



# GENERAL PLAN NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2022

CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2

## Yuma Voters will decide on the General Plan November 8

The City of Yuma has completed the first comprehensive update of the General Plan in nearly 10 years. Adopting the Plan on April 6, the City Council has now forwarded the Plan to voters for ratification. The City of Yuma 2022 General Plan is Proposition 416 on the November 8 ballot. This is the second of two newsletters regarding the measure.



## What is a general plan and why is it important?

The General Plan is Yuma's blueprint guiding how the City looks, feels and functions into the future. Imagine building a house without plans for the location of the kitchen, bedrooms and doors, or making a cake without first knowing the ingredients needed. A General Plan consists of plans and maps for land use, roads, parks, fire stations, police facilities, and the water and sewer utilities the community will need as Yuma grows.

Arizona law requires that cities, towns and counties adopt a General Plan, and outlines the 17 topics or elements a plan for the City of Yuma must contain. Yuma adopted its first General Plan in 1953 when the City contained approximately 3½ square miles. The 1950 Census reported 9,145 persons living in the City. This is quite the change from the nearly 98,000 persons living in 120 square miles now. Since 1953, many updates to the Plan occurred as the community grew. State law requires an update every 10 years, which has prompted this current effort.

The previous issue of the General Plan Newsletter discussed the Land Use chapter and Zoning. This issue contains information on two other chapters – Transportation and Recreation.

## Transportation

The Transportation chapter (Chapter 3) is a plan for roads, public transit, bikeways, air and rail travel that includes the general location of existing and proposed transportation facilities. A coordinated multi-modal network is intended to provide safe access to homes, industry, workplaces and shopping. The Plan addresses transportation needs by identifying a series of goals, objectives and policies that lead to specific Action Items that are then implemented by City Council through the adoption of the Capital Improvement Program or requirements of new development.

**GOAL: PROVIDE A COMPLETE, SAFE AND EFFICIENT SYSTEM FOR TRANSPORTING PERSONS, GOODS, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.**



A roadway network with sufficient capacity and improvements can ensure that Yuma's roads will function at acceptable levels of service. The Transportation chapter includes information on the Yuma County Area Transit (YCAT) system, bicycle facilities, rail and air travel. Public transit adds flexibility to the transportation system, represents an energy-efficient way of travel and increases the mobility of the young, the poor, the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Bicycling is a component of transportation and the chapter incorporates the City of Yuma's 2018 Bikeways Plan and identifies existing and planned routes, lanes and paths needed to provide a safe and convenient bike system.

Para más información  
por favor llame al  
teléfono 373-5175.



## Recreation

The Recreation chapter (Chapter 4) addresses parks, fields and open spaces. City of Yuma facilities range in size and service area from pocket parks that meet the needs of a limited population, to the baseball and golf facilities at the James P. Deyo Complex, which serves the Yuma community and beyond. The City's landscaped parklands provide open space and field activities and contribute to meeting the intense recreation needs of the Yuma community. However, parks are not only recreation spaces, they are community places. Typically composed of trees, grass, and open play areas; these areas have clearly defined geographic locations and boundaries. Parks can offer recreation and leisure opportunities for every community member. The City parks are classified by the following categories: regional parks; community parks; neighborhood parks; pocket parks; open space; paths, trails, and linear parks; specialized facilities; and recreation facilities. The classifications differ by size, service area, and purpose.



The Recreation chapter of the General Plan provides an overall guide for parks and recreation planning. Included in the chapter is an inventory of the existing facilities, an analysis of future needs, standards for the provision of parks and sports facilities, as well as a map that generally shows where future parks should be located. The chapter also includes goals, policies and an Action Plan to achieve the community's recreation needs.

**GOAL: CONTINUE TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE THE PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM IN RESPONSE TO CHANGES IN POPULATION AND AS NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY SHIFT.**

Acting on this goal, the City has initiated design plans for the future East Mesa Community Park – a 60-acre facility that will have areas for active recreation, such as sports fields, and passive recreation with grass, trees and a water feature, which will be

located at Avenue 6E and 36th Street. To expand recreation opportunities, the City has developed a number of joint use agreements with the school districts for use of their fields. Not only do these agreements provide sports facilities to area residents without the cost of construction, the schools are able to reduce costs by sharing field maintenance with the City. Also discussed in this chapter are the arts and cultural facilities available to the community. These include places like Roxaboxen Park, the Yuma Art Center, the Civic Center and the Historic Yuma Theatre. Parks, sports facilities, open space and arts and cultural facilities work in harmony to provide recreation opportunities for all of Yuma's residents. These facilities contribute to the physical as well as the visual qualities of the community and they enhance economic opportunities by making Yuma a more desirable place to live and play.





## Other Chapters of the General Plan are:

- Housing - Addresses standards and programs for housing quality, variety and affordability.
- Redevelopment - Considers plans for community redevelopment and the elimination of blighted areas. Identifies programs that promote home ownership, assistance to improve appearance, promote maintenance for commercial and residential buildings and provide for the safety and security of neighborhoods.
- Conservation - Identifies plans to protect natural resources and mitigate impacts on the environment from urban development. Identifies policies to encourage the efficient use of energy and greater uses of renewable resources.
- Public Services - Addresses plans and programs for police and fire services, water, sewer, stormwater, sanitation and schools.
- Safety - Considers plans to protect the community from natural disasters.
- Cost of Development - Identifies the fair distribution of infrastructure costs for new development.
- Growth Areas - Identifies areas suitable for a mix of developments and multi-modal opportunities.

## Creating the Plan

The Plan was developed on the foundation of past City Council and citizen efforts reflecting existing plans and policies. The development of the Joint Land Use Plan, in partnership with Yuma County, the City of Yuma Strategic Plan, Heritage Area planning efforts, the 2018 Yuma Bikeways Plan, the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the 2014 Transportation Master Plan, and Neighborhood Revitalization efforts have involved thousands of citizen hours. These efforts have included mass mailings, work groups, civic groups, public forums and hearings and culminated in City Council debate and adoption. Because of these efforts, an overriding vision and themes for the plan have been developed. The Vision parallels the City Council's Strategic Plan and Strategic Outcomes:

**YUMA IS A THRIVING, SAFE AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY WITH OPPORTUNITIES POWERED BY INNOVATION, PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATION AND ROBUST EDUCATION – A WELCOMING AND UNIQUE PLACE THAT ALL GENERATIONS ARE PROUD TO SHARE.**



**SAFE & PROSPEROUS**



**ACTIVE & APPEALING**



**CONNECTED & ENGAGED**



**UNIQUE & CREATIVE**



**RESPECTED & RESPONSIBLE**

## Public Outreach and Participation

General Plans are considered “living documents” that can be amended to respond to changing economic conditions and community needs and desires. Public outreach and participation has been significant through this effort with comments provided in a variety of ways – in-person listening sessions, an online survey, written comments and the public agency review process as legislated by statute. Public outreach efforts have included: a mailer to over 13,500 City of Yuma households, social media posts in multiple platforms, guest appearances on local radio shows and service club presentations.

In June 2021, the Planning and Zoning Commission hosted a series of Listening Sessions for residents to get involved and to provide public input. On June 7 and June 21 the general public was invited to speak to the Commission

and staff about how they would like to see Yuma develop. The Planning and Zoning Commission also held listening sessions June 14 with the development community and on June 28 with the City's government partners.

In July 2021, the City of Yuma hosted an online survey to gather more input from the community. The survey included a series of questions on the different chapters of the General Plan as well as general demographic questions. Overall, 246 persons participated in the survey with many responding to all 37 questions.

The Planning and Zoning Commission held public hearings on September 13 and October 11 and by the City Council on December 15, 2021. The voters will have the final say on the 2022 General Plan at the general election on November 8, 2022.



**2022 General Plan Team**

From left to right

Robert Blevins-Principal Planner, Amelia Griffin-Associate Planner, Alyssa Linville-Assistant Director, Chad Brown-Associate Planner, Jennifer Albers-Principal Planner and Erika Peterson-Associate Planner (not pictured Kent Brady, Geographic Information System Analyst and Alexis Garcia, Assistant Planner)



**City of Yuma**

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Yuma, AZ 85364-1436

## PROPOSITION 416 CITY OF YUMA 2022 GENERAL PLAN

The 2022 General Plan will not become effective until approved by a vote of the people.

If the proposition passes the City will have...

- A plan that meets current state law.
- A plan that projects the demands and desires of a growing and vital city.
- A plan that identifies strategies to accommodate future growth in a cost-effective manner.

If the proposition fails the City will have...

- A 10 year-old plan that doesn't reflect community demographics.
- A plan that will not include updated guidelines and policies.
- An additional state-mandated election, until a general plan is approved by the voters.

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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

For more information on the City's 2022 General Plan or to have staff speak to your community group about the Plan, please contact us at 928-373-5175.

Write to our offices at:  
Department of Planning & Neighborhood Services  
attn: 2022 General Plan.  
1 City Plaza, Yuma, AZ 85364

Or email to [Planning@YumaAZ.gov](mailto:Planning@YumaAZ.gov)

The City of Yuma 2022 General Plan may be viewed online at  
[yumaaz.gov/GeneralPlan](http://yumaaz.gov/GeneralPlan)

**Para más información por favor llame al teléfono 373-5175.**

