PGH Comprehensive Plan 2050

An Overview of the
Comprehensive Plan, Process &
Citywide Engagement

Department of City Planning
Kyla Prendergast
Kyla.Prendergast@pittsburghpa.gov

Overview

- What is a Comprehensive Plan
- Topics important to the Negley Run Watershed Task Force
- Project Timeline & Current Status
- Get Involved/Stay Updated!
- Q&A

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A comprehensive plan is the expression of a holistic community-wide vision of the city's future, which includes the creation of strategic goals, programs, policies, and actions to reach that vision.

- Guides future development for all parts of the city.
- Provides the overall foundation for all land use regulation in the city by developing a map of future land uses.
- Considers the impact of physical and environmental conditions throughout the city (ex. topography, rivers, soil/air quality, etc.).
- Sets a planning horizon of about 20 years—a duration in which we can reasonably anticipate economic & population growth patterns while also avoiding the pitfalls of short-term thinking that can weaken a cohesive vision for the future.
- Informs and substantiates the development decisions of municipal leaders.

PGH 2050 will focus on actionable strategies

1. Guiding **where and how development happens** across Pittsburgh
2. Supporting **smart decisions about land use**
3. **Addressing environmental challenges** (hills, rivers, air quality)
4. Creating a vision for Pittsburgh through 2050 that **centers the voices of residents**
5. Aligning City investments and operations to support **efficient use of public assets and services**

Comp Plan will focus on 20+ areas that impacting residents

Civic Participation

- Civic Engagement
- Racial Equity Frameworks
- Planning Governance

People, Place + Culture

- Historic Preservation
- Arts + Culture
- Population + Demographics
- Parks + Open Space

Home + Neighborhoods

- Housing
- Real Estate + Vacancy
- Neighborhoods
- Urban Design
- Land Use + Zoning

Work, Jobs + Economy

- Economic Opportunity

Infrastructure, Health + Climate

- Environmental Justice
- Climate Action
- Energy
- Waste
- Technology + Digital Equity
- Mobility & Transportation
- Stormwater Mgmt. + Infrastructure Design
- Food Policy
- Public Health + Safety

Stormwater Management & Blue/Green Infrastructure

Warning: What is changing in a concerning way?

1. ***Climate change is putting pressure on the City's stormwater infrastucture***
   Pittsburgh's stormwater infrastructure faces increased risk and vulnerability to climate change. Increased severe storms causes hazards such as flooding, landslides, and soil erosion, putting pressure on the system.
2. ***The City's aging infrastructure struggles to handle increasing precipitation cause by climate change.***
   The current stormwater management and sewer system are over 100 years old. Pipes are undersized and were not designed to handle increased precipitation due to climate hange.
3. ***Natural systems that once treated stormwater have declined overtime.***
   Natural systems across the city have declined. Tree canopy loss and pervious surface loss are of particular concern related to stormwater management.
4. ***Land use change and new development continue to put pressure on the existing stormwater management system.***
   New development is required to meet stormwater regulations, but increased development still puts pressure on the existing system. Other impacts to consider are increased pervious surface, pollution runoff, overflows during heavy rain, and losses of natural water absorption areas.

Environmental Justice

Warning/Stuck: What is changing in a concerning way and what is not changing, but should?

1. ***City staff has recognized the federal Justice40 program as a key framework for alignment; however, its stability may be uncertain due to the evolving political landscape.***

   Justice40 is a federal initiative designed to ensure that 40 percent of the overall benefits from certain federal climate, clean energy, affordable and sustainable housing investments are directed to disadvantaged communities. However, the incoming administration has expressed intentions to scale back the program, raising uncertainty about the availability of future funding opportunities and the continuity of associated data tools.

2. ***Climate change impacts can exacerbate existing environmental justice concerns for overburdened communities.***

   As climate change intensifies extreme heat, droughts, and heavy rainfall—like those seen in 2024—environmental justice communities face the greatest burden. Climate hazards worsen existing environmental exposures, such as polluted soil, air, and water, leading to long-term health risks. Substandard housing further amplifies these impacts, making residents even more vulnerable to environmental and climate-related health challenges.

3. ***There is no comprehensive trend tracking of historical environmental exposures and environmental hazard sites by the City; this can create difficulties to see what progress has made in remediation and other environmental exposures over time.***

   At the state and county level, there are sources indicating the current sites of remediation, hazardous waste and storage sites, oil/gas wells, mining areas, and more, but there is little information tracking the progress of decommissioning and the remediation these sites.

4. ***Efforts are being made to remedy the City's polluted rivers, but pollutants are still found in high concentrations.***

   The City has long faced challenges with pollution from Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and continues to be impacted by industrial pollution from nearby mining and manufacturing. Additionally, emerging contaminants such as PFAS have recently been detected in local rivers, highlighting ongoing water quality concerns.

Timeline

October - January 2025
Phase 1: Research
Analyzing Pittsburgh's current state and launching community engagement to get people excited about the plan.
We are here!
February - April 2025
Phase 2: Synthesis
Developing a Just Pittsburgh framework and increasing awareness of the plan across Pittsburgh.
May - September 2025
Phase 3: Shared Vision
Co-designing a shared vision for the city and collecting community feedback through meetings/events and online surveys.
August - April 2026
Phase 4: Scenario Planning
Developing planning scenarios for the future of Pittsburgh through a collaborative process with community members.
April - June 2026
Phase 5: Plan Development
Finalize the Comprehensive Plan with policy recommendations, implementation guides, and accountability measures.

Engagement Overview

The **Working Groups** will be one of our primary feedback mechanisms to ensure we get direct feedback from residents.

We will have **public forums** and other **large public events** to engage a broader group of residents.

We will spotlight residents directly via our **90-to-1 campaign**.

There will be **90 mini-grants given to community groups to host forums** for engagement as well.

A **digital hub**, PGH2050.com, has been created to get your feedback, share information, and provide a platform for tracking community priorities, planning recommendations, and eventually implementation.

We invite you to make YOUR voice heard!

Learn more and sign up for updates:

Visit PGH2050.com to sign up for email updates

Follow social media:

@city_pittsburgh
@mayoredgainey
@planpgh

pgh2050.com

Share your family story through the 90-to-1 campaign

And visit the 90-to-1 exhibition today!

https://sasakistrategies.typeform.com/90to1

90 to 1 survey

Bring your neighbors into the PGH2050 process:

- Host a community event
- Support a Topic-Area Working Group
- ...and more opportunities!

Visit this URL or scan the QR code to the right!

Follow on EngagePGH

How Can Community Members Participate?

There will be many ways to get involved:

- ❑ Attend community meetings and public events
- ❑ Take online surveys at PGH2050.COM
- ✓ Apply to the Community Working Group *(application closed)*
- ✓ Apply to the Youth Working Group *(application closed)*
- ❑ Give feedback on draft plans
- ❑ Participate through social media
- ❑ Watch for events in your neighborhood

Thank You!

Please reach out with any questions!

Kyla Prendergast
Kyla.Prendergast@pittsburghpa.gov
412-522-6551

https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/citywide-comprehensive-plan
https://pgh2050.com/