General Plan Frequently Asked Questions

The General Planning process is highly involved and includes topics that the public may not be familiar with. Below are some frequently asked questions and answers to help the public understand the importance of this process and the General Plan document.

**What is a General Plan?**
A General Plan is a state mandated document that guides the City's development and growth.

**Why is it important for a City to have a General Plan?**
A General Plan tells the City how it develop in the next few decades and how it will meet upcoming challenges like climate change or a changing economy. How the City approaches the changing community is determined by community input during the General Plan process.

**What is included in a General Plan?**
The General Plan is made up of chapters called “Elements”. Each element focuses on a different topic area in the City. There are 8 mandatory elements that must be included in the final General Plan. The 8 mandatory elements are:

- Land Use - focuses on where homes and businesses are located in the city and how they develop
- Circulation - looks at the infrastructure of a city and how it will develop to meet future needs
- Conservation - preserves and conserves natural resources in the City
- Open Space - aims to preserve spaces for recreational and aesthetic enjoyment.
- Safety - ensures a community is safe from potential short-term and long-term consequences of disasters
- Noise - ensures a community is protected from excessive noise levels
- Housing - contains strategies to provide affordable, high-quality housing options
- Environmental Justice - identifies disadvantaged communities and strategies to ensure their access to a healthy community

The City may also add optional elements to address specific topics in the area like historic and cultural places, technology, or economic development.

**Who prepares a General Plan?**
The General Plan process is started by the individual city but can be prepared by a consultant or the City Staff.

**What is the process to create or revise a General Plan?**
A General Plan revision process starts with educating and surveying the public. Workshops, surveys, and public events will occur throughout the General Plan process to engage the public and keep them informed on the progress of the plan. The final plan is presented to the City Council for approval.

**Does all of my input go into the final General Plan?**
The final General Plan is based on input collected throughout the planning process. Although your specific comment may not appear in the final document, it is included in public outreach summaries. The summaries of the input received are used to create goals and implementation measures.

**Spirit of Mt. Shasta General Plan Revision 2045**