

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – SCOTTSDALE GENERAL PLAN 2035

1. What is a General Plan?

The General Plan is an expression of community vision, aspirations, values and goals. It is a short- and long-term decision-making guide to achieve the vision, and it fulfills State and City Charter legal requirements. The goals and policies in the General Plan are implemented through ordinances, regulations, ongoing procedures, recommendations from City boards and commissions, and decisions made by the City Council. The General Plan is also carried out by private actions and initiatives in the community.

Some of the most recognizable applications of the General Plan include the City's physical development, road expansions or abandonments, neighborhood revitalization projects, preservation efforts, capital improvements, fiscal planning, budgeting and project funding, and recreation facilities.

Arizona law requires that communities adopt a General Plan and outlines the content the plan must contain. The most current Scottsdale General Plan was adopted in 2001 and ratified by the voters in 2002.

2. What is the "Scottsdale General Plan 2035"?

On June 8, 2021, the Scottsdale City Council adopted a new General Plan for the City, entitled "Scottsdale General Plan 2035." State law requires Scottsdale voters to ratify ("approve") this Plan before it can become effective.

The "Scottsdale General Plan 2035" would serve as the community's new vision and guide for future physical, economic, and social development. The "Scottsdale General Plan 2035," if approved by the voters, will replace the existing 2001 Scottsdale General Plan that was last approved by the voters in 2002.

3. What are community-created elements?

While not required by State Statute, the Scottsdale General Plan has included community-created elements since the creation, adoption, and ratification of its 2001 General Plan. Community-created elements are content in the General Plan that have been identified, through the public outreach process, as important to Scottsdale community members. Since 2001, the Scottsdale General Plan has incorporated Character and Design, Community Involvement and Economic Vitality as community-created elements. Scottsdale General Plan 2035 retains these three elements from the 2001 Plan and adds four new community-created elements: Arts, Culture and Creative Community; Healthy Community; Tourism; and Education.

4. What are State-mandated elements?

State-mandated elements are plan sections that are required by State law, to be included in city and town General Plans. State Statutes outline specific content to be included within each element. The following State-mandated elements are required to be in the Scottsdale General Plan 2035: Land Use; Open Space; Environmental Planning; Conservation; Water Resources; Energy; Housing; Recreation; Safety; Circulation; Bicycling; Neighborhood Preservation & Revitalization; Conservation; Rehabilitation & Redevelopment; Growth Areas; Cost of Development; Public Services & Facilities; and Public Buildings.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – SCOTTSDALE GENERAL PLAN 2035

The “Scottsdale General Plan 2035” proposed for voter approval contains 24 elements, generally described as follows:

- ***Character and Design Element (Community Created)***

This element focuses on character and quality of design throughout the community. The goals and policies of this element cover streetscape character, character types, character area planning, design, public spaces, landscape character, minimizing light and noise pollution, and western and equestrian lifestyle.

- ***Land Use Element (State Mandated)***

This element shows the general distribution, type, and location of land uses. It focuses on coordinating land uses at the regional, citywide, and local levels. The goals and policies also discuss relationships between land use and economic viability, transportation, conservation of resources, and protection of the Scottsdale Airport. Established criteria have been defined in this element to determine if a proposed land use change qualifies as a major General Plan amendment (General Plan Amendment Criteria). A map designating the proposed locations and types of land use classifications is included.

- ***Arts, Culture, & Creative Element (Community Created)***

Recognizing that arts and culture have been important to the community since Scottsdale’s founding, this element focuses on Scottsdale as an arts, culture, and creative community. The goals and policies of this element cover arts and cultural programs, creative placemaking, historic and cultural resources, and creative community.

- ***Open Space Element (State Mandated)***

This element contains goals and policies that promote a comprehensive open space system within the community and linkages to open space areas adjacent to Scottsdale. The goals and policies of this element also include the City’s efforts toward desert and mountain preservation, including the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve, natural open space, a system of continuous open space, and developed open space.

- ***Environmental Planning Element (State Mandated)***

This element focuses on the protection of natural and human habitats. Goals and policies include environmental stewardship, improvement of air quality, recycling, environmental design (“Green Building”), water quality, reduction of heat islands, and planning for climate impacts.

- ***Conservation Element (State Mandated)***

The Conservation Element focuses on the efficient use of natural resources and works toward long-term sustainability of non-renewable resources, including the protection of ground and surface water, watercourses, and wildlife habitats.

- ***Water Resources Element (State Mandated)***

The Water Resources Element provides goals and policies that promote a sustainable, assured long-term water supply for Scottsdale that excels in quality.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – SCOTTSDALE GENERAL PLAN 2035

- ***Energy Element (State Mandated)***

The energy goals and policies encourage renewable energy production and efficient energy use.

- ***Community Involvement Element (Community Created)***

The goals and policies included in this element identify ways to effectively inform and involve the community in civic discussions and decision-making processes. This element emphasizes broad distribution of city information and public input from all areas of the community, collaboration, and civil dialogue.

- ***Healthy Community Element (Community Created)***

The Healthy Community Element focuses on health, wellness, diversity, and inclusion. The element contains goals and policies about access to human services, healthy food and healthy living, the needs of youth, families and senior citizens, volunteerism, and following the Golden Rule.

- ***Housing Element (State Mandated)***

This element focuses on the need to support and promote a diversity of housing that accommodates a variety of income levels, households, lifestyles, and socioeconomic needs. The goals and policies address housing context and character, prevention of housing discrimination, and housing variety.

- ***Recreation Element (State Mandated)***

This element recognizes the importance of recreation for social interaction, community well-being, and as part of Scottsdale's image. The goals and policies provide for the leisure and fitness needs of current and future generations through quality recreation facilities and programs.

- ***Safety Element (State Mandated)***

The Safety Element focuses on alleviating natural and man-made hazards, and providing public health, safety, and welfare services, to secure a safe and enjoyable environment for citizens, businesses, and visitors to Scottsdale. Goals and policies in this element include emergency management, transportation safety, crime prevention, and hazardous materials safety.

- ***Circulation Element (State Mandated)***

The Circulation Element promotes safe, efficient, and accessible choices for the movement of people, goods, and information at the regional, citywide, and neighborhood levels. The goals and policies include a focus on accessibility, connectivity, mobility choices, and the interrelatedness of transportation and land use.

- ***Bicycling Element (State Mandated)***

The Bicycling Element recognizes Scottsdale as a bicycle-friendly community through recreational bicycling, as well as bicycling as an alternative mode of transportation. The goals and policies of this element provide for a safe, connected, and convenient on-street and off-street bicycle network.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – SCOTTSDALE GENERAL PLAN 2035

- ***Neighborhood Preservation & Revitalization Element (State Mandated)***

The goals and policies of this element recognize that preservation and revitalization of Scottsdale’s mature neighborhoods is critical to maintaining and strengthening the health, safety, prosperity, and enjoyment of the community. Topics covered in this element include neighborhood identity, homeownership, neighborhood safety, and neighborhood planning.

- ***Conservation, Rehabilitation & Redevelopment Element (State Mandated)***

The Conservation, Rehabilitation & Redevelopment Element recognizes Scottsdale as a maturing city and focuses on the conservation and rehabilitation of mature properties, seeking creative infill development strategies, and supporting context-sensitive redevelopment in areas showing signs of decline. The element addresses both “informal” and “formal” redevelopment, recognizing that any “formal” redevelopment must be approved by the City Council and conform to Arizona State Statute requirements. Topics covered in this element include context-appropriate redevelopment, economic well-being, and use of redevelopment authority.

- ***Growth Areas Element (State Mandated)***

The Growth Areas Element identifies specific locations (“Growth and Activity Areas”) where future physical and economic development will be focused and where mixed land uses and multiple transportation options are most appropriate.

- ***Cost of Development Element (State Mandated)***

The purpose of the Cost of Development Element is to guide the fiscal impacts created by new development or redevelopment with regard to infrastructure and public services and determine how such impacts will be addressed. Goals and policies in this element include development paying its fair share for economic sustainability, timing and adequacy of public services, and the coordination of infrastructure investment.

- ***Public Services & Facilities Element (State Mandated)***

The Public Services & Facilities Element expresses the City’s commitment in providing high-quality community services to its residents, businesses, and visitors. The Public Services and Facilities Element includes goals and policies about the provision of programs, services, and physical facilities that serve to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community, including solid waste, utilities, libraries, and community services.

- ***Public Buildings Element (State Mandated)***

This element acknowledges the role that public buildings play in shaping the community. Goals and policies focus on public building design and locations.

- ***Economic Vitality Element (Community Created)***

This element includes goals and policies that encourage economic development, growth, and stability to sustain the community over time. The goals and policies emphasize economic resiliency and prosperity, diversity in economic activity, tourism, workforce education, and the sustained long-term fiscal health of the community.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – SCOTTSDALE GENERAL PLAN 2035

- ***Tourism Element (Community Created)***

This element recognizes tourism as an integral part of Scottsdale's identity and economy. The goals and policies focus on strengthening tourism, enhancing mobility and wayfinding, and supporting special events and venues.

- ***Education Element (Community Created)***

This element focuses on lifelong learning, partnerships with traditional educational providers, and the community's role in supporting equitable quality education and safe, healthy, and positive educational environments.

Recognizing the City does not provide direct, traditional education that the schools provide and that schools have separate governing boards, tax funding, and State laws, the Education Element demonstrates the City's support of the broader idea of education through partnerships and programming, such as those already offered through the City parks and recreation services, libraries, after-school programs, and adult education offerings.

Arizona Law requires the General Plan to include the locations of public schools and boundaries of public school districts. The Scottsdale General Plan 2035 includes a map that depicts public school locations (elementary, middle, and high schools) and district boundaries (five separate districts) that serve Scottsdale, in keeping with these State law requirements. This map has been relocated from the Public Buildings Element to the Education Element in the Scottsdale General Plan 2035.

5. Why do we have a General Plan?

Arizona law (Arizona Revised Statutes [A.R.S.] Section 9-461.05.C) provides that: "The general plan shall consist of a statement of community goals and development policies. The plan shall include maps, any necessary diagrams and text setting forth objectives, principles, standards and plan proposals." Additionally, State law (A.R.S. Section 9-461.05.A) requires that each city adopt a comprehensive, long-range General Plan to guide the development of the City. The Scottsdale City Charter also requires the City to adopt and from time to time modify a comprehensive plan, such as the General Plan, for the future physical development of the City.

6. Why update the existing General Plan?

The existing General Plan was last ratified by voters in 2002. The City Charter requires the City to modify its General Plan from time to time and State Law currently requires the City to adopt a new General Plan or readopt its current General Plan and send it to the voters for ratification, typically every 10 years.

7. Can the General Plan be amended more frequently than every 10 years?

Yes. Arizona State Statutes require that General Plans be legally amendable, while allowing each municipality to create their own General Plan amendment criteria. Scottsdale General Plan 2035 has specific amendment criteria to guide General Plan amendment cases through the Planning Commission and City Council public hearing processes, per specific State Statute process requirements.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – SCOTTSDALE GENERAL PLAN 2035

8. When will the “Scottsdale General Plan 2035” take effect?

The “Scottsdale General Plan 2035” will not take effect until it is approved by the voters and the Scottsdale City Council has officially canvassed the results of the November 2, 2021 Special Election by Mail.

9. What if the voters do not approve the “Scottsdale General Plan 2035”?

If the voters do not approve the “Scottsdale General Plan 2035,” the existing Scottsdale General Plan 2001 will remain in effect until the voters approve a new General Plan.

10. Where can I review a copy of the “Scottsdale General Plan 2035”?

The “Scottsdale General Plan 2035” is available at the City Clerk's Office in Scottsdale City Hall at 3939 N. Drinkwater Boulevard, and at the Long-Range Planning Department Office at the City's One Civic Building, located at 7447 East Indian School Road, Suite 105, Scottsdale, AZ 85251. The “Scottsdale General Plan 2035” is also available for review on the City's website at:

Scottsdale.Vote

For more information about the “Scottsdale General Plan 2035,” call the City's Long Range Planning Department, at 480-312-7000. For more information about the November 2, 2021 Special Election by Mail, call the City Clerk's Office at 480-312-2411