UNPACKING PLANNING IN LA

General Plan
The General Plan is the comprehensive plan for the City of Los Angeles. It lays out our values, sets forth a vision for the type of city we aspire to be, and provides guidance on how the city prepares for and responds to change.

The State of California requires each city to adopt a General Plan that covers a variety of topics, called Elements. Los Angeles’ General Plan currently contains the following Elements:

- Framework
- Land Use
- Air Quality
- Conservation
- Health
- Historic Preservation & Cultural Resources
- Housing
- Infrastructure Systems
- Mobility
- Noise
- Open Space
- Public Facilities & Services
- Safety

Community Plans
In Los Angeles, the General Plan Land Use Element is divided into 35 Community Plans, each with a policy document and a map of land use designations such as residential, commercial, industrial, and open space. Think of the plans as a blueprint to guide growth in our neighborhoods, by providing specific policies and strategies to achieve each community’s vision and the broader objectives of the General Plan.

Community Plans are used to tell developers and homeowners generally what types of uses are allowed, and to ensure proposed projects meet the land use goals for that particular community.

Zoning
Zoning is the primary tool to implement Community Plan land use policies. Each parcel of land in the City is assigned a zoning designation. Zoning defines allowed uses, maximum height, required yards, and other requirements specific to the property or lot.

Together, land use designations and zoning describe the vision for how land is used, and establish the rules for what may be built.

Community Plan Updates
The City has an ambitious schedule to update all 35 Community Plans in six years. In addition to updating plan policy documents and land use maps, this effort will apply updated zoning throughout each Community Plan area.

For more information and to check the status of your community plan update, visit planning.lacity.org.

H ave Y ou H eard?  
The City is undertaking a comprehensive update to its General Plan. This initiative, OurLA2040, will result in an updated 20-year citywide plan, putting into place visionary and innovative policies to help create a more prosperous, livable, and sustainable Los Angeles.

For more information, visit ourla2040.org.

re:code LA is the City’s comprehensive effort to prepare a new zoning code that will help implement the vision of the updated Community Plans. The goal is a web-based zoning code that will serve Angelenos in a smart, functional, and easy-to-use way.

For more information, visit recode.la.