

In 1962, Robert Simon, the founder of Reston, articulated “The Reston Concept – Goals for the New Town” to serve as the foundation for development of the new planned community. The seven goals shaped the layout and timing of development as the community was established. These goals should be used to shape the planning principles that will inform new recommendations regarding Reston’s evolution.

Staff in the Department of Planning and Zoning proposes to include the goals, as written below, in the opening paragraphs of new text to be added to the Comprehensive Plan. The goals would then be followed by text that would include guiding planning principles. It is these principles that we are seeking to develop at this evening’s meeting. These principles will then be used in the formulation of subsequent recommendations.

The goals are:

1. That the widest choice of opportunities be made available for the full use of leisure time. This means that the New Town should provide a wide range of cultural and recreational facilities as well as an environment for privacy.
2. That it be possible for anyone to remain in a single neighborhood throughout his life, uprooting being neither inevitable nor always desirable. By providing the fullest range of housing styles and prices -- from high-rise efficiencies to 6-bedroom townhouses and detached houses -- housing needs can be met at a variety of income levels and at different stages of family life. This kind of mixture permits residents to remain rooted in the community if they so choose -- as their particular housing needs change. As a by-product, this also results in the heterogeneity that spells a lively and varied community.
3. That the importance and dignity of each individual be the focal point for all planning, and take precedence for large-scale concepts.
4. That the people be able to live and work in the same community.
5. That commercial, cultural and recreational facilities be made available to the residents from the outset of the development -- not years later.
6. That beauty -- structural and natural -- is a necessity of the good life and should be fostered.
7. Since Reston is being developed from private enterprise, in order to be completed as conceived it must also, of course, be a financial success.

–Adapted from A Place Called Reston (New Town Publications)

Reston is now a well-established mature community that has successfully developed in accordance with Mr. Simon's above-stated goals. The following draft planning principles seek to identify key areas that should be addressed in subsequent Plan recommendations to ensure Reston's on-going evolution is in keeping with the seven founding goals.

- Preserve the long-term stability of Reston by protecting and enhancing existing neighborhoods throughout the community;
- Continue to encourage a development pattern which provides residential, commercial, recreational and other entertainment uses in proximity to each other to maintain Reston as a community in which to live, work and play;
- Promote a wide range of mobility options throughout Reston to address pedestrian, bicycle, shuttle, and bus service needs as well as personal vehicle use;
- Encourage a transportation network that appropriately supports the planned land uses;
- Identify and pursue opportunities to improve connectivity throughout Reston, particularly north-south connectivity in the vicinity of the Dulles Airport Access and Toll Road (DAAR);
- Encourage the expansion of housing diversity within Reston to achieve an even broader range of housing types and prices to fully meet the needs of residents throughout their lives;
- Respect and build upon Reston's tradition of fostering natural and structural beauty by:
 - Continuing to encourage environmentally sensitive development;
 - Preserving existing open space to the extent possible;
 - Ensuring that high-quality green and open space are incorporated into new development;
 - Promoting the provision of new facilities for cultural and recreational activities and public art;
 - Encouraging innovative and high-quality site design and architecture.