

# Draft Vision Statement

Plan Priorities Workshop

May 3, 2007, Sandpoint Community Hall, 6:00-8:00 pm



The following is a draft vision statement prepared for the “Plan Priorities Workshop”, held May 3, 2007. Comprehensive plan vision statements should describe the general goals of the entire plan without becoming so specific that they become redundant, or lose relevance as plan amendments are enacted over time. This initial draft was developed from comments received at the April 5, 2007 Vision Workshop, and has been organized to approximate subject categories in Sandpoint’s future comprehensive plan. As the planning process continues, new ideas may emerge, priorities may change, and the draft vision will follow. Any and all comments on this draft are welcomed – see last page of this document for space to jot ideas down, and for other ways to submit comments and thoughts.

## Parks & Open Space

### Sandpoint = Recreation

*Sandpoint is a community where recreation is a focus, and boasts a wealth of nearby waterways, forested lands and mountains. The community also enjoys many neighborhood and large civic parks. Residents highly value these features, and wish to retain and develop an extensive, all-season trail network to connect their town to the waterways, urban park and wilderness areas that help define Sandpoint.*

*Though Sandpoint enjoys many natural riches today, the community envisions opportunities for additional public-access features, including municipal golf, public boat slips, more neighborhood or “pocket” parks, ice-skating, youth-oriented features, indoor sports facilities, and additional shoreline greenbelt areas. In short, Sandpoint residents love to recreate, and having a diverse array of recreational options is an important part of the community’s future.*

### A Larger Perspective

*Residents know and love many outdoor and recreational features outside City boundaries, and recognize the need for long-range, inter-local planning to maximize – or even to properly capture – the area’s true potential. The community realizes that scenic views or key open spaces may not persist without proper action and foresight, and envisions a future where natural qualities enjoyed by citizens today are present tomorrow.*

## Streets and Transportation

### A Walkable Town

*Sandpoint is a walking town, and works hard to keep it that way. The community’s transportation investments and decisions give full consideration to improving the pedestrian experience, and elects to grow in ways that support the ability to shop, recreate, travel and commute on-foot. Sandpoint residents envision more and better sidewalks, ample lighting, street trees, awnings in downtown areas, benches, well-marked crosswalks, slower-paced, “calmed” traffic, and walkable neighborhood centers throughout the city.*

### Transportation Diversity

*Sandpoint’s walkability pays dividends in many ways. Cycling is an option that many residents enjoy on a daily basis, due to the community’s compact layout and slower-paced, dispersed traffic patterns. The numerous features that enhance the pedestrian experience also beautify the town and help make it distinct.*

*Residents or workers living a greater distance from the town center are able to utilize “park and ride” facilities as part of their commute. In Sandpoint, transportation diversity is valued, and no one means of transportation overwhelms the others.*

### **A Scaled Approach**

*Being located along a major highway ensures Sandpoint residents know and appreciate the need to “scale” its approach to automotive transport, distinguishing through-town traffic from in-town traffic. Balancing the need for the former to move expeditiously with local needs for a pace promoting safety, balanced mobility, and retail friendliness requires Sandpoint to consider, and in some cases direct, automotive transportation according to use and intensity. Balancing local needs with statewide or national concerns requires a strong local vision and strong partnerships among agencies, and Sandpoint’s priorities are well-represented.*

## **Housing and Neighborhoods**

### **Diverse Housing for a Diverse Community**

*In recent times, Sandpoint’s fortunes have spurred growth and investment in such a way as to compromise the affordability of life in the town. To combat this, residents have adopted a more proactive role for themselves and for the City in developing and maintaining a wide range of housing types, keeping pace with housing demand, and acting to improve other livability factors to bridge the distance between costs of living in Sandpoint with what residents earn.*

### **Mixed Use is Good**

*One way in which Sandpoint addresses affordability is by promoting mixed-use development – reviving the beneficial adjacencies of varied residential and business uses. This approach, once common and typical of cities, is recognized by residents as an important way to foster walkability, make efficient use of infrastructure, improve safety, add personal convenience, improve social networks, and enhance civic character.*

### **Beauty and Character**

*Residents of Sandpoint appreciate the town’s natural setting, but they also love the overall beauty and character of the town’s built environment. Residents respect the work, investment and commitment by past generations to establish that character, and recognize the need to maintain the town’s built legacy. Current residents of Sandpoint wish to add to the built environment in a way that is equal to or better than past works, insisting that new additions harmonize with the town’s character and contribute to the long-term success of the City.*

## **Jobs and Economic Development**

### **Sandpoint Recreation = Sandpoint Success**

*The fact that Sandpoint has a strong recreational focus is seen as key to the City’s economic well-being. By actively developing, enhancing, and improving the community’s many recreational strengths, the City benefits its residents today while helping to attract better-paying job providers tomorrow – particularly those wishing to attract and retain innovative and “creative class” workers who consider recreational opportunities as essential in selecting a place to live. The community also recognizes the opportunities inherent in developing locally-owned businesses, both new and existing. These support Sandpoint’s growing place-based economy, a strategy tapping local resources and opportunities in a way that helps the community succeed over the long-term.*

## **Better Education, Better Jobs**

*Sandpoint residents are strongly committed to improving educational opportunities in their town and region, especially those that work to address local needs and enhance local economic opportunities. Sandpoint's future depends on the ability of residents to earn quality, living wages, and education – from primary schools upward – is highly valued.*

## **Public Facilities and Services**

### **A Green Community**

*Residents envision a much “greener” Sandpoint, including the implementation of “green” building codes, improved recycling services, and encouraging innovative approaches to water quality and wastewater treatment. Besides making more efficient use of resources, the community recognizes opportunities to realize economic benefit through regional leadership and knowledge as a “green” community.*

### **Grow Services with Town Growth**

*Sandpoint's full range of services are carefully monitored to ensure that they grow at the same pace as the community. Such services include water, wastewater, parks and recreation facilities, healthcare services, solid waste disposal, libraries and transportation infrastructure. Costs for new or improved services are shared equitably, according to long and short-term benefit.*

### **Safe, by Design**

*In concert with Sandpoint's walkable nature, the community encourages planning and growth patterns that improve the abilities and efficiencies of police and fire services. Compact growth in Sandpoint is recognized as benefiting fire response times, as well as supporting a more neighborhood-friendly, personal approach to police protection.*

## **Shopping and Commerce**

### **“Keep it Real”**

*Sandpoint residents greatly value the overall beauty and appearance of the downtown, and work hard to renovate, restore, and encourage full utilization of retail and upper floor space. Citizens recognize the need for strategic thinking to ensure downtown's success, including the need to make it “real”, i.e., ensuring the availability of goods and services needed for day-to-day life, as well as those focused on tourists and visitors. “Local, non-corporate, and culturally-rich”, describes downtown.*

### **Ample Parking**

*Improved parking conditions are recognized as key to the community's success. The town is committed to applying creative, cost-effective methods to address public parking needs, including structural investments as-needed and creating incentives for business collaboration on the issue. Whether downtown or elsewhere, lack of parking doesn't hobble Sandpoint's future.*

### **Future Features**

*Residents have long-range hopes for their City, and support new or expanded features including a convention center to boost visitation; long-range consideration for mass transit needs; a new or improved commercial airport, and a year-round farmer's market. The community is fully rooted and appreciative of its place and built legacy, and looks forward to improving conditions for all residents through hard work, financial investment, and progressive, strategic decisionmaking.*

