



**CITY OF DES MOINES**   
MIDDLE HOUSING REGULATIONS UPDATE

# Housing, Quality of Life, & the Environment

## MORE HOUSING AND BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE CAN HAPPEN TOGETHER<sup>3</sup>

More housing and diverse types of housing need to be added in Washington, while we provide a high quality of life for people of all income levels, which includes protection of our natural environment.

*Building diverse types of housing in our communities contributes to everyone's quality of life--and promotes vibrant community centers and equitable access to the things we all need, like businesses and schools.*



## WELL-PLANNED COMMUNITIES ARE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

A high quality of life means our communities are healthy and vibrant, with attainable housing for all types and sizes of households and with abundant trees, parks, and open space, as well as economic vitality and jobs. It also means that we don't spread growth into rural areas or into farm and forest lands—the heritage we want our children to have. **Some people may wonder whether you can have more housing and still have healthy communities and a sustainable natural environment? The answer is yes--if you plan it well and follow up on those plans with incentives, regulations, and partnerships.**

For example, in well-planned communities, many people can walk, bike, or take transit instead of driving in cars. This results in less energy usage, less air and water pollution, and lowers our climate impacts. Well-planned communities allow people to be closer to their jobs, schools, coffee shops, grocery stores and medical offices. That saves not only natural resources, but also time for people to spend with family and friends and do other activities. Well-planned communities are inclusive, offering opportunities for people with different backgrounds and incomes.



*Building more housing doesn't mean less trees or fewer green spaces in Des Moines*

## THE CITY OF DES MOINES CAN ACHIEVE MORE HOUSING AND A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

Cities and counties in Washington must plan and adopt regulations under state laws (such as the Growth Management Act) to help achieve more housing and a healthy environment over the long term. Des Moines must update regulations to accommodate more housing and meet other needs.

Adapted from "HOUSING, QUALITY OF LIFE, & THE ENVIRONMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE" handout by the Wash. State Department of Commerce.