



# WALLA WALLA COUNTY

Community Development Department

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

Walla Walla County Community Development Department  
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## **PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETINGS**

### **2018 WALLA WALLA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS PERIODIC UPDATE PROCESS**

Walla Walla County has begun an update of its Comprehensive Plan and development regulations, as required by RCW 36.70A. The purpose of a mandatory periodic update under the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) is to review and, if needed, revise the plan and regulations to ensure they comply with the GMA; this differs from the annual amendment process. To encourage participation from the residents of the County, two public open house events have been scheduled, one in Burbank, and one in Walla Walla. These are not public hearings.

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- December 4, 2017: Columbia Middle School  
755 Maple St.  
Burbank, WA
- December 5, 2017: Walla Walla Regional Airport  
Conference Room, 45 Terminal Loop  
Walla Walla, WA

Both meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m., and wrap up around 7:30 p.m.

The purpose of the meetings is to begin the exchange of information between the County and the residents we serve. The meetings will begin with a brief presentation explaining why the County is updating its plan, including a description of the process, and how the public can participate. Following the presentation there will be a facilitated activity that will identify and collect public concerns and questions about current land use issues in the unincorporated area of the county.

County staff and the consultant team will lead the discussion, and will be available to talk individually with attendees. Maps and posters will be available for residents to share their ideas and information. A summary of all the comments received at the open houses will be posted on the County's website.

### **Comprehensive Plan**

As required by the State's Growth Management Act, the Walla Walla County Comprehensive Plan provides the policy framework for making land use and related decisions to accommodate the projected 20-year growth in the County. The plan applies to the unincorporated areas of the County only, including the urban growth areas (UGA) of College Place, Burbank, Prescott, Waitsburg, and Walla Walla. However, each of our cities have their own comprehensive plans and separate, though regionally coordinated, update processes.

The purpose of the plan is to guide development in the County, including the unincorporated lands of the UGAs, as well as the unincorporated communities of Burbank, Dixie, Lowden, and Touchet. The Comprehensive Plan contains the goals and policies intended to guide land use planning in a coordinated and comprehensive manner. Among the "building blocks" of the Comprehensive Plan are the County Vision Statement, and the elements of land use, transportation, housing, economic development, capital facilities, utilities, rural lands, resource lands, and parks and recreation.

### **Development Regulations**

The County's set of development regulations (County Code) is the tool that implements the Comprehensive Plan. The code provides the regulatory controls for development and land use activities. Those controls include the County's zoning code, critical areas regulations, shoreline master program, planned unit development and subdivision requirements. The County's development regulations are applicable only to the unincorporated lands in Walla Walla County, including the urban growth areas of the cities of College Place, Prescott, Waitsburg, and Walla Walla, also the Burbank UGA, and the rural activity centers (RAC) of Dixie, Lowden, Ayer, and Touchet. The cities have their own development regulations.

The Department's website ([www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/departments/comdev/2018update.shtml](http://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/departments/comdev/2018update.shtml)) will provide information on the update process, including information about additional public meetings. The target for completion of the required update is June 30, 2018.

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