

Town of Winthrop

Practicum in Sustainable Local Planning

Salary: \$13.69 per hour, 24 hours/week for 10 weeks (*paid by Office of Sustainability*)

Supervisor: Rocklynn Culp, Town Planner

Period of Employment: June 21, 2021 – August 27, 2021

Overview

The Town of Winthrop Comprehensive Plan offers the following Summary and Vision: The Town of Winthrop is a small community of about 500 people, centrally located at the confluence of the Methow and Chewuch Rivers in the Methow Valley. Our beautiful location and small town character remain central to our identity, despite the tides of change. We embrace Old West history with our theme. We welcome visitors, offering a gate to gate western experience and a trailhead to the North Cascades. We respect our residents' desire for quality of life.

Our Comprehensive Plan envisions:

- ☆ A vital economy and livable community – welcoming to residents and visitors.
- ☆ Orderly development within the Town's capacity to provide water, sewer and essential services.
- ☆ A suitable array of commercial and residential uses and settings, including mixed used areas.
- ☆ A transportation network that functions well for all users.
- ☆ Well maintained infrastructure.
- ☆ Ongoing promotion of the western theme.
- ☆ A trail network with connections to Methow Trails.
- ☆ Visual and physical access to the rivers, opens spaces, and recreation.
- ☆ Protection of shorelines and other natural features of the environment.

This practicum will focus in on sustainable implementation of Winthrop's vision by furthering progress towards a "complete streets" transportation network and developing educational resources on green/sustainable design and construction practices that are suitable for in-town construction in the Methow Valley.

Responsibilities

1. Complete Streets Focus Area
 - Review and understand Winthrop transportation planning objectives and needs as set out in the *Winthrop Comprehensive Plan* and *Winthrop In Motion* plan.
 - Analyze and develop alternatives for street connectivity in areas of the Town that lack public roads.

- Develop GIS layers that can be used to analyze route alternative.
 - Participate in landowner outreach and public process.
 - Optional element (time dependent): Work with the planner and public works superintendent to develop “complete streets” standards for residential access streets, collector streets, and arterial routes.
2. Sustainable and Firewise Education
- Develop a basic understand local regulatory framework for building and land use.
 - Research applicable and suitable green, sustainable, and Firewise building standards.
 - Develop educational materials with recommendations for green, sustainable and Firewise building in Town. Materials would be for distribution by the Town and other entities.
 - Develop website content to support educational outreach.
3. General
- Develop a mutually workable schedule with Town Planner.
 - Meet weekly with Town Planner.
 - Determine information and input needs and work with Town Planner as needed to facilitate landowner contact and public input forums.

Required Qualifications and Experience

- Interest in planning at the local level, in a small community.
- Motivated to develop communication skills and work collaboratively.
- Familiarity with transportation planning issues and principles.
- Ability to demonstrate initiative, work independently, and ask for help / guidance as needed
- Skills in GIS mapping and analysis; basic graphic design; and content development.
- Foundational knowledge / interest in engaging the community around issues of sustainability in the built environment.

Educational/Professional Benefits

This practicum offers valuable experience to a student interested in local planning, particularly in the small community context. You will:

- Actively participate in work that brings Winthrop’s plans to life by creating maps and educational materials.
- Gain experience in collaboration and public process.
- Gain practical knowledge of transportation planning concepts safety, mobility, connectivity, and accessibility.
- Gain practical knowledge for implementation of sustainable building practices.