

ORDINANCE NO. 4977

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 4785 AND SET OUT IN CHAPTER 15.120 OF THE ELLENSBURG CITY CODE.

WHEREAS, as one of the cities in Kittitas County, the City of Ellensburg is required to adopt and regularly update a comprehensive plan pursuant to the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA); and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 4785, "Imagine Ellensburg 2037," as the official Comprehensive Plan for the City of Ellensburg, which was last amended by Ordinance No. 4946; and

WHEREAS, under the GMA and pursuant to Section 15.250.090 of the Ellensburg City Code, the City is authorized to amend its Comprehensive Plan on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 1997-10 and Ordinance No. 4116 as last amended by Ordinance No. 4929, establishing a policy and procedure for the annual review of proposals to amend the Comprehensive Plan, which are codified in Ellensburg City Code 15.250.090(D); and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2025 the City Council reviewed all of the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments for the 2025 annual amendment cycle and moved to docket proposed amendments 25-01, and 25-02.001-.308, and then forwarded the docketed amendments to the SEPA Responsible Official for SEPA review and to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation; and

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2025 the City Community Development Department provided the required 60-Day Notice of Intent to Adopt Comprehensive Plan Amendments to the Washington Department of Commerce, and the 60-day review period ends on December 28, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the SEPA Responsible Official reviewed a SEPA checklist and other information in the record and issued a Determination of Non-Significance on November 26, 2025 for docketed comprehensive plan amendments 25-01 and 25-02.001-.308, no comments were received during the SEPA comment period; and

WHEREAS, the Ellensburg City Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on November 13, 2025 and the Planning Commission approved a motion to recommend the City Council approve proposed amendments 25-01 and 25-02.001-.308 as presented.

WHEREAS, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing on the matter of adopting the docketed 2025 Comprehensive Plan amendments at its regular meeting on December 1, 2025.

Council entered into the public hearing record the agenda report with Exhibits 1 through 4, Ordinance 4977, Exhibits A and B, three corrected charts for Exhibit A, and a revised Chapter 9 draft as proposed by the DEI commission at the hearing. All were proposed and reviewed at Council's December 1, 2025 regular meeting prior to closing the public hearing, after which City Council determined it is in the best interests of the City of Ellensburg that proposed amendments 25-01 and 25-02.001-.308 be approved with modifications; and

WHEREAS, all portions of the City of Ellensburg 2017 Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan, "Imagine Ellensburg 2037," as subsequently amended, shall remain in full force and effect except as specifically amended herein;

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The recitals set forth above are hereby adopted as the findings of the City Council and are by this reference incorporated herein as if set forth in their entirety.

Section 2. That document attached to this ordinance as Exhibit "A" and entitled "2025 City of Ellensburg Capital Improvement Plans" which is included as part of the Comprehensive Plan is hereby amended to adopt and include docket amendment 25-01.

Section 3. That document attached to this ordinance as Exhibit "B" and entitled "Revised Chapter 9" which is included as part of the Comprehensive Plan, is hereby amended to adopt and include docket amendment 25-02.001-.308.

Section 4. All portions of the City of Ellensburg 2017 Comprehensive Plan, "Imagine Ellensburg 2037," as subsequently amended, shall remain in force and effect except as specifically amended herein.

Section 5. Severability. If any portion of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 6. Corrections. Upon the approval of the City Attorney, the City Clerk and the codifiers of this ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

Section 7. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect December 31, 2025.

The foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council this 15th day of December, 2025.


MAYOR

ATTEST:


CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


CITY ATTORNEY

Publish: 12-18-25

I, Beth Leader, City Clerk of said City, do hereby certify that Ordinance No. 4977 is a true and correct copy of said Ordinance of like number as the same was passed by said Council, and that Ordinance No. 4977 was published as required by law.


Beth Leader

APPENDIX A: 6-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

These 6-year Capital Improvement Plans are hereby incorporated by reference into the City of Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan as an Appendix to the Capital Facilities and Utilities Chapter. The Capital Improvement Plans will be reviewed and updated annually.

APPENDIX A

Table 23. Electric Utility Capital Improvement Plan

Electric CIP

Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032-2041
Capitol Projects							
Berry to Bull Rd Tie			\$ 200,000				
Canyon Rd I90 Crossing Reconnector (D2-1)			\$ 500,000				
Bowers Rd to Reecer Creek Extension (HE-2)					\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	
Feeder 15 Airport Rd to Bender (HE-1)					\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	
Mountain View Reconnector (D2-2)		\$ 750,000					
Sanders to Alder Tie (HE-3)				\$ 80,000			
Sanders to Brick Rd (HE-4)				\$ 175,000			
Anderson/Umptanum Rd Tie	\$ 150,000						
PSE Customer Annexations - Vantage Hwy	\$ 150,000						
Gateway II		\$ 250,000					
AMI Conversion	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,350,000					
SR97 / Highway 10 Loop	\$ 300,000						
Street Lighting Laminated / Fiberglass Pole Replacement/ Misc. Lighting Upgrades	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	
Seattle (Willow To Vista View Plat) Extension	\$ 70,000						
Rotary Park Solar Expansion and EV Install	\$ 650,000						
Radio Road Conversion					\$ 180,000		
Substation Improvements							
Sub Land Purchase	\$ 700,000						
D1 Dolarway Substation Improvement	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 500,000					
Annual Total	\$ 6,570,000	\$ 3,900,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 305,000	\$ 630,000	\$ 450,000	
Grand total	\$12,605,000						

Table 24. Information Technology Capital Improvement Plan

Information Technology Capital Improvement Plan						
2026-2031						
Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) Software	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 150,000			
Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Software	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000			
Esri Enterprise Agreement	\$ 31,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000
Microsoft Enterprise Agreement	\$ 140,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000
Virtual Machine (VM) Host Server	\$ 50,000					
Total	\$ 771,000	\$ 731,000	\$ 845,000	\$ 195,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,992,000					

Table 25. Telecommunications Utility Capital Improvement Plan

Telecommunications Utility Capital Improvement Plan						
2026-2031						
Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Telecom Strategic Plan						
Plan Updates (every 3 years)		\$20,000			\$20,000	
System Improvements						
Hardware Refreshment	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$100,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Outdoor Plant Improvements	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000	\$48,000
Telecom Connections	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Telecom Infrastructure	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Line Extensions						
Commercial Customers	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Total	\$153,000	\$173,000	\$228,000	\$153,000	\$173,000	\$153,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,033,000					

APPENDIX A
Table 26. Natural Gas Utility Capital Improvement Plan
Natural Gas CIP

Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Gas System Planning & Programs						
System Plan Update (every 6 years)	\$120,000					
DIMP Program	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
PSMS Program	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Public Awareness Program	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
System Improvements						
No 6 Road / Vantage Hwy Loop		\$600,000				
Misc System Integrity Looping	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Vantage Highway (Gateway II)		\$350,000				
SR97 / Highway 10 Loop	\$500,000					
Pipe Boring under Roads and Creeks	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Misc System Improvements	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$160,000
Sustainability Improvements						
Emission Mitigation Equipment		\$40,000				
Leak Detection Equipment Upgrades				\$60,000	\$80,000	
Tap/Regulator Station Upgrades						
System Telemetry Upgrades	\$20,000		\$20,000		\$25,000	
Tap Station Land Acquisition	\$120,000					
Kittitas Tap Station Site Improvements		\$450,000				
Seattle Gate Station Site Improvements			\$20,000			
Cathodic Protection System Improvements						
Anode Bed Replacements		\$180,000				
Steel System Analysis/Work		\$60,000				
High Pressure Main CP Enhancements			\$80,000			
Cathodic Protection (CP) System Study						\$80,000
Cathodic Protection Close Interval Survey						\$25,000
Meter/ERT Upgrades/Improvements						
Meter Proving/Refurbish	\$40,000	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$25,000
Meter/ERT Change-Outs	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
AMI Conversion		\$800,000				
Developments						
Misc System Developments	\$150,000	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$220,000
	\$1,420,000	\$3,150,000	\$800,000	\$745,000	\$825,000	\$790,000

Grand total

\$7,730,000

APPENDIX A

Table 27. Sewer Capital Improvement Plan

Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032-2042
Collection System Repair and Replacement (includes CIP)	\$400,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$2,500,000
Sewer Main Oversizing	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$500,000
Sewer Main Extensions	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$500,000
Wenas St Sewer Extension (Remove Cora Street Lift Station)	\$500,000	\$2,500,000					

Table 28. Storm Water Capital Improvement Plan

Storm Water CIP							
Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032-2042
Effectiveness Monitoring	\$ 74,073	\$ 92,039	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Street Tree Inventory and Assessment	\$80,000	\$0	0	0	0	0	0
Annual Stormwater Project (Varies)	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 750,000
University Avenue Gateway II Project (Vista Rd. to E. Cl.)		\$ 4,900,000					
	\$ 229,073	\$ 5,067,039	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 750,000
Grand Total	\$ 5,596,112						

Table 29. Wastewater Treatment Facility Capital Improvement Plan

Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032-2042
Additional Aerator in each basin/MCC Upgrades	\$1,000,000						
Additional (3rd) Clarifier and Associated Piping			\$2,358,000	\$10,371,000	\$10,371,000		
RAS Building Improvements	\$1,600,000	\$1,600,000					
Grit Classifier and Grit Pumps		\$165,000	\$1,435,000				
New Aeration System/Blower Upgrade						\$5,265,000	\$46,335,000
Headworks Improvements with New Grit and Screening Equipment				\$894,000	\$7,906,000		
Replacement of Sludge Collection Mechanism of Two Existing Secondary Clarifiers							\$13,700,000
Influent Pump Station and One Manhole							\$16,700,000
UV Disinfection Replacement and Addition							\$4,400,000
Digester MCCs Replacement							\$1,800,000
Rebuild Clarifiers			\$1,700,000				

Table 30. Transportation Capital Improvement Plan

EXHIBIT A

CITY OF ELLENSBURG		PUBLIC HEARING DATE:		6/16/2025						
6-YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN		ADOPTION DATE:		6/16/2025						
2026 TO 2031 (INCLUDES CURRENT WORK REMAINING IN 2025)		RESOLUTION NO.		2025-12						
REVENUE BY YEAR (thousands)		2025*	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	TOTALS	
ARTERIAL STREET		199	133	111	45	345	45	119	2,243	
REGIONAL STBG		315	1,995	0	0	2,500	0	750	2,627	
SALES TAX RESERVE		100	0	925	100	675	1,055	500	4,743	
FEDERAL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL & PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE GRANTS		0	0	202	1,370	4,330	1,550	250	5,202	
WSDOT SAFETY PROGRAM		0	0	1,800	2,550	4,690	0	0	6,050	
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT BOARD (TIB) - Grant Programs		0	943	2,872	850	0	6,975	2,800	11,953	
DISTRESSED COUNTY SALES/USE TAX		0	144	0	0	135	609	0	887	
1/4 CENT REAL ESTATE EXCISE TAX		0	0	812	152	750	361	147	2,597	
TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAMS		0	0	0	0	0	475	0	825	
DOE FISCAL YEAR WATER QUALITY GRANT		465	0	4,285	0	0	0	0	4,250	
COUNTY LODGING TAX GRANT		0	0	0	0	0	0	67	67	
LOCAL LODGING TAX FUNDS		0	0	0	0	0	0	66	66	
TRANSIT		813	679	1,601	991	126	126	126	915	
OTHER AGENCY OR CITY DEPARTMENT		3,500	100	3,275	6,448	500	4,900	309	5,613	
LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (LID) / DEFERRALS		0	0	2,000	0	4,005	695	8,200	17,740	
TRAFFIC IMPACT FEES		0	606	1,804	1,325	250	990	480	5,748	
NOT FUNDED		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL REVENUE		5,392	4,600	19,887	13,831	18,306	17,781	13,814	71,529	
EXPENDITURES BY YEAR (thousands)		2025*	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Future	TOTALS
Funding (S/P)	1 S/P Bridge Inspections	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	35
	2 S/P Engineering Transfer	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	0	105
	3 S/P Signal Optimization	10	10	25	25	25	25	25	0	175
	4 P Alley Reconstruction (Semi-Annual)	0	0	90	0	0	0	100	0	350
	5 S/P Transit Stop Upgrades (Shelter & Amenities, ADA Upgrades, Lighting, Art Glass)	282	116	116	116	116	116	116	0	526
	6 S/P Transit Service Connection Improvements (Active Transportation, Stop Impr)	0	135	135	10	10	10	10	0	1,540
	7 S Mountain View Ave and Bull Rd/Willow St Intersection Enhancements	75	750	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,251
	8 S/P Helena Ave Imp (Water St to 3200' west Cora Connection, portion in KC jurisdiction)	450	650	6,540	0	0	0	0	0	170
	9 S Water St Overlay (Main St to Bender Rd)	3,576	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	360
	10 S University Way Bridge Repair over BNSF	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,017
	11 S/P University Way Gateway II - Vista Rd to east City Limits	515	100	5,125	0	0	0	0	0	200
	12 S Vanlage Highway Shared Use Pathway	325	1,993	0	0	0	0	0	0	825
	13 S 3rd Ave, Paverstone Pathway and Historic Lighting	38	826	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,900
	14 P Capitol Ave Sidewalk Replacement - Main St. to Sampson St.	0	0	0	110	0	120	130	0	6,150
	15 P Canyon Rd Overlay - Berry Rd to Mountain View Ave	0	0	1,700	0	0	0	0	0	340
	16 P Alder St Sidewalk - One Side - 3rd Ave to Craig Ave	0	0	80	0	100	0	0	0	1,416
	17 P 1st Ave Sidewalk Improvements - Ruby St. to Sampson St. - North Side	0	0	234	0	0	0	0	0	3,041
	18 P Anderson Rd and Umplatum Rd Intersection Enhancements	0	0	1,252	0	0	0	0	0	280
	19 P Add Transit Signal Priority	0	0	350	0	0	0	0	0	180
	20 P Mountain View Ave and Ruby St Intersection Enhancements and Widening	0	0	2,920	0	0	0	0	0	234
	21 P Ruby St Corridor Improvements - Manitoba to University Way	0	0	1,100	5,940	0	0	0	0	804
	22 P University Way Overlay - Cle Elum St to east City Limits	0	0	0	2,215	0	0	0	0	2,215
	23 P Wildcat Way and 18th Intersection Enhancements	0	0	0	756	0	0	0	0	755
	24 P University Way and Water Street Intersection Enhancements and Widening	0	0	0	3,270	0	0	0	0	1,252
	25 P Bender Rd / Sanders Rd Corridor Improvements (Whiskey Creek to Alder St)	0	0	0	1,370	8,020	0	0	0	3,270
	26 P Walnut St and 18th Bike Lane - Dean Nicholson to Alder St	0	0	0	0	150	0	0	0	2,920
	27 P Anderson Rd Sidewalk Improvements - Umplatum to 5th Ave	0	0	0	0	4,300	0	0	0	150
	28 P Umplatum Shared Use Pathway - Wilson Cr to IRRP	0	0	0	0	2,100	0	0	0	1,550
	29 P Industrial Way Improvements - LID	0	0	0	0	1,280	0	0	0	4,300
	30 P Palouse to Cascades Reconnect Trail - Sanders to Bowers to Helena Ave/PTC	0	0	0	0	2185	7,805	0	0	2,100
	31 P Canyon Rd and Umplatum Rd Intersection Enhancements and Widening	0	0	0	0	0	3,390	0	0	2,040
	32 P Capitol Ave. Sidewalk Improvements - Willow St. to Oak St.	0	0	0	0	0	1,525	0	0	1,280
	33 P Airport Rd Sidewalk Improvements - Dean Nicholson to N. City Limits	0	0	0	0	0	1,170	0	0	3,390
	34 P City to Canyon Trail - Umplatum Rd to Tjossem Rd	0	0	0	0	0	3,600	0	0	810
	35 P Large Scale Wayfinding Implementation Project	0	0	0	0	0	0	133	0	1,525
	36 P 14th Ave & Wildcat Way Corridor Ped/Bike Impr. - Water St to University Way	0	0	0	0	0	0	480	0	1,170
	37 P Mountain View Overlay - Canyon to Willow	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,500	0	3,600
	38 P Helena Ave Extension - PTC Trail to Dry Cr Rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,100	0	890
	39 P Cora Street Ext - PTC Trail to Bender Rd (portion in KC jurisdiction)	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,200	0	133
	40 P Chestnut St and Walnut St Bike and Ped Improvements								263	480
	41 P Transit Service Connection Improvements (Active Transportation, Stop Impr)								300	1,500
	42 P Downtown Transit Bus Hub Improvements								1,000	4,100
	43 P Alternative Fuel (Electric/Hydrogen/Propane) Transit Bus Infrastructure Support								3,500	7,200
	44 P Transit Service Connection Improvements (Active Transportation, Stop Impr)								250	263
	45 P 8th Ave LID (University Way to Maple St)								1,061	1,061
	46 P Trail Connection - 5th Ave to University Way (near CWU)								250	250
	47 P 5th and Ruby Intersection Enhancements and Widening								741	741
	48 P 3rd Ave and Ruby St Intersection Enhancements								890	7,310
	49 P Anderson/Umplatum/Railroad Ave. Road Widening/Overlay								7,310	740
	50 P Helena Ave and Walnut St Intersection Enhancements and Widening								740	4,200
	51 P Circle the City Trail - Enterprise Way to Faust Rd								4,200	1,450
	52 P Main St Sidewalk Improvements - University Way to 14th Ave								1,450	936
	53 P Helena Ave and Water St Intersection Enhancements and Widening									936
	54 P Manitoba Ave and Ruby St Intersection Enhancements and Realignment								1,332	1,555

APPENDIX A

Table 30. Transportation Capital Improvement Plans Continued.

55	P	University Way and Alder St Intersection Enhancements and Widening								1,558	2,750
56	P	Currier Creek Pathway - Univ. Way to Reecer Cr Rd to Currier Cr to PTC								2,750	3,338
57	P	University Way and Main St Intersection Enhancements and Widening								3,338	966
58	P	Water St and Bender Rd Intersection Enhancements								966	1,008
59	P	Airport Rd and Bender Rd Intersection Enhancements								1,008	672
60	P	Capitol Ave and Chestnut St Intersection Enhancements								672	540
61	P	Canyon Rd Sidewalk - 190 to Berry Rd to Existing Sidewalk on Berry Rd								540	665
62	P	Sanders Rd and Alder St Intersection Enhancements								665	524
63	P	Capitol Ave and Willow St Intersection Enhancements								524	432
64	P	15th Ave and Cora St Intersection Enhancements								432	720
65	P	18th Ave and Alder St Intersection Enhancements								720	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			5,392	4,600	19,687	13,832	18,306	17,781	13,814	37,396	102,985
ARTERIAL STREET FUND BEGINNING BALANCE (01/01/2025))			400	321	308	317	392	167	242		
EST. GAS TAX REVENUE & SCHEDULED SALES TAX TRANSFER			120	120	120	120	120	120	120		
ARTERIAL STREET FUND ENDING BALANCE			321	308	317	392	167	242	243		

*Current year projects shown for accounting purposes.

**TIP plans calls for road widening/impr. projects to be funded from Sales Tax Reserve, to replace the Federal STP funding which is now shown for potential asphalt overlay funding.
(Average annual need to overlay the arterial street system on a 15 year cycle is in excess of \$1,380,500 per year.)

Table 31. Water Capital Improvement Plan

Water CIP							
Project	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032-2042
Reservoir Property Acquisition	\$ 750,000						
Craig's Hill Reservoir Seismic Study and Retrofit	\$ 50,000		\$ 180,000				
Pfenning Loop					\$ 274,000		
Airport Well 3 and 1824 Zone Connector						\$ 160,000	
Annual Water Main Replacement Program	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 3,000,000
Seattle Ave. Main Extension	\$ 323,000						
24-inch Main Inspection	\$ 25,000						
24-inch Valve Rehabilitate	\$ 40,000						
New 1860 Pressure Zone				\$ 2,500,000	\$ 1,840,000		
New 4.0 MG 1824 Zone Reservoir				\$ 4,745,000	\$ 4,745,000		
Reservoir Corrosion Control Program	\$ 230,000						
Permanent On-Site Well Backup Generators	\$ 550,000		\$ 550,000		\$ 550,000		\$ 1,200,000
Recoat Reservoirs			\$ 825,000				\$ 825,000
AMI Conversion			\$ 500,000				
Pressure Reducing Valve							\$ 81,000
New Well(s)	\$ 50,000	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,500,000				
Water System Plan Update							\$ 300,000
Rotary Park Irrigation	\$ 750,000						
Oversizing Fund	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 520
Pipe Replacement Fund	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 120,000	\$ 1,320,000
Meter Testing	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 455,000
Pump and Motor Inspection/Repair	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 416,000
	\$ 3,298,000	\$ 3,530,000	\$ 6,095,000	\$ 7,785,000	\$ 7,959,000	\$ 710,000	\$ 7,597,520
Grand Total	\$36,974,520						



CHAPTER 9 ACCESS, ENGAGEMENT, & BELONGING

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS CHAPTER

- **Background information and context related to local history, current events, and plans for the future, addressing the City's efforts to ensure residents can participate fully and access opportunities without unnecessary barriers.**
- **Policies that seek to make City resources more accessible to all.**
- **Policies that direct the City's efforts towards encouraging welcoming and inclusive environments within the Community.**
- **Policies intended to foster a community environment, where people from all backgrounds experience a sense of belonging.**

OVERVIEW

This chapter contains goals, policies, and programs that define how the City of Ellensburg can play a role in fostering an environment of understanding, access, and belonging within the community. It recognizes that not all community members experience the city in the same way, and that some face barriers that make it harder to access information, services, or opportunities. The intent of this chapter is to identify ways the City can understand and reduce those barriers, strengthen community connections, and support a sense of belonging for everyone who lives here.

This document is a starting point for the City. There are likely many issues not yet articulated that can be addressed later as they are identified. This chapter is a living document; it is intended to be revisited and revised periodically. The focus is on listening, improving access, and ensuring that people of all backgrounds and identities can engage meaningfully in Ellensburg community life, regardless of background and experiences.

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The City of Ellensburg is committed to creating a community with a lived and built environment that improves lives, supports all people, and provides residents with opportunities to flourish. Creating a community where people can thrive requires paying attention to the lived experiences of those who may encounter obstacles—whether physical, social, economic, or cultural—that impact their ability to navigate daily life or engage with local government. Doing so can help create a thriving local economy, retain our residents and attract new ones, and foster an environment where individuals can achieve their full potential.

In recent years, national and local conversations have highlighted the importance of understanding how different groups in our community experience Ellensburg. In 2020, many residents shared that certain challenges or barriers affect their ability to access opportunities, feel safe, or feel like they belong. These conversations highlighted the need for the city to be intentional about listening to residents, understanding where barriers exist, and working toward solutions that foster participation, fairness, and a sense of belonging for all who live here. The goal of this chapter is to identify ways the City can recognize and address these barriers, and strengthen community connection by consistently listening to residents, responding to concerns, and supporting practices that help all people feel welcomed and included in Ellensburg's civic, social, and economic life.

Why this matters in Ellensburg

Ellensburg is home to residents with a wide range of life experiences, identities, cultural backgrounds, abilities, and circumstances. Not everyone moves through our community with the same level of ease or access, and some residents encounter challenges that others may never see. When the City understands these differences and plans with them in mind, it helps ensure that public services, facilities, and community spaces are welcoming, functional, and safe for everyone.

Paying attention to where people may face barriers, whether physical, social, economic, cultural, linguistic, or informational, allows the City to identify gaps early and respond in ways that strengthen trust and connection. When residents feel seen, valued, and able to participate fully in community life, the whole city benefits. This approach supports a healthy civic environment, fosters stronger neighborhoods, and contributes to a resilient local economy.

The purpose of this chapter is to guide the City in proactively recognizing where barriers may exist, listening to community experiences, and continually improving how we engage with and serve the public. By building a community where all residents can participate and feel a sense of belonging, Ellensburg positions itself to grow in a way that is inclusive, collaborative, and forward-looking.

Fostering a sense of belonging

Creating a community where everyone feels they belong requires us to pay attention to the experiences of residents who may not always feel fully seen or heard. When we make space for voices that have been, or continue to be, overlooked, we build trust, strengthen connection, and help ensure that the future we shape reflects the needs and hopes of all who live here. It is important for the City of Ellensburg to acknowledge and embrace the range of differences present within our community. Doing so will help to build a strong foundation of understanding and a heightened awareness of the unintended impact of current policies or ways of engaging residents. The City seeks to promote new ways of sharing space with others, sharing traditions, foods, and stories. In doing so, the City of Ellensburg can support a strengthened sense of community and connection through outreach, regular events, and creating spaces accessible to all.

To support all residents, the City will continue to work on goals and policies that actively recruit participation and involvement from all residents within the community, foster a sense of belonging, and engage those who experience barriers to social and cultural participation. These methods can include listening tours, surveys, discussion groups, and use of a variety of media and print publications designed to be accessible to all residents. Creating and supporting goals and policies that meet the community members where they are will help to remove the barriers that make accessing or engaging with basic community services challenging. Increasing accessibility to important resources and opportunities that best meet residents varying needs helps all residents succeed.

Recognizing the Past - Looking to the Future

An important step in building a forward-thinking vision within the community is to first learn about our local history, listen to residents' perceptions now, and consider how new goals and policies will positively affect the City of Ellensburg's plans for the future. The City cannot adequately support our community and elevate all people, regardless of their backgrounds, identities, or experiences, without first building a base of contextual knowledge, understanding, and trust.

Past

Historically, Ellensburg has been, and still is, a multicultural community composed of a broad range of people and families, with many stories and experiences that have yet to be discovered or shared. Acknowledging and learning local history within the community, the positive and the negative, can help increase awareness and empathy toward others and strengthen our community as a whole. Understanding local history can help create a more inclusive environment for all, where residents feel welcome and equally represented.

Kittitas Valley has always been, and continues to be, sacred to Native people. Traditionally, the Pshwanapum lived in the Kittitas Valley as a sub-band of the larger political and extended family networks of the Yakama tribes and bands. The Pshwanapum members were also referred to as the K'titas ("Kittitas") band, and they moved seasonally throughout the valley and nearby mountains to harvest roots, salmon, berries, game, and medicines. Several other tribal nations including Kiala, Tatxanixsha, Yumi'sh, and Che-lo-han, would hunt and trade in this area as well. Many descendants of these tribes continue to live throughout the 1855 Treaty.

Territory of the Yakamas, practicing, honoring, and teaching the heritage and ancestry of the area. (*Information sourced from Daily Record News article from Aronica Family October 12, 2020, and Kittitas Valley Historical Museum*)

In addition to the many contributions from those commonly identified as the founders of modern Ellensburg, the histories and experiences of those often overlooked within Ellensburg for their contributions and background continues to be uncovered within documentation and oral records, and there is still much more to be discovered. Residents from Black, Chinese, Jewish, Hispanic, and Japanese communities moved to Ellensburg as early as the mid-19th Century for reasons including migrant labor, such as work on the railroad or at local businesses. Sources such as Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps have shown that Ellensburg used to have a "China Town," and "Chinese Laundries" appear to have existed throughout town (Sanborn Map 1888). An African Methodist Episcopal Church was established in 1908 at 404 South Main Street, and many Black individuals played on local baseball teams as well. There is also evidence at times of divisive behavior and negative language towards these communities during this time, as found in newspaper advertisements regarding restaurants and hotels that employed individuals.

Present

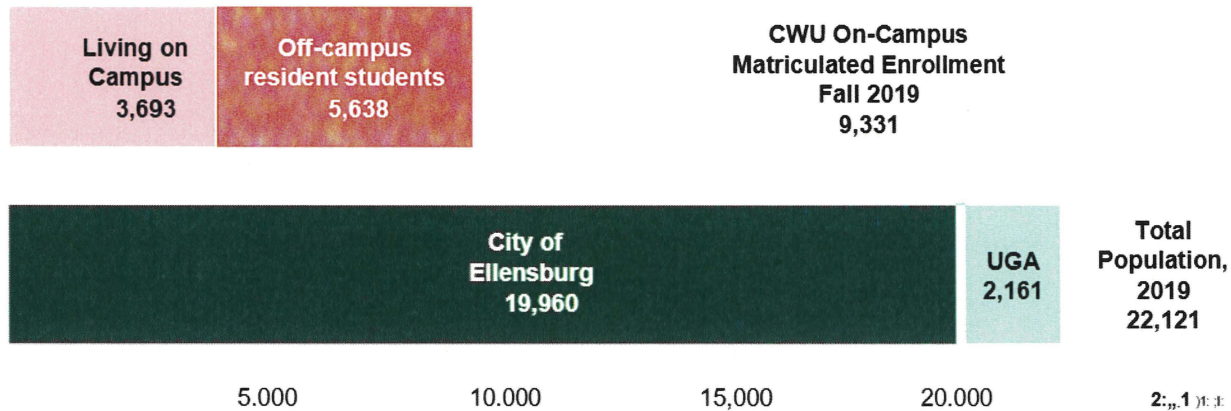
Despite Ellensburg's vibrant multicultural and diverse makeup, individuals from historically underrepresented communities and backgrounds still report that they feel invisible, experience targeted and discriminatory comments and unwelcoming behavior. While members of some communities within Ellensburg have reported experiencing negative or targeted incidents, they also believe that Ellensburg can be more engaging, welcoming, and supportive, and that the welcoming nature of our community can rise to a deeper level of acceptance and affirmation, and can draw on the talents, skills, and experiences of all who live here.

Ellensburg is often a welcoming community where people come together in times of need, where neighbors look out for one another. However, fully supporting and accepting identities, cultures, and backgrounds of those who experience unwelcoming behaviors or additional barriers, can be improved. Strengthening our ability to include and support people of all backgrounds remains an ongoing priority. Similar to what many towns and cities around the country are currently experiencing and working on, the City of Ellensburg recognizes it needs to be more responsive and prepared when handling issues related including all residents, present and future. This chapter lays the groundwork for this to happen, as the City continues towards a future of growth and expansion.

Future

Our dynamic community landscape has continued to develop, particularly in the last ten years, growing in size and in the composition of residents. Statistics from the City of Ellensburg's 2021 Housing Action Plan, show that in 2020, the estimated population of the City, with its urban growth area, (UGA) was 22,879 people, demonstrating a growth rate of roughly 1.9% annually since 2015. Of the 22,879 people, roughly 9,331 constitute CWU enrollment, 3,693 of which were on-campus living, and 5,638 representing off campus resident students, as depicted in *Figure 26*.

¹ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer and/or questioning

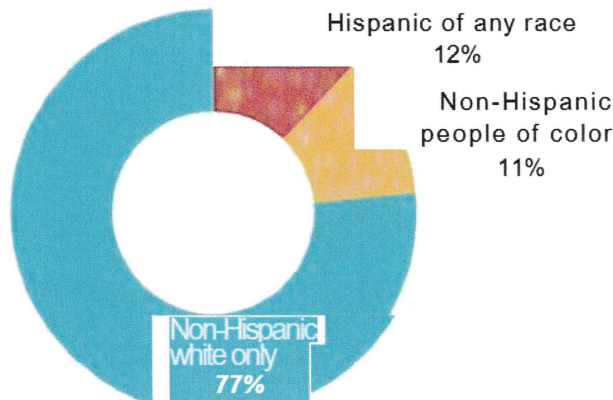
Figure 26. CWU Student Population and Total Population, 2018

Students living on campus represents the housing occupancy for Fall 2019. Programmed capacity is 3,918 and the full built capacity is 4,249.

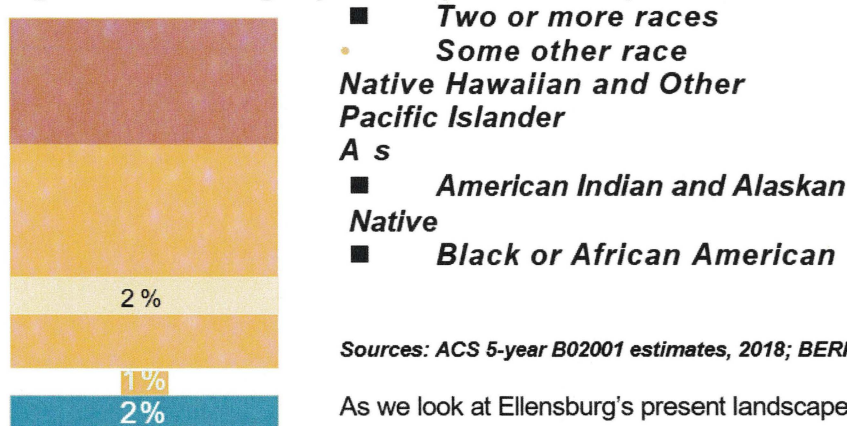
Sources: Central Washington University — Ellensburg Campus, Fall 2019; Washington OFM, 2021; BERK, 2021

As the City continues to support the needs of the various communities that live here, it is important to recognize that the statistics reflected in this chapter from the 2021 Housing Action Plan, do not reflect all of the varied demographics of our community. It is still valuable to look at current information that is available as we work towards obtaining more detailed statistics. It is anticipated that by 2040, 20% of the County population will be in the age bracket over age 65, and 19% in the age bracket of 45 to 64. At the same time, proportional decreases are expected for school-aged youth (5 to 19).

The Census also captures the ethnic background of respondents. As shown in *Figure 27* below, the Ellensburg community in 2018 was majority White and non-Hispanic (77%) but is growing to be more multicultural. From 2010 to 2018, Ellensburg's Hispanic population increased from 7% to 12% overall, and non-Hispanic non-white residents increased from 8% to 11%. *Figure 28* *Figure 27* provides a further breakdown of the Non-White Alone demographics.

Figure 27. Ellensburg Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2028

Sources: ACS 5-year B02001 estimates, 2018; BERK, 2021.

Figure 28. Ellensburg Population by Racial Identity for Non-White Alone Residents, 2028

Sources: ACS 5-year B02001 estimates, 2018; BERK, 2021.

As we look at Ellensburg's present landscape, it's important to recognize how changes in Ellensburg's population have been influenced by many factors, including the role of our local university, and these shifts continue to shape the character of the community. The University's emphasis on attracting students, faculty, and staff, and those from underrepresented backgrounds and identities, continues to impact the demographics of Ellensburg. The changing nature of the labor force has also brought a wider array of people and backgrounds in the community. People from many countries have settled in Ellensburg over the years, and there is no reason to think that these influential factors are going to be less impactful in the future.

As Ellensburg continues to grow, there is the potential for those whose identities are not within the majority to feel excluded, unless the community has a plan for improving its relationships with all residents. The City of Ellensburg has developed this chapter in a sincere effort to create safe, welcoming, and understanding community— one where all residents know they belong and are welcome.

GOALS, POLICIES, & PROGRAMS

These goals, policies, and programs contain steps that the City of Ellensburg will take to create an accessible, welcoming, equitable, and safe community.

Goal -1: Increase accessibility to City Services, Projects, Programs, and Events.

Policy A Support policies and programs that increase accessibility to City services for all, guided by an awareness of varied community needs and potential barriers.

Program 1 Provide increased access to government documents in multiple languages and easily accessible assistance for those who may need additional support.

Program 2 Identify areas of City government where greater physical accessibility and accommodations are needed to increase access to all members of the public.

Policy B Promote and encourage community engagement and outreach to all.

Program 1 Actively encourage participation from the public for community projects, events, and recreational activities, through a wide variety of media and information distribution methods.

Program 2 Provide City staff and elected officials with tools and regular training to understand and lead actions that deepen their understanding of community needs and to lead efforts that reduce barriers to participation.

Program 3 Establish an ongoing review process of the costs for City-sponsored recreation and leisure activities to ensure that all members of the public have access to these services.

Program 4 Support civic education programs that actively engage of community members from many backgrounds, and encourage diverse representation among local leadership, organizations, and agencies.

Goal -2: Foster Understanding, Cultural Awareness, and Belonging within the Community.

Policy A Encourage cultural sharing.

Program 1 Regularly support events and celebrations that highlight the variety of cultural traditions within the community.

Program 2 Encourage the creation of spaces where cultural foods and traditions can be shared among all members of the community, as well as the creation of public spaces that are accommodating and accessible to all.

- Program 3** Encourage increased communication and collaboration between the City government, Central Washington University, businesses, and education and social service sectors, through shared events, projects, and outreach, to help residents feel more comfortable visiting campus, and non-resident students feel more comfortable within the community.
- Policy B** **Encourage local leadership to address ongoing issues that create barriers for participation.**
- Program 1** Encourage City leadership to demonstrate support of groups that experience additional social barriers or a sense of exclusion through a variety of proclamations, and publicly speak to local actions that affect the diverse members of the community.
- Program 2** Support the development of a framework to identify and address areas where individuals experience barriers within our local institutions.
- Program 3** Collaborate with local organizations to help local businesses support a broad spectrum of community members from different backgrounds and cultures.
- Goal -3: Increase accessibility to local services and community resources for all residents.**
- Policy A** **Ensure that high quality service programs are available, accessible, and utilized by all in order to support resident's basic needs.**
- Program 1** Partner with local health and social services to identify strategies for making their services accessible by all means of transportation.
- Program 2** Advocate for low income, residential care facilities, and other housing for aging people to be located close to services and amenities.
- Program 3** Encourage and support programs that seek to provide residents with access to health care providers with varied expertise and backgrounds who can respond to varying cultural and medical needs.
- Policy B** **Encourage healthy activity and lifestyle by making recreational resources and opportunities accessible and welcoming to all residents.**
- Program 1** Provide opportunities for healthy activity in safe and accessible public spaces for all residents.
- Program 2** Encourage communication between local businesses, organizations, and schools, to coordinate food pantries and local food distribution.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Work with DEI Commission to begin regular review of current City policies and procedures to better engage those who face barriers or have been less represented within the City's planning .
2. Provide opportunities for staff and elected officials to engage and learn more about ways to reduce barriers and make Ellensburg more welcoming.
3. Increase use of community engagement to help with local outreach.
4. Review fees and costs for city sponsored recreational and leisure activities.
5. Develop a framework of accountability.
6. Develop a work plan for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission.

POLICY CONNECTIONS

The **Housing** chapter includes policies and land use designations that support the development of many types of housing to ensure that people who live and work in Ellensburg have adequate housing choices.

The **Transportation** chapter includes policies related to providing a variety of transportation networks that is available for all community members.

The **Capital Facilities and Utilities** chapter includes policies that focus on providing public facilities and utilities that are accessible and affordable to all community members, including access to the library, reasonably priced utilities, and access to data and technology. This chapter also provides goals centered around providing excellent public safety services.

The **Parks and Recreation** chapter includes policies that focus on providing citywide programs and services that meet all community and group needs, in addition to preserving historical areas and features, while also developing high quality, diversified cultural arts facilities and programs that increase community awareness, attendance, and participation opportunities.

The **Economic Development** chapter includes policies related to growing and sustaining local businesses, while creating opportunities for new businesses that can provide goods and services that meet the needs of the local and regional community.