

City of Tacoma - Citywide Projects

Home in Tacoma – Phase 2

Lead: Planning and Development Services, Comprehensive Planning, Elliott Barnett – ebarnett@cityoftacoma.org

Project description: Work is underway on Home in Tacoma – Phase 2. This phase will implement the City’s new housing growth strategy through zoning, standards, affordability and anti-displacement steps, and actions to support housing supply, affordability, and choice.

Timeline: In early 2024, Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing and make recommendations for the Home in Tacoma Phase 2 policy update. City Council will review recommendations in spring 2024.



One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan Update

Lead: Planning and Development Services and Public Works; Stephen Atkinson – satkinson@cityoftacoma.org

Project description: Tacoma’s Comprehensive Plan is an important tool that establishes the City’s future vision and policy direction, as well as guiding growth and development over the next 25 years through decisions on housing, land use, transportation, environment, and more. The City’s Transportation Master Plan (TMP) is also being updated, which will respond to zoning changes that emerge from initiatives such as Home in Tacoma and sub-area plans. The update will also seek to better align with the City’s Vision Zero goals, anti-racist transformation and equity focus, and emerging policy and technology trends.

Timeline: The once-in-a-decade update to Tacoma’s Comprehensive Plan is happening now through mid-2025. Opportunities to share your thoughts are coming later in 2024 and will include activities like surveys, events, workshops, and community meetings.

Community Safety Action Strategy

Lead: City Manager’s Office, Office of Strategy, Gabe Moaalii – gmoaalii@cityoftacoma.org

Project description: The Community Safety Action Strategy will create a comprehensive, long-term approach to community safety and is an important part of continued efforts to achieve racial justice and equity in Tacoma. We have heard from Tacoma residents that safety means more than just policing and crime enforcement, it’s also being connected to neighbors, having safe streets, clean neighborhoods, having places for youth to play, and supporting families and businesses.

Timeline: Throughout 2024, we are conducting community engagement to refine and create shared visions of safety and exploring potential actions.



To learn more, visit our website at www.cityoftacoma.org/SpotlightSouthTacoma, or contact us at planning@cityoftacoma.org.



Spotlight on South Tacoma

Winter 2024

About Spotlight on South Tacoma – What’s Happening in Your Neighborhood

We’ve been hearing your questions about upcoming City of Tacoma initiatives, as well as other projects that will impact the future of South Tacoma. We’re holding three events in early 2024 to better understand your questions, concerns, and vision for the future, and to identify ways that we can collaborate with you on making that vision a reality. Read more below about the ongoing and upcoming projects in your neighborhood.

Join us at these upcoming Spotlight on South Tacoma meetings:

- Thursday, February 29, 5:30-7pm: Neighborhood Planning Virtual Plan-A-Thon Kick-off Event – via Zoom
- Thursday, March 21, 5:30-7:30pm: What’s Happening, What’s Coming Open House, STAR Center

City of Tacoma – South Tacoma Neighborhood Projects



South Tacoma Way Neighborhood Plan

Lead: Planning and Development Services, Neighborhood Planning, Lauren Hoogkamer – lhoogkamer@cityoftacoma.org

Project description: The Neighborhood Planning Program is working with the South Tacoma neighborhood over the next 18 months to support neighborhood identity and vitality, identify a vision for the future, and then to help implement that vision over the next 2 to 3 years. The Neighborhood Plan

will be a guiding document that will outline community-identified projects, ideas, and actions to enhance and strengthen the neighborhood.

Timeline: The Plan will be developed through collaboration with neighbors throughout 2024, and will be informed by responses from surveys, community groups, and public meetings and events, led by a Steering Group of your neighbors. We will continue to work with partners and neighbors to support implementation in 2025 and beyond.

Manitou Annexation Area

Lead: Planning and Development Services, Comprehensive Planning, Wesley Rhodes – wrhodes@cityoftacoma.org

Project description: The City of Tacoma and Pierce County finalized an agreement in late 2021 for the Manitou Area’s annexation to the City of Tacoma.

Timeline: On December 12, 2023, the Tacoma City Council passed Ordinance 29894, which set an effective date for the annexation of the Manitou area from unincorporated Pierce County to the City of Tacoma on April 1, 2024.

South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD)

Lead: City of Tacoma: Planning and Development Services (Maryam Moeinian, mmoeinian@cityoftacoma.org), Tacoma Water, Environmental Services; Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

STGPD Code Updates

Project description: The South Tacoma groundwater aquifer system is one of the city's protected Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, a significant source of drinking water for the city of Tacoma. The South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD) is a zoning overlay zone established in 1988 to protect the aquifer by imposing regulations on businesses in this area for the handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous substances.

Timeline: In response to the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council's request, we are currently in the process of reviewing the City Code to determine if adjustments are needed to further protect the South Tacoma aquifer system, which we plan to continue through mid-2025.

STGPD Moratorium

Project description: A moratorium was established in March 2023 to prohibit the establishment of new, or the expansion of existing, underground storage tanks, metal recycling, and auto wrecking facilities within the STGPD. This will allow for the continuation of the current level of these uses and activities until the completion of the STGPD periodic code review and amendment process.

Timeline: The moratorium became effective on March 20, 2023 and was enacted for an initial period of up to one year. In early 2024, it is anticipated that the City Council will consider extending the current moratorium by six months.

Health Impact Assessment, associated with the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District

Lead: Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department; City of Tacoma Planning and Development Services

Project Description: Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) serve as tools to inform decision-makers and the public, of potentially significant impacts—both beneficial and harmful—of a proposed project, policy, or program. The City of Tacoma recently funded a Health Impact Assessment associated with the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District code update (see above) and is in discussions with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to establish a partnership to carry out this project.

Timeline: The HIA is anticipated to begin in winter of 2024 and be completed in the fall of 2024. However, the specific timeline will depend on the results of the screening and scoping phases.



South Tacoma Mixed-Use Center Historic Property Survey

Lead: Planning and Development Services, Historic Preservation Office, Susan Johnson – sjohnson@cityoftacoma.org

Project description: This historic survey will record approximately 200 buildings that are more than 50 years of age. There is little existing data on historic properties within the South Tacoma Mixed-Use Center, and the data gathered through the survey will inform the City's planning, economic development, outreach, and education efforts.

Timeline: The historic survey is projected to be completed by August 2024.



Manitou Elementary Safe Routes to School

Lead: Department of Public Works, Transportation Planning and Permitting, Cailin Henley – chenley@cityoftacoma.org

Project description: The City of Tacoma Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program works to make it safer, more convenient, and fun for K-12 students and families to walk, bike, and actively roll to school. This project will improve access to the school by adding a raised crosswalk, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB), and lighting, as well as protected and buffered bike lanes that connect to the Scott Pierson Trail.

Timeline: Design and review of Manitou Elementary SRTS improvements began in summer 2022, and construction began in winter 2023. The improvements are projected to be completed by spring 2024.

Partner Projects in South Tacoma

South Tacoma Station Access Improvements

Lead: Sound Transit, Melanie Mayock – melanie.mayock@soundtransit.org

Project description: Sound Transit is investing in better walking, bicycling, and bus facilities in South Tacoma. Filling gaps such as missing sidewalks, ADA ramps, or protected bike lanes will make it easier to get to South Tacoma Station and Sounder train service, as well as destinations around the neighborhood.

Timeline: In 2024, the Sound Transit Board will select the improvements to be built. All improvements are set to be completed by 2030.



Metro Parks System and Strategic Plan

Lead: Metro Parks Tacoma, Alisa O'Hanlon Regala – alisa.ohanlonregala@tacomaparks.com

Project description: Many Tacoma residents are more than a 10-minute walk from a public park. Six years ago, Metro Parks adopted its Strategic Master Plan, including the goal that every resident within the Park District have access to a park or open space within a 10-minute walk from their residence.

Timeline: The System & Strategic Plan is being updated to guide the next 6 years of development of the park and recreation system. Community members have been engaged in conversation throughout January 2024.

Tacoma Mall Greening Project (TMGP) & Greening Research in Tacoma (GRIT)

Lead: Office of Environmental Policy and Strategy, Urban Forestry; The Nature Conservancy in Washington (GRIT), Ryan Hebert – rhebert@cityoftacoma.org

Project description: In 2018, the City of Tacoma received a grant to address tree canopy cover, access to green space, and positive health outcomes in the Tacoma Mall neighborhood. As directed by past engagement efforts, the project team focused the scope of this grant on tree planting and water quality improvements. In 2021, these efforts resulted in Greening Research in Tacoma (GRIT): a collaboration between the Tacoma Tree Foundation, The Nature Conservancy in Washington, the University of Washington, and the City of Tacoma aiming to understand more about the intersection of human health and increased greening in South Tacoma.

Timeline/what's happening now: The University of Washington is recruiting South Tacoma residents for a study on the relationship between community experience, environmental surroundings, and well-being. Take a brief pre-survey to find out if you are eligible for the well-being study: <http://tinyurl.com/3yfcmcmw>