



**STEP**

**2025**

URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN VIENNA

SHORT REPORT

**Vienna!**  
**ahead**  
Urban Development

City of Vienna





## SHORT REPORT

TRUE URBAN SPIRIT

## FOREWORD

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City means change, the constant willingness to grapple with new things and an openness to innovative solutions. Urban development also means taking responsibility for future generations. Vienna is currently one of the most rapidly growing metropolises in the German-speaking countries, and we see this as an opportunity. The addition of more residents brings not only new challenges, but also more creativity, more ideas and more potential for development. It increases the importance of Vienna and the region in Central Europe and thus contributes to securing the future of our city.

In this context, the new STEP 2025 urban development plan is an instrument for providing forward-looking answers to the questions of our time. It was developed as part of a broad, intensive dialogue process among policymakers and administrators, the scientific and business communities, residents and special interest groups. We would like to say thank you to everyone involved for this productive collaboration. The goal is to create a city where people want to live, not where they live because they have to. In the spirit of the "Smart City Wien" initiative, the new STEP 2025 urban development plan offers visionary, intelligent solutions for the future-oriented development of our city.

Michael Häupl  
Mayor



Maria Vassilakou  
Deputy Mayor and Executive City Councillor  
for Urban Planning, Traffic & Transport, Climate  
Protection, Energy and Public Participation



## FOREWORD

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The defining of clear planning goals and the regular evaluation of the associated guidelines and strategies represent key tasks in ensuring high-quality urban development and securing Vienna's position in a regional and international context. In 2011, the city administration was commissioned by the Vienna City Council to create a new urban development plan and to submit it for adoption into law by 2014. These days, urban development also means balancing the interests of governmental, social and economic stakeholders. With this in mind, STEP 2025 is primarily strategic in nature and serves as a diverse and motivating representation of measures aimed at guiding the development of Vienna. It shows a clear vision for the direction of development and lays the foundation for the key areas of action in the city.

STEP 2025 was developed under the leadership of Municipal Department 18 in an intensive dialogue process with numerous experts. The high level of expertise and dedication of everyone involved resulted in a final product that represents an important basis for the positive development of Vienna, and we would like to express our sincere gratitude for this.

**Erich Hechtner**  
Chief Executive Director



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**Thomas Madreiter**  
Director of Urban Planning



Demographic development  
of Vienna from 1910 to 2025  
Source: Statistics Austria;  
own diagram

0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 MILLION



# VIENNA: SETTING THE STAGE

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## THE LIVEABLE, SUSTAINABLE, AFFORDABLE AND PROSPEROUS CITY AS THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF STEP 2025

Vienna is experiencing dynamic growth and development. The city is using this trend as an opportunity to usher in positive changes that will benefit the entire population. Vienna's qualities as a liveable and affordable city are being expanded upon and made available for everyone to experience – young and old, long-time residents, new arrivals and visitors. The responsible use of resources is becoming the trademark of Smart City Wien, and the diversity and vitality of the city are being used to strengthen its competitiveness and entrepreneurial spirit.

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- Vienna is making a holistic approach that unites various policy areas and areas of action the cornerstone of its urban development.
  - Vienna is implementing comprehensive measures to ensure high-quality urban growth.
  - Vienna believes governance is a key factor for successful urban development and sees the public and private sectors as partners.
  - Vienna is promoting and professionalising the co-operation with districts and within the region.
  - Vienna sees public participation as a key element of good urban planning.

# VIENNA: SETTING THE STAGE

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## PRINCIPLES & STRATEGIES

### A CITY IN TRANSFORMATION

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Vienna has changed significantly in the 25 years since the fall of the Iron Curtain amidst a climate of deep regional and international transformation. Despite these radical changes, the city has done quite well for itself: Today, it is one of the fastest growing metropolises in Europe, and if this growth continues as projected, Vienna will have two million residents by around 2030. This means that over three million people will be living in the greater metropolitan area.

Growth is changing the face of Vienna. The city is more diverse: Different lifestyles, value systems and attitudes, shifting gender roles and a multitude of economic, language, religious and cultural backgrounds are shaping people's living situations, work conditions and leisure activities. At the same time, Vienna's role as a business location is changing: Today, the service sector and technology-oriented industries are dominant. There are now more knowledge-intensive services such as telecommunication, insurance, legal and tax consulting, and creative occupations than before. The population growth and the dynamic change in the economic structure are proof that Vienna is attractive and draws both people and capital. These developments can and should be used to make the city even more liveable, even more socially minded and ecological, and even more competitive – in other words, to build the Vienna of tomorrow.

Therefore, the efforts in the coming years will not be limited to preserving past successes and maintaining the existing high standards. Innovations are being developed that will ensure high-quality urban growth despite the diminishing availability of resources. With this in mind, STEP 2025 refines strategies and instruments in a way that corresponds to the needs of a rapidly growing city. This starts with instruments for the mobilisation of land and extends to the organisation of the framework conditions related to business location policy and infrastructure as well as the linking of existing and new infrastructure such as green areas and open space. In line with the principle of sustainable growth, valuable elements will be preserved, used elements will be modernised and outdated elements will be transformed. At the same time, measures will be taken to strengthen equal opportunity and the social balance. And finally, STEP 2025 puts the spotlight on urban development as a collective task for policymakers, businesses and the public.

Dynamic growth and social equity, location development and climate protection – the range of tasks to be tackled by the metropolitan region of Vienna is broad, and the objectives often seem to contradict one another. Vienna is responding to this challenge with the "Smart City Wien Framework Strategy". STEP 2025 is consistently oriented towards this strategic framework and incorporates the guiding concepts and principles into the definition of concrete initiatives, whether in the field of multi-modal mobility offerings, integrated energy and spatial planning or the consistent integration of green spaces into the densely developed urban area.

### SMART CITY WIEN – STEP'S CONTRIBUTION TO MAKING THE CITY FIT FOR THE FUTURE

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## GOVERNANCE AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF CITIES

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STEP 2025 makes a holistic approach that unites various policy areas and areas of action the cornerstone of the city's urban development. This requires the ability to learn and "systems solution expertise" – in other words, the ability to confront complex requirements with integrated solutions – as well as an openness to new partnerships and to participation in a constructive dialogue with the affected residents.

Against this backdrop, governance is a key concept in STEP 2025. This means that when it comes to the collective regulation of social issues related to urban development, the public sector is increasingly taking on the role of a co-ordinator and manager of sometimes complex processes that involve various stakeholders.

With this in mind, STEP defines the public interest, lays down basic attitudes, develops control models and aims to initiate new partnerships – with Vienna's districts, public institutions and private enterprises, with property owners and investors, with organised civil society and with individual residents. In other words: STEP is intended to "get the ball rolling" with targeted strategies and initiatives. With regard to the development of concrete solutions at the local level, however, the local expertise of the parties who are directly affected is relevant.

## CO-OPERATION AS A KEY ELEMENT

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For Vienna's urban development planners, the participation of the public is a central aspect of the dialogue. When used at an early stage and in a targeted manner, public participation can lead to better results that are more sustainable over the long term. Successful public participation requires everyone involved to show respect, a willingness to communicate and learn, and a sense of openness. For planning processes, this often means a new understanding and new methods: It is no longer just about communicating projects and decisions in a transparent manner, but about including stakeholders in the processes in which development goals are defined. Particularly in a growing city that has to come up with new ideas, the challenge is to develop a dialogue that strikes a balance between the expressed interests of residents or companies already located in the area and those of parties who still need residential space, offices or schools. At the same time, the needs of less vocal groups have to be taken into consideration in a professional manner.

In order to ensure that these processes and partnerships – which can be described as governance – are put into practice, the principle of dialogue was consistently used even in the development of STEP 2025: The new urban development plan is based on the opinions of numerous experts as well as consultations with an international expert group. Many of the individual initiatives and measures are the result of an intensive exchange with representatives of the districts, the neighbouring communities and the Province of Lower Austria as well as contributions from the business community and civil society.



# VIENNA: TAKING ACTION

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## EIGHT KEY TOPICS FOR THE VIENNA OF THE FUTURE

STEP 2025 is divided into three sections that address eight key topics of particular relevance for the realisation of Vienna's growth potential in the coming years. These topics range from the further development of the "existing city" and questions related to land mobilisation and business location policy to networking within the metropolitan region, the planning of open space and the transport system. The variety of topics addressed demonstrates the holistic approach Vienna is taking to the further development of the city.

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### Vienna: building the future

- Vienna renews – the built city
- Vienna mobilises land – space for urban growth
- Vienna transforms – centres and underused areas

### Vienna: reaching beyond its borders

- Vienna generates prosperity – a business, science and research hub
- Vienna is more – the metropolitan region

### Vienna: networking the city

- Vienna revives – open spaces: green & urban
- Vienna is moving – diversified mobility in 2025
- Vienna makes provisions for the future – social infrastructure



# VIENNA: BUILDING THE FUTURE

## THE BUILT CITY

### DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT & HIGH-QUALITY URBANITY

Population growth, new requirements for the use of urban land, and economic and technical change ensure that even existing areas of the city are in a constant state of transformation. A perfect example of this is the city's inner districts, which are dominated by Gründerzeit architecture and were significantly revitalised through "gentle urban renewal" – today they are more colourful, more lively and have more to offer. But not even close to all parts of Vienna can be seen as final: In thousands of – mostly minor – individual cases, the structural possibilities have not yet been fully exploited and there are unsatisfying, makeshift and outdated buildings that need to be improved and modernised. A growing city cannot afford to have poorly used public and private space, and low population density and a lack of variety often hinder the development of urban life. The development of the built city – with regard to buildings as well as through measures geared towards open space, social services and mobility offerings – is focused on selected areas of the city dating back to the Gründerzeit era as well as urban development structures from the 1950s through the 1970s.

- **Action Plan 50/60/70:** Vienna is creating development concepts for areas built in the period from the 1950s to the 1970s. These plans take profitability, residents' interests, social and architectural objectives, functional and energy-related improvements, and other factors into account. Pilot projects will highlight examples of the added value provided by quality improvements and the concentration of uses.
- **Gründerzeit Action Plan:** With the Gründerzeit Action Plan, Vienna is creating a guiding framework for the development of selected areas of the city that date back to the Gründerzeit era; the topics addressed include quality assurance processes, tasks related to the management of existing buildings, the incorporation of various stakeholders and the continuation of thermal and energy-related renovation measures.

## VIENNA RENEWS



# VIENNA: BUILDING THE FUTURE

## SPACE FOR URBAN GROWTH

### CONSISTENT DEVELOPMENT OF LAND POTENTIAL

### HIGH-QUALITY URBANITY FOR ALL PARTS OF THE CITY

### EFFICIENCY & SHARING OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR

### SMART ENERGY PLANNING & SMART RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

A rapidly growing city like Vienna cannot manage without new districts, but with intelligent urban planning it can prevent wasted space and resources and use public funds efficiently and effectively. This requires a strategy that consistently directs growth to existing potential spaces, whether it is undeveloped space in the city centre, rail station sites or well-connected areas in the outer districts. Thanks to their location and integration into the city, such spaces are suitable for compact urban development and offer the opportunity to generate a high level of added value. If these areas are fully utilised and developed intelligently, they will allow enough new housing and jobs to be created for the additional residents that are expected.

- **Land mobilisation for urban growth:** Vienna is consistently mobilising land reserves for the planned uses. Existing and new legal, organisational and private-sector instruments related to land use policy are being employed in this process.
- **Long-term urban development perspective:** Vienna is monitoring development on an ongoing basis, preparing any necessary measures for urban and infrastructure development beyond 2025 and co-ordinating them within the metropolitan region.
- **Building the city:** Vienna is building new areas with a compact, mixed-use approach that is geared towards pedestrians and cyclists in order to create high-quality urbanity. To achieve this, existing practices are being adapted, new methods are being developed and new technologies are being tested, for example, in pilot projects.
- **Development zones:** In suitable areas, Vienna is combining the competences of public and private partners in development management and thus making them a central principle of its urban development strategy.
- **Integrated energy and spatial planning:** Vienna is merging spatial and energy planning into a single process at the neighbourhood level and developing energy concepts for urban quarters and new urban districts; a thematic concept forms the basis for this process.

## VIENNA MOBILISES LAND



# VIENNA: BUILDING THE FUTURE

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## CENTRES AND UNDERUSED AREAS

BALANCED, POLYCENTRIC  
LOCATION DEVELOPMENT

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FUNCTIONALITY AS A PRINCIPLE

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A city is characterised by an especially diverse and dense offering of services and activities that ideally are concentrated in vital centres. Not least because of the vast spaces they cover, metropolises need many different centres, from historical central districts and commercial zones to knowledge centres and centres of business. They serve important functions for the business location, for the quality of life of the population and for the image and identity of a city. With this in mind, Vienna will keep a close watch on its “centre landscape” and take action to ensure that established centres such as the city centre and integrated shopping streets and shopping centres remain competitive and that new areas such as Vienna Central Station including Quartier Belvedere, Donau City and the new centre emerging in the core of Aspern Vienna’s Urban Lakeside are developed.

In contrast to centres, which offer a particularly high density of functions, Vienna also has underused urban areas. Transport axes and radial roads or the patchwork of supermarkets, single-family homes and undeveloped land that is sometimes found in the outer districts offer the potential for revitalisation and reinterpretation due to their location. In these areas, intelligent urban planning makes use of all possibilities to ensure environmentally friendly development. The potential of these locations must be realised. New uses and functions in these urban areas will make the city as a whole more efficient, more sustainable, more diverse and more attractive.

- **The polycentric city – Vienna’s centre concept:** Vienna is strengthening and supporting existing centres and developing new centres in the course of urban expansion so that the necessary building structures and urban uses are directed into the appropriate locations.
- **Urbanised!:** Vienna is developing an urbanistic strategy for transforming buildings that are underused or only used one-dimensionally into urban spaces with a variety of uses.

## VIENNA TRANSFORMS





# MISSION STATEMENT FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT

## DEVELOPMENT OF SETTLEMENT STRUCTURES

- Development of areas mainly characterised by Gründerzeit building stock
- Further development of areas mainly characterised by 1950s to 1970s structures
- Areas with development potential for housing and workplaces

## DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS STRUCTURES AND CENTRES

- Central Business District  
Zone with high-level office and administrative functions, universities, commerce, culture, etc.
- Zone for enterprises not suitable for mixed use (according to Viennese Analysis of Industrial and Commercial Areas of 2008)
- Central Business District expansion  
Priority zone for future additions to central functions
- Established sub-centre
- Sub-centre requiring further development (addition of functions, upgrading)
- Shopping street of superordinate importance

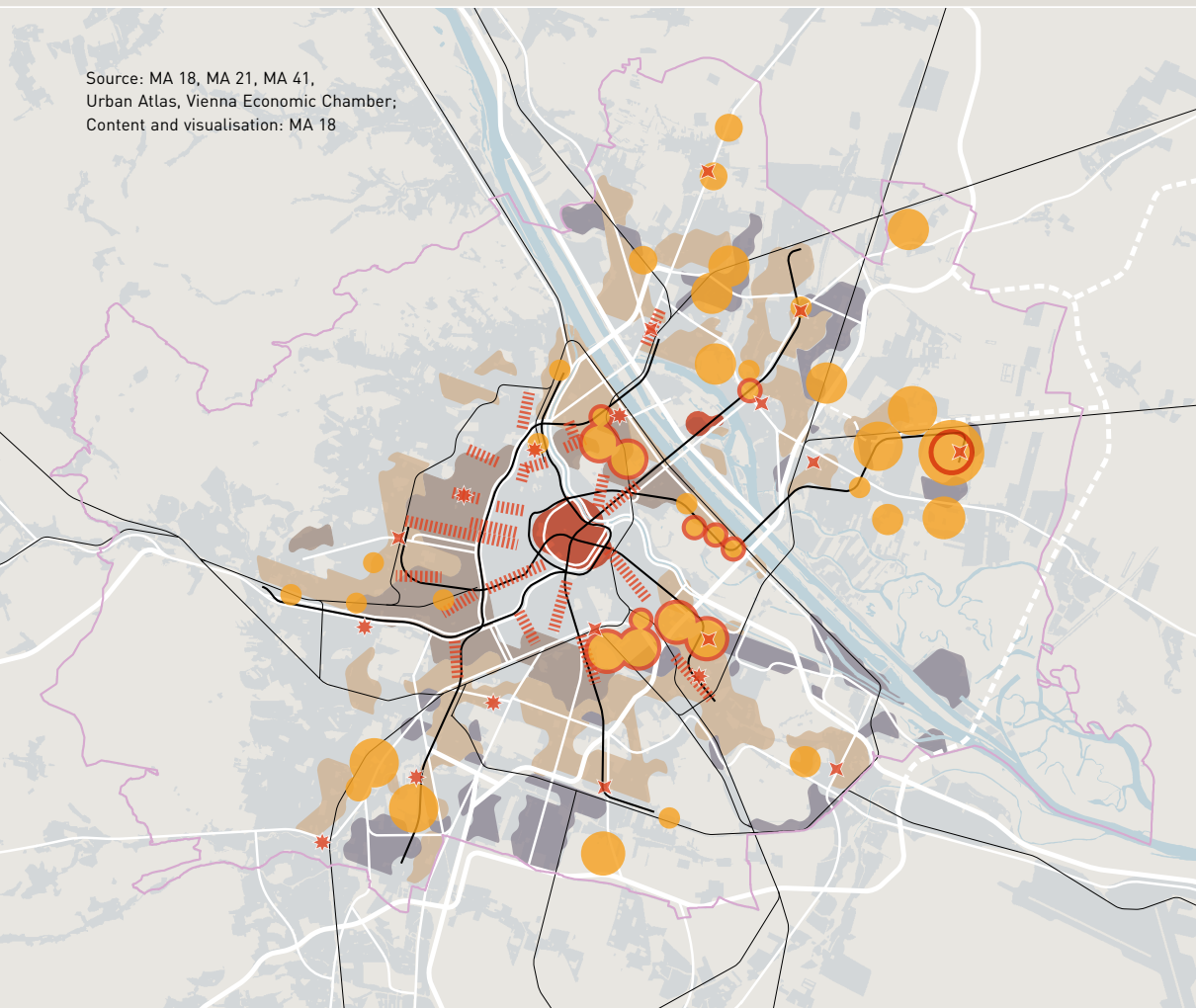
## SITUATION

- Built-up area (2013)
- Danube water bodies
- City limits

## TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Underground/S-Bahn (commuter train) (including sections under construction)
- High-level road network
- Motorways/fast roads
- Motorways/fast roads at planning stage

Source: MA 18, MA 21, MA 41, Urban Atlas, Vienna Economic Chamber;  
Content and visualisation: MA 18



# VIENNA: REACHING BEYOND ITS BORDERS

## A BUSINESS, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH HUB

PRODUCTION CITY  
KNOWLEDGE CITY  
RESEARCH CITY

HIGH-QUALITY OFFICE AND  
RETAIL SHOPPING LOCATIONS

SPACE FOR SMALL-SCALE  
BUSINESSES

EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL  
TRANSPORT

Vienna is a centre of commerce and research, a tourist destination and transport hub, and a location for creative thinkers and production. The broad nature of Vienna's economy is a solid foundation for long-term success. However, we must support the advancement and modernisation of existing enterprises, enable structural change and make space for the economic activities of significantly more people within the metropolitan region.

Urban development planning must be involved in all of these tasks. These days, city administrators and urban planners can work together with companies and institutions of higher learning to develop attractive new business and research locations, as demonstrated by examples such as the Neu Marx urban quarter and the campus of the Vienna University of Economics and Business located at Prater. Generally speaking, the goal is to offer appropriate locations and working conditions for all economic activities that are best suited to an urban environment.

- **Safeguarding and managing land reserves for industrial enterprises and co-operative business location development in the urban region:** Vienna is safeguarding the necessary existing commercial zones and securing new space for industrial production by making provisions in the zoning plan and/or through private agreements. It is also taking steps towards co-operative business location development within the region.
- **City of innovations – Innovations for the city:** Vienna is securing space for research, development and high-tech production in well-connected locations based on potential analyses and the definition of location requirements.
- **Priority zones for office sites:** Vienna is focusing on large-scale office projects and high-profile educational and research facilities in designated zones that are well-connected to the public transport network and are well-networked.
- **Shopping centre – Shopping in the centre:** Large shopping capacities are only being created in places where they serve to strengthen the retail and service structure and centres.
- **Urban spaces for entrepreneurial visions:** Vienna is securing space for small enterprises and businesses by providing improved conditions for the entrepreneurial use of suitable spaces, for example, ground-floor spaces or old commercial properties.
- **Clean, silent, reliable:** Vienna is developing strategies for efficient and environmentally friendly commercial transport in an open dialogue with the logistics industry.

## VIENNA GENERATES PROSPERITY





# VIENNA: REACHING BEYOND ITS BORDERS

## THE METROPOLITAN REGION

### GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR THE CITY REGION

### FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTROPE REGION

Vienna is more strongly linked to its surrounding areas than ever before. Administrative boundaries play an ever-diminishing role in the everyday activities of people and companies, and many communities have developed into self-sufficient locations and in this way strengthened and complemented Vienna's function as a metropolitan region. For Vienna and the greater metropolitan area, this trend represents an opportunity to gain ground in the international competition between regions. It opens up new economic opportunities and provides access to a larger circle of suppliers and consumers and a bigger pool of labour and expertise. More diversity creates more opportunities and thus an increase in prosperity.

However, the increase in the number of stakeholders and the complexity of the trade-offs and interdependencies associated with this trend require the organisational framework to be expanded as well. Vienna intends to test and apply new methods and strategies of regional co-operation together with the neighbouring cities and municipalities in the metropolitan region. These efforts can build on existing practices, but the public instruments and processes for interregional co-operation must be accelerated, intensified and refined in line with the overall trend.

- **Further development of regional and international co-operation structures:** Vienna aims to expand implementation and decision-making structures and develop innovative instruments for regional co-operation.
- **Regional co-operation spaces:** Quality and development targets and corresponding plans for the realisation of these targets will be negotiated for regional co-operation spaces with high development potential that are yet to be defined.
- **City-environs mobility partnerships:** Establishment of mobility partnerships along mutually defined key transport corridors in the city's surrounding areas.
- **centrope mobility management:** Further development of transnational mobility management through close co-operation among the major public transport providers in centrope.

## VIENNA IS MORE



# VIENNA: NETWORKING THE CITY

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## OPEN SPACES: GREEN & URBAN

### STRENGTHENING AND FURTHER DEVELOPING NETWORKS OF GREEN AND OPEN SPACES

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### HIGH OPEN SPACE QUALITY IN ALL PARTS OF THE CITY

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Vienna is a green city – numerous spacious recreation areas serve as a greenbelt along the edges of the city or as green lungs within the city (e.g. Prater, Danube Island). In the densely developed urban area, squares, avenues, city parks and spacious recreation areas are gaining in significance as places of encounter and interaction, but also as places to escape from city life and relax. The way in which open spaces are designed, function and fulfil the diverse needs of a city's residents influences the quality and atmosphere of urban coexistence.

The demographic developments expected in the coming years will bring new challenges. The diverse needs of the various urban quarters require tailored solutions: In the areas of Vienna that date back to the Gründerzeit era, the focus is on adapting public space for a broad mix of uses. In new areas of the city, however, the goal is to provide sufficient open spaces and to create the vitality and urban diversity that characterise a fully developed urban district.







- **Vienna's open space network:** Vienna is making the open spaces in the city's inner districts more attractive with targeted interventions in urban areas (e.g. planting trees, creating small parks, providing outdoor seating) and with an attractive network of paths that connects green spaces and recreation areas.
- **Recreation zones "Vienna Woods NorthEast" and "Lobau Environs":** Vienna is creating a recreation area in the northeastern part of Vienna and developing a natural leisure area in the environs of the Lobau wetlands.
- **Urban greenery instead of air conditioning:** Vienna is making climate protection and climate adaptation an integral component in the development of urban quarters and open spaces.
- **Quantitative and qualitative open space parameters:** Vienna is adapting existing quantitative parameters for the provision of green and open space and supplementing them with quality criteria.
- **Fair shares in, and intelligent use of, the city:** Vienna is developing a package of measures for more quality, the better conservation of resources and more efficiency in the design of open space.
- **Reviving urban spaces together:** Vienna is co-operating with private parties and giving residents more of a say in the development and use of open space.

## VIENNA REVIVES



# MISSION STATEMENT FOR GREEN SPACES

## PLANNED MEASURES

-  Leisure zone upgrading
-  New parks (2-10 hectares)
-  Planned open space networking, partly already implemented
-  Open space networking (characteristic of landscape), mainly improvement of current situation
-  Open space networking (urban), mainly improvement of current situation
-  Networking with the environs

## CURRENT STATUS

-  Landscape dominated by woods (woods, vineyards and meadows)
-  Mainly agricultural landscape
-  Large-scale urban green spaces (e.g. Schönbrunn Palace Gardens, Central Cemetery)
-  Parks (2-10 hectares)
-  Parks (10-50 hectares)
-  Fresh air corridors
- Parks with a surface of less than 2 hectares are not shown.

## SITUATION

-  Built-up area (2013)
-  Woods in the environs of Vienna
-  Danube water bodies
-  Standing water bodies
-  City limits
-  Above-ground traffic infrastructure (road and rail)
-  Above-ground traffic infrastructure at planning stage (road and rail)

Source: MA 21, MA 22  
(map "Wien Umweltgut"),  
MA 41, ZAMG, Urban Atlas;  
Content and visualisation: MA 18





# VIENNA: NETWORKING THE CITY

## DIVERSIFIED MOBILITY IN 2025

### PRIORITY FOR ECO-FRIENDLY MEANS OF TRANSPORT

### SPACE FOR PEOPLE

### NEW INSTRUMENTS OF MOBILITY MANAGEMENT

Urban mobility patterns are changing for a wide variety of reasons, including the fact that flexible working hours are on the rise, new technologies make information available in real time and allow for additional convenience, young people's attitudes towards cars as a status symbol are changing and the combined use of various modes of transport is becoming more important, particularly in urban areas. These trends demand that we make changes to the transport system. For Vienna, the expected increases in the population and in traffic represent another major force of change.

Vienna is committed to a mobility policy that is environmentally friendly, economically viable and socially fair: Environmentally friendly because it contributes to the realisation of Smart City Wien, economically viable because it is based on long-term investment and socially fair because it aims to make mobility accessible to everyone, regardless of their income and personal circumstances. The central target of Vienna's mobility policy is "80:20" – by 2025, Vienna's residents will make 80% of their journeys by public transport, by bike or on foot (2012: 73%) and only 20% by car (2012: 27%). In order to achieve this, Vienna is actively promoting eco-friendly means of transport.

- **Optimisation and upgrade of public transport:** Expansion of the public transport system and improvement of public transport offerings through the construction of new metro lines, the extension of existing lines and measures to make the commuter railway network and tangential tram and bus connections more attractive.
- **Integration and networking of eco-friendly means of transport:** Vienna is creating better options for combining eco-friendly means of transport (public transport, cycling, walking).
- **Walking and cycling – strong partners for eco-friendly urban transport:** Vienna is creating a dense and attractive network of walking and cycling paths for the "city of short distances".
- **From street space to public space:** Vienna is gradually renovating public space and thus improving its quality as a place where people want to spend time and creating more space for diverse uses.
- **Mobility management for residential quarters and company locations:** Vienna is relying on new instruments for tailored mobility concepts – including for large-scale residential, office and retail projects – that allow for short distances that can be travelled with environmentally friendly modes of transport.

## VIENNA IS MOVING



# VIENNA: NETWORKING THE CITY

## SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

### AREA MANAGEMENT & MONITORING FOR EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE

### INCLUSIVE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

High-quality social infrastructure – such as schools, kindergartens, hospitals and libraries – that is publicly financed and oriented towards the needs of the community is a part of Vienna's basic self-image. This infrastructure must be developed further on an ongoing basis in order to keep pace with social change and to be able to offer a sufficient quantity of high-quality public facilities to a growing population.

Demographic developments call for a particularly strong commitment in the education sector. More children means a higher demand for kindergartens and school classes. This means not only making sufficient space available, but also facilitating learning in "good locations" – in schools, kindergartens and libraries that are easy to reach, offer a diverse mix of uses, are openly accessible and feature attractive design – in order to combat socio-spatial polarisation.

- **Space for education:** Vienna is securing high-quality space for educational facilities through the regular, district-based analysis of the space requirements for education infrastructure, the definition of spatial planning priorities and the development of strategies for land mobilisation.
- **Education infrastructure for upward mobility processes:** Vienna is strengthening its urban quarters through the identification of areas with a high demand for facilities that foster upward mobility (e.g. libraries, study cafés, adult education centres) and close networking of education providers at the local level.

## VIENNA MAKES PROVISIONS FOR THE FUTURE





# OUTLOOK

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The adoption of STEP 2025 by the Vienna City Council on 25 June 2014 marked the culmination of a development process that lasted more than two years, in which a mutual understanding of the central challenges as well as corresponding strategies and initiatives were defined.

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STEP as a strategic framework  
Source: own diagram





# OUTLOOK

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## STEPS FOR THE FUTURE

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STEP 2025 is the first Viennese urban development plan that does not bear the date of its creation, but a year in the future. And thus all of the strategies, initiatives and instruments contained in the plan are not only based on a critical review of the current situation, but are also oriented towards this future scenario. Because development never stops, STEP also looks beyond this self-defined target horizon and identifies planning measures that already have to be initiated today due to the long lead times involved, for example, in the case of infrastructure projects.

From an “internal” perspective, STEP represents a binding guideline for the city’s policymakers and administrators as well as a strategic orientation for municipal companies. It serves as the basis for all future resolutions and measures related to the spatial development of the city. More detailed technical definitions and spatial planning initiatives will follow in the form of subsequent technical concepts on specific aspects, overall urban development concepts and master plans, and land-use and development plans that are based on the provisions defined in STEP.

However, STEP is also geared towards “external” stakeholders: Many measures can only be realised with the co-operation of the responsible departments of the city administration, the districts and other private and public stakeholders. STEP provides guidance and clarity regarding the city’s basic attitudes and immediate plans, but it also identifies the steps that must be taken by others in order to achieve the defined goals. In addition, it is aimed at motivating stakeholders to participate in “implementation partnerships”.

The implementation instrument of “target areas of urban development”, which was introduced in STEP 2005 and has been successfully applied ever since, links these “external” and “internal” aspects in an exemplary manner and will therefore continue to be employed. These target areas represent areas that are important for the city as a whole, in which high development potential and specific challenges result in complex co-ordination and co-operation requirements and thus call for especially close co-operation between private and public interest groups. Decisions regarding the continued existence or adaptation of individual target areas and the addition of new target areas in the future are made by the Vienna City Council.

## ONGOING MONITORING AND REFLECTION

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Because certain key framework conditions, such as the progression of demographic or economic trends, cannot be predicted clearly in advance, an ongoing monitoring and reflection process is in place to evaluate the extent to which the planned initiatives have been successfully implemented and the targeted results have been achieved. If necessary, STEP will be updated and supplemented based on the results of this evaluation in order to allow for an appropriate response to new challenges or development opportunities.

## LEGAL NOTICE

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