



SENIOR PLANNER

Salary Range:

Full salary range of \$86,726-\$130,089 with an expected hiring range of \$86,726-\$108,407.50

Community Development
Department



TOWN OF VAIL

Are you an experienced planning professional with expertise in complex development review, long-range planning, and land use policy? Do you enjoy collaborating with colleagues, applicants, elected officials, and the community to help shape one of the nation's premier mountain communities? If so, apply to become the Town of Vail's next Senior Planner.

We're looking for an exceptional planning professional who is:

- Experienced in managing complex planning projects and providing technical expertise on land use and development matters
- Skilled in balancing thoughtful development with preservation of community character
- Committed to collaboration, innovation, and outstanding customer service

Vail - Your Favorite Mountain Town - read on to learn more about this opportunity!

Executive Recruitment Provided by



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

The Town of Vail is a world-renowned alpine community recognized for its exceptional quality of life, breathtaking mountain scenery, and commitment to thoughtful, sustainable growth. Nestled in the heart of the Colorado Rockies, Vail offers year-round recreation including skiing, snowboarding, hiking, mountain biking, fly fishing, and countless outdoor adventures. Beyond recreation, the community is known for its vibrant arts and cultural offerings, environmental stewardship, and outstanding municipal services.

Originally developed as a premier ski destination, Vail has evolved into a thriving year-round community that carefully balances economic vitality with preservation of its natural beauty and distinctive mountain character. Residents enjoy a unique combination of small-town charm and world-class amenities supported by a highly engaged local government committed to maintaining exceptional public spaces, infrastructure, and quality of life.

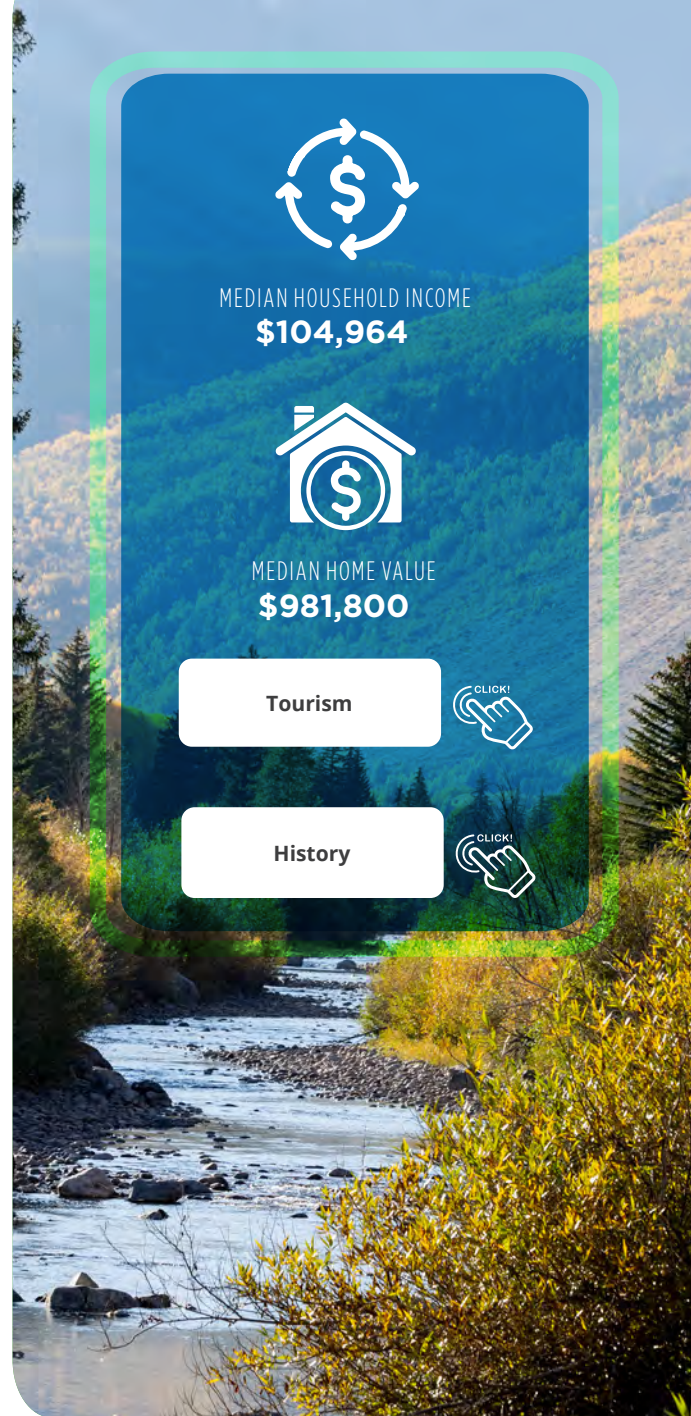
The Town places a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability, innovative planning, and preserving the architectural excellence that has made Vail an internationally recognized destination. Community engagement plays an important role in shaping policy and development decisions, creating an exciting environment for planning professionals who enjoy collaborative problem-solving and meaningful public service.

GOVERNANCE & ORGANIZATION

The Town of Vail operates under a council-manager form of government. The Town Council consists of seven members elected at large and appoints the Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Municipal Judge. The organization provides a comprehensive range of municipal services focused on maintaining Vail's exceptional quality of life while supporting residents, businesses, and visitors.

The Town provides services including:

- Public Safety (Fire & Police)
- Community Development
- Public Works & Transit
- Environmental Sustainability
- Parks, Recreation & Public Library





ABOUT THE JOB

The Community Development Department oversees current planning, long-range planning, development review, zoning administration, and implementation of land use policies that preserve Vail’s unique mountain character while supporting responsible growth. The Senior Planner performs complex planning work related to development review, long-range planning, and land use policy while providing technical expertise and collaborating with staff, boards, applicants, and the public.

Reporting to the Planning Manager, the Senior Planner will:

- Manage complex development review applications and long-range planning assignments.
- Coordinate complex planning projects and provide professional planning recommendations.
- Serve as a technical resource for Town staff, boards, commissions, applicants, and the public.
- Prepare and evaluate policy recommendations, zoning amendments, and special planning projects.
- Foster collaboration across departments while providing exceptional customer service.

FULL JOB DESCRIPTION 

DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE

Divisions within the department:

- Planning
- Building Safety & Inspection Services

ORGANIZATION QUICKFACTS



Employees:
Planning Team



Department Budget:
Managed by Community Development (planning division budget oversight)

KEY PROJECTS FOR 2026-2027

- Advance long-range planning initiatives that support sustainable community growth.
- Continue improving development review processes and customer service.
- Evaluate zoning regulations and implement code updates to support community goals.

IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate is an experienced planning professional with strong technical expertise in municipal planning, land use policy, development review, and community engagement. They excel at managing complex planning projects, collaborating with multidisciplinary teams, and communicating effectively with residents, applicants, boards, elected officials, and staff. The successful candidate provides technical guidance to colleagues, exercises sound professional judgment, and is committed to exceptional customer service, thoughtful planning, and preserving Vail's unique mountain character.



EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS

Required:

- Bachelor's degree in Urban Planning, Land Use Planning, Urban Design, or a closely related field.
- Six to eight years of progressively responsible planning experience, preferably in municipal government.
- Thorough knowledge of planning principles, zoning regulations, land development, and public administration.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.

Preferred:

- Master's degree in Planning or a related field.
- Experience providing technical leadership, mentoring, or subject matter expertise to planning professionals.
- AICP Certification.
- Working knowledge of Colorado land use law.
- GIS experience and familiarity with development review software.



SALARY & BENEFITS

Compensation: Full salary range of \$86,726- \$130,089 with an expected hiring range of \$86,726-\$108,407.50

Health Benefits: Medical, dental, vision, life insurance, and additional employee benefit programs.

Paid Leave: Vacation, sick leave, and paid holidays in accordance with Town policy.

Retirement: Town-sponsored retirement program.

Additional Perks: Professional development opportunities, continuing education support, wellness programs, flexible work arrangements where appropriate, relocation assistance (if applicable), and the opportunity to live and work in one of Colorado's premier mountain communities.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply Here



For more information on this position, contact:

Larry Gilley, Senior Vice President

larrygilley@governmentresource.com | 325-660-4208

The Town of Vail is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity in its workforce. Applicants selected as finalists will be subject to a comprehensive background investigation.