

Housing Vision, Goals and Objectives

Vision for Housing in Larkspur

The purpose of the Larkspur’s Vision of Housing in the Year 2020 helps to define what the community of Larkspur values, and to take a positive, constructive look at Larkspur and how housing fits into its future. With a clearer idea of what it is we want our community to be like, we can chart a more meaningful and effective course to get there. Further, it is important for the vision and values expressed in the Housing Element to be consistent with those of the entire Larkspur General Plan.

The following Vision of Housing expresses the values of the community:

1. People can live, work and play here.
2. We have housing choices to fit different needs. We have a mix of residential and non-residential in our downtown area, a significant percentage of rental apartments, and variety of housing types.
3. We value human dignity and continue to enhance our cultural and economic diversity.
4. We have and encourage creativity in design and types of housing.
5. We have support systems and housing in place to help the disenfranchised (homeless, elderly, disabled, and others in need).
6. Open spaces, environmentally sensitive areas, and the coastline have been sustained. The natural environment is beautiful and fragile natural systems work well.
7. Our City is friendly, with lots of civic pride, tradition, interaction and community involvement.
8. We coordinate with other jurisdictions to address important housing issues in creative and effective ways.

Housing Goals

The City of Larkspur is committed to working with other agencies and non-profit organizations to maximize affordable housing opportunities that may exist. It is also important to ensure a “fit” of new housing with Larkspur’s high quality residential and commercial neighborhoods. The Housing Element strives to achieve the following goals:

- HG Goal 1: Ensure the City’s commitment to meeting housing needs.
- HG Goal 2: Protect and enhance existing housing, community character and resources.
- HG Goal 3: Provide new housing and address affordable housing and other special needs housing.

Housing Objectives

Policies and programs establish the strategies to achieve the Housing Element goals outlined above and the maximum number of units that can be rehabilitated, conserved, or constructed. The City’s objectives (or targets) are described under each program and summarized in Appendix A. Assumptions are based on past program performance,

modifications proposed to the programs to achieve better results, construction trends, land availability, and future program funding. The City’s housing policies are grouped by the housing objectives listed below.

H1. Sense of Community and Creation of Successful Partnerships. Enhance our sense of community by identifying shared responsibilities from all sectors within the community (government, business, neighborhoods, non-profits, etc.) that effectively address the City’s housing needs.

H2. Equal Housing Opportunities. Promote equal housing opportunities for all persons and assure effective application of Fair Housing law.

H3. Housing Design. Assure that new housing is well-designed and of an appropriate scale to enhance our neighborhoods and community as a whole.

H4. Existing Housing and Neighborhoods Preservation. Protect and enhance the housing we have and ensure that existing affordable housing “at risk” of conversion to market rates will remain affordable.

H5. Housing and Jobs Linkage. Promote the creation of housing near the workplace and establish non-residential use contributions to affordable workforce housing.

H6. Variety of Infill and a Balance of Housing Choices. Maintain a diverse population by providing a variety of choices in the type, size, cost and location of new housing and more efficient use of existing housing, including the creative and efficient use of vacant land and the redevelopment of built land within established development areas to support local transit and services, maximize sustainability, and help maintain our environment and open space.

H7. Long-Term Affordable Housing. City seeks to provide its “Fair Share” of very-low, low and moderate income housing and to ensure affordable housing remains affordable over a long term.

H8. Second Dwelling Units. Encourage well-designed, legal second units in all residential neighborhoods.

H9. Special Needs Housing. Provide housing for population groups who require special assistance.

H10. Special Needs Support Programs. Provide housing assistance for special needs and link housing to Health and Human Services programs helping meet the needs of seniors, people with disabilities, homeless and others.

H11. Funding for Affordable Housing. Be aggressive and creative in finding ways to increase ongoing local funding resources for low income special needs housing.

H12. Energy Conservation. Encourage energy conservation in housing.

H13. Effective Implementation and Monitoring. Take a proactive approach in sharing resources and making organizational changes to effectively create and respond to opportunities to achieve housing goals.