

Comprehensive Plan Goals & Policies

economic development

Goal ED 1: Develop a coordinated and collaborative economic development strategy that encourages, promotes and supports locally-owned businesses and creates a hospitable and attractive environment for businesses and tourists.

Goal ED 1, Policy 1.1: Actively work with other economic development focused organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Teton Valley Business Development Center, and other municipalities to create a coordinated and collaborative economic development strategy for Teton County.

Goal ED 1, Policy 1.2: Brand and market Teton Valley.

Goal ED 1, Policy 1.3: Encourage and support local commerce.

Goal ED 1, Policy 1.4: Encourage infrastructure development such as transportation and telecommunication facilities that are important for agriculture operations, businesses and visitors.

Goal ED 1, Policy 1.5: Improve existing educational facilities and develop diverse educational opportunities including post-secondary education via the internet, telecommuting and extension sites.

Goal ED 1, Policy 1.6: Encourage and pursue economic diversity, innovation and creativity to keep our economy stable.

Goal ED 1, Policy 1.7 : Support the expansion of recreational, cultural, and entertainment options that would improve the visitor experience and boost economic development.

Goal ED 1, Policy 1.8: Support the establishment of an economic development coordinator.

Goal ED 2: Preserve our rural character and heritage and promote local agricultural industries.

Goal ED 2, Policy 2.1: Encourage development and land use proposals that support prime economic values of rural character and heritage.

Goal ED 2, Policy 2.2: Promote local agricultural industries and businesses.

Goal ED 2, Policy 2.3: Promote smart growth strategies that help preserve rural character by enhancing existing communities and directing development towards them.

Goal ED 2, Policy 2.4: Encourage and attract businesses that are economically and environmentally friendly, and promote stewardship and accountability in business.

Goal ED 2, Policy 2.5 : Encourage development that adheres to environmental standards.

Goal ED 2, Policy 2.6: Encourage policies and resources which enable farms to adapt to changing paradigms.

Goal ED 3: Recognize that tourism and lifestyle are fundamental components of our economy and are dependent on healthy natural resources.

Goal ED 3, Policy 3.1: Encourage economic development through the promotion of recreational opportunities and natural resources.

Goal ED 3, Policy 3.2: Conserve Teton County's natural resources in order to enhance economic development.

Goal ED 4: Accommodate additional population by supporting development that is economically responsible to the County and the community.

Goal ED 4, Policy 4.1: Assess the public service requirements of new developments and weigh their off-site impacts against projected changes in revenue before approving new developments.

Goal ED 4, Policy 4.2: Support local retail by placing adequate residential density in close proximity to businesses.

- Goal ED 4, Policy 4.3: Consider the economic impact of supply and demand in residential development.
- Goal ED 4, Policy 4.4: Utilize a variety of regulatory and incentive-based tools to reduce density in sensitive areas and encourage density in areas where services exist.
- Goal ED 4, Policy 4.5: Limit commercial retail business to Driggs, Victor and Tetonia.
- Goal ED 4, Policy 4.6: Provide a variety of housing types that are accessible to a socially and economically diverse population.
- Goal ED 4, Policy 4.7: Encourage creative economic solutions such as live-work opportunities and appropriate home businesses.
- Goal ED 4, Policy 4.8: Encourage the development of low-density, high-quality neighborhoods adjacent to existing cities.
- Goal ED 4, Policy 4.9: Maintain rural areas that encourage farming and ranching and support low density residential development.

Goal ED 5: Support the development of a communications Master Plan.

- Goal ED 5, Policy 5.1: Identify corridors and policy for future communication lines and cellular towers appropriate to the surroundings.
- Goal ED 5, Policy 5.2: Support a plan that co-locates infrastructure that will serve multiple telecommunication providers.
- Goal ED 5, Policy 5.3: Communication infrastructure should be coordinated through the County and the Idaho Transportation Department, and conform to a Communications Master Plan.

Transportation

Goal T 1: Provide well-maintained transportation infrastructure including roads, paved pathways and sidewalks.

- Goal T 1, Policy 1.1: Improve the conditions and safety for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians of existing transportation infrastructure, especially roads important for agriculture.
- Goal T 1, Policy 1.2: Identify and implement financing mechanisms to pay for needed transportation maintenance and improvements.
- Goal T 1, Policy 1.3: New development will provide adequate transportation facilities to accommodate needed services.
- Goal T 1, Policy 1.4: Adopt a variety of design standards for all transportation infrastructure.
- Goal T 1, Policy 1.5: Provide/promote off-road transportation corridors to and from Public Lands suitable for both motorized and non-motorized vehicles.
- Goal T 1, Policy 1.6: Educate and inform the public regarding transportation goals, costs and benefits; road construction and maintenance; and plowing schedules and policies.
- Goal T 1, Policy 1.7: When key infrastructure (roads, bridges, pathways, etc) is damaged or destroyed by naturally occurring events, including deterioration due to age and use, it should be replaced within as short a timeframe as feasible to avoid disruption of service to the public.

Goal T 2: Create convenient, safe, timely, financially sustainable and efficient options for multi-modal* transportation that satisfies a multitude of needs.

- Goal T 2, Policy 2.1: Improve overall year round mobility within Teton County through options for multi-modal* transportation.
- Goal T 2, Policy 2.2: Identify and implement funding opportunities for multi-modal transportation options.
- Goal T 2, Policy 2.3: Explore opportunities and impacts for public transit for commuting, visiting and recreation.

- Goal T 2, Policy 2.4: Support START, TRPTA, ALLTRANS, Linx, Grand Targhee Local Shuttle and other public and privately funded transportation providers.
- Goal T 2, Policy 2.5: Support the improvement and development of park & ride facilities.
- Goal T 2, Policy 2.6: Support development that take into account higher fuel costs and limited availability of energy sources.
- Goal T 2, Policy 2.7: Conduct an Origin/Destination Study to research fiscal impact of traffic patterns.

Goal T 3: Provide a well-connected transportation network within Teton Valley and within the region.

- Goal T 3, Policy 3.1: Improve gateway and wayfinding signage information into and within Teton Valley and its cities.
- Goal T 3, Policy 3.2: Develop trails and pathways where appropriate to connect all communities within the County to adjacent communities, recreation areas and amenities.
- Goal T 3, Policy 3.3: Support development that is transit, pedestrian and bicycle friendly.
- Goal T 3, Policy 3.4: Promote connectivity through design of well-connected local street systems and pathways.
- Goal T 3, Policy 3.5: Identify major transportation corridors (existing or new) and preserve, maintain and develop them for future needs.
- Goal T 3, Policy 3.6: Identify alternate routes for inter-county commuting.
- Goal T 3, Policy 3.7: Seek out and seize opportunities to fund and build pathways.
- Goal T 3, Policy 3.8: Coordinate efforts with federal, state, and municipal governments as well as other local and regional organizations to develop a contiguous and interconnected transportation and pathways system.
- Goal T 3, Policy 3.9: Support local and regional public transportation options that would connect Teton County to tourist destinations such as Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park and Jackson, Wyoming.
- Goal T 3, Policy 3.10: Improve/increase intercity connections to and from Teton Valley.
- Goal T 3, Policy 3.11: In locations where a large number of structures are served by a single transportation route, the transportation infrastructure should be evaluated with consideration to the feasibility of providing residential and commercial properties with a secondary route for access and egress to facilitate timely and safe evacuations in the event of a natural disaster.
- Goal T 3, Policy 3.12: When key transportation routes and pathways cross into or link with routes in other political jurisdictions, a substantial “extra” effort shall be made to coordinate with the other jurisdictions in planning and maintaining the affected roadways and pathways so that residents do not suffer as a result of an uncoordinated failure to take timely action.

Goal T 4: Develop transportation appropriate for a rural community, respectful of the unique character of Teton Valley.

- Goal T 4, Policy 4.1 Establish review criteria and process for evaluating transportation improvements.
- Goal T 4, Policy 4.2 Encourage pedestrian connectivity in appropriate areas.
- Goal T 4, Policy 4.3 Coordinate and integrate land use and transportation planning and development to ensure that they mutually support overall community goals.
 - Policy 4.3.1 The County will plan its future transportation system to complement and encourage development patterns designated on the Framework Map.
- Goal T 4, Policy 4.4: Develop access management policies for future development (for both state highways and rural county roads).

Goal T 5: Support continued improvements to the Driggs Memorial Airport to support Teton County's aviation needs.

Goal T 5, Policy 5.1: Support implementation of the 2011 Driggs Memorial Airport Master Plan and updates, as adopted, to ensure that the airport can meet projected needs.
natural resources + outdoor recreation

Goal NROR 1: Conserve our public lands, trail systems, and natural resources (air, water, wildlife, fisheries, wetlands, dark skies, viewsheds, soundscape, soils, open space, native vegetation).

Goal NROR 1, Policy 1.1: Create benchmarks for monitoring and conserving natural resources.

Goal NROR 1, Policy 1.2: Conserve and enhance biodiversity and native ecosystems.

Goal NROR 1, Policy 1.3: Regularly update all natural and scenic resource inventories, to assess the incremental impacts of development on the resource and as a basis for regulatory amendments, as necessary.

Goal NROR 1, Policy 1.4: Work with municipalities and public water systems to ensure safe and adequate drinking water.

Goal NROR 1, Policy 1.5: Ensure adequate wastewater treatment.

Goal NROR 1, Policy 1.6: Encourage the conservation of high water quality in rivers and streams.

Goal NROR 2: Enhance and preserve access to public lands and recognize the need to accommodate different user groups in a way that minimizes user conflict and damage to natural resources.

Goal NROR 2, Policy 2.1: Maintain and improve existing public land and river access.

Goal NROR 2, Policy 2.2: Support the creation of new public land access when it's consistent with natural resource conservation goals.

Goal NROR 2, Policy 2.3: Support the creation of a County motorized and non-motorized summer and winter travel plan which includes access points.

Goal NROR 2, Policy 2.4: Consider and accommodate access for different user groups to minimize user conflict and resource damage.

Goal NROR 2, Policy 2.5: Seek cooperation of private landowners to improve accessibility to adjacent public lands.

Goal NROR 2, Policy 2.6: Work with state and federal agencies and private landowners to protect environmentally-sensitive areas from resource degradation.

Goal NROR 3: Provide and promote exceptional recreational opportunities for all types of users (including but not limited to biking, skiing, fishing, off-highway vehicle use, target practice, hunting, trail users, equestrians, boating, non-motorized flight) as a means for economic development and enhanced quality of life.

Goal NROR 3, Policy 3.1: Enhance and improve all-season access to public lands and waterways, except where necessary to protect areas from environmental degradation, negative impact to wildlife habitat, or to protect public safety.

Goal NROR 3, Policy 3.2: Recognize the need to accommodate different user groups in a way that minimizes user conflicts and resource damage.

Goal NROR 3, Policy 3.3: Support a diversity of recreation as a mechanism to bring together community and build acceptance of diverse lifestyles.

Goal NROR 3, Policy 3.4: Collaborate with Federal, State, and non-governmental agencies to improve recreational opportunities.

Goal NROR 3, Policy 3.5: Establish mechanisms for funding recreation improvements.
Opportunities may include:

Policy 3.5.1: Creation of a Recreation District which is revenue generating, job creating, and which is funded through such sources as user fees, program fees,

lodging taxes, grants, donations, voter-approved levies, household fees and other methods;

Policy 3.5.2: Grants; or

Policy 3.5.3: Trusts or endowments.

Goal NROR 4: Balance private property rights and protection of our natural resources.

Goal NROR 4, Policy 4.1: Ensure that development regulations balance natural resources protection, watershed protection and growth, are clear and predictable, and preserve the economic value of the land.

Goal NROR 5: Recognize, respect and/or mitigate natural hazards, including but not limited to flooding, earthquakes, landslides, radon and fires.

Goal NROR 5, Policy 5.1: Ensure that regulations minimize the detrimental effects of natural hazards and their inherent risks.

Goal NROR 5, Policy 5.2: Hazardous areas that present danger to life and property from flood, forest fire, steep slopes, erosion, unstable soil, subsidence or other hazards will be delineated, and development in such areas will be carefully controlled or prohibited by a rigorous building code and permitting process.

Goal NROR 5 Policy 5.3: Develop strategies to protect life and property from natural hazards.

Goal NROR 6: Promote natural resource protection by a variety of means including financial compensation for willing buyer/willing seller agreements that promote open space acquisition and land and water easements.

Goal NROR 6 Policy 6.1: Support the efforts of accredited land trusts and other entities to acquire land and easements for resource protection and community character considerations such as agricultural open space.

Goal NROR 6 Policy 6.2: Create new and sustainable funding options and incentives for the purpose of purchasing open space, rural lands and sensitive areas from willing sellers.

Goal NROR 6 Policy 6.3: Support and work actively to facilitate the transfer of ecologically sensitive and rural lands development rights to:

6.3.1: Conserve sensitive wildlife habitats (wildlife breeding, transitional and wintering habitats and movement corridors; riparian areas etc.);

6.3.2: Provide permanent protection of significant natural resources;

6.3.3: Increase the regional open space system and link other permanently protected public and private lands; and

6.3.4: Promote lower density development in the Rural Areas.

Goal NROR 6 Policy 6.4: Support and facilitate voluntary water transactions, water conservation strategies, and groundwater recharge strategies to:

6.4.1: Improve stream connectivity in key stream reaches during critical periods for native trout (e.g. spawning, rearing, and out-migration);

6.4.2: Maintain or increase agricultural water availability;

6.4.3: Maintain or increase aquifer recharge;

6.4.4: Minimize impacts of residential development on groundwater resources; and

6.4.5: Ensure sufficient water supply for current and future development needs.

Goal NROR 7: On public lands and accesses, balance recreation with protection of natural resources.

Goal NROR 7 Policy 7.1: Allow only low-impact activities in sensitive resource areas and higher impact activities in resource areas of less sensitivity.

Goal NROR 7 Policy 7.2: Consider seasonal use restrictions to protect natural resources while allowing access at appropriate times.

Goal NROR 7 Policy 7.3: Encourage siting structural improvements in areas that will result in the least amount of natural resource impact.

Goal NROR 8: Respect sensitive habitat and migration areas for wildlife.

Goal NROR 8 Policy 8.1: Teton County recognizes that wildlife and wildlife habitats provide economic, recreational, and environmental benefits for the residents and visitors of Teton County. Land development decisions will strongly weigh the needs of wildlife to protect the inherent values that they provide.

Goal NROR 8 Policy 8.2: Work with landowners, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, other state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other natural resources professionals to utilize wildlife habitat and species information and other tools (such as Western Governors Association Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool and the Wildlife Overlay Map), including new information as it becomes available, to make land use and site planning decisions.

Goal NROR 8 Policy 8.3: Minimize the cumulative impacts of development on wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Goal NROR 8 Policy 8.4: Protect and/or improve the diversity of native vegetation.

Goal NROR 8 Policy 8.5: Protect and improve riparian and aquatic habitats.

Goal NROR 8 Policy 8.6: A Wildlife Impact Mitigation Plan shall be developed for any development project which impacts an important habitat or which presents concerns of detrimental human-wildlife interaction. Requirements and performance standards for the mitigation plan shall be clearly established in the Zoning and/or Subdivision Ordinance and shall be the basis for approval of the plan.

Goal NROR 8 Policy 8.7: Provide incentives for voluntary habitat buffers, seasonal use restrictions, and aquatic connectivity along key drainages.

Goal NROR 8 Policy 8.8: Work collaboratively with other jurisdictions to preserve, enhance, restore and maintain undeveloped lands critical for providing ecosystem connections and buffers for joining significant ecosystems.

Goal NROR 8 Policy 8.9: Designate and map lands within or buffering Teton River Canyon as an irreplaceable natural area, and work with private landowners and government agencies to protect and conserve the area's ecological resources, including wintering big game and cutthroat trout.

community events + facilities

Goal CEF 1: Provide high-quality public and private services and facilities in a coordinated manner for the health, safety, and enjoyment of the community.

Goal CEF 1 Policy 1.1: Encourage locating new facilities in existing population centers to maximize efficiency and convenience and minimize costs.

Goal CEF 1 Policy 1.2: Develop Master Plans for Recreation, Community Facilities, and other Public Services that coordinate and include all providers and users.

Goal CEF 1 Policy 1.3: Encourage partnerships and working relationships with non-profit groups in order to expand services and facilities.

Goal CEF 1 Policy 1.4: Identify appropriate locations for new facilities in accordance with proposed master plans and build these new facilities when the demand and funding exist.

Goal CEF 1 Policy 1.5: Maintain a 20-year capital facilities program with 5 year reviews that sets priorities for constructing necessary facilities which are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Goal CEF 1 Policy 1.6: Identify acceptable Levels of Service (LOS), create LOS plans, and develop standards for measuring service delivery success for fire/EMS, law enforcement,

utilities/infrastructure, transportation, weed management, medical care, libraries, parks, solid waste, and recreational facilities.

Goal CEF 1 Policy 1.7: Require the burial of electrical and other facilities where feasible in order to preserve the County's scenic views.

Goal CEF 1 Policy 1.8: Maintain and improve outdoor lighting requirements that protect dark skies.

Goal CEF 2: Encourage the development and support of high-quality education facilities (primary, secondary and post-secondary) and diverse and affordable activities for all ages.

Goal CEF 2 Policy 2.1: Work with School District 401, private schools and non-profit organizations to encourage expansion and development of the pre-K through post secondary education system.

Goal CEF 2 Policy 2.2: Encourage the siting of new schools near existing neighborhood centers to promote walkability.

Goal CEF 2 Policy 2.3: Encourage the Idaho State Legislature to change the State educational allocation formula so as to provide adequate funding for public education.

Goal CEF 2 Policy 2.4: Provide incentives for new developments to create and/or enhance community amenities.

Goal CEF 2 Policy 2.5: Support the construction of a multi-use recreation facility or network of facilities (pool, gym, climbing wall, bowling alley, indoor riding arena, indoor shooting range, etc.) when financially feasible and in accordance with the Recreation Master Plan.

Goal CEF 2 Policy 2.6: Encourage expansion and development of community libraries.

Goal CEF 3: Encourage an environment that fosters community involvement.

Goal CEF 3 Policy 3.1: Find common ground by identifying shared values and priorities and acknowledging differences respectfully.

Goal CEF 3 Policy 3.2: Support events and activities that bring diverse segments of the community together.

Goal CEF 3 Policy 3.3: Encourage open communication among community organizations to minimize scheduling conflicts.

Goal CEF 4: Adequately fund existing and future public services and facilities.

Goal CEF 4 Policy 4.1: Seek funding options (e.g. Recreation District, grants, private donations) to develop and support affordable facilities and activities for all ages (e.g. Recreation Center, 4-H, etc.).

Goal CEF 4 Policy 4.2: Seek funding options to acquire land for future public services and facilities.

Goal CEF 4 Policy 4.3: Maintain up-to-date County impact fees which ensure that growth pays its fair share of the costs of necessary facilities and services.

Goal CEF 4 Policy 4.4: Support programs and partnerships that reduce costs for the County (e.g. recycling, co-locating facilities, and sharing resources).

Goal CEF 4 Policy 4.5: New development shall be approved only when adequate public facilities and services are available, or when necessary improvements will be made as part of the development project.

agriculture + rural heritage

Goal ARH 1: Preserve and enhance Teton Valley's small town feel, rural heritage and distinctive identity.

Goal ARH 1 Policy 1.1: Ensure that planned growth maintains Teton Valley's rural character.

Goal ARH 1 Policy 1.2: Encourage vacation of subdivision plats where appropriate and viable.

Goal ARH 1 Policy 1.3: Ensure that open spaces are managed responsibly.

- Goal ARH 1 Policy 1.4: Maintain the County's rural heritage through the scenic corridors.
- Goal ARH 1 Policy 1.5: Support the preservation of open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas.
- Goal ARH 1 Policy 1.6: Encourage higher density development in the cities of Driggs, Victor, and Tetonia.

Goal ARH 2: Balance property rights and rural character.

- Goal ARH 2 Policy 2.1: Develop a means to compensate private property owners for large parcels of open space that benefit the community. Funding options may include:
 - 2.1.1: Transfer of development rights program in cooperation with the cities of Victor, Driggs, and Tetonia;
 - 2.1.2: Acquire conservation easements through purchase, lease or voluntary donation;
 - 2.1.3: Establish a program to fund the acquisition of open space.
- Goal ARH 2 Policy 2.2: Provide a means for transfer of agricultural land to family members.
- Goal ARH 2 Policy 2.3: Incentivize maintaining or creating large parcels.

Goal ARH 3: Support and enhance agriculture and ranching.

- Goal ARH 3 Policy 3.1: Recognize the Right to Farm Act.
- Goal ARH 3 Policy 3.2: Improve and maintain roads important for agricultural production and transportation.
- Goal ARH 3 Policy 3.3: Support local food production outlets such as Farmer's Markets and encourage local agriculture production.

Goal ARH 4: Respect cultural heritage sites.

- Goal ARH 4 Policy 4.1: Sites and structures listed on State and National Registers of Historic Places or on the Idaho Historic Sites Inventory (IHSI) shall be included on the environmental checklist at the initial stages of a development project.
- Goal ARH 4 Policy 4.2: Work with private landowners to protect historic structures which are included in a historic registry adopted by the County.

Goal ARH 5: Reduce infestation/introduction of invasive species.

- Goal ARH 5 Policy 5.1: Support on-going efforts to map current noxious weed infestations.
- Goal ARH 5 Policy 5.2: Continue support of public education and outreach that target noxious weed identification, landowner control responsibilities under Idaho State Law, noxious weed management options and noxious weed management funding alternatives.
- Goal ARH 5 Policy 5.3: Continue to offer cost share assistance to willing landowners through the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's (ISDA's) noxious weed cost share grant program.
- Goal ARH 5 Policy 5.4: Support current county weed control enforcement policies to better report, police and enforce noxious weed violations under State Law in a fair, timely and consistent manner.
- Goal ARH 5 Policy 5.5: High priority will be given to managing invasive species that have, or potentially could have, a substantial impact on county resources, or that can reasonably be expected to be successfully controlled.
- Goal ARH 5 Policy 5.6: Address the cause of invasive species infestations and work to reduce initial outbreaks especially on disturbed lands.
- Goal ARH 5 Policy 5.7: Provide public education on appropriate uses of chemical weed control so that it is used in a way that is compatible with surrounding uses.