the City so that young people do not have to move away to make a living.

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