Welcome and Overview

Ross will celebrate the 100th anniversary of becoming a town in 2008. While the railroad and horses of 1908 are gone, the residential neighborhoods still suggest a changeless quality.

Whether we represent a third generation Ross family or moved to Town yesterday, we share many reasons for choosing Ross as our home: its historic character, small-town charm, tree-lined streets, excellent school, wooded hillsides and meandering creeks. We want Ross to retain these attributes and still be a dynamic and evolving community.

We define stewardship as the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care. This community shares a unique environment in which we foster, nurture and protect our families. The founding principles of this place are joy in the physical environment, the families who stand together and the education of the children who will learn and project these values into the future. We have come to this valley in search of a better way to live. In every aspect this view of the projected future, this General Plan, is grounded in the stewardship of these irreplaceable assets.

State law requires that all municipalities have a long-range general plan for their physical development. More than just meeting this mandate, we want our plan to be a compelling and stimulating road map for addressing the fundamental elements affecting our town. The Ross General Plan supports and advances healthy, safe and sustainable principles that preserve Ross’ unique environmental qualities and encourage participation from all Ross residents in Town government.

For the creation of the General Plan, the Town Council appointed a steering committee comprised of seven Ross residents and a member of the Council. Over a period of more than two years, the committee met with professional planners, local design professionals, Town staff and numerous experts on the topics addressed in the plan. The process also included extensive opportunities for valuable community involvement to reflect the best current ideas and a future vision for our community.

Among new ideas contained in the General Plan are:

- **Establish ADR** (Advisory Design Review) comprised of an advisory group of local volunteer design professionals to provide design review assistance to staff.

- **Develop Detailed Design Guidelines** to be applied during the application review process.

- **Prepare a Plan for the Downtown Area** to address street design, parking, potential uses, design guidelines, pedestrian/bicycle access, and places for gathering.

- **Require Design Review of Larger Landscape Projects** that include alterations that could affect the visual and/or physical character of a site or neighborhood.

- **Prepare a Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan** to assure safe bicycle and pedestrian travel in Ross, including safe routes for children.
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Ross General Plan Steering Committee
George Dirkes, Chair
Jody Anne Becker, Vice-Chair
Bruce Goldberg
Richard Hannum
Wendy McPhee
Lesley H. Reidy
R. Scot Hunter, Town Council Liaison
Thomas Byrnes, Jr., Town Council Liaison

Ross Town Staff
Gary Broad, Town Manager and Planning Director
Mel Jarjoura, Director of Public Works
Elise Semonian, Senior Planner
Chris Cahill, Associate Planner
Christine O’Rourke, Ross Project Planner

Other Groups, Organizations and Agencies
Amy Skewes-Cox, Volunteer, Ross Safe Routes to Schools
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Jeffery C. Baird, AICP, Baird + Driskell Community Planning
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