

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Inter-Neighborhood Council

FROM: Chris Saunders, Community Development Manager

SUBJECT: Community Plan Technical Compliance Update

MEETING DATE: September 11, 2025

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Citizen Advisory Board/Commission

RECOMMENDATION: None

STRATEGIC PLAN: 1.2 Community Engagement: Broaden and deepen engagement of the community in city government, innovating methods for inviting input from the community and stakeholders.

BACKGROUND: The 2023 Legislature adopted a new legal framework for land use planning and regulation that applies to Bozeman and completely replaces the laws that governed earlier regulations. Bozeman must update and replace its regulations to comply with the Montana Land Use Planning Act ([MLUPA](#)), Title 76, Chapter 25 Montana Code Annotated. Bozeman’s land use plan and supporting issue plans address how the City of Bozeman maintains its essential systems, community priorities, how it intends to grow, the impacts of development, and various ways to mitigate impacts of additional development.

The City reviews and when necessary updates its land use plan every five years. The Bozeman Community Plan 2020 (BCP) was adopted in November 2020. It is the City's plan for land use and development. Normally we would be just getting started on a review of the plan at the end of 2025. One of the impacts of the adoption of MLUPA is a need to address additional areas of information and complete a review and revision to conform to the new law on a much quicker timeframe.

The City of Bozeman actively manages its infrastructure and assets. Bozeman has been planning for growth for decades as evidenced by the number and comprehensiveness of adopted issue plans referenced in each Growth Policy the City has adopted, including the Bozeman Community Plan 2020. Each plan contains analysis of existing and future needs. For detailed evaluation of each plan please consult the appropriate facility plan. Some facilities, such as transportation, address the demands placed by many thousands of daily commuters and of persons passing through the community as well as our residents. Others, like stormwater, primarily address needs by residents. A comparison of individual plans will therefore show differences in the size of

anticipated service populations now and in the future. Several issue plans have been updated since the adoption of the BCP. The technical edits to the BCP as part of the compliance update will update plan references, add new documents to meet changed data requirements, and refresh information found throughout the plan.

This special presentation will address the overall process and schedule for public awareness, identify some information on population trends, and share other related information. This is an introduction to the project and no final work has been completed. Public workshops were held on August 25th and 27th, and a special presentation was provided to the City Commission on August 26th. Dates, locations, and times are available at the [project website](https://engage.bozeman.net/community-plan), <https://engage.bozeman.net/community-plan>. Documents, frequently asked questions, drafts of the updated plan, and other materials will be posted there as the project progresses.

The need to update the Bozeman Community Plan in response to changes in state law was discussed during the Sept 17, 2024, City Commission meeting and at various public outreach events during the UDC supplemental public engagement fall 2024 and spring 2025. The City Commission approved the public engagement plan for this project on July 15, 2025.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None

ALTERNATIVES: None

FISCAL EFFECTS: None

Report compiled on: August 27, 2025