



# LIVINGSTON GROWTH POLICY

Executive Summary | May 2021

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## Executive Summary

### A. What is a Growth Policy?

A growth policy serves as a comprehensive plan to guide decisions about land use and development, as well as other public investments. Growth policies are one of the most direct methods to promote growth management at the local level. They are implemented by city or county planning organizations through regulatory tools such as design standards and financing tools.

The Growth Policy contains Goals, Objectives, and Strategies to guide the direction of growth and change in the community based on a needs assessment and public input laying out the community’s vision for the future of Livingston.

### B. Process

In the fall of 2019, the City of Livingston partnered with Burton Planning Services to begin the process of updating the City Growth Policy adopted in 2017. In preparing a draft Growth Policy, a needs assessment was undertaken, including data gathering, several public meetings, and two community surveys. The full preliminary draft of the Growth Policy was presented to the Planning Board in October of 2020, at which time the Planning Board began taking public comment and reviewing the document. The Planning Board held 13 public meetings to review the document and make recommended changes to the draft based on public comment. In April of 2021, the Planning Board recommended adoption of the draft Growth Policy. The City of Livingston Growth Policy was adopted by the City Commission in June of 2021.

Figure 1.1: Planning Process & Schedule



### C. Community Input

As Livingston grows and changes, there was a clear desire shown through both the public meetings and the surveys to preserve the community’s character. A survey was preformed to determine how residents define Livingston’s character, with the most frequently used terms shown in the word cloud on the next page.

Through this survey three overarching themes were identified as most important to the community’s vision of Livingston’s character:

- ▶ A friendly laid-back atmosphere
- ▶ The surrounding natural environment
- ▶ The look and feel of downtown

Figure 2.5: How Livingston Residents Define “Community Character”



WordItOut

Through the public input process these three themes were refined to four guiding principles of the Growth Policy:

- ▶ Infill development and redevelopment of properties inside the city limits should be the primary objective of future policies. A significant effort should be made to maintain or shrink the number of acres encompassed inside the city limits.
- ▶ Housing is an immediate need in the community and actions to identify the gaps and create policies to spur new, appropriate, housing development is paramount.
- ▶ The preferred area for commercial development is the downtown district. While this is important, it also needs to be balanced with mixed use potential in local neighborhoods to allow for important services to be within walking distance or residents.
- ▶ Our natural habitats are critically important to the community with the Yellowstone River as the crown jewel of our natural resources.

The Goals, Objectives, and Strategies included in the Growth Policy reflect these principles as the Community’s vision in guiding the future of Livingston.

## D. Contents of the Growth Policy

The Growth Policy specifically addresses the following topics:

- ▶ Population and community character
- ▶ Land use
- ▶ Natural resources
- ▶ Housing

- ▶ Economy
- ▶ Local services
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Public facilities
- ▶ Inter-governmental coordination and collaboration
- ▶ Regulatory recommendations

Additionally, Appendix A of the Growth Policy contains recommendations for the 2-mile area around city limits known as the Extra-territorial Jurisdiction or ETJ.

## E. How will the Growth Policy Used?

As the City's foundational planning document, the Growth Policy will be used as a guide for the following projects:

- ▶ Strategic planning
- ▶ Updating and creation of city plans and ordinances
- ▶ Regulation of the Extra-territorial Jurisdiction

Additionally, the consistency with the Growth Policy is required to be evaluated under state law for the following actions:

- ▶ Zoning map and text amendments
- ▶ Subdivision review
- ▶ Annexations