

Community Design

Public streetscape elements in Middleton



High-Level Goals

1. Promote design standards that enhance the aesthetic appeal of Middleton.
2. Develop design guidelines that foster a cohesive community identity.
3. Advocate for design practices that ensure long-lasting, durable, and well-maintained community spaces.
4. Ensure community design standards prioritize safety and accessibility.
5. Strive to enhance the quality and safety of existing and new developments

Supportive Strategies

1. Promote design standards that enhance the aesthetic appeal of Middleton.

- 1.1. Create and codify standards for minimum landscaping in new housing developments and along traffic buffer areas.
- 1.2. Update and enforce signage regulations that promote appropriately scaled, cohesive, and unobtrusive signage throughout the community.
 - 1.2.1. Conduct an assessment of the existing signage ordinances governing non-residential properties.
 - 1.2.2. Amend the regulations based on an assessment of the process, program, and amount of required variances.
 - 1.2.3. Implement a new set of signage regulations to meet current demands.
- 1.3. Promote the use of public art installations, such as murals and sculptures, to beautify key community areas and reflect local culture.
 - 1.3.1. Identify the style and format of public art that is congruent with the community character.
 - 1.3.2. Develop and adopt a public arts ordinance to govern public art and ensure its proper maintenance.



Public Art Installation
Source: Boise City Department of Arts & History

2. Develop design guidelines for higher-intensity land uses that foster a cohesive community identity.



Community Gathering Spaces Example
Source: Community Design Collaborative

2.1. Create a community design handbook that outlines preferred architectural elements, color palettes, and materials for new constructions and renovations.

- 2.1.1. Identify and form character districts within the community.
- 2.1.2. Conduct an architectural and community character assessment, outlining elements for each character district.
- 2.1.3. Highlight prevailing or prominent styles of architecture, material/color palettes, and overall forming and massing.
- 2.1.4. Document the results of that study in a streamlined report for each character district, representing the design elements required.

2.2. Require mixed-use or more dense than average developments to incorporate community gathering spaces, such as plazas and courtyards, to foster social interaction and civic pride.

- 2.2.1. Review open space requirements for multi-family residential and mixed use developments.
- 2.2.2. Draft and adopt new open space requirements to require a greater percentage of open space, e.g., no less than 15%.



Example of community branded wayfinding signage
Source: University Place, WA

2.3. Encourage developments to incorporate place-making into projects.

- 2.3.1. Undergo a placemaking and branding strategy to highlight a character that is unique to the City of Middleton.
- 2.3.2. In concert with the downtown wayfinding signage plan, the City should also design and implement a city-wide wayfinding signage plan that is consistent with the city's character.

3. Advocate for design practices that ensure long-lasting, durable, and well-maintained community spaces.

3.1. Implement standards for high-quality, durable building materials that reduce long-term maintenance costs and enhance building longevity.

3.1.1. Identify and codify a series of acceptable materials for building exteriors, based on longevity and community character matching.

4. Ensure community design standards prioritize safety and accessibility.

4.1. Implement standards for high-quality, durable building materials that reduce long-term maintenance costs and enhance building longevity.

4.1.1. Prepare an accessibility audit for newly permitted buildings (part of approval process)

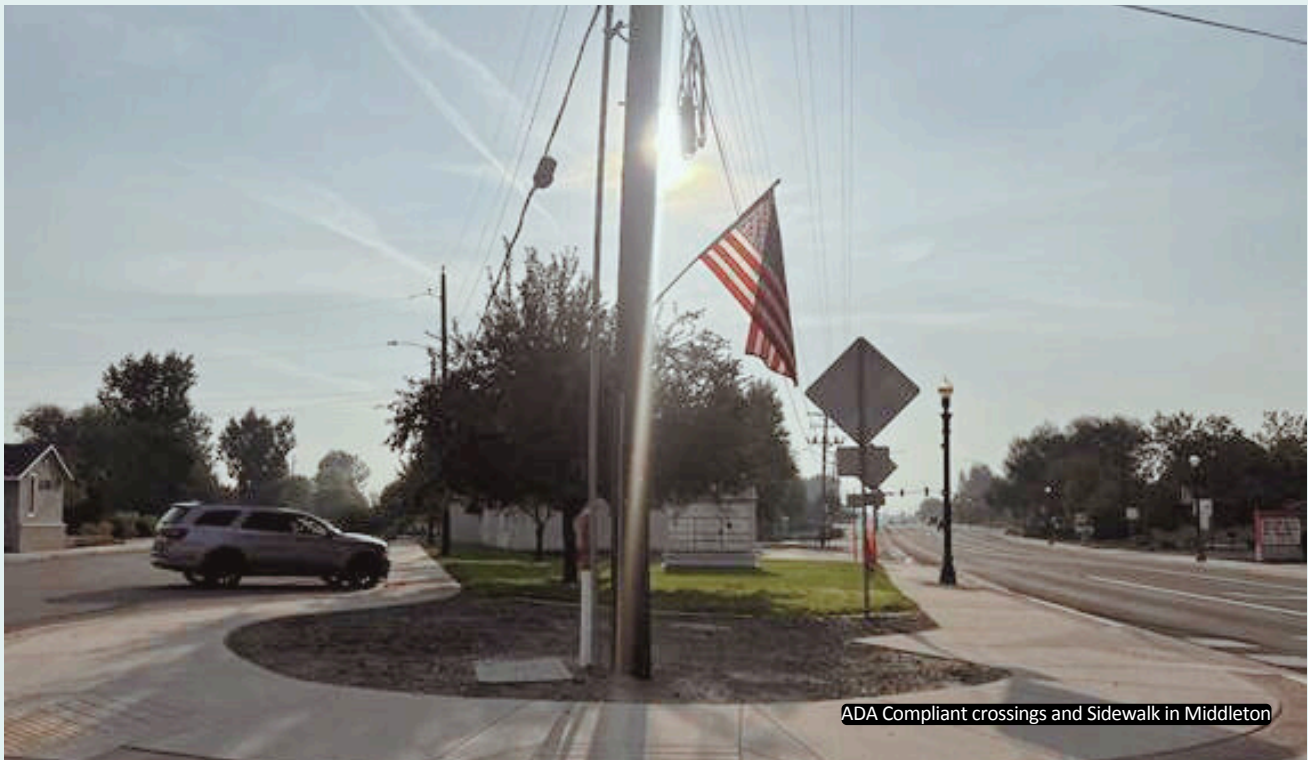
4.1.2. Ensure City standards incorporate established national standards for determining compliance with ADA requirements.

4.2. Design streetscape standards that include pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly infrastructure and traffic-calming measures to enhance safety for all users.

4.2.1. Create streetscape, sidewalk, and active play area standards for the City.

4.2.2. Define necessary amenities and spacing or intervals for ADA accessible amenities.

4.2.3. Ensure City standards refer to appropriate national standards for determining ADA compliance.



ADA Compliant crossings and Sidewalk in Middleton

5. Strive to enhance the quality and safety of existing and new developments.

- 4.3. Require new developments to include adequate lighting to enhance safety and visibility in public areas.
 - 4.3.1. Set a new lighting standard (through code) for minimum light output and spacing.
 - 4.3.2. Define the style and materiality of lighting for projects within the City
- 4.4. Establish clear wayfinding signage throughout the community to help residents and visitors navigate public spaces easily and safely.
 - 4.4.1. Require new developments to comply with the previously mentioned wayfinding and signage plan.
 - 4.4.2. Outline standards for gateway, roadway, and other signage within each new development.
- 4.5. Encourage the development of neighborhoods with varied uses that reduce the need for long commutes, promoting walkability and reducing traffic congestion.
 - 4.5.1. Require trail and sidewalk connectivity for new developments, ensuring walkability for school children.
 - 4.5.2. Prepare a first/last mile study that outlined critical trail connections, prioritizing municipal projects in these locations.
- 5.1. Strengthen enforcement of updated building codes and standards to ensure new constructions are safe and high-quality.
 - 5.1.1. Implement a digital system for scheduling, tracking, and documenting building inspections. This system should allow for real-time updates and communication between inspectors, contractors, and property owners, improving transparency and efficiency.
 - 5.1.2. Review and refine a clear penalty structure for violations of updated building codes and standards, including fines, stop-work orders, and other enforcement actions. Ensure that penalties are consistently applied to deter non-compliance and promote adherence to safety standards.
 - 5.1.3. Establish an annual review process to evaluate the effectiveness of building code enforcement procedures. Use feedback from inspectors, contractors, and the public to update and improve enforcement practices, ensuring that they remain effective in promoting safety and quality in construction.



New Development in Middleton

5.2. Enhance and improve the City's Code Enforcement activities to ensure neighborhoods are safe, attractive, and compliant with the code.

- 5.2.1. As funding allows, hire additional staff to fulfill duties of a building inspector and code enforcement officer to ensure that there are sufficient resources to monitor and enforce compliance with updated building codes and standards. Consider offering specialized training for staff to stay current with the latest construction practices and technologies.
- 5.2.2. Ensure City Code provides a sufficient legal basis for applying and enforcing fines in addition to criminal penalties.
- 5.2.3. Establish a program that encourages residents to take an active role in maintaining their neighborhoods. This could include initiatives like neighborhood clean-up events, volunteer code compliance ambassadors, or incentive programs for neighborhoods that maintain high levels of compliance.
- 5.2.4. Identify opportunities to improve coordination between code enforcement and other city departments, such as public works, police, and planning and zoning. This collaboration will help address broader issues that may contribute to code violations, such as illegal dumping, abandoned properties, or public safety concerns.
- 5.2.5. Develop programs that provide logistical support to property owners who are struggling to comply with codes, such as partnerships with local businesses for discounted services, or access to community volunteers.

A photograph of a cornfield under a clear blue sky. The corn plants are tall and green. A large, semi-transparent green shape covers the right half of the image, serving as a background for the title and subtitle.

Agriculture

Planted Agricultural Land Outside Middleton



High-Level Goals

1. **Support and minimize conflicts with farming-related businesses and activities within city limits and on the borders of City limits.**
2. **Encourage the celebration of agricultural heritage.**
3. **Ensure agricultural lands are integrated and properly provisioned for in community planning.**

Supportive Strategies

1. **Support and minimize conflict with farming-related businesses and activities.**

- 1.1. Consider measures to minimize conflicts between a long-standing farming parcel and a new subdivision by considering the irrigation needs of the farmland, need to move heavy equipment around local roads, noise levels and need for buffers.
 - 1.1.1. Require new developments adjacent to agricultural parcels to implement buffer zones, such as greenways, to mitigate noise and dust while maintaining adequate access for farming equipment.
- 1.2. Encourage partnerships between local farmers and restaurants, schools, and other institutions to promote the use of locally grown produce.
 - 1.2.1. Partner with local organizations to host regular workshops that connect farmers with restaurants, schools, and institutions interested in sourcing local produce.
- 1.3. Promote participation at local farmers markets and the Middleton Market among local growers through the City's website, utility mailers, and social media.
 - 1.3.1. Develop a seasonal calendar of local farmers markets and feature it on the City's website and in utility mailers, highlighting opportunities for local growers to participate.
- 1.4. Support agri-tourism initiatives that allow farmers to diversify their income and educate the public about agriculture.
 - 1.4.1. Collaborate with farm operators to create a directory of local farms offering agri-tourism experiences, including farm tours, U-pick operations, and seasonal events, and promote it through city channels.
- 1.5. Facilitate a discussion between local growers and other service providers and the Middleton School District, encouraging the purchase of local goods.
 - 1.5.1. Help organize an annual forum that brings together local growers, school district officials, and food service providers to explore opportunities for incorporating locally grown produce into school meals.

- 1.6. Work with the multiple Irrigation Districts within City limits to Develop infrastructure improvements that benefit agricultural operations and related businesses and benefit the subdivisions and projects dependent on pressurized irrigation.
 - 1.6.1. Include Irrigation Districts in all aspects of new subdivision entitlement applications to ensure sufficient water exists for the new subdivision, irrigation facilities are not compromised, and downstream users are protected.
 - 1.6.2. Continue to promote and protect irrigation water based distribution systems that meet the growing demand for agricultural uses and irrigation for residential and commercial projects. This task will require projection of demand and locations to ensure access for all agricultural and subdivision needs.
 - 1.6.3. Continue to work with Irrigation Districts and Project Developers to ensure a high-quality volume of water is available for agriculture uses and subdivision irrigation throughout the community. As demand grows, so will the required volume of water for use. It is important to project these demand requirements out for a long-term future and plan accordingly.
 - 1.6.4. Continue to support Drainage District studies that are studying how irrigation waters are affected by growth and change to ensure that irrigation water is optimized to the greatest extent possible.
- 1.7. Prioritize infill projects and redevelopment to ensure the best use of land before affecting surrounding agricultural land.



2. Encourage the celebration of agricultural heritage.

- 2.1. Support community events, such as farm tours and agricultural fairs, to celebrate and promote local farming traditions.
 - 2.1.1. Encourage the development of a tour of local farms to raise awareness of these community assets.
 - 2.1.2. Engage with the Middleton Chamber of Commerce and the County to encourage agri-tourism within the City.



Middleton Chamber of Commerce Logo | Source: Middleton Chamber of Commerce

2.2. Support the preservation and restoration of historical farm buildings and structures.

- 2.2.1. Work with property owners to educate them about the benefits of historic barn structures.
- 2.2.2. Identify potential funding sources or partnerships that will allow for preservation of historic farm structures.

2.3. Support local historical societies in their endeavor to document and preserve the stories and contributions of local farming families.

- 2.3.1. Facilitate connections between the Historical Society of Middleton, the Idaho State Historical Society, and local farmers.

