



ALASKA NATIVE  
TRIBAL HEALTH  
CONSORTIUM

# The Community Comprehensive Plan

AND ITS CONNECTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH

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# definition

A comprehensive plan is a blueprint for guiding development in a community. It includes information on population dynamics and demographics, physical conditions, land use, the environment, transportation, public facilities, open space, and legal and fiscal aspects and **reflects the vision and direction of residents.**



# purpose

- Fulfills legal obligations
- Provides a vision of the future
- Serves as a decision-making tool
- Serves a coordinating function

# history

- American Revolution
- Sanitary Reform Movement (1840)
  - Recognition of the strong relationship between disease and the availability of a quality sewer system
- Urbanization → city development plans
- Chicago (1909): first truly comprehensive plan

# who has to provide for planning and land use ?

## WHICH ALASKA MUNICIPALITIES HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO PLAN AND CONTROL LAND USE?

Alaska Statutes (AS) 29.35 and 29.40 define the authority of cities and boroughs to provide for planning, platting and land use regulation. The planning powers are either mandatory (indicated by the word "SHALL") or optional (indicated by the word "MAY"). Following is a summary of the municipal authorities.

First class or home rule  
cities in the unorganized  
borough



**SHALL** provide for planning, platting, and land use  
regulation

First class boroughs and  
Second class boroughs and  
Home rule boroughs



**SHALL** provide for planning, platting, and land use  
regulation on an areawide basis (both inside and outside  
of cities) within the borough in accordance with AS 29.40  
— the borough may delegate these powers to a city within  
the borough (AS 29.40.010)

Second class cities



**MAY** provide for planning, platting, and land use  
regulation

# Each first and second class borough shall establish a planning commission...

**Table 9: Nineteen Borough in Alaska**

Borough	2016 Population (#)	Approximate Square Miles (*)	Incorporation Date
<b>Unified Home Rule Boroughs (4)</b>			
Municipality of Anchorage	299,037	1,940	September 15, 1975 (A)
City and Borough of Juneau	32,739	3,248	July 1, 1970 (B)
City and Borough of Sitka	8,920	4,530	December 2, 1971 (C)
City and Borough of Wrangell	2,458	3,465	30-May-08
<b>Non-Unified Home Rule Boroughs (7)</b>			
Denali Borough	1,810	12,610	7-Dec-90
Haines Borough	2,466	2,730	October 17, 2002 (D)
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,629	29,560	24-Apr-89
North Slope Borough	10,528	94,770	1-Jul-72
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,944	39,150	2-Jun-86
Petersburg Borough	3,179	3,829	3-Jan-13
City and Borough of Yakutat	594	9,251	22-Sep-92
<b>First Class Borough (1)</b>			
Municipality of Skagway	1,065	443	20-Jun-07
<b>Second Class Boroughs (7)</b>			
Aleutians East Borough	3,001	15,020	23-Oct-87
Bristol Bay Borough	874	850	2-Oct-62
Fairbanks North Star Borough	98,957	7,430	1-Jan-64
Kenai Peninsula Borough	58,060	21,330	1-Jan-64
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,758	6,262	6-Sep-63
Kodiak Island Borough	13,563	12,150	30-Sep-63
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	102,598	25,260	1-Jan-64

\* Includes water area within the three-mile limit.

# Certified by Commissioner, Dept. of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

...In addition to the duties prescribed by ordinance, the planning commission shall (1) prepare and submit to the assembly a proposed comprehensive plan in accordance with AS 29.40.030 for the systematic and organized development of the borough;

## what does it include?

- A systematic and comprehensive collection and analysis of data
- Clear and comprehensive goals
- Specific, action-oriented policies for implementation
- Local support (official and community)
- Current and up-to-date data and policies

# common elements

- Land Use
- Transportation
- Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation
- Housing
- Community Services and Facilities
- Sustainability
- Natural, Environmental, Cultural and Historic resources
- Community and University Relations
- Economic Development
- Energy Conservation Planning





## short and long-term implementation strategies

The planning process does not end with adoption of the comprehensive plan.

Comprehensive planning is an attempt to establish guidelines for the future growth of a community:  
*an all-inclusive approach to addressing the issue of a community's future growth.*

# community input

Throughout the comprehensive plan's development, soliciting **community feedback and support is essential.**



Photo: Ed Plumb, National Weather Service



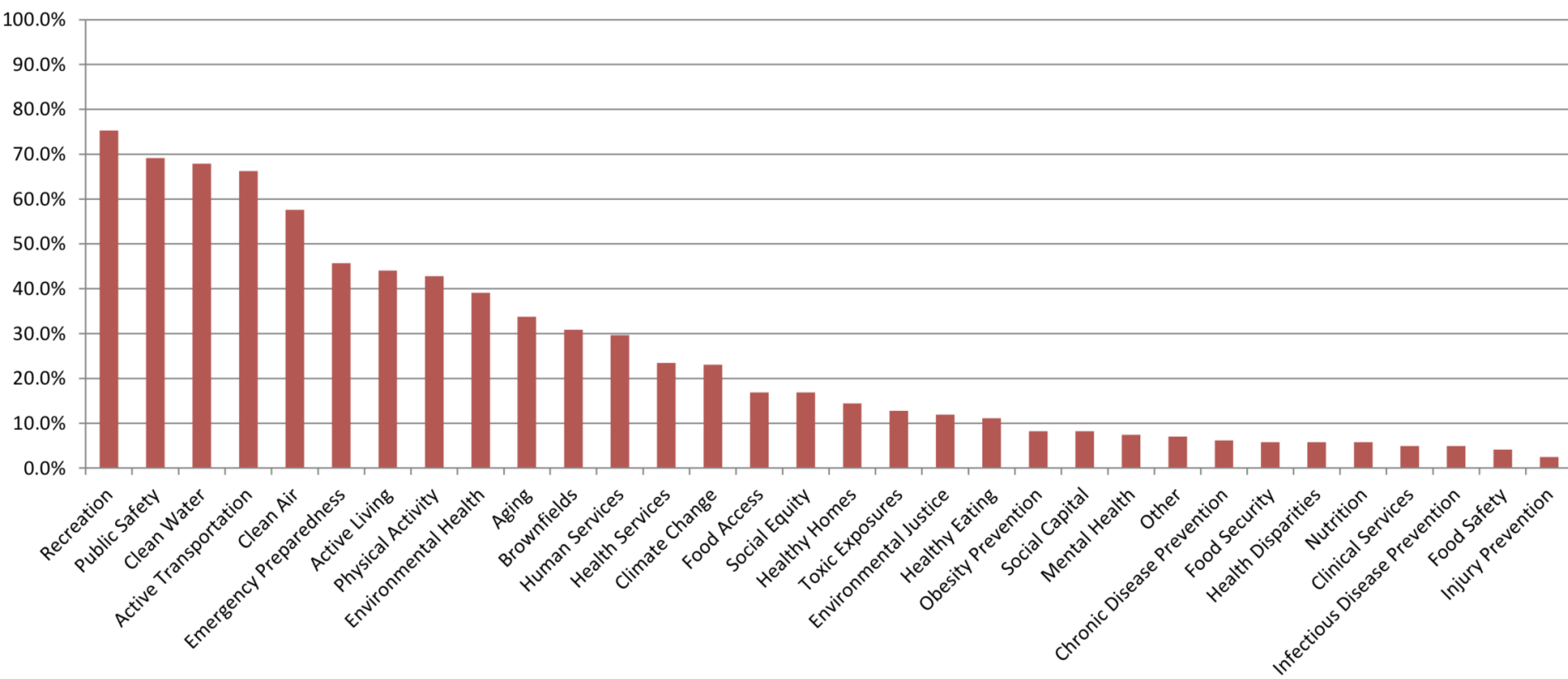
# Comprehensive planning through a community lens

# PUBLIC HEALTH

THE BASIS FOR  
COMPREHENSIVE  
PLANNING COMES FROM  
THE GOVERNMENT'S DUTY  
AND RIGHT TO PROTECT  
THE HEALTH AND WELFARE  
OF ITS CITIZENS

# public health topics addressed in comprehensive plans

Figure 3. Public health topics explicitly addressed in the comprehensive plans





# benefits

- An enhanced quality of life in the near-term, 30 years from now, and beyond
- Greater sustainability, as reflected by a stronger balance among economic prosperity, environmental health, and social equity
- Ability to secure additional funding for programs and infrastructure networks critical to the region
- Greater efficiency and cost savings
- Use of comprehensive approaches for mitigation/adaptation

# climate change and extreme events

- Village relocations
- Other emergencies and hazards



**Figure 6: Thirty-One Imminently-Threatened Alaska Native Villages**





# Why coordinate between comprehensive and hazard mitigation plans?


“What is important about the comprehensive plan ... **is its legal status** compared to the [local hazard mitigation plan] LHMP. The comprehensive plan ... is typically viewed by courts as a major policy document, and most state laws specify some degree of consistency between zoning and development decisions and the comprehensive plan. This gives the plan considerable weight in emphasizing a community's intent to implement the solutions it spells out, particularly with regard to development regulations.”

*James C. Schwab, AICP  
Manager , APA Hazards Planning Research Center*

# integration of hazard mitigation into the comprehensive plan

- Include a hazards element.
- Identify in all other elements of the comprehensive plan those areas where hazard mitigation may play a role in advancing the overall goals of the plan.
- Establish the linkages between identified hazards in the hazard element and these specific opportunities, and cross-reference them to clarify where and how mitigation needs to address these problems.
- If the plan has an implementation element, be sure that it includes specific provisions, such as financing and timing, for how mitigation solutions will actually be achieved, and by whom.

# resources



Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development  
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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCE DESK

### Planning & Land Use

#### Community Planning

▼ Introduction

Planning is an activity that people do every day without really thinking about it. One of the most common planning activities involves putting food on the table. Whether you live in a large community and get your groceries from the local market or in a rural community where hunting and gathering provide a large part of a family's food you have to plan for it. Going to the store with no money and no shopping list is inconvenient; but going hunting without enough gas, bullets, and other supplies is foolishness. Failing to plan community development and activities is like heading down the road with no end in sight. In order to choose the direction and guide the development of a community, community members must plan.

► Narrative

► Frequently Asked Questions

► Additional Resources

► Applicable Laws and Regulations

#### RESOURCE DESK LINKS

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#### DIVISION SECTIONS

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# FEMA's Risk MAP



[https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/Portals/4/pub/RiskMAP/R10\\_Risk\\_MAP\\_Process\\_Graphic.pdf](https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/Portals/4/pub/RiskMAP/R10_Risk_MAP_Process_Graphic.pdf)



Participant  
input and  
questions

IDENTIFYING CRITICAL  
INTERCONNECTIONS