

1 **Chapter 1 Introduction: The Comprehensive Planning Process**
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4 (December 2008)
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6 The Town of Snowmass Village (TOSV) Comprehensive Plan articulates a common
7 vision for the future of the Town. The Plan balances community values and vision with
8 policies for land use, economics, environment, housing, transportation, and the arts. Both
9 short-term and long-term actions are required to implement the Plan. The residents of and
10 visitors to the Town of Snowmass Village are integral to the planning of the future of the
11 community. Our collective and individual responsibility is to work together to identify
12 common issues and needs and to pool resources in order to improve the community.
13

14 **The Process**

15 Just as with past planning documents, the ideas, concepts, and input gained from planning
16 experts, technical professionals, the general public, and others contributed to this update
17 of the Comprehensive Plan. Public officials and citizens were interviewed and a series of
18 public meetings was held to gather the best information and most current ideas about the
19 Town's present condition and future opportunities.
20

21 The process began with stakeholder interviews with the following groups:

- 22 ▪ TOSV Planning Commission
- 23 ▪ Citizens for Snowmass Village & Citizens for Responsible Growth
- 24 ▪ Community focus groups
- 25 ▪ Related Westpac
- 26 ▪ Chaffin Light
- 27 ▪ Lodges and merchants
- 28 ▪ Marketing/sales
- 29 ▪ The Aspen Skiing Company
- 30 ▪ Infrastructure and utility providers
- 31 ▪ Part-Time Residents Advisory Board
- 32

33 Topics discussed included:

- 34 ▪ Housing
- 35 ▪ Employment
- 36 ▪ Transportation
- 37 ▪ Services and infrastructure
- 38 ▪ Carrying capacity
- 39 ▪ Economics
- 40 ▪ Vitality
- 41 ▪ Community, character, and culture
- 42 ▪ Growth and development
- 43 ▪ The Base Village, West Village, and Village Center nodes
- 44 ▪ The environment
- 45 ▪ Process

1 Town staff initiated the process with a presentation of the State of the Comprehensive
2 Plan to the Planning Commission. The report identified specific areas of concern to
3 address in the update.

4
5 Public meetings then followed:

- 6 • Public Meeting 1 – Vision
- 7 • Public Meeting 2 – Values
- 8 • Public Meeting 3 – Validate Vision and Values
- 9 • Workshops—Specific to the redevelopment of the West Village

10
11 Common categories formed after these public meetings; they were assigned a chapter:

- 12 • The Built Environment
- 13 • The Natural Environment
- 14 • Regional and Community Economics
- 15 • Transportation
- 16 • Housing
- 17 • Arts and Culture
- 18 • Facilities and Amenities

19 20 **Policies**

21 The Town of Snowmass Village shall:

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- 23 ▪ Use the Comprehensive Plan as a regulatory document to guide Town elected
24 and appointed officials, staff, businesses, developers, property owners, and
25 other entities in implementing our goals and objectives.
- 26 ▪ Ensure that the Comprehensive Plan remains current and reflective of our
27 community values.
- 28 ▪ Ensure that implementation and updating of the Plan continues to be a
29 communitywide effort.
- 30 ▪ Provide opportunities for continued citizen involvement in implementation
31 decisions and in the land use planning process. The Plan will continue to
32 designate appropriate future land uses, activities and services, the protection
33 of the environment, and the enhancement of the economy based on the
34 community's preferences.
- 35 ▪ Communicate and work with counties and municipalities in the region and the
36 state to implement shared regional goals.
- 37

38 **Authority**

39 All municipal governments in the State of Colorado derive authority to enact land use
40 control measures from the general municipal authority granted in the Colorado
41 Constitution and by state legislation. The specific authority for a statutory municipality to
42 plan and zone is contained in Title 31, Article 23 of the Colorado Revised Statutes
43 (CRS). These statutes clearly specify the provisions pertaining to planning and zoning
44 activities for municipal governments and also extend to home rule municipalities. In
45 addition, the jurisdiction of the Comprehensive Plan, pursuant to CRS §31-23-212

1 includes land within three miles of the boundaries of the Town located in unincorporated
2 areas of Pitkin County.

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4 As a Home Rule Municipality, the Town may enact legislation that conflicts with state
5 legislation provided that the Town’s legislation is of a purely local concern. The authority
6 of the Snowmass Village Town Council to adopt a master plan arises specifically from
7 Section 1.7 of the Town of Snowmass Village Municipal Charter, which states, “The
8 council shall adopt and maintain a comprehensive master plan of the Town.”

9 In addition, the Planning Commission is charged with conducting a review of the Plan
10 according to Code.