



What is a General Plan?

Every City is required to have a General Plan. It provides a vision for a City's future and identifies the community's land use, transportation, environmental, economic, and social goals and policies as they relate to land use and development. The California Supreme Court called the General Plan the "constitution for future development."

The chapters of a General Plan are called "elements." State law requires that General Plans include seven mandatory elements.

- ❖ The **Land Use Element** is the basis for the City's Zoning Map. It indicates where the City's residential, commercial, industrial, and open space land uses should be located, and where other important features of the community should be placed, like schools and parks.
- ❖ The **Circulation Element** is the City's transportation plan. It outlines topics like how wide the roads should be; and where public transportation, bike lanes, and sidewalks are needed.
- ❖ The **Housing Element** is the plan for meeting the City's housing needs. It identifies what type of housing is required for the residents of Poway, as well as options for funding programs to provide the needed residential units.
- ❖ The **Conservation Element** describes how the City will protect and/or use natural resources in a sustainable manner, including water, air quality, energy, and biological resources such as plants and wildlife. It also respects cultural and historical resources that make a community unique.
- ❖ The **Open Space Element** details plans and measures for the long-range preservation and conservation of open-space lands, including open space for the preservation of natural resources, the managed production of resources (including agricultural lands), outdoor recreation, and public health and safety.
- ❖ The **Noise Element** identifies problems and bothersome noise sources in the City, such as from traffic and leaf blowers, and presents a plan to protect residents from excessive noise.
- ❖ The **Safety Element** is a plan to protect the City from the risks of natural and human made hazards like earthquakes, floods, and wildfires.

In addition to the seven mandatory elements, a City may choose to include additional elements to address specific issues that are important to its community.

- ❖ In Poway, these mandatory elements are divided amongst six master elements: Community Development, Public Facilities, Transportation, Resources, Public Safety, and Housing. Some of these master elements are further divided: Community Development includes Land Use and Community Design; Transportation includes Roadways, Public Transit, Bikeways, and Pedestrian Facilities; Resources includes Natural Resources, and Prehistoric and Historic Resources; and Public Safety includes Emergency Services and Hazard Management.

To review the City of Poway adopted General Plan, please visit poway.org/General-Plan.