



Strengthen Self Sufficiency and Resiliency

Economy and Job Base • Housing Supply and Cost • Locally-Owned Business • Environment and Natural Resources • Hazards • Health and Safety

In both online questionnaire and in-person conversations, access to housing was identified as a high priority for the community. In addition the team frequently heard that “I don’t have to leave town for anything. Everything I need is in Hamilton”. While most communities try to achieve a job to housing balance of one to one, Hamilton is in a unique position of providing a substantial number of institutional jobs for a large surrounding area. While employees will continue to live in surrounding areas, the city and its residents have expressed the desire to house more of the workforce in the city, mitigating commute time and traffic. This need for additional housing will likely take the form of new housing types and products not currently seen in the city, leaning toward multifamily units, or smaller lots of single-family homes. Important in the development of these neighborhoods is a desire to better integrate housing type, size, and product to encourage more natural transition and integration of housing rather than compartmentalized higher density products. These “new” housing types and products are actually reminiscent of housing patterns prevalent in Hamilton’s west side neighborhoods, with a mix of large- and small-scale single-family homes, small multi-unit (two- to four-unit) projects, and larger multi-unit developments. At the same time, the city must ensure it maintains a commitment to a clean and healthful environment, plan efficient water delivery, and mitigate public health impacts of wastewater systems.

To address this theme, this Plan’s goals and policies include efforts to:

- Support the established regional job base of the medical and biotech hub and preserve and identify additional land areas to accommodate new and expanding businesses.
- Encourage continued construction of housing; and look to increase and integrate diversity in housing type, size, location, and cost while incorporating design elements that enhance community character.
- Continue to support locally owned businesses, including emerging start-ups, incubator spaces for shared services, co-working models, etc.
- Work to protect and conserve the Bitterroot River and its associated floodplain and wildlife habitat, while allowing recreational access and trail connectivity.
- Work to improve and mitigate infrastructure concerns, including water line leakage and reparation of septic and cess pool systems to preserve the city’s wells, and maintain Bitterroot River water quality and quantity.