

Purpose of the Eastside District Plan

The purpose of the Eastside District Plan is to establish sound public policy that reflects the vision of Eastside residents and landowners, and the interests of the full community of Anchorage. The plan shall address both current needs and future growth. The primary challenge of the Eastside District Plan is to protect the qualities that both residents and users of the area value about the Eastside while accommodating future development.

The Eastside District Plan will provide greater specificity for policy on land use and public services than the Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Specific issues covered in the 2020 plan include the density and character of residential development, infrastructure needs including drainage, roads, trails, and water and wastewater service, the recreational needs of residents and visitors and protection of environmental quality.

The adopted Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan provides broad direction for the future of the Anchorage Bowl, including the Eastside District. The 2020 plan also includes an allocation of the Eastside's share of Anchorage's overall growth. Although the timing of that development will be made by market forces, the Eastside District Plan will provide guidance for the character and location of future growth and the infrastructure needed to support this development.

The Eastside District Plan will include an area approximately bounded on the West by Boniface Parkway, the North by The Glenn Highway, the East by Fort Richardson and the South by Tudor Road, with the addition of the areas of Bartlett High School and Tikhatnu Commons to the North and the Stuckagain Heights area to the South. To the extent that abutting areas, such as Bicentennial Park, Fort Richardson and Elmendorf Air Force base affect the Plan, these areas may also be addressed.

The area to be covered by the Plan is one of great diversity, both in characteristics of the land and of its residents. To accommodate such diversity is a great challenge of the Plan.

Building on the Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan, work by the Municipality of Anchorage, the Eastside Citizen Advisory Committee and input from the public, the plan aims to achieve the following:

Maintain the unique neighborhood characteristics.

Identify specific areas of the Eastside that can, over time, absorb more intense residential development as contemplated in the Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan. In addition, identify places that should support less intensive residential development than anticipated. During the process of

the Eastside Plan it is anticipated that there will be adopted a new Title 21 of the Municipal Code, regulating planning and zoning in the Municipality. The Eastside Plan shall incorporate these changes in its discussions.

Identify issues that have risen since the adoption of the Anchorage 2020 Plan.

Identify public safety concerns and create suggestions for improvement.

Maintain the overall integrity and health of the Eastside environment, preserving natural vegetation, water quality, wildlife habitats and access to open space.

Identify infrastructure needs.

Improve the road system to reduce congestion and increase safety and to support expected growth while maintaining neighborhood character. Improve the quality of neighborhood streets.

Identify public transportation needs.

Preserve and connect pedestrian and transportation trails. Respond to increasing demands for access to Chugach State Park and other areas because the Eastside is a base for many recreational opportunities in the Anchorage Bowl. Improve management of trails and trailheads to reduce impacts on adjoining residential areas.

To make achieving many of these goals possible, establish new funding and management mechanisms that provide for locally directed improvements in roads, drainage and trails, and to better monitor and protect water quality.

Improve the communication of Eastside issues to its residents and neighbors, its Assembly representatives, its State representatives, the Municipality Administration and other Community Councils.

During the planning process, it is anticipated the Eastside residents will be surveyed and will participate in various community discussions to describe their desires for quality of life on the Eastside and their ideas to maintain those qualities that make their home a special place, even as the area continues to grow.