



Frequently Asked Questions

What constitutes a “historic” resource?

Historic resources include artifacts, buildings, sites, and landscapes that represent the lifestyle and culture of those who lived in an area. This includes everything from prehistoric artifacts to sites and buildings of our more recent history such as the early Cold War period of the 1950s. Nationally, historic resources are generally defined by a “50-years or older” rule. Locally, they may be more specifically defined and prioritized by their significance to an area. This significance could come from the relationship to a specific notable person, event, industry, or practice; the relative rarity of the resource such as a particular example of architecture or craftsmanship; or the level to which historic resources remain intact in a given area.

What is a historic preservation plan?

The protection of historic resources incorporates a wide range of issues and questions relating to land use, transportation, parks and open space, community character and identity, housing and neighborhoods, and economic development. A historic preservation plan considers the unique history of the City, the events, social culture, and landscape that shaped its development, and the goals the City has for its future. The plan document includes a vision, goals, and policies for how the City will identify and protect its historic resources now and in the future. It also guides implementation these goals and policies in the form of an implementation “action plan” consisting of specific strategies and priorities for the City to pursue. Once adopted, elected and appointed officials of the City will use the plan as a guide for their development and policy decisions as they relate to historic resources and areas throughout the City.

How does the historic preservation plan relate to other City Master Plans?

The historic preservation plan will establish goals, policies, and priorities for the future of the program including how resources are identified and preserved in the City. Since historic resources are scattered throughout much of the City, these goal and policy statements will necessarily impact the nine planning areas of the City. Currently, each area has an independent master plan and tends to address historic preservation very differently. Once the historic preservation plan is adopted, its goals and policies for historic preservation will apply citywide and supersede any existing historic preservation goals in existing planning area master plans. As plans are updated after the adoption of the historic preservation plan, they will be required to be consistent with the goals and policies of the Historic Preservation Plan. Future area plans may wish to establish finer-grained goals and policies specific to their area, but those should build upon, not contradict or replace established goals of the citywide preservation plan.

How long will it take to create the plan?

The planning process began in the summer of 2007 and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2008. Public involvement is crucial to the development of the plan, particularly in assessing the overarching vision, goals and policies, and strategies that will guide the development of the preservation program into the future. Public meeting dates, times, and locations will be posted on this web site, and the City encourages all members of the public to attend. If you need an oral or sign language interpreter, materials in alternative formats or other accommodations to access this meeting or program, please contact the Historic Landmark Commission Secretary at 535-6189 one week in advance of the meeting.



Before the plan becomes a formal policy document of the City, it will go before the Historic Landmark Commission (recommending body), Planning Commission (recommending body) and the City Council (adopting body) for review, comment, and adoption. These hearings will also be open to the public.

Who will be involved in creating the plan?

The planning process will incorporate the feedback and input from a variety of sources, including:

- ☞ City elected and appointed officials,
- ☞ City staff,
- ☞ State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- ☞ Citizens Advisory Committee,
- ☞ Property owners and residents, and
- ☞ Interested stakeholder groups.

There will be meetings throughout the process. Please check this site often to see announcements of upcoming events and new work products.