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SECTION II: FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

Introduction

The City of Arlington's 20-year Comprehensive Plan incorporates the City's core values and priorities, as outlined in five foundational principles:

- » **Equity**
- » **Neighborhoods and Connectivity**
- » **Economic Stability and Vibrancy**
- » **Climate Adaptation and Community Resiliency**
- » **Healthy Active Lifestyles**

Purpose

These foundational principles help guide the City of Arlington to be a place where all residents can thrive economically, physically, and socially. This is becoming increasingly significant as the Central Puget Sound region continues to grow. With growth, we face challenges posed by a changing climate, a difficult housing and economic environment, technological changes, and other ever-changing conditions. The foundational principles are an extension of the vision and bridge the gap between the City’s core values and actions to achievable change. The foundational principles are aspirational, looking ahead to implementation by the year 2050 and are representative of the community’s vision of what Arlington should become as it plans for its future.

Implementing the foundational principles requires setting specific and measurable goals and policies. Each goal and policy of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan is in alignment with one of these five foundational principles. The definitions, associated symbols, and colors are shown below.

Implementation of the foundational principles also requires regular monitoring; these strategies are explained in Section V of this Plan. Having a plan to monitor the goals, policies, and associated actions helps to ensure City officials are incorporating the foundational principles into daily work, such as updating development regulations.

Figure FP-01 shows the relationship between the foundational principles, Books, goals, and policies. The number of goals and policies in each Book will vary, however, there will be a minimum of one goal and one policy associated with each foundational principle.

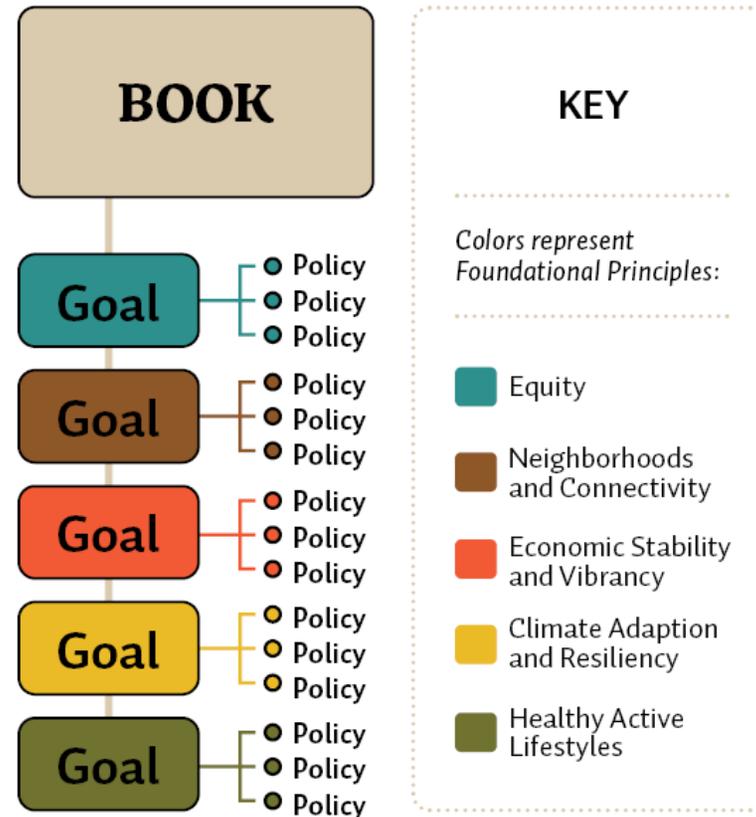
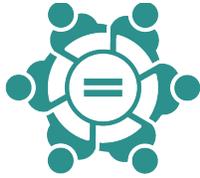


Figure FP-01- Foundational Principle, Goals, and Policy Framework



EQUITY

Arlington is a **diverse, inclusive community** whose residents have **equal opportunity to access** available resources, programs, services, housing, transportation options, and public amenities regardless of income level, race, ethnicity, gender, ability, or age. By establishing standards in 2024 to assess and manage these issues we are well positioned to address our current, as well as future needs, thus **eliminating any preventable inequities**.



ECONOMIC STABILITY AND VIBRANCY

Arlington’s economy has a global reach. With **diverse and robust manufacturing and industrial clusters**, as well as economic interests Arlington’s economy provides a **sustainable employment base**, allowing residents the opportunity to live, learn, work, and play in the same community. Maintaining diverse employment sectors has allowed Arlington to weather economic downturns. By promoting the growth of existing businesses, recruiting new innovative “green industries”, and **focusing on producing here, with the point of delivery in Arlington**, is critical in sustaining regional economic stability and vibrancy.



CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

Arlington remains a **community framed within a beautiful natural setting**, from the Stillaguamish River to the Cascade Mountains. These natural elements continue to enhance the quality of life for residences and the experience of being in Arlington as employees and visitors. Arlington has **committed to sustaining this iconic lifestyle by addressing our contribution to global climate change**, with requirements for greenhouse gas reduction, responsible use of essential resources, utilizing alternative energy sources, and proactive environmental stewardship. We are also **committed to the resiliency of our community**, through the innovative and imaginative implementation of the built environment and pre-emptive emergency planning that is essential in recovering from natural and human-caused disasters.



NEIGHBORHOODS AND CONNECTIVITY

Arlington’s neighborhoods are safe. Each **neighborhood is an expression of our community’s history and commitment to quality city planning**. Our neighborhoods are connected through a network of complete streets, trails, and transit routes, so that **residents have multiple transportation options** to commute to work, access services and amenities, and/or enjoy recreation opportunities. Identifying and evaluating each neighborhood in 2024 for its character, attributes, needs, and opportunities, was important in determining where key points of connectivity should occur and what investments should be made. **Connectivity includes the physical elements such as streets, sidewalks, and trails, but more importantly the social connections created by community events, parks, schools, and other public places**. Creating these social connections is essential in supporting all elements of the Comprehensive Plan.



HEALTHY ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

Arlington’s multi-faceted **approach to a healthy community has included social, economic, environmental, and physical factors**, which have had a positive effect on the overall strength of our community. The City has taken an active role in **planning for the health of our citizens** by implementing an array of elements available to all residents and employees. This includes multi-modal transportation options and access to nutritious food, social and health services, and quality recreational opportunities. **Parks and open spaces are recognized as a fundamental part of the City’s infrastructure** and critical to the health and well-being of our community.