

Hurricane City General Plan Update Questionnaire

“Protect the past – ensure the future”

The City of Hurricane has a population of about 14,000. There is enough land and water for the city to grow to at least 140,000 by 2045, possibly more. This will happen gradually, not overnight. As the City grows, the character of the community is bound to change. Right now the City has the opportunity to decide what kind of community we will become. We want to hear your voice as we finish up our updated General Plan.

Quality of Life/Local Issues

1. Please rate your satisfaction with the following services and characteristics as they relate to the City of Hurricane as a whole. Use a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means “not satisfied” and 5 means “very satisfied”.

- _____ Variety of shopping choices
- _____ Community Character
- _____ Number and quality of parks, playing fields and playgrounds
- _____ Adequacy of recreation programs and activities
- _____ Maintenance (physical upkeep) of the City
- _____ Variety/availability of affordable housing
- _____ Ability to learn about city government action and issues via media
- _____ Preservation of permanent open space and the environment
- _____ Sidewalks and walkability
- _____ Capacity of major roads
- _____ Employment opportunities

2. From the list above, what do you believe is the most important issue facing the City of Hurricane today? And which is second most important?

Single most important issue _____ Second most important issue

3. Over the past few years what, if anything, has made the “quality of life” in the City of Hurricane better. What if anything has made the quality of life worse?

Better? _____ Worse?

Housing / Neighborhoods

4. Do you think the City of Hurricane has the right amount, too much, or too little of the following:

Too Little Just about Right Too Much

Mobile Home Parks.....

RV Parks.....

Townhomes, Apartments, duplexes.....

Assisted living for senior citizens.....

Upscale residences on large lots.....

5. **Most neighborhoods have some good and some not-so-good aspects. If you were to create the ideal neighborhood for you and your family, how important would the following be? Use a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 means “Not at all Important” and 5 means “Very Important”.**

_____ Live close to walking paths
_____ Live close to a Park
_____ Living close to where you work
_____ Living close to an elementary school
_____ Having neighborhood businesses nearby
_____ Living close to a downtown with entertainment, restaurants, and shopping within walking distance
_____ Being able to walk to all the above

Growth and Development

6. **Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding how you think the City of Hurricane should spend tax dollars in the future, using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means “spend less” and 5 means “spend more even if taxes go up”.**

a. _____ Coordinate location and quality of new growth and development
b. _____ Encourage residents to keep up their homes and property
c. _____ Encourage more upkeep on neighborhood streets
d. _____ Plant trees along streets and in medians to provide shade and character
e. _____ Improve cultural facilities, libraries, museums etc.
f. _____ Provide additional sidewalks and trails
g. _____ Preserve historical buildings and areas
h. _____ Attract business and industrial uses
i. _____ Improve the design standards and appearance of new buildings
j. _____ Provide for street separation for bicycle and pedestrian use
k. _____ Have a downtown area with shops, restaurants and gathering places.
l. _____ Slow traffic in residential neighborhoods by installing traffic calming devices
m. _____ Provide on street bike paths

7. **From items a-m listed above which do you consider to be the highest priorities? (insert two choices from the above list)**

_____ Highest Priority

_____ Second highest priority

8. **Please rate how important the following are to you regarding the “livability” of the City of Hurricane.**

_____ Better street design to accommodate traffic flow
_____ Better controls on commercial signage and remove clutter
_____ Preserving the night skies
_____ More shade in commercial parking areas
_____ More landscaping for commercial and office buildings

9. **There is currently still a large agricultural area south of Gould's Wash in the area known as the South Fields/Bench Lake area. Local food production and creating sustainable communities has become the focus of many communities throughout the West with family farms, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's), and grass fed meat becoming more popular. Which of the following most closely represents your opinion of local food production and preserving agricultural opportunities? (please circle one)**

a) I think only the property owners have the right to decide what happens with the South Fields area and I would not mind if it was all developed into housing or commercial property

OR

b) I think preserving locations for viable agriculture is important within the City limits and think places for local food production should be preserved.

(If you selected b.) there are different ways that it may be possible to preserve the agricultural uses in the South Fields. Which of the following do you MOST support? (choose one only).

_____ Create (through a public vote) a special tax to fund the purchase of development rights from property owners to preserve the area as an agricultural area

_____ Zone the area for very large parcels(5-10 acres) to encourage 'ranchettes' to provide areas for food production.

_____ Encourage landowners and developers to cluster development, which will create pockets of higher density and preserve agricultural land.

10. **The proposed General Plan encourages denser development at the base of hills and on the higher ground surrounding the farm lands. Is this a development pattern you would support? (please circle one)**

yes

no

11. **One of the consequences of development is often the creation of a "walled street". Both sides of the streets are bordered by back yard walls and all the houses face other streets. Some people think that walled streets are impersonal, create an undesirable walking environment ("no man's land") and encourage higher traffic speeds. An alternative to walled streets is the traditional boulevard, with houses fronting toward the street and front yards behind the sidewalk. Such a design requires lower traffic speeds that make it more desirable in a residential area. Which of the following is closest to your opinion?**

a) I think walled streets are acceptable, and would not mind if the approach is permitted in the City of Hurricane.

OR

b) I dislike walled streets and feel that we should not allow walled streets, but should have more traditional streets where houses or businesses face the street.

12. **Traffic is generally an unavoidable side effect of growth. It seems that we can't keep up, no matter how many and how big the roads. At the same time, as we optimize for traffic by adding more lanes, and design for higher speeds, the roads become less accommodating to pedestrians and less appealing to residents. Which of the following is closest to your opinion?**

a) Traffic is a significant problem and we should do everything possible to move cars through town with minimum slow-downs, even if it means a less attractive community.

OR

b) We should bring back more balance between the needs of traffic and making our community livable and attractive. I would accept slightly lower traffic efficiency in exchange for more pleasing and slower speeds.

13. Currently, the City has a General Plan, but it allows property owners and developers to apply for a change to the General Plan twice a year. On one hand this allows lots of flexibility. On the other hand, there is often little consistency and predictability as to how the City will develop. Which of the following is closest to your opinion? (Circle one)

a) I think developers should not be constrained by a plan. The Council should have maximum flexibility and decide each situation on its own merit.

OR

b) I think the City should have a plan, and stick to it except where there is a very compelling reason to change it.

14. Ridges and hillsides form a unique backdrop for the City of Hurricane. However, they are mostly in private ownership. Although some have been compromised by development, there are several prominent ones still undeveloped. The City does have a Sensitive Lands Ordinance. Which of the following is closest to your opinion?

a) I think that since some of the ridges and hillsides have been developed, it's not important to preserve what's left, especially since it is private property.

OR

b) Even though it's private property, I think we should preserve ridges and hillsides through the Sensitive Lands Ordinance using incentives such as transfer of development rights, clustering or public purchase.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

15. Where do you Mostly . . . (circle one for each category)

Shop for Groceries

- a) Hurricane
- b) St. George
- c) Other

Shop for clothing

- a) Hurricane
- b) St. George
- c) Other

Visit doctor/dentist

- a) Hurricane
- b) St. George
- c) Other

Visit a Park

- a) Hurricane
- b) St. George
- c) Other

Eat at Restaurants

- a) City of Hurricane
- b) St. George
- c) Other

16. At the present time, most of our commercial development is in the form of strip commercial along SR-9 surrounded by parking lots. This is mostly car-oriented shopping and doesn't provide much of a 'Main Street' pedestrian shopping environment. With regulations, and possible incentives, over time we could bring about a traditional 'Main Street', with shops, offices, and restaurants along SR-9. Which of the following is closest to your opinion? (circle one)

a) I think a pedestrian-oriented 'downtown commercial area' (a main street) is important and we should try to create one for the City of Hurricane.

OR

b) I don't think a pedestrian-oriented 'downtown' is important. I would seldom use it.

17. Please rate how important the following are to you with respect to how future commercial development should occur, using a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 means "Not at all Important" and means "Very Important".

_____ A downtown with streets, sidewalks and benches, and with a mix of shops, offices (and even residences) creating a diversity of activity.

_____ Smaller commercial centers (corner store) convenient to residential neighborhoods

_____ Big stores in centers with lots of parking

_____ Large, enclosed shopping mall

PARKS AND RECREATION

18. Please rate how important the following amenities are to you regarding the expenditure of City funds for new or expanded facilities using a scale of a to 5 where 1 means "Spend less" and 5 means "Spend more".

a. _____ Preserving open space and sensitive environment areas

b. _____ Local neighborhood parks and turf areas and playgrounds

c. _____ Off-street walking and bike paths

d. _____ Community parks with soccer and baseball/softball fields

e. _____ A large recreation center

f. _____ On-street bike lanes

g. _____ Outdoor basketball courts

h. _____ Tennis courts

i. _____ Equestrian trails

19. Of the issue listed above, which do you consider to be the highest priority for the City to create, expand or improve? (Insert one letter from the list above)

Highest Priority

Now a few questions about you . . . THIS PORTION OF THE SURVEY IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY. PLEASE COMPLETE QUESTIONS 1-19 EVEN IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO COMPLETE THESE QUESTIONS.

Please remember that all responses remain strictly confidential and are reported only in a group format.

20. In what year were you born?

21. **Are you male or female? (circle one)**
22. **In what type of housing unit do you currently reside?**
a) Single family home on its own lot
b) Duplex/triplex home on its own lot
c) Townhouse/condo with no lot
d) Apartment
e) Mobile or manufactured home
f). Recreational Vehicle
23. **Do you own or rent your current residence?**
a) Own
b) Rent
c) Staying with friends or family
d) Other _____
24. **How long have you been a resident of the City of Hurricane?**
25. **Including yourself, how many people live in your household?**
26. **How many members of your household are under the age of 18?**
27. **How many persons living in your household have full-time or part-time jobs? (at least 20 hours per week)**
28. **If you work, how do you typically get to work?**
a) Drive a car alone
b) Ride share with one or more others
c) Bike/walk
29. **Where do members of your household work? Enter number or people who work in the following locations:**
a) City of Hurricane
b) St. George
c) Washington City
d) Other
30. **Try to estimate how many hours a week, on average, does your family spend (add everyone's time for each category):**
a) Driving to/from work
b) Driving to/from school
c) Driving to/from shopping
d) Running errands
Total hours _____
31. **Does your household currently have internet access that allows you to send/receive e-mails and surf the web?**
Yes _____ No _____

- 32. From which of the following do you receive most of your information about what's happening in and around the City of Hurricane?**
- a) The Spectrum newspaper
 - b) City newsletter with utility billing
 - c) City's web page
 - d) Cable TV

Thank you for your participation in this important survey. Your opinions will be extremely helpful in the General Plan Update

Are you willing to be contacted to participate in follow-up research?

No

Yes (how do you prefer to be contacted?)

Email address _____
Or

Postal address _____
Or

Phone number _____
