

Lakewood City Council Goals

2025-2026



Website
CityofLakewood.us



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Acknowledgement

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City of
Lakewood



About Lakewood

Lakewood is a thriving, urban, South Puget Sound City, possessing the core values of family, community, education, economic prosperity, and the equitable delivery of municipal services.

We will advance these values by recognizing our past, taking action in the present, and pursuing a dynamic future.



Vision

The City Council's vision for Lakewood at its 30 Year Anniversary is a community:

- Inspired by its own sense of history and progress;
- Known for its safe and attractive neighborhoods, vibrant downtown, active arts and cultural communities;
- Sustained by robust economic growth and job creation;
- Recognized for the excellence of its public and private schools, and its community and technical colleges;
- Characterized by the beauty of its lakes, parks and natural environment;
- Acknowledged for excellence in the delivery of municipal services;
- That actively cultivates, embraces, and continually strives to create a more inclusive community with the equitable delivery of City services; and
- Supportive of Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM), Camp Murray, service members and their families.



Goals

The purpose of the City Council Goals is to direct our community toward positive change and serve as the policy direction for City government as well as the policy guide for developing and implementing the City's 2025-2026 biennial budget.

City Council goals guide the allocation of resources through the budget and capital improvement program to assure that organizational work plans and projects are developed and achieved that move the community forward.



Commitment

In addition to specific goals, the City Council maintains its commitment to the following:

- Financial stewardship
- Community engagement and transparency
- Regional and statewide leadership and partnership
- Ensuring a safe city
- Economic development to attract and create jobs
- Environmental protection and preservation
- Supporting human services, housing and homelessness
- Commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging
- Recognizing the value and importance of JBLM and Camp Murray
- Rebuilding our roadway system and adding sidewalks for pedestrian and bicycle access
- The City's strong leadership to improve parks
- Providing a wide range of community events and youth programming



Operational Values

Operational values improve and optimize the functional performance of the City to achieve adopted goals.



Regional Partnerships

The City encourages and participates in regional approaches to service delivery to the extent that a regional model produces efficiencies and cost savings, and ultimately improves service to our community members.

Efficiency

The City is committed to providing public services in the most efficient manner possible and maximizing the public's return on its investment. The City will concentrate efforts on data-driven decisions that optimize available resources.

Accountability

The City is accountable to the community for the achievement of City goals. The City will identify meaningful metrics and determine a series of benchmarks to convey City efforts within goal areas. The City will track performance over the next four years, adjusting, when necessary, to optimize services and efforts.



Proactive Focus

The City proactively focuses on the entire condition of the City. The City will promote long-term financial and strategic planning backed by quantifiable data and analysis.



Goal 1: Downtown Park(s) & Multi-Generational Community Center Development

By 2030, Lakewood will boast a vibrant and inclusive downtown park(s) and multi-generational community center that serves as a central hub for recreation, culture, and community engagement. This space will reflect our commitment to enhancing quality of life, promoting diversity and inclusivity, fostering a sense of belonging for all residents, regardless of age, background or circumstances, and provides a welcoming space for all to enjoy.

Phase 1: Land Acquisition (2025)

- Identify and acquire suitable real estate within the downtown area for the development of an urban park(s) and multi-generational community center.

Phase 2: Planning, Design and Permitting (2026-2027)

- Develop a downtown master park plan that incorporates multi-generational recreational activities and gathering spaces, that may include a splash pad, play areas, walking and connector pathways and seating areas.
- Engage architects, landscape designers, community stakeholders, and residents.
- Ensure the park(s) design is inclusive, accessible, and sustainable, with green spaces, shaded areas, and eco-friendly features.
- Design the multi-generational community center space to be welcoming and accessible to individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and economic conditions, promoting social cohesion and community pride.
- Integrate public art and areas that celebrate the City's history and cultural heritage, such as public art installations, festival areas, and historical exhibits.

Phase 3: Project Financing and Construction (2028-2029)

- Identify and secure funding.
- Begin construction of the urban park(s).
- Construct a state-of-the-art multi-generational community center adjacent to the urban park(s), providing facilities for diverse activities such as sports, senior programs, teen activities, arts, education, and community events.

Phase 4: Community Engagement and Programming (2028-2030)

- Develop partnerships to ensure sustainability of operations.
- Launch community programs and events to activate the new space.
- Gather feedback for continuous improvement and future initiatives.



Goal 2: Public Safety

Continue to reduce crime and create a safer City by implementing comprehensive public safety strategies, fostering community partnerships, and investing in people and resources that support crime prevention, emergency response, accountability, and community well-being. Public Safety is a collaborative effort that encompasses community policing, court, and social and human services.

Focus on Community Engagement to increase Community-Based Policing

- Promote community policing initiatives that build trust and cooperation between residents and law enforcement and enhances visibility to include neighborhood patrols, regular community events and meetings and surveys to gather input on safety concerns and suggestions.
- Maintain open communication with schools, community groups and businesses to encourage dialogue and partnership with the police department.
- Promote and encourage cooperation between city departments, the community and other public entities to create a positive environment.
- Provide education to the community in every way possible; to include the Citizen's Police Academy, Youth Council, during a Ride-Along, and Community Group Meetings to emphasize crime reduction successes.
- Empower police employees to evaluate and take the necessary steps to improve dire situations affecting the safety of its residents.

Reduce Crime and Fear of Victimization

- Reduce violent crime by 5%.
- Utilize data-driven approaches to identify and address crime hotspots and emerging trends.
- Ensure efficient deployment of law enforcement resources to maximize overall effectiveness.
- Work effectively to solve crime while prosecuting those responsible.
- Increase public safety education and prevention measures for residents.
- Share information with local, state and federal agencies to address public safety.
- Maintain effective staff levels to reduce response times.

Goal 2: Public Safety

Reduce Traffic Collisions to Create Safer Communities

- Use new techniques to reduce traffic eludes.
- Enforce traffic laws with emphasis on speed reduction and community safety measures.
- Use of Automated Traffic Safety Cameras in critical areas.

Increase Use of Technological Advancements in Public Safety

- Increase Code Red participation among Lakewood residents to enhance city emergency management preparedness.
- Advance the use of license plate readers (LPR's - Flock and Axon) to reduce stolen vehicles.
- Explore use and implementation of real time crime center for overall situational awareness.
- Explore and Increase technological use for better efficiencies in patrol.

Enhance Police Officer Training, Wellness and Support

- Create a positive learning environment to promote best practices and advancements in law enforcement.
- Ensure sound and timely training and communication for officers.
- Increase mental health training and individual wellness.
- Promote and encourage involvement in wellness activities.
- Work to create a positive work environment to support officer development and fairness in the workplace.

Other Public Safety goals

- Foster a supportive environment for residents experiencing crises, ensuring they have access to necessary resources such as mental health, substance abuse to include opioids, homelessness, and domestic violence.
- Evaluate, and if feasible transition municipal court operations from in-house to a contracted service.

Goal 3: Parks & Lakes Access

Ensure equitable water access by prioritizing acquisition, development and protection of public open spaces along Lakewood shorelines.

Edgewater Park Master Plan Implementation

Phase 1 (2025-2026): Funding and Timeline

- Secure funding through grants and budget allocations to implement Edgewater Park improvements.
- Establish a project timeline with key milestones and deliverables.

Phase 2 (2027-2030): Implementation

- Begin phased implementation of the master plan to include design and permitting. Project enhancements will include access and safety improvements, environmental restoration, roadway improvements, a fishing pier and a new boat launch.
- Continue to engage with the community to ensure improvements align with adopted Master Plan goals.

Street End Pilot Projects

Phase 1 (2025): Funding and Design

- Identify funding sources to implement street end pilot projects as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB).
- Develop design for selected street end and obtain necessary permits.

Phase 2 (2026): Implementation

- Construct street end pilot projects.

Goal 3: Parks & Lakes Access

Camp Murray Boat Launch Improvements

Phase 1 (2025-2026): Camp Murray Boat Launch Joint Master Plan

- Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Camp Murray to develop a Camp Murray Boat Launch Joint Master Plan for improvements at the boat launch on American Lake.
- Develop a Camp Murray Boat Launch Joint Master Plan to increase equitable access to American Lake via the Camp Murray Boat Launch, particularly for the residents of the Tillicum and Woodbrook neighborhoods, who have limited public access to lakes in the City due to geographic and economic conditions.
- Master Plan issues will address the needs of the community and may include the following: ADA-accessible walkways and site amenities, security lighting, parking lot improvements, boat launch improvements, fencing and place-making signage.
- Master Plan will ensure boat launch improvements address City, Lakewood Police Department, West Pierce Fire and Rescue, and Camp Murray operational needs, security, and mission readiness.

Phase 2 (2027-2028): Funding and Timeline

- Pursue state grants and allocations to implement the Camp Murray Boat Launch Master Plan. Funding sources may include Washington Recreation and Wildlife Program (WWRP), Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) and LWCF.
- Establish a project timeline with key milestones and deliverables.

Phase 3 (2028-2030)

- Begin phased implementation to include final design and permitting of the Camp Murray Boat Launch Master Plan.

Interlaaken Bridge (2025)

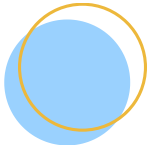
- Conduct a feasibility study that evaluates future options that includes community input, traffic flow alternatives and impacts, open public spaces, pedestrian access, safety, environmental impact, community needs, and long-term sustainability.

Goal 4:

Downtown and Lakewood Station District Subareas Revitalization for Sustainable Growth

Promote redevelopment incentives of underutilized spaces in key growth areas such as the downtown and station district subareas, ensuring the City's vision is met for sustainable and vibrant urban growth that promotes and supports a dynamic and robust local economy. The revitalization of downtown and the district subareas will create vibrant, sustainable, and economically thriving urban environments that align with the City's long-term vision.

- Update development standards and regulations to accommodate higher population density and incentivize alternative transportation options, to include walkable and bike-friendly infrastructure, to address increased demand and state-mandated changes to parking policy.
- Revisit the Downtown and Lakewood Station District subarea plans to ensure alignment with current City Council goals and vision with a focus on current and future community needs.
- Ensure design standards enhance aesthetic quality and maintain community character.
- Develop strategies to attract investment and encourage redevelopment of underutilized spaces.
- Promote development to create vibrant, livable urban environments.
- Provide and promote incentives for businesses to invest in the downtown and Lakewood Transit subareas.
- Enhance public amenities and cultural attractions to increase the appeal of these areas.
- Advance the Downtown Subarea Plan green street loop project through the awarded \$1.1 million RAISE planning grant, which will complete 30% project design for an updated motorized and non-motorized transportation network in the downtown area.




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