

~~((Attachment A to Ordinance 18427, as amended by Ordinance 18623,  
Ordinance 18810, Ordinance 19034, Ordinance 19146, and Ordinance  
19555~~

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~~Updated October 29, 2018~~

~~Updated February 14, 2020~~

~~Updated July 24, 2020~~

~~Updated December 6, 2022~~

# ~~2016 King County Comprehensive Plan~~



**King County**

Office of Performance  
Strategy and Budget))





**2024 King County**

**Comprehensive Plan**

Ordinance xxxxx, Attachment A

Adopted TBD





# TRIBAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

King County is a part of a larger area that has been the traditional aboriginal territory of the Coast Salish peoples, who continue to live around the Salish Sea in what is now Washington State and the Canadian province of British Columbia. These sovereign tribal nations enrich the region through environmental stewardship, cultural heritage, and economic development. In planning for growth over the coming decades, the King County Comprehensive Plan seeks to respect and acknowledge the tribes' legacy and present-day contributions through the creation of livable, equitable, and sustainable communities for current and future generations.



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## King County

December 2016

Dear King County Resident:

After more than two years of outreach, research and engagement with community members and stakeholders, the King County Council and King County Executive are pleased to present the adopted 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan.

The 2016 update is a major review of the Comprehensive Plan. It builds on King County's 25 years of success in implementing the Growth Management Act. Since adoption of the first Comprehensive Plan in 1994, the vast majority of housing growth countywide—96 percent—has occurred in urban areas. Building on this success, the 2016 plan now also responds to new critical challenges:

**Equity and Social Justice.** The 2016 Comprehensive Plan includes strong, specific language about how consideration of Equity and Social Justice will shape County actions, how we will move forward with affordable housing and human services goals, how we will work to ensure that undesirable land uses do not overburden historically underserved communities, and how all residents of King County will benefit from careful application of Equity and Social Justice principles when the County sites facilities, operates programs, or launches new initiatives.

**Climate Change and Environmental Protection.** The 2016 Comprehensive Plan incorporates key goals and policies from the County's 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan. It demonstrates the County's commitment to climate action, with new policies on environmental and climate justice; more specific references to our efforts to reduce County greenhouse gas emissions through new technologies, such as all electric battery buses; commitments to ongoing preservation of valuable open spaces; and development of a Green Building handbook and building codes.

**Local Government Responsibilities.** At its core, the Comprehensive Plan is a description of King County's role in the unincorporated areas. The 2016 Comprehensive Plan highlights this role and provides additional clarity about the County's responsibility as a local service provider to unincorporated residents through enhancements to policies and text throughout all chapters. At the same time, the adopted Comprehensive Plan describes the County's role as a regional service provider and a leader and convener on regional issues of concern.

**Housing and Human Services.** The 2016 Comprehensive Plan reflects the importance of serving those most in need by organizing policies related to affordable housing and human services into a new chapter. Language in the adopted Plan strengthens and clarifies these policies to reflect the County's commitment to help people who are experiencing homelessness, those at risk of displacement, and those in need of mental health and behavioral health services. The Plan also adds a new policy that calls for a regional approach to increasing the availability of affordable housing.

**Local and Regional Planning.** The adopted 2016 Comprehensive Plan complies with the State Growth Management Act and illustrates the County's continued commitment to protect rural lands from expansion of the urban growth area. The Comprehensive Plan also launches a new subarea planning program that will create more detailed, stakeholder-informed local plans across the entire unincorporated area.



**Natural Resource Lands.** The adopted 2016 Comprehensive Plan reaffirms King County's commitment to protecting our valuable forest and agricultural lands in accordance with the State Growth Management Act. The Comprehensive Plan links the production of local food and the proliferation of farmers markets to continued protection for our Agriculture Production Districts, which have remained in place for more than forty years. New policies in this update also encourage the use of Best Management Practices and sustainable farming activities to help protect the environment.

2015 marked the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Growth Management Act. This landmark legislation created a new planning approach in Washington State that sought to address the harmful impacts of uncoordinated and unplanned growth. The Growth Management Act requires jurisdictions to designate an urban growth area within which growth would be encouraged and outside of which growth could occur only if it was not urban in nature. It also requires the adoption of regulations to assure the conservation of agricultural, forest, and mineral resource lands of long term significance as well as regulations to protect environmentally critical areas including wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat corridors, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas. By almost any measure, King County has been successful in realizing these broad goals. Since adoption of the first Comprehensive Plan in 1994, the vast majority of housing growth countywide—96 percent—has occurred in urban areas. And, through incorporations and annexations, more than 60 percent of the unincorporated urban area that existed in 1994 is now within cities, which continues to fulfill the goal of transitioning counties to serve as providers of rural and regional services. In Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands, the County has preserved working farms and forests through a balanced strategy that includes regulations, incentives, and technical assistance, and this has led to a sustainable rate of development.

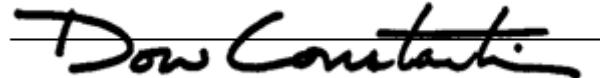
Looking forward, the State, local jurisdictions, and regional partners will soon be reviewing the required timelines for comprehensive plan updates and how that relates to timing of growth forecasts, Buildable Lands Reports, updates to the multicounty planning policies and growth allocations, and updates to countywide planning policies and growth targets. The County will be involved in this work and will determine how it affects our own Comprehensive Plan update schedule to ensure alignment with the broader growth management framework timelines. Review of the King County Comprehensive Plan update process will also evaluate scheduling major updates in odd calendar years, in consideration of the County's biennial budget cycle.<sup>+</sup>

The adoption of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan marks yet another step of King County's ongoing success at balancing economic vitality and healthy neighborhoods with careful stewardship of our farms, forests, and open spaces. Together, we can ensure that that our region continues to manage growth effectively while protecting thriving rural and resource lands, and remain in compliance with the Growth Management Act.

Sincerely,



Rod Dembowski  
Chair, Transportation, Economy and Environment  
Committee  
King County Council



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King County Executive

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<sup>+</sup> The work to review the Comprehensive Plan update schedule was completed in 2018 and 2020, through Ordinance 18810 and Ordinance 19146.)



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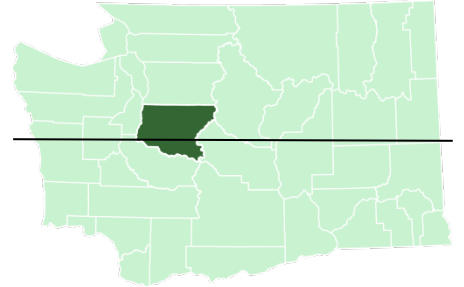


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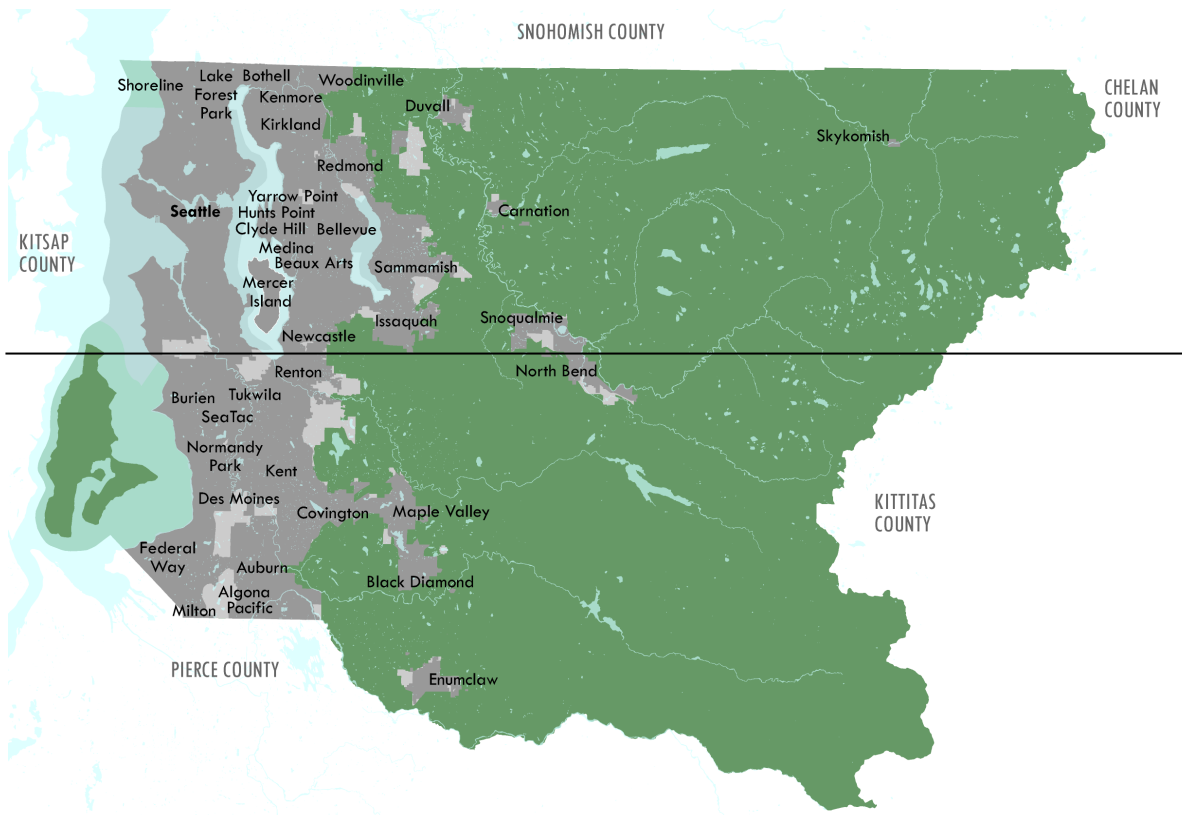


# ((EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2015, King County was the most populous county in Washington State and the 13th most populous county in the nation. Between 2015 and 2031, King County is targeted to grow by 252,000 residents.



The King County Comprehensive Plan is fundamental for directing and managing this anticipated growth. It contains policies guiding development and land use in unincorporated areas of the County, as well as service provision throughout the County and the region. Since the 1994 update, the Comprehensive Plan has worked in accordance with the Washington State Growth Management Act to protect resources and enhance quality of life. The Plan does this by emphasizing the protection of Critical Areas and Natural Resource Lands, protecting Rural Areas and rural character, and designating an Urban Growth Area where density and services should be concentrated. In addition, the Plan guides the County's work with its cities through the Countywide and Multicounty Planning Policies in central Puget Sound.



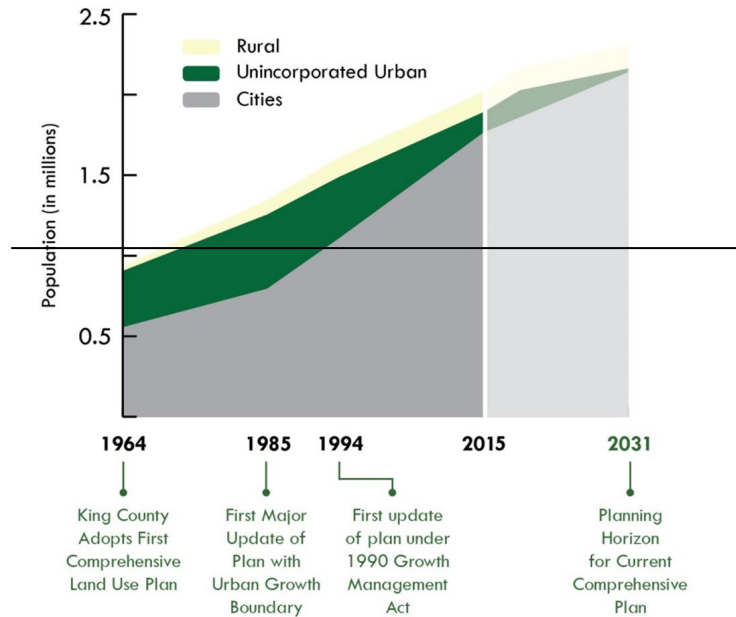


## About King County

### Demographics

According to most recent available data (2015), King County has an estimated population of **2.05 million people**. Approximately **94%** of King County's residents live in urban areas and **6%** in unincorporated Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands.

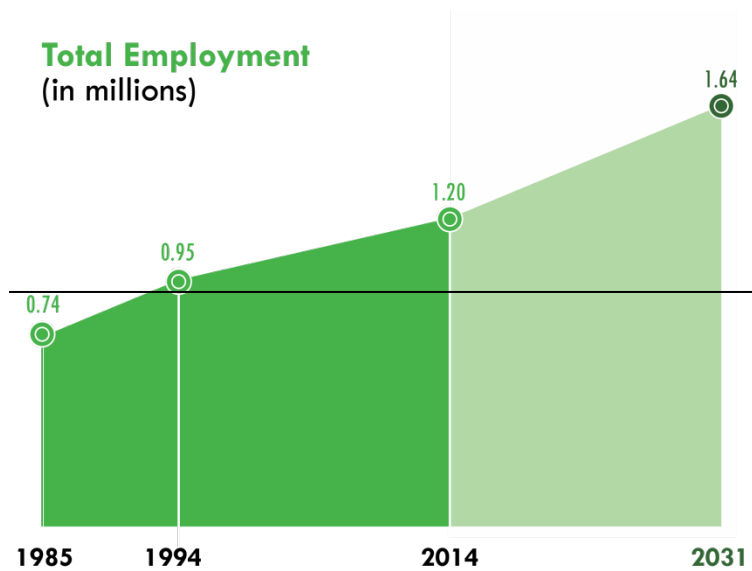
Over the past 20 years, King County has experienced a substantial 25% growth in its population. By 2031, King County is **expected to grow to a population of 2.3 million, adding just over 250,000 residents** to its overall population. Based on the Guiding Principles of the Comprehensive Plan, **95%** of this growth is targeted to be absorbed by cities and **5%** in unincorporated King County.



### Economy

The substantial population growth that King County has experienced in recent years can largely be attributed to the area's thriving economy, which has fostered a massive influx of individuals adding to the County's overall workforce. King County comprises the majority of the Seattle-Bellevue-Tacoma metropolitan statistical area and consists of **approximately 70,000 businesses providing nearly 1.2 million jobs**.

The vast majority of King County's workforce is employed in the service sector, such as in the trade-transportation utilities, professional-businesses services, and education-health services industries. Overall, King County **accounts for 50.3% of Washington's total payroll**.



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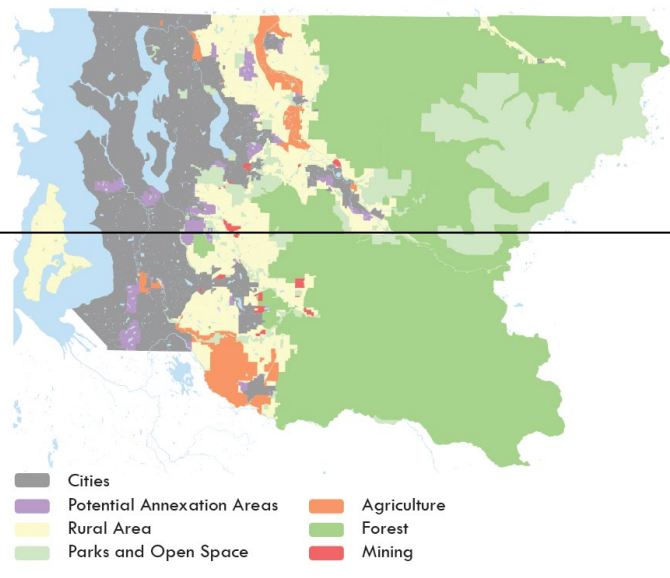
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## Geography



King County is characterized by beautiful scenery and geographic diversity, stretching from the Puget Sound in the west to the Cascade Crest in the east. There are 39 cities in the county, ranging in size from the 205-person town of Skykomish to the bustling metropolis of Seattle, with a population greater than 660,000. In addition, King County has a variety of working farm and forestlands, as well as a vast open space network. Numerous water bodies, including rivers, lakes, and streams, provide a key resources and create valuable land assets and unique ecosystems along coastlines and river corridors.

## Land Use



King County's total land area is 2,130 square miles, accounting for 3% of all land in Washington State. Through careful zoning and development regulations, King County manages its land use in a manner that ensures a high quality of life for its residents. Growth management in King County is largely implemented by directing development toward the Urban Growth Area, while protecting existing Rural Areas, open spaces, and Natural Resource Land. This map offers a general snapshot of land use across the county, which shows a higher concentration of urban land uses located towards the western Puget Sound area and more rural and resource uses located in the central and eastern parts of the county.

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## Guiding Principles

### 29 **Moving Towards a Sustainable King County**

30 King County's Comprehensive Plan has long been based on a vision of the county as a livable area with healthy,  
31 thriving and dense urban communities; ample open space, forest and farm lands preserved for long term use; a  
32 vibrant economy inclusive of numerous sectors; and a transportation system providing a variety of options. In  
33 addition, the Plan reflects the 14 goals of the Growth Management Act and the goals of the King County Strategic  
34 Plan. In 2015, King County adopted an update to its Strategic Plan, which aims to promote: **mobility; health  
35 and human services; economic vitality; safety and justice; accessible, affordable housing; a healthy  
36 environment; and efficient, accountable regional and local government.** The following principles, first adopted  
37 in the 2012 Comprehensive Plan, are updated to reflect these long term goals and priorities.

#### **1. Creating Sustainable Neighborhoods**



Strive to promote sustainable neighborhoods and communities. Seek to ensure that the benefits and impacts of the county's activities are equitably distributed among all segments of the population.

#### **2. Preserving & Maintaining Open Space and Natural Resource Lands**



Pursue opportunities to preserve and maintain remaining high propriety forest, agriculture and other open space lands.

#### **3. Directing Development Towards Existing Communities**



Continue to support the reduction of sprawl by focusing growth and future development in the Urban Growth Area, consistent with adopted growth targets.

#### **4. Providing a Variety of Transportation Choices**



Continue to promote an efficient multimodal transportation system that provides residents with a range of transportation choices that respond to community needs and reduce impacts on the natural environment.

#### **5. Addressing Health, Equity and Social and Environmental Justice**



Seek to reduce health inequities and proactively address issues of equity, social and environmental justice when evaluating and implementing its land use policies, programs and practices.

#### **6. Achieving Environmental Sustainability**



Protect, restore and enhance the county's natural resources and environment, encourage sustainable agriculture and forestry, reduce climate pollution and prepare for the effects of climate change, including consideration of the inequities and disparities that may be caused by climate change.

## Major Update

The 2016 update is a major review of the Comprehensive Plan and, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Growth Management Act. This landmark legislation requires jurisdictions to designate an urban growth area, within which growth would be encouraged, and adopt regulations to conserve resource land and environmentally sensitive areas. By almost any measure, King County has been successful in realizing the broad goals of the Growth Management Act. However, success has not been easy and, looking forward, the Comprehensive Plan needs to respond to new challenges, such as equitable access to opportunity, reducing carbon pollution and responding to climate impacts, addressing housing affordability and strengthening mobility. To address these, **the following updates are included in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan.**

### Land Use Policy Amendments

- **Annexation policies revised to be more city-focused.** Creates incentives for annexation by promoting joint planning, encouraging use of city regulations and negotiating on transferable development rights in Potential Annexation Areas (PAAs) where there is an Interlocal Agreement, and revisiting PAA map and Countywide Planning Policies with cities. Amendments in *Chapter 2*.
- **Rural Area policies strengthened to avoid incompatible uses.** Avoiding placement of primarily urban-serving facilities in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands (consistent with the Growth Management Act), and removal of the mining site conversion demonstration program. Amendments in *Chapters 2, 3, 9 and 12*.
- **Transfer of Development Rights policies enhanced for PAAs.** TDRs can be negotiated in PAAs with annexing cities, and directing amenity funding into unincorporated urban areas receiving TDRs. Amendments in *Chapters 2 and 3*.

### Equity and Health Policy Amendments

- **Establishes a new chapter on Housing and Human Services.** The new *Chapter 4* consolidates and updates existing policies, and reflects new initiatives. It calls for new community development tools such as food innovation districts and residential local improvement districts, and commits to explore increasing housing density and affordable housing near businesses and transit.
- **Increases emphasis on Equity and Social Justice.** This includes further integration of Equity and Social Justice principles in policies *throughout the plan*.
- **Reflects current Public Health-related programs**—topics include smoke-free housing, healthy food retail, urban agriculture, the **Local Food Initiative** and farm-supportive programs. Amendments in *Chapters 2 and 3*.

### Environmental Policy Amendments

- **Increased focus on Climate Change in multiple chapters.** Integration of relevant policies from the Strategic Climate Action Plan and the King County Cities Climate Collaboration.
- **Stormwater Management Program policies updated.** Reflects the County's new municipal stormwater permit requirements, low-impact development, sub-basin planning, infrastructure maintenance and retrofits and infrastructure mapping. Amendments in *Chapters 5 and 9*.
- **New policies on Crude Oil Transport by Rail**—these define the County's role and interests in this emerging policy issue. Amendments in *Chapter 9*.
- **Various environmental topics updated**—topics include noxious weeds, beaver exclusion and removal, enhanced landslide hazard policies, encouraging Green Building, and supporting a market-based price on carbon pollution. Amendments in *Chapters 3, 5, 7 and 9*.

### Subarea Planning Program

- **Initiation of a new Community Service Area Subarea Planning Program.** Starting in 2016, this process will use the Community Service Areas as the planning geography. Amendments in *Chapter 11*.

### General Amendments

- Changes to make the plan more **user-friendly** such as this Executive Summary, a more navigable Table of Contents, and a new Workplan section in *Chapter 12* that identifies major work items that start after adoption in 2016.
- Other updates *throughout the plan* including revised data, refined definitions, minor formatting enhancements, and updated references to partnerships and implementation plans.

These amendments, along with others included in the following chapters, are intended to help the Comprehensive Plan remain responsive to the County's growth management challenges of today... and tomorrow.

## Plan Elements

### Chapters of the Comprehensive Plan

#### Chapter 1

##### **Regional Growth Management Planning**

King County's growth management policies and regulations are consistent and work in coordination with the Growth Management Act, Multicounty and Countywide Planning Policies, and other technical plans.

#### Chapter 2

##### **Urban Communities**

With the majority of King County residents living and working in the urban area, this chapter includes policies that guide urban development with the goal of creating healthy, sustainable communities.

#### Chapter 3

##### **Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands**

King County's Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands are crucial for sustaining quality of life for county residents into the future. This chapter focuses on protecting these assets from urban development, promoting sustainable economic development and supporting rural communities.

#### Chapter 4

##### **Housing and Human Services**

The availability of adequate and affordable housing has become one of the most pressing issues facing King County today. This chapter contains policies regarding the provision of housing and services for all residents.

#### Chapter 5

##### **Environment**

King County's natural environment comprises various unique and valuable assets. This chapter contains King County's approach to environmental protection, conservation, restoration and sustainability.

#### Chapter 6

##### **Shorelines**

Shorelines require particular focus and management given both their immense value and fragility. This chapter contains King County's Shoreline Master Program, which aims to protect and conserve this unique natural resource.

#### Chapter 7

##### **Parks, Open Space & Cultural Resources**

This chapter addresses King County's approach to conserving and maintaining its expansive open space system, which includes numerous local and regional parks, and trails, and its cultural resources and historic properties.

#### Chapter 8

##### **Transportation**

Recognizing that availability of safe, accessible and efficient transportation options has significant implications for the quality of life of all county residents, this chapter addresses how King County will distribute investments equitably.

#### Chapter 9

##### **Services, Facilities & Utilities**

The provision of services, facilities and utilities should be concentrated in areas of density and at levels that can support existing and future demand. This chapter addresses how such crucial infrastructure should be developed.

#### Chapter 10

##### **Economic Development**

In its commitment to foster a prosperous, diverse and sustainable economy, the County recognizes that it must support actions and programs promote the success of both businesses and the workforce.

#### Chapter 11

##### **Community Service Area Subarea Planning**

This chapter includes policies that recognize the unique land use characteristics of particular unincorporated communities, provides significant historical context and describes the new subarea planning program.

#### Chapter 12

##### **Implementation, Amendments & Evaluation**

This chapter describes how the policies should be implemented and monitored, major actions that will occur to implement the plan, the procedure for updating the plan and the role of zoning in the planning process.

## Appendices

Integral to the vision and goals of the Comprehensive Plan are the detailed inventories, forecasts, financial plans and Urban Growth Area analysis required by the Growth Management Act. A set of technical appendices are adopted as part of the plan to meet Growth Management Act requirements.

## Regulations

The King County Comprehensive Plan is implemented through adopted regulations, including the King County zoning Code and other Code titles. All development must meet the requirements of the Code.))





## CHAPTER 1

# **REGIONAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING**



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~~King County has some of the most beautiful scenery in the country, some of the most productive farmlands, and one of the most vibrant economies. The 2016King County Comprehensive Plan establishes a vision that preserves this incredible diversity while continuing to acknowledge that residents want options as to where they live, work and play.~~

~~The Comprehensive Plan responds to requirements in state growth management planning laws that require jurisdictions to guide growth and development throughout the unincorporated areas of the county and establishes King County's position on major issues such as transportation, annexations, regional water supply and environmental protection.))~~

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## I. About King County

### *((King County Geography))*

King County, covering 2,130 square miles, ~~((is the size of the state of Delaware, but much more geographically diverse. It))~~ extends from Puget Sound in the west to 8,000-foot Mt. Daniel at the Cascade crest to the east. ~~((King County's various landforms include saltwater coastline, river floodplains, plateaus, slopes and mountains, punctuated with lakes and salmon streams. Lake Washington, covering 35 square miles, and Lake Sammamish with 8 square miles are the two largest bodies of fresh water. Vashon-Maury Island in Puget Sound and Mercer Island in Lake Washington provide different island environments.~~

### *King County Jurisdictions*

In 1994, when King County's first Comprehensive Plan under the Growth Management Act was adopted, the county had 34 cities with 1,116,000 people. More than a third of annual new residential development was occurring in unincorporated areas. Since December 1994, five new cities have incorporated and numerous annexations have occurred, shifting more than 220,000 people into city limits. As of 2015, there are)) With more than 2,320,000 people, it is the largest county in Washington State and the 12<sup>th</sup> largest in the nation. Within King County, 39 cities cover 418 square miles, or 20 percent of the county's total land area. The cities range in population ((ranging in)) size from Seattle, with more than ((660,000)) 762,500 people, to Skykomish and Beaux Arts, with fewer than 350 each. ((King County's 39 cities now cover 418 square miles, or 20% of the county's total land area:)) Unincorporated King County((, the territory outside any city, now)) has ~~((about 253,000))~~ a population of 248,160 ~~((people)), or ((43%)) 11 percent of the ((county's population))~~ total population of King County.

### *((King County Demographics*

~~In 2015, with more than 2,050,000 people, King County is the largest county in Washington State and the 13<sup>th</sup> largest in the nation. King County exhibits growing diversity: more than one-third of the population is now persons-of-color. As of 2010, 65% of the population is non-Hispanic white, 15% Asian or Pacific Islander, 7.7% African-American, 1% Native American and 8.9% Latino (2010 census data:))~~ Most of King County's residents are of working age, with the largest share of residents (17 percent) being 30 to 39 years old. Approximately 20 percent (449,242) of King County's population is 17 years old or younger. Unincorporated King County residents are older on average than King County residents. As of 2020, 54 percent of King County's population is non-Hispanic White, 20 percent Asian, seven percent Black or African American, one percent Native American, one percent Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and nine percent Hispanic or Latino/a/e. Unincorporated King County has proportionately more White residents and American Indian/Alaska Native residents than King County as a whole.

The Washington State Office of Financial Management projects King County's population to grow 24.6 percent, from 2,317,700 residents in 2022 to 2,887,137 in 2044. Unincorporated King County's population is projected to grow more slowly at a rate of 7.3 percent, from 248,160 residents in 2022 to 266,301 in 2044. To meet the housing needs of current and future residents, King County is required by the Growth Management Act and the Countywide Planning Policies to plan for and accommodate housing that meets the needs of moderate-, low-, very low-, and extremely low-income households, as well as emergency housing, emergency shelters, and permanent supportive housing. The total number of new housing units needed in urban unincorporated King County by 2044 is 5,412. Additionally, 1,034 new emergency housing beds are needed by 2044 to meet temporary housing needs.



61 *((King County Housing Needs*

62 The number of housing units in King County is growing faster than its population. The  
63 2010 Census counted more than 851,000 houses, apartment and condominium units,  
64 and mobile homes. The number of housing units has increased by 159,000 units (23%)  
65 since 1994. Household size has stabilized after declining in the 1970s and 1980s and is  
66 now estimated at 2.39 persons per household – the same as in 2000. A slight decline  
67 in household size is anticipated in coming years to about 2.26 in 2031.)) The County  
68 adopted development regulation changes with the 2024 Comprehensive Plan to create  
69 sufficient zoning capacity to accommodate these housing needs and types.  
70

71 *((King County Economy*

72 King County is truly the economic engine of Washington State with more than 1.2  
73 million workers employed at nearly 80,000 business firms, excluding sole  
74 proprietorships. King County's \$87 billion payroll is 52% of Washington State's \$167  
75 billion payroll and three-fourths of the four-county region's payroll.  
76

77 King County has a cyclical economy, with booms and recessions. Since 2000, the region  
78 has had two major recessions, a boom, and recovery. The result is that as of 2010 the  
79 number of jobs was the same as it was in 2000: about 1.1 million. Since 2010, job  
80 growth has been substantial. Manufacturing employment remains important, but, since  
81 2006, growth has been in the trade, business services and information sectors. The  
82 economy has diversified from its traditional aerospace and resource bases to high tech,  
83 services and trade, both local and international. Given the county's complement of  
84 healthy, innovative businesses and its industrial diversification, its future unemployment  
85 rates should be lower than in the state and the nation.))

## 86 II. King County Planning Framework

87 Prompted by residents concerned about sprawl, King County adopted its first  
88 comprehensive land use plan in 1964. Two decades later, the 1985 comprehensive  
89 land use plan was the first to identify an urban growth boundary line to limit urban  
90 growth to areas with the infrastructure needed for facilities and services. It also  
91 established policies to protect the Rural Area, conserve the natural environment, and  
92 designate resource lands for long-term agriculture and forest production.  
93

94 King County's first Comprehensive Plan under the Washington State Growth  
95 Management Act was adopted in 1994. The Growth Management Act directs the state's  
96 most populous and fastest-growing counties and their cities to prepare comprehensive  
97 land use plans that anticipate growth over a 20((-))-year horizon and provide for it in a  
98 managed manner.  
99

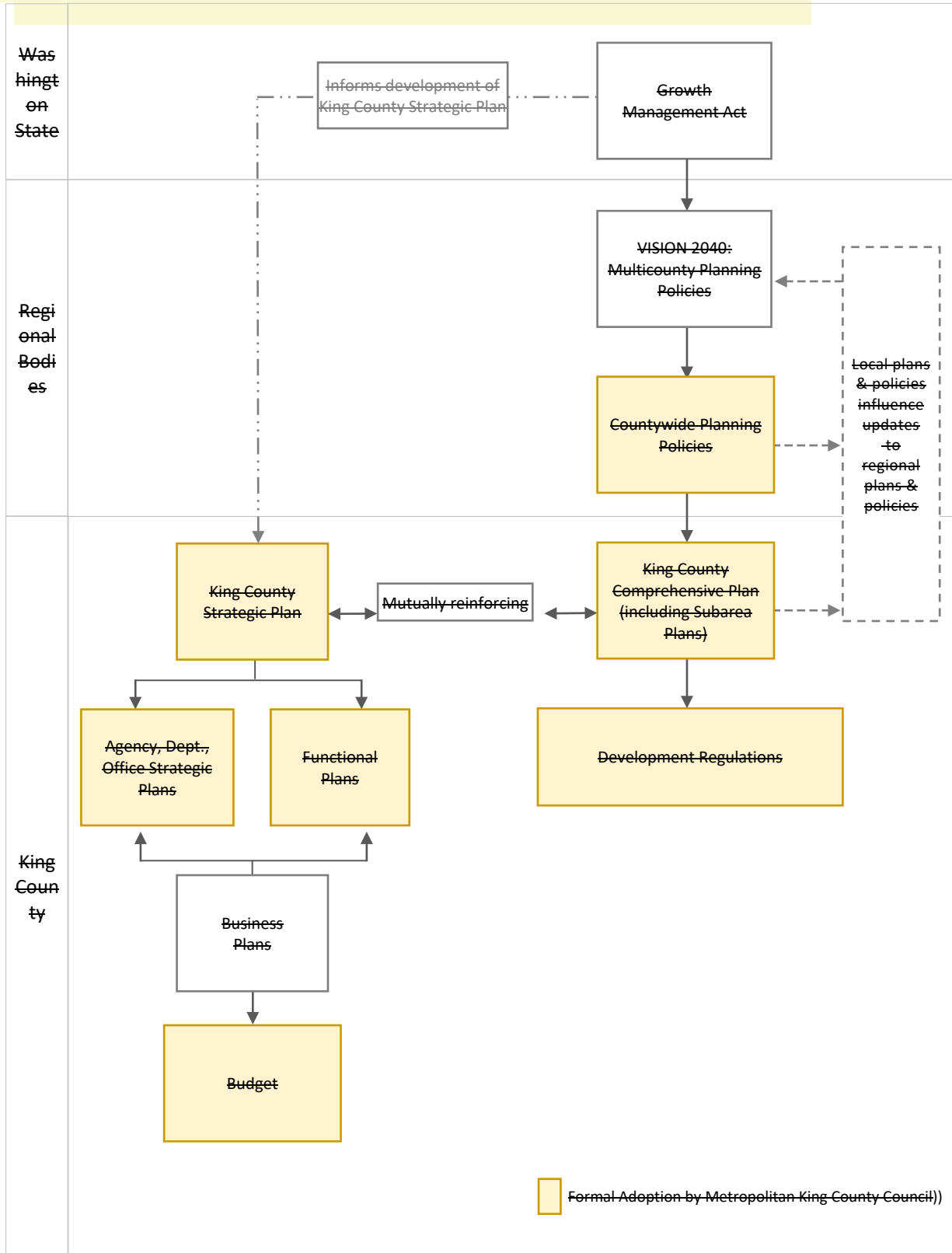
100 There is a hierarchy of growth management planning in the county with consistency  
101 between the levels. Some issues, such as the establishment of the Urban Growth Area,  
102 are best decided at the countywide level, while others, such as the amount of  
103 commercial space needed in a neighborhood, are best determined at the subarea plan  
104 level. At a broader scale, the Growth Management Act requires the development of  
105 Multicounty Planning Policies by ((the counties of)) King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish  
106 Counties, as well as the development of Countywide Planning Policies by King County  
107 and ((its)) the 39 cities and towns in King County. These ((documents are to be used

108 solely)) policies are used for establishing a countywide framework from which county  
109 and city comprehensive plans are developed and adopted.

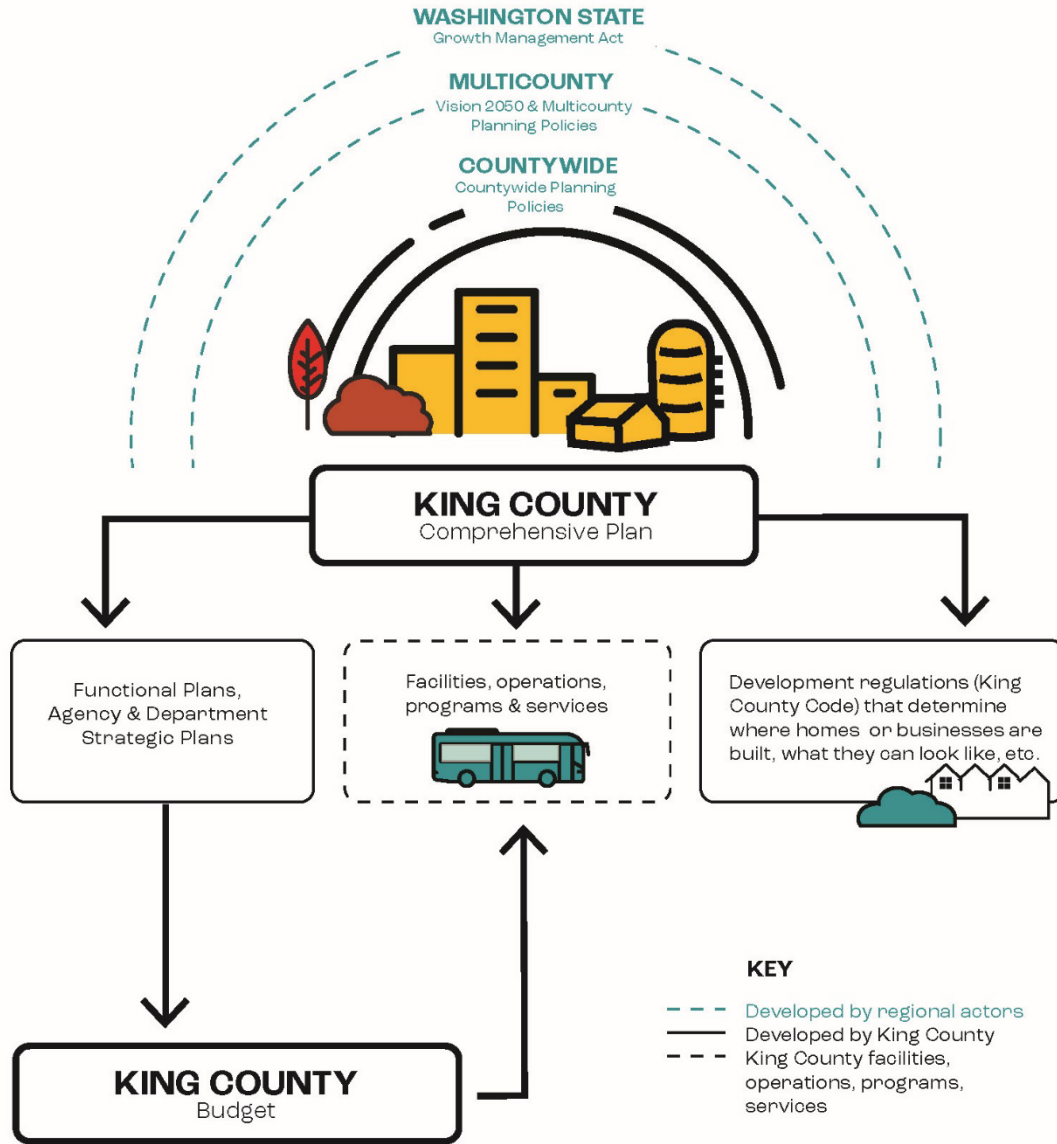
## A. Planning Framework Hierarchy

~~((These))~~ The planning processes and structures discussed in this section respond to Growth Management Act, Multicounty Planning Policy, and Countywide Planning Policy requirements and goals and reflect local circumstances and priorities. This complex framework is illustrated in the following graphic.

((Figure: Planning Hierarchy Relationship to Growth Management Planning







**RP-101** King County's planning should implement the County's equity and racial and social justice principles to improve residents' access to the determinants of equity.

## ~~((A:))~~ B. Public Participation in Planning

At the core of King County's planning is the goal of ~~((providing))~~ advancing equitable outcomes that support a high quality of life for all residents. This can only be achieved by actively ~~((soliciting public participation))~~ and equitably engaging the public to help shape ~~((its))~~ County plans, including strategic, comprehensive, functional, and subarea

plans, and ~~((use))~~ by using these planning processes to strengthen communities and improve access to the Determinants of Equity.<sup>1</sup>

Previous planning processes have excluded and harmed those who are Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color; immigrants; refugees; and households at or below 80 percent of area median income. King County is working to ensure that the perspectives of these historically underrepresented groups and those who have been disproportionately harmed by previous planning efforts are engaged by the County and centered throughout planning processes.

Additionally, while the Growth Management Act requires the coordination of local plans, Indian tribes have historically not been included because of their independent sovereign status and unique rights to self-governance. However, King County also recognizes that the lands addressed by the Comprehensive Plan are those that are the traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples that have lived here since time immemorial. Recognizing this, King County will coordinate with Indian tribes as part of the County's planning processes and will seek opportunities to work together to advance key issues, such as environmental stewardship, treaty fishing rights, and protecting cultural heritage.

**~~((RP-101))~~ RP-102** King County shall strive to provide a high quality of life for all of its residents by working with cities, special purpose districts, and residents to develop attractive, safe, and accessible communities at appropriate urban and rural service levels; ~~((retain))~~ retaining rural character and rural neighborhoods; planning for and accommodating housing affordable to all income levels; ~~((support))~~ supporting economic development; ~~((promote))~~ promoting equity and racial and social justice; ~~((preserve and maintain))~~ preserving and maintaining resource and open space lands; ~~((preserve))~~ preserving the natural environment; and ~~((protect))~~ protecting significant cultural and historic resources.

**~~((RP-102))~~ RP-103** In its planning processes, including the development, update, and implementation of King County plans, ~~((King))~~ the County shall use equitable engagement strategies to actively solicit public participation from a wide variety of sources, particularly from populations historically underrepresented or excluded from planning processes ~~((in its planning processes, including the development, update, and implementation of its plans)).~~

**~~((RP-103))~~ RP-104** King County shall ~~((seek comment from))~~ coordinate with Indian tribes during its planning processes in a manner that respects their sovereign status, promotes tribal self-determination and self-governance, and honors past and present agreements.

---

<sup>1</sup> Defined in King County Code 2.10.210.

RP-105 King County should:

- a. Collaborate with Indian tribes to support preservation of historically, culturally, and archeologically important places and resources;
- b. Support partnerships with Indian tribes to promote Indian tribal cultural centers and cultural events; and
- c. Consider Indian tribal traditional land stewardship in advancing King County climate resiliency goals.

((R-102)) RP-106 King County ((will continue to support)) shall work with its rural constituencies to sustain and enhance the diversity and richness of ((its rural communities and their distinct character by working with its rural constituencies through its Community Service Areas program to sustain and enhance the rural character of)) the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.

((B-)) C. Multicounty Planning

The Puget Sound Regional Council is a regional planning agency with specific responsibilities under federal and state law for transportation planning, economic development, and growth management. ((In April 2008, t))The general assembly of the Puget Sound Regional Council ((adopted VISION 2040 containing)) adopts a ((numeric)) Regional Growth Strategy and the Multicounty Planning Policies((as an update to the earlier Vision 2020 regional plan)), which are most recently reflected in VISION 2050 ("VISION"). Multicounty Planning Policies address those issues that benefit from greater consistency across jurisdictions and those that are of a ((countywide or)) regional nature.

VISION ((2040)) is a regional strategy to accommodate the population and job growth expected by ((2040)) 2050 in the four-county Puget Sound region. As an integrated, long-range vision for maintaining a healthy region, promoting economic vitality, a healthy environment, and well((-))being of people and communities, VISION ((2040)) provides clear direction to regional, county, and local governments on topics such as setting priorities for transportation investment, stimulating economic development, planning for open space, making ((city and town)) local jurisdictions' centers more suitable for transit and walking, and improving transportation safety and mobility. ((VISION 2040 promotes a triple-bottom line approach to decision-making that seeks to promote social, economic and environmental benefits in all projects, programs and plans:))

As part of VISION ((2040)), the Regional Growth Strategy looks at how the region can distribute ((forecast)) forecasted growth, primarily within the designated urban growth area. The strategy is a description of a preferred pattern of urbanization that has been designed to minimize environmental impacts, support economic prosperity, promote adequate and affordable housing, improve mobility, and make efficient use of existing infrastructure. The strategy provides regional guidance for counties((;)) and cities ((and towns)) to use as they develop ((new)) local population and employment growth targets and update local comprehensive plans.



**((RP-104)) RP-107 King County's planning ((should)) shall include multicounty, countywide, and subarea levels of planning. Working with planning partners, such as Indian tribes, residents, special purpose districts, and cities ((as planning partners)), the ((c))County shall strive to balance the differing needs identified across or within plans at these ((geographic)) levels.**

## **((C.)) D. Countywide Planning**

State law requires that planning be coordinated on a countywide level, and that ((the)) King ((c))County itself adopt a comprehensive plan to regulate those areas for which it has direct responsibility. The Countywide Planning Policies are required by the state Growth Management Act and provide a countywide framework to coordinate local comprehensive plans and implement VISION ((2040)). King County and all cities ((and towns of)) in King County are responsible for ensuring that their respective comprehensive plans are consistent with and implement the Countywide Planning Policies.

The ((Growth Management Planning Council is the)) formal body charged with developing the Countywide Planning Policies ((and then sending a recommendation to the King County Council for its review and approval. The Growth Management Planning Council)) is the Growth Management Planning Council, which is a representative body consisting of elected officials from King County, Seattle, Bellevue, the Sound Cities Association, and ((the City of Bellevue)) special purpose districts.((<sup>2</sup>)) Recommended Countywide Planning Policies are sent to King County for its review and approval and then provided to the cities for ratification.

((The Countywide Planning Policies were first adopted by King County and ratified by the cities within the county in 1992. In response to VISION 2040, the county and the cities within the county approved a major overhaul and update to the Countywide Planning Policies in 2013. These revised)) The Countywide Planning Policies implement ((the regional and countywide vision)) VISION by providing a countywide framework to plan for job growth and new development, including housing, commercial, institutional, and other non((=))residential uses. The Countywide Planning Policies provide broad direction to individual jurisdictions' comprehensive plans, including the King County Comprehensive Plan. The goals of the policies include: promoting a compact and centers-focused growth pattern that uses land and infrastructure efficiently, protecting the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, providing affordable housing throughout the county, and coordinating the protection and restoration of the natural environment in King County.((<sup>3</sup>))

**((RP-105)) RP-108 King County ((should)) shall work with the Growth Management Planning Council to adopt Countywide Planning Policies that support ((annual ratifications to)) allocated housing and employment growth targets for cities and the county, approve designations of countywide centers, and address other countywide planning topics.**

((<sup>2</sup>-As amended by Ordinance 17687-

<sup>3</sup>-As amended by Ordinance 17687-))

~~((RP-106)) RP-109~~ ~~((Except for Four-to-One proposals;))~~ King County shall not amend the Urban Growth Area prior to the Growth Management Planning Council ~~((taking action))~~ making a recommendation on the proposed amendment to the Urban Growth Area.

~~((RP-107)) RP-110~~ King County shall not forward to the Growth Management Planning Council for its recommendation any proposed amendment to the Urban Growth Area unless the proposal ~~((was))~~ is:

- a. Included in the scoping motion for a King County Comprehensive Plan update;
- b. ~~((An))~~ Subject to an area zoning and land use study ((of the proposal)) that was included in the public review draft of a proposed King County Comprehensive Plan update; or
- c. Subjected to the hearing examiner process for site specific map amendments as ~~((contemplated))~~ established by the King County Code.

~~((RP-108)) RP-111~~ King County shall implement the Countywide Planning Policies through its Comprehensive Plan and ~~((through))~~ Potential Annexation Area, pre-annexation, and other interlocal agreements with ~~((its))~~ cities.

## ~~((D. Sub-Regional))~~ E. Subregional Planning and Partnerships

King County engages with partners in subareas of the county in ~~((sub-regional))~~ subregional planning programs and partnerships that are related to the Comprehensive Plan. These activities are guided by the policies in the Comprehensive Plan as well as the other components of the overall King County ~~((P))~~ planning ~~((F))~~ framework noted in this chapter. ~~((Some key activities are noted below:))~~

~~((RP-109)) RP-112~~ King County should establish and/or participate in regional and subregional partnerships to advance the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan ~~((, such as:~~

- a. ~~The King County Cities Climate Collaboration (the "K4C") to confront climate change;~~
- b. ~~The Puget Sound Regional Council's Regional Transit Oriented Development Program to advance transit-oriented development around transit stations and hubs;~~
- c. ~~The Eastside Rail Corridor Regional Advisory Council, or successor groups, to support a vision that includes dual use (recreation trail and public transportation) and multiple objectives, consistent with its federal railbanked status, and~~
- d. ~~The Regional Code Collaboration to collaborate on development of and updates to green building codes.~~

~~These programs are described in greater detail, and where appropriate additional policies added, in the relevant subsequent chapters of the Comprehensive Plan.))~~

**RP-113** When large, mixed-use developments with more than 50 dwelling units are proposed in cities adjacent to the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands, King County shall, upon notification from the city, coordinate with the permitting city during the development review process to avoid and mitigate impacts on county services and facilities, water resources, and the surrounding Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.

322  
323 ((The cities in King County's rural area)) Cities in the Rural Area are incorporated areas  
324 substantially surrounded by the Rural Area and whose local governments are involved in  
325 the region's planning processes on ((an equal legal basis with the suburban cities,  
326 Bellevue and Seattle)) the same basis as any other city in the County. Cities in the Rural  
327 Area have established Potential Annexation Areas to accommodate growth. The  
328 ((c))Cities in the Rural Area are Black Diamond, Carnation, Duvall, Enumclaw, North  
329 Bend, Skykomish, and Snoqualmie.

330  
331 ((The Growth Management Act stipulates that Cities in the Rural Area and their Potential  
332 Annexation Areas are to be treated as part of the Urban Growth Area. The Countywide  
333 Planning Policies also provide for urban land uses and densities and urban services in  
334 those locations.)) Excessive growth in Cities in the Rural Area ((and in Rural Towns)),  
335 however, may create pressure for extending urban services (for example, sewers) across  
336 the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands, ((may)) increase conversion pressure on  
337 nearby Resource Lands, and adversely affect rural character. ((Therefore, King County  
338 views Cities in the Rural Area as qualitatively different from the Urban Growth Area as a  
339 whole, even though they may provide significant opportunities for residential or  
340 employment growth within their boundaries.

341  
342 King County has worked with the Cities in the Rural Area to establish Potential  
343 Annexation Areas to accommodate growth. These areas are shown as part of the Urban  
344 Growth Area on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map at the end of Chapter 1,  
345 Regional Growth Management Planning. Additionally, the county is working with these  
346 cities on individual economic development strategies and options, as well as regional  
347 economic and tourism opportunities.

348  
349 **R-510)) RP-114 ((The Cities in the Rural Area and their Potential Annexation Areas**  
350 **are part of the overall Urban Growth Area for purposes of planning land**  
351 **uses and facility needs.)) King County should work with Cities in the**  
352 **Rural Area and coordinate through partnerships, such as the Growth**  
353 **Management Planning Council, to:**

- 354 **a. ((e))Encourage the provision of affordable housing((, to));**  
355 **b. ((m))Minimize the impacts of new development on the surrounding**  
356 **Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands;**  
357 **c. Avoid the conversion of rural lands into commercial uses and the**  
358 **creation of pressure to extend or expand urban services,**  
359 **infrastructure, and facilities, such as roads or sewer, across or into**  
360 **the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands; and**  
361 **d. ((to p))Plan for growth consistent with long-term protection of**  
362 **significant historic resources((:)) and the surrounding Rural Area**  
363 **and Natural Resource Lands.**

## 364 ((E.)) E. Comprehensive Planning

365 ((The 2016 update is the fifth major review of the King County Comprehensive Plan.)) In  
366 accordance with the Growth Management Act, ((it)) the Comprehensive Plan is  
367 designed to manage growth so that development is directed to ((designated)) urban  
368 areas and away from the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. The Growth  
369 Management Act also requires King County to designate and protect critical areas and  
370 commercially significant forestry, agriculture, and mining areas. The Growth  
371 Management Act requires a comprehensive plan to adhere to a set of ((fourteen)) goals  
372 and to include ((the following)) mandatory plan elements((:)), such as land use, housing,  
373 capital facilities, utilities, rural, shorelines, and transportation elements. The ((King  
374 County)) Comprehensive Plan provides a legal framework for managing growth and

making decisions about land use in unincorporated King County. ~~((Public and private agencies, property owners, developers, community groups and King County staff use the Comprehensive Plan in several ways.))~~

The Comprehensive Plan ~~((provides guidance to))~~ guides ~~((c))~~ County officials ~~((for decisions))~~ on proposals such as zoning changes and developments~~((. It also gives the public direction on the county's position on))~~, proposed changes in ~~((land use or zoning,))~~ environmental regulations, or broader policy issues. ~~((The Plan))~~ It also serves as a framework for other plans and regulations such as subarea plans and the King County Code that govern the location and density of land uses in unincorporated King County. The Comprehensive Plan provides a basis for decisions about public spending on facilities and services. Finally, ~~((the Plan))~~ it presents other agencies, such as cities and special purpose districts, with King County's position on large-scale matters such as annexation, use of resource lands, environmental protection, service provision, and others.

**~~((RP-110)) RP-115~~ King County's planning should strengthen communities by addressing all the elements, resources, and needs that make a community whole, ~~((including:))~~ such as housing affordable to all income levels, economic growth and the built environment, environmental sustainability, regional and local mobility, health and human potential, and justice and safety.**

**~~((RP-111)) RP-116~~ King County shall integrate mandated responses to the listings under the Endangered Species Act into future planning, economic development efforts, and resource management programs to achieve, where consistent with the Endangered Species Act, a balance between environmental, social, and economic goals and objectives. King County shall collaborate with others to conserve species and their habitats in order to prevent future listings under the Endangered Species Act.**

**~~((RP-112)) King County shall incorporate approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change into its land use and transportation planning, economic development efforts, and natural resource management.~~**

**~~RP-113)) RP-117~~ The ~~((Comprehensive Plan))~~ Land Use Map is adopted as part of ~~((this))~~ the Comprehensive Plan. ~~((It))~~ The Land Use Map shall depict(s) the ~~((Urban Growth Area,))~~ Urban Growth Area ~~((B))~~boundary~~((;))~~; land use designations for unincorporated urban areas, the Rural Area, and Natural Resource Lands; and other ~~((land uses))~~ appropriate information. The Land Use Map shall be maintained in the King County Geographic Information System, and the Land Use Map at the end of this chapter generally represents the official ~~((Comprehensive Plan Land Use M))~~map.**

**~~((Property Rights: The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to balance a variety of goals in the implementation of growth management. One of the goals of Growth Management Act is to provide for the protection of private property rights in relation to the comprehensive planning process of the county. In support of this goal, King County undertakes a review process designed to assess its regulatory and administrative actions to avoid unconstitutional takings of private property.~~**

**~~RP-114)) RP-118~~ King County shall ~~((continue its process of reviewing county regulatory and administrative actions so as to))~~ avoid**



**unconstitutional takings of private property in planning, programming, and operations.**

## ~~((H. Comprehensive Plan Review and Amendment))~~

The Growth Management Act allows updates to comprehensive plans once each year. In King County, the annual update allows limited changes. The ~~((eight))~~ County's 10-year update, which aligns the timing with Growth Management Act periodic review and update requirements, allows substantive changes to policies and amendments to the Urban Growth Area boundary ~~((to be proposed and adopted))~~. A smaller~~((=))~~ range of substantive changes to policies and amendments to the Urban Growth Area boundary may also be considered at the midpoint of the ~~((eight))~~ 10-year update schedule, ~~((but only))~~ if authorized by motion. These provisions are detailed in Chapter 12, Implementation, Amendments, and Evaluation, and King County Code ~~((Title))~~ Chapter 20.18. ~~((Additional information and policies are found in Chapter 12, Implementation, Amendments and Evaluation.~~

~~As part of))~~ Prior to its review of the Comprehensive Plan, King County, together with ~~((its))~~ cities, ~~((published))~~ adopts the ~~((2007))~~ King County Urban Growth Capacity Report (previously known as the Buildable Lands Report). ~~((and updated it in 2014. Ratified in 2015, t))~~ The report fulfills the requirements of the Growth Management Act for the ~~((e))~~ County and ~~((its))~~ cities to evaluate patterns of development every ~~((eight))~~ 10 years to determine whether there is sufficient suitable land to accommodate the projected countywide population. The ~~((Buildable Lands))~~ Urban Growth Capacity Report ~~((represents a midcourse check on))~~ is one of the methods to evaluate the achievement of Growth Management Act goals. The focus of the evaluation is on the designated urban areas of King County and growth targets for those areas as established in the Countywide Planning Policies.

~~((Based on data from 2006 through 2011, the 2014 Buildable Lands Report evaluated the actual housing constructed, densities of new residential development, and the amount of actual land developed for commercial and industrial uses within the Urban Growth Area. Based on that data, it projected that there is a sufficient amount of land within the Urban Growth Area to accommodate housing, commercial and industrial uses through 2031 and beyond. Additional discussion and policies can be found in Chapter 12, Implementation, Amendments and Evaluation.~~

**~~Docket Request Process:))~~** Another key element of the Comprehensive Plan review and update process is the Docket ~~((R))~~request ~~((P))~~process. As required by the Growth Management Act, King County maintains an annual docket for recording comments on suggested changes to the King County Comprehensive Plan and associated development regulations from any interested person, such as permit applicants, residents, and staff of other jurisdictions or agencies. The process and requirements are detailed in ~~((the))~~ King County Code ~~((at))~~ Chapter 20.18~~((-140))~~. The County reviews all requests, communicates with docket submitters, ~~((and))~~ makes County Executive recommendations to the County Council ~~((by the first day of December. The docket report includes an Executive recommendation for each item)), and provides information on requests and recommendations to the public.~~

## ~~((F.))~~ G. Subarea Planning

~~((Community Service Area))~~ Subarea plans~~((, as well as other community plans and basin plans,))~~ focus the policy direction of the Comprehensive Plan to a smaller geographic area. The County is currently in the process of establishing Subarea Plans through a cycle described further in Chapter 11, Subarea Planning. ~~((See Chapter 11 Community~~

Service Area Subarea Planning, for information on large-scale subarea land use plans for rural and urban unincorporated areas in King County). Smaller-scale studies, known as area zoning and land use studies, per King County Code,<sup>4</sup> are focused on adoption or amendment of land use and zoning maps on an area wide basis rather than the broad range of topics that are addressed in a full subarea plan. Examples of subarea plans and area zoning studies include the Duwamish Coalition Project, White Center Action Plan, Fall City Subarea Plan, the East Redmond Subarea Plan, and planning efforts within a watershed or basin. Development of subarea plans are guided by the following policy as well as other applicable policies of the Comprehensive Plan and provisions in the King County Code.<sup>5</sup>

The passage of Ordinance 17319 and 17415 in 2011 replaced the Unincorporated Area Councils with the Community Service Area geography. As described more fully in Chapter 11, Community Service Area Subarea Planning, this geography will be used as the guiding structure for subarea planning starting in 2015.

To the extent practicable, subarea plans in unincorporated King County should be developed in close coordination between the community and county staff that may have a lead or partial role in implementing the plans to ensure clearer expectations on how and whether community recommendations in a subarea plan are feasible for implementation and within what type of timeframe. This type of coordination, supported by the financial analysis noted in the following policy, is critical to all subarea and functional plans in order to evaluate the resources required and the time frame necessary for full implementation. Plan alternatives and costs should be clearly understood and plans should be financially achievable.

In addition to subarea plans and area zoning and land use studies, King County's land use planning also includes other planning processes. These include Comprehensive Plan policy directed subarea studies, such as the establishment of new community business centers, adjusting Rural Town boundaries, or assessing the feasibility of zoning reclassifications in urban unincorporated areas. Subarea studies are focused on specific areas of the County, but do not look at the range of issues that a subarea plan would include. In some cases, an area zoning and land use study may suffice to meet the requirements of the policies. In addition, there are Site Specific Land Use Amendments<sup>6</sup> and Zone Reclassifications,<sup>7</sup> which are site specific processes that involve County staff review and recommendations, a public hearing and recommendation by a Hearing Examiner and a decision by County Council. These must be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan or be proposed with a Plan update.

**RP-115 Subarea plans, including area zoning studies, provide detailed land use plans for local geographic areas. Subarea plans implement and shall be elements of the King County Comprehensive Plan and shall be consistent with the Plan's policies, development regulations, and Land Use Map. The subarea plans should be consistent with functional plans' facility and service standards. The subarea plans may include, but are not limited to:**

**a. Identification of policies in the Comprehensive Plan that apply to the subarea;**

**b. Review and update of applicable community plan policies;**

---

((<sup>4</sup>Per King County Code 20.08.030-Area Zoning))

((<sup>5</sup>Per King County Code 20.08.060-Subarea plan))

((<sup>6</sup>Per King County Code 20.08.170-Site Specific Land Use Amendments))

((<sup>7</sup>Per King County Code 20.08.160-Reclassification))

- ~~c. Specific land uses and implementing zoning, consistent with the Comprehensive Plan;~~
- ~~d. Identification of the boundaries of Unincorporated Activity Centers and Rural Towns;~~
- ~~e. Recommendations for the establishment of new Unincorporated Activity Centers, Community and Neighborhood Business Centers, if appropriate;~~
- ~~f. Recommendations for additional Open Space designations and park sites;~~
- ~~g. Recommendations for capital improvements, the means and schedule for providing them and amendments to functional plans to support planned land uses;~~
- ~~h. Resolution of land use and service issues in Potential Annexation Areas;~~
- ~~i. Identification of new issues that need resolution at a countywide level;~~
- ~~j. Identification of all necessary implementing measures needed to carry out the plan;~~
- ~~k. Specific land uses and zoning that encourage healthy, livable communities by promoting physical activity of walking and bicycling; and~~
- ~~l. Identification of locations and conditions for special overlay districts.~~

## ~~G.))~~ **H. Functional Planning**

Functional plans are detailed plans for facilities and services ~~((and also include)), as well as~~ action plans and programs for other governmental activities. Some functional plans are operational or programmatic and guide daily management decisions. Others include specific details of facility design and location. ~~Functional ((P)) plans ((that guide specific siting of facilities))~~ help implement and must be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. ~~((Functional plans are prepared by King County, independent special purpose districts or other public and private agencies.))~~ Examples of functional plans ~~((in King County))~~ include ~~((the Strategic Climate Action Plan, Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plan, Open Space Plan, Regional Wastewater Services Plan, Strategic Plan for Road Services, and Strategic Plan for Public Transportation))~~ the King County Open Space Plan and King County Flood Management Plan.

~~((Capital improvements are important components of functional plans. Capital facilities and spending on improvements and new facilities are closely linked to availability of funds. Functional plans must identify costs and services of needed facilities and distinguish between improvements needed for new growth verses those needed to support existing public health and welfare needs.~~

- RP-117)) RP-112 Functional plans for facilities and services ((should)):
- a. ~~Shall ((B))~~be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and subarea ((and neighborhood)) plans;
  - b. ((Define required)) ~~Shall be consistent with~~ service levels that are appropriate for the Urban Growth Area, Rural Area, and Natural Resource Lands;
  - c. ~~May ((P))~~provide standards for location, design, and operation of public facilities and services;
  - d. ~~Should ((S))~~specify adequate, stable, and equitable methods of pay for public facilities and services;
  - e. ~~May ((B))~~be the basis for scheduling needed facilities and services through capital improvement programs; and
  - f. ~~Should ((P))~~plan for maintenance of existing facilities.

((RP-118 Existing functional plans that have not been adopted as part of this Comprehensive Plan shall remain in effect and continue as official county policy until reviewed and revised to be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, or until repealed or replaced. In case of conflict or inconsistency between applicable policies in existing community and functional plans and the Comprehensive Plan, the Comprehensive Plan shall govern.

RP-119 King County shall prepare functional plans to identify countywide facility and service needs and define ways to fund these consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan. Independent special purpose districts and other public agencies also prepare functional plans that should be considered by King County.))

## I. Other Planning

There are also other plans not adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan, such as implementation plans and strategic plans, that King County relies on to help implement and inform the Comprehensive Plan. These plans are typically focused on a specific policy area, able to provide more detailed planning, and updated on a more frequent basis than the Comprehensive Plan. Given this, sometimes those plans are updated to be consistent with Comprehensive Plan updates, and sometimes the Comprehensive Plan is updated to help advance new initiatives and desired outcomes originating from those other planning efforts. Examples of these plans include the Strategic Climate Action Plan, the Strategic Plan for Road Services, the King County Metro Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, and the King County International Airport Strategic Plan. The County also uses issue-specific studies and reports to inform and help implement Comprehensive Plan updates, such as area zoning and land use studies, outcomes of Comprehensive Plan Work Plan action items (see Chapter 12, Implementation, Amendments, and Evaluation), and responses to King County budget provisos.

## ((I. Managing Performance

As part of a growing national movement at all levels of government, King County is embracing performance measurement and management. Performance measurement is measuring and reporting performance data while performance management is using performance information to inform management decisions. Successful organizations rely on performance management to inform leadership about how well they are reaching their goals and where improvements can be made. With adoption of the King County Strategic Plan (discussed below), King County committed to the development of a unified and meaningful measurement framework to manage performance at all levels of government.



The policies in the King County Strategic Plan ensure that appropriate monitoring of the Countywide Planning Policies and Comprehensive Plan will contribute to this measurement framework. King County is carrying out performance management to:

- Ensure county goals are being met;
- Improve county services, where necessary;
- Serve as both a local and a regional government;
- Increase transparency with the public;
- Increase use of data for more informed public discussion and decision-making;
- Increase accountability at all levels of government; and
- Increase attention to effective performance measurement as called for in the King County Strategic Plan.

**RP-120** ~~King County will measure and assess agency performance and the achievement of Countywide Planning Policies and Comprehensive Plan goals.~~

**RP-121** ~~Using best management practices, King County shall develop assessment and review tools to ensure that health, equity, social and environmental justice impacts are considered in the development, implementation and funding of county projects and programs.~~

Additional information and provisions related to monitoring can be found in Chapter 12, Implementation, Amendments and Evaluation.

## ~~J. King County Strategic Plan~~

In 2010, the King County Council adopted the "King County Strategic Plan, 2010-2014: Working Together for One King County" through Ordinance 16897. The Strategic Plan was developed to serve as the framework for countywide priority setting, business planning, budget development, resource allocation, and leadership and managerial accountability. The Strategic Plan represented a significant countywide effort that obligated all departments and agencies to work together as a single county government.

In 2015, the King County Council passed Motion 14317, which adopted new goals and initiated an update of the Strategic Plan. Motion 14317 outlines goals and guiding principles that address topics in the Growth Management Act and other locally-defined priorities. These are as follows:

### ~~King County's Goals~~

- ~~Mobility: Deliver a seamless network of transportation options to get people where they need to go, when they need to get there.~~
- ~~Health and Human Services: Improve the health and well-being of all people in the community.~~
- ~~Economic Vitality: Increase access to family wage job opportunities throughout the county.~~
- ~~Safety and Justice: Provide for a safe and just community through proactive law enforcement and an accessible and fair justice system, while implementing alternatives to divert people from the criminal justice system.~~
- ~~Accessible, Affordable Housing: Increase access to quality housing that is~~

affordable to all:

- ~~Healthy Environment: Preserve open space and rural character while addressing climate change.~~

- ~~Efficient, Accountable Regional and Local Government: Ensure that County government operates efficiently and effectively and is accountable to the public.~~

#### *Guiding Principles that Direct our Efforts*

- ~~Equitable and Fair: Address the root causes of inequities to provide for equal access to opportunities for all.~~

- ~~Financially Sustainable: Align funding, policy and operational goals of King County government.~~

- ~~Regionally Collaborative: Engage with partners, stakeholders, and public and private organizations to achieve goals.~~

- ~~Quality Local Government: Provide effective, efficient local governance and services to unincorporated areas.~~

**RP-122** ~~Planning in King County shall be consistent with the King County Strategic Plan by:~~

~~a. Encouraging vibrant, economically thriving and sustainable communities;~~

~~b. Enhancing the county's natural resources and the environment;~~

~~c. Supporting safe communities; and~~

~~d. Providing equitable opportunities for all individuals.))~~

## J. Four-to-One Program

~~((While urban separators complement the regional open space system by helping to define urban communities, t))~~The King County Four-to-One Program provides an opportunity to add land to the regional open space system through the dedication of permanent ~~((open space))~~ natural areas. The Four-to-One Program has been recognized as an innovative land use technique under the Growth Management Act<sup>((8))</sup> and for King County, the purpose of the program is to create a contiguous band of ~~((open space))~~ natural areas, running ~~((north and south))~~ along the ~~((main))~~ Urban Growth Area ~~((B))~~ boundary. Since its inception in 1994, just over ~~((4,300))~~ 360 acres have been added to the Urban Growth Area while nearly ~~((4,500))~~ 1,300 acres of permanent ~~((open space))~~ natural areas have been conserved through the Four-to-One Program. Changes to the Urban Growth Area through this program are processed as ~~((t))~~and ~~((u))~~use map ((A)) amendments to the King County Comprehensive Plan~~((; subject to the provisions in King County Code chapter 20.18)).~~

~~((U-185))~~ **RP-120** Through the Four-to-One Program, King County shall ~~((actively pursue dedication of open space along))~~ dedicate natural areas adjacent to the original Urban Growth Area ((line)) boundary, which was adopted in the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan. Through this program, ~~((one acre of))~~ Rural Area zoned land may be added to the Urban Growth Area in exchange for ~~((a))~~ dedication ~~((to King County))~~ of at least four ((acres)) times the size of permanent ((open space)) natural area. ~~((Land added to the Urban Growth Area for drainage facilities that are designed as mitigation to have a natural~~

~~((8 - 36.70A.070 (5)(b) and .090 Revised Code of Washington))~~

looking visual appearance in support of its development, does not  
require dedication of permanent open space:))

**RP-121** The Four-to-One Program shall not result in more than a total of 4,000  
acres being added to the Urban Growth Area.

~~((U-189))~~ **RP-122** Land added to the Urban Growth Area under the Four-to-  
One Program shall:

a. Be limited to residential development and have a minimum density  
of ((four)) eight dwellings per acre; ((and shall be physically  
contiguous to the original Urban Growth Area, unless there are  
limitations due to the presence of critical areas, and shall be able to  
be served by sewers and other efficient urban services and  
facilities; provided that such sewer and other urban services and  
facilities shall be provided directly from the urban area and shall  
not cross the open space or Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands:))

b. Locate ((D)) drainage facilities ((to support the urban development  
shall be located)) and roads within the urban portion of the  
development((-)); and

c. ~~((In some cases, lands must m))~~ Meet affordable housing  
requirements. ((under this program:

The total area added to the Urban Growth Area as a result of this policy  
shall not exceed 4,000 acres.

~~U-186))~~ **RP-123** King County shall evaluate Four-to-One proposals for both quality  
of ((open space)) the natural area and feasibility of urban development  
and annexation. The highest quality proposals shall be recommended  
for adoption as amendments to the Urban Growth Area. ((Lands  
preserved as open space shall retain their Rural Area designations and  
should generally be configured in such a way as to connect with open  
space on adjacent properties:

~~U-187~~ King County shall use the following criteria for evaluating open space  
in Four-to-One proposals:

- a. ~~Quality of fish and wildlife habitat areas;~~
- b. ~~Connections to regional open space systems;~~
- c. ~~Protection of wetlands, stream corridors, ground-water and water  
bodies;~~
- d. ~~Unique natural, biological, cultural, historical, or archeological  
features;~~
- e. ~~Size of proposed open space dedication and connection to other  
open space dedications along the Urban Growth Area line; and~~
- f. ~~The land proposed as open space shall remain undeveloped,  
except for those uses allowed in U-188:))~~

**RP-124** Lands preserved under the Four-to-One Program shall:

- a. Be reserved as natural areas, or for passive recreation, farming, or  
forestry. Trails or active recreation may be allowed if located on a  
small portion of the natural area and are compatible with the site's  
habitat values and functions;
- b. Retain their Rural Area designations; and
- c. Generally be configured in such a way as to connect with open  
space on adjacent properties.

~~((U-188)) King County shall preserve the open space acquired through the Four-to-One Program primarily as natural areas, passive recreation sites or resource lands for farming or forestry. King County may allow the following additional uses only if located on a small portion of the open space, provided that these uses are found to be compatible with the site's natural open space values and functions such as those listed in the preceding policy:~~

- ~~a. Trails;~~
- ~~b. Compensatory mitigation of wetland losses on the urban designated portion of the project, consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan and the Critical Area Ordinance; and~~
- ~~c. Active recreation uses not to exceed five percent of the total open space area. Support services and facilities for the active recreation uses may locate within the active recreation area only, and shall not exceed five percent of the active recreation area. An active recreation area shall not be used to satisfy the active recreation requirements for the urban designated portion of the project as required by King County Code Title 21A.~~

~~U-190)) RP-125 ((King County shall amend the Urban Growth Area)) Amendments to add Rural Area lands to the Urban Growth Area ((consistent with Policy U-185 during the)) through the Four-to-One Program may be made as part of an annual, midpoint, or 10-year Comprehensive Plan ((amendment process)) update. ((Open space dedication shall occur at final formal plat recording:)) If the applicant decides not to pursue urban development ((or fails to record the final plat prior to expiration of preliminary plat approval)), the urban properties shall be restored to a Rural Area land use designation and associated zoning during the next ((review of)) update to the King County Comprehensive Plan.~~

~~RP-126 For Four-to-One proposals adjacent to an incorporated area, development proposals and/or activities shall not be allowed until the land added to the Urban Growth Area is annexed into a city. A tri-party agreement with the property owner, city, and King County shall be required to be transmitted and adopted concurrent with the Four-to-One proposal.~~

### III. King County Guiding Principles

The Comprehensive Plan is based on the principles of creating sustainable neighborhoods, preserving open space, farmland, and rural communities, directing development toward existing communities, addressing climate change, and providing a variety of transportation choices. These guiding principles are consistent with the ((Washington State)) Growth Management Act and guide funding decisions, creation and operation of programs and projects, and how the County interacts with local, state, and federal agencies. The impact of implementing these principles has been to:

- create higher urban densities by directing ((96%)) 99 percent of the growth into the urban core((s)) of the region (Urban Growth Area),
- preserve irreplaceable resource lands, parks, and critical areas,
- improve mobility by making transit service more accessible,
- sustain a vibrant economy,
- serve in the capacity of both a local and a regional government, and
- improve water quality and manage stormwater runoff((;
- ~~improve air quality and particulate emissions, and~~



829 ~~● reduce per-capita greenhouse gas emissions)).~~

## 830 Guiding Principles

### 831 A. Creating Sustainable Neighborhoods

832 Neighborhoods are the backbone of any community. Creating sustainable  
833 neighborhoods may mean using incentives, programs, or regulations to help create  
834 new neighborhoods((-)) and support existing neighborhoods. Encouraging mixed land  
835 use and making access to jobs, shopping, and schools easier establishes the  
836 cohesiveness of a neighborhood. Having opportunities for physical activity and  
837 providing for people, if they choose, to age in place and remain in their neighborhood  
838 as their lifestyle changes or they face changing physical capabilities establishes the  
839 stability of a neighborhood. All of these factors contribute to creating a sustainable  
840 neighborhood.

841  
842 Sustainable neighborhoods are important areas where housing affordable to all income  
843 levels can and should be located. Sustainability of a neighborhood also relates to the  
844 impact the neighborhood has on the environment. Incorporation of sustainable  
845 development practices into the design, construction, and maintenance of the  
846 neighborhood can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce pollution, reduce the use  
847 of natural resources, reduce energy and other maintenance costs, and enhance  
848 property values.

849  
850 **RP-201** ~~((In its policies and regulations,)) King County shall ((strive to)) promote~~  
851 ~~sustainable, healthy, thriving, and equitable neighborhoods and~~  
852 ~~communities. ((King County shall seek to ensure that the benefits and~~  
853 ~~impacts of the county's activities are equitably distributed among all~~  
854 ~~segments of the population.)) King County shall ensure that the~~  
855 ~~benefits and impacts of County actions support this vision.~~

### 856 B. Preserving and Maintaining Open Space and 857 Natural Resource Lands

858 The people of King County have long recognized that open space ~~((lands are))~~ is  
859 essential to what makes this county unique. ~~((Since the inception of the Countywide~~  
860 ~~Planning Policies, p))~~ Preserving open space, including enhancing working resource  
861 lands such as farmlands and forests, ~~((has been))~~ continues to be a priority of the County  
862 and ~~((its 39))~~ the cities, as reflected in the Countywide Planning Policies. It is also a  
863 cornerstone of the Growth Management Act.

864  
865 The Growth Management Act requires the County and ~~((its))~~ the cities in King County to  
866 form linkages between and within population centers with lands useful for recreation,  
867 trails, wildlife habitat, and connection of critical areas. To fulfill that mandate, King  
868 County operates a regional and local open space system consisting of parks, trails,  
869 natural areas, working resource lands, and flood hazard management lands. These  
870 open spaces provide multiple benefits and functions, including visual variety and relief  
871 from developed areas, protection of environmental and ecological processes, provision  
872 of wildlife habitat, promotion of mental and physical health, and creation of  
873 opportunities for outdoor recreation. However, preserving open space requires careful  
874 planning and management to ensure compatibility and long-term viability of these  
875 benefits and functions.

876

RP-202 King County shall pursue opportunities to preserve and maintain  
remaining high-priority forest, agriculture, and other open space lands.

## C. Directing Development Toward Existing Communities

Beginning in the 1940s, a sprawling pattern of low-density development emerged in King County. This sprawl resulted in the accelerated conversion of forests and farms to subdivisions and made it increasingly expensive to provide water, schools, sewer connections, streets, and other services. In addition, zoning codes tended to separate the differing types of land uses, with jobs and stores in one location, homes in another, and schools and parks in yet another.

The separate land uses were served by a roadway system of wide streets(;) with infrequent crosswalks, designed to accommodate cars, ((but)) not people. This pattern did not support using transit, bicycling, or walking to meet daily transportation needs, ((thus)) leading to an overburdening of the roadway system and a loss of regional and personal mobility. Low-density patterns that emerged relied on driving alone for many trips, contributing to persistent air pollution problems and increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

Reducing sprawl by focusing development into existing urban areas is one of the statutory goals of the ((state's)) Growth Management Act. To achieve that goal, in the 1990s, King County and the cities worked to ((steering)) steer growth to already developed communities (both within urban areas and, at much smaller scales, in the Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands, in a system of central places) with existing infrastructure and services can result in (1) protecting the Rural Area((s)), (2) conserving natural resources, and (3) providing more economical and equitable services and facilities. Work to maintain those growth patterns and limit new sprawl from happening continues today, as it is critical to supporting efficient and sustainable communities and protecting rural character, the environment, and natural resources.

~~((This broader approach does not mean that all new urban development will be high-density. In many cases, existing moderate-density locations, especially single-family neighborhoods, will not significantly change. Rather, King County will work to better integrate the locations where people work, shop, live, and play in a manner that uses public and private resources more efficiently.))~~

RP-203 King County shall continue to ~~((support the reduction of))~~ **limit sprawl by focusing growth and future development in the Urban Growth Area, consistent with adopted growth targets.**

## D. Providing a Variety of Transportation Choices

Transportation is critically important to King County and the surrounding region, facilitating access to jobs, education, services, recreation, and housing. King County plays a central role in the region's transportation sector, supporting a variety of ~~((motorized and nonmotorized))~~ travel modes(;) involving ground, air, and marine transportation. The ((c))County has direct responsibility for (1) the unincorporated area road network, (2) public transit services and facilities throughout the county, and (3) operation of the King County International Airport ~~((and (4) operation of passenger-only ferry service to Vashon Island and West Seattle. King County's services and facilities affect not only the local bus passenger but the jumbo airliner loaded with cargo and bound for destinations overseas.))~~

The ability to access various transportation modes has a profound effect on quality of life for ~~((this county's))~~ county residents and the vitality of ~~((its))~~ the economy. The ~~((c))~~County's transportation system must be designed, operated, and maintained in a manner that (1) provides access to mobility options for a wide range of users, including historically ~~((disadvantaged))~~ underinvested populations, (2) contributes to safe communities, (3) reduces impacts on the county's natural resources and environment, and (4) fosters a vibrant community.

**RP-204      King County shall continue to promote an efficient multimodal transportation system that provides residents with a range of transportation choices that respond to community needs and reduce impacts on the natural environment.**

## **E.    Addressing Health, Equity, Displacement, and Racial, Social, and Environmental Justice**

Despite broad economic and social gains in society and ~~((in))~~ this country in recent history, inequities exist and continue to persist for significant segments of the population—particularly for ~~((communities of color))~~ Black, Indigenous, or other People of Color and people living ~~((in poverty))~~ with low or no incomes—across the continuum of measures of social and economic health and wellbeing. In some cases, inequities are worsening over time. King County is not immune to ~~((national trends and statistics))~~ these inequalities, despite its location in the relatively prosperous Puget Sound area. ~~((In the United States and in King County, children and adults who live at the bottom of the social and economic ladder face life threatening and debilitating conditions, and lack access to opportunities, far more often than those in the middle, who in turn are more at risk than those at the top.))~~

On average, Black, Indigenous, or other ~~((p))~~People of ~~((c))~~Color and ~~((people living in poverty))~~ households at or below 80 percent of area median income have ~~((lower levels of))~~ less access to quality education; are more likely to be unemployed or underemployed; are more likely to pay too much of their income for housing costs and other necessities; and are more likely to experience adverse health outcomes, such as obesity, diabetes, or asthma, that can have the effect of reducing life expectancy. These challenges affect specific communities and, in turn, the entire region, resulting in a number of adverse socioeconomic consequences, including, for example, unfilled high-skilled jobs, higher levels of homelessness, and higher health care costs.

~~((Promoting economic opportunity for areas with fewer assets is a key goal of the Growth Management Act. In 2010, King County adopted Ordinance 16948, which defined and established))~~ King County Code Chapter 2.10 establishes ~~((the "Fair and Just" principle in the County's Strategic Plan. This transformed the work on equity and social justice from an initiative to))~~ an integrated effort that intentionally applies ~~((this))~~ the "Fair and Just" principle to all work ~~((in order))~~ to achieve equitable opportunities for all people and communities. A key component of this ~~((ordinance was defining))~~ work is the "Determinants of Equity," which are the social, economic, geographic, political, and physical environment conditions in which people in the county are born, grow, live, work, and age that lead to a just and thriving society. Access to these determinants of equity is necessary to have equity for all people regardless of race, class, gender, or language spoken. Inequities are created when structural barriers exist that prevent individuals and communities from accessing these conditions and reaching their full potential.

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((Figure: Determinants of Equity))



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Credit: Office of Equity and Racial and Social Justice

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There is a clear relationship between the majority of the Determinants of Equity and the long-range planning role of the King County Comprehensive Plan. Land use patterns and transportation investments play key roles in making communities healthier, more connected, and more equitable. Well-planned neighborhoods have features such as connected street networks, nearby shopping, walking paths, and transit service. Access to healthy and culturally relevant food and the protection of agricultural lands affect the rate of obesity, food insecurity, and malnutrition. These amenities reduce dependence on cars, increase opportunities to be physically active, decrease the likelihood ((to be)) of being overweight, improve air quality, ((and)) create opportunities for residents to access jobs((?)) and services, and ((other key destinations that)) provide a path toward a higher quality of life.

((As noted previously, t))The Comprehensive Plan plays multiple roles related to land use planning - a countywide collaborative role in how growth is accommodated in the county and region, and a local land use regulatory role for how growth occurs in unincorporated areas. This dual role is important to recognize given the geographic



distribution of communities that are the focus of the County's ((E))equity and racial and  
((S))social ((J))justice work.

King County is committed to working to reduce inequities and address concerns of  
social justice by incorporating the values of the ((c))County's ((E))equity and racial and  
((S))social ((J))justice work into the daily practice of developing policies and programs,  
((making)) informing funding decisions and delivering services. Further, King County  
((will)) continues to identify and address the conditions at the root of disparities, engage  
communities to have a strong voice in shaping their future, and raise and sustain the  
visibility of ((E))equity and racial and ((S))social ((J))justice. The goal is to start by  
focusing on prevention and addressing the fundamental causes of the inequities ((in  
order)) to have a greater overall impact.

~~((In order to))~~To achieve this, the County uses ((the E))equity ((t))impact ((R))reviews  
~~((Foot))~~ as a process to identify, evaluate, and communicate the potential equity impact -  
both positive and negative - of a proposed policy, program, or service. The ((E))equity  
((t))impact ((R))review ~~((Foot))~~ process merges empirical (quantitative) data and  
community engagement findings (qualitative data) to inform planning, decision-making,  
and implementation of actions ((which)) that affect equity in King County. Quantitative  
~~((D))~~data are developed and compiled through a number of efforts, ~~((and published in a~~  
~~number of sources, including King County's January 2015 report, The Determinants of~~  
~~Equity; the King County Performance Dashboard; the public-private Communities~~  
~~Count initiative; and the Public Health Community Health Indicators Project. Data from~~  
~~these sources and others should be))~~ disaggregated when possible, combined with  
qualitative data from communities, and analyzed carefully to ensure that equity impacts  
are rigorously and holistically considered and advanced in the design and  
implementation of a proposed action (plan, policy, and program development; service  
delivery; operations modification; capital programs and projects((:)) etc.).

**RP-205      King County ((will)) shall, when implementing and evaluating its land**  
**use policies, programs, investments, and practices. ((seek to reduce**  
**health inequities)) identify and proactively address issues of equity((:));**  
**racial, social, and environmental justice; disparate health outcomes;**  
**and displacement ((when evaluating and implementing its land use**  
**policies, programs, and practices)).**

## **F. ~~((Achieving — Environmental — Sustainability))~~** **Enhancing Natural Resources and the** **Environment**

King County can influence environmental sustainability through its land use and  
transportation policies and plans, investments in capital projects and facilities, economic  
development initiatives, and day-to-day operations. To be effective, sustainability  
actions need to be taken at many scales: in unincorporated land use regulations, in  
coordination with neighboring local governments, and across county departments((;  
~~and through the day-to-day actions of individual employees)).~~

~~((The county's approach to mitigation of and adaption to the effects of climate change~~  
~~have evolved over the last four years. Responding to climate change is an important~~  
~~element of the broader concept of environmental sustainability. This means meeting the~~  
~~needs of the current generation without compromising the capacity of the environment~~  
~~to support future generations.))~~

RP-206 King County ((will)) shall protect, restore, and enhance its natural resources and environment((;)) and encourage sustainable agriculture and forestry((; reduce climate pollution and prepare for the effects of climate change, including consideration of the inequities and disparities that may be caused by climate change)).

## G. Preparing for and Responding to Climate Change

Climate change is a paramount challenge with fundamental and far-reaching consequences, a "threat multiplier" that exacerbates inequities and intensifies natural hazards - such as flooding, landslides, wildfires, and extreme heat - that put the County's residents, economy, and environment at risk. The following principles for climate action formalize the County's commitment to lead on climate action, while also integrating and highlighting principles that guide County climate action:

- Act with urgency and intention;
- Lead with racial justice and equity;
- Respond to community needs and priorities;
- Use and develop a comprehensive and data- and science-driven approach;
- Seek systemic solutions;
- Build partnerships;
- Lead through local action;
- Prioritize health and co-benefits; and
- Be transparent and accountable.

**RP-207 King County shall reduce greenhouse gas emissions, advance climate equity, and prepare for and respond to climate change impacts.**

## ((IV. Summary of the King County Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan contains twelve chapters that address all of the requirements of the Growth Management Act, Countywide Planning Policies and Multicounty Planning Policies. They are as follows:

### **Chapter 1: Regional Growth Management Planning**

The vision and goals of this Plan are based on the 14 planning goals specified in the Washington State Growth Management Act, the Countywide Planning Policies, the region's VISION 2040 and the values voiced by the residents of King County. The official King County Land Use Map is included in this chapter.

### **Chapter 2: Urban Communities**

The Urban Communities chapter focuses on the importance of creating and sustaining livable communities. A major tenet of the Growth Management Act is to focus growth in the urban areas. The policies in this chapter facilitate urban development where infrastructure and facilities exist or can be readily provided.

### **Chapter 3: Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands**

Protecting Rural Areas, Natural Resource Lands and rural communities in King County is a major focus of the Comprehensive Plan in compliance with both the Growth Management Act and the King County Strategic Plan. This chapter delineates the

county's approach to conserving Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands, supporting rural communities and their heritage, and supporting the agriculture, forestry, and mining economies. Integral to these efforts are incentive tools such as the Transfer of Development Rights program that ensure the protection of environmental quality and wildlife habitat, while respecting economic values and property rights.

#### **Chapter 4: Housing and Human Services**

The availability of adequate and affordable housing has become one of the most pressing issues facing King County today. Similarly, partnering with other organizations and jurisdictions to deliver human services is a critical component for creating sustainable communities and supporting environmental justice. In the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update, policies on these topics were consolidated into a new chapter.

#### **Chapter 5: Environment**

King County includes a rich and valuable array of land and water resources ranging from lowland lakes, rivers, and wetlands in highly urbanized areas, to saltwater shorelines, to nearly pristine landscapes in the foothills of the Cascades. This chapter establishes policies to ensure future protection of the environment and its contribution to the quality of life in King County. King County's programs for protecting its environment include some of the most progressive in the country. The policies in this chapter will help to ensure that the environment is protected and sustained, and that the healthy environment goal of the Strategic Plan is achieved.

King County seeks to combat climate change through actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make the natural and built environment more resilient in the face of a changing climate. King County policies and programs support habitats for native plant and animal species, including those listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Environment Chapter includes policies guiding King County's actions to protect critical areas, improve water quality, and manage invasive species. The county uses a combination of habitat restoration, incentives, education, technical assistance, and regulations to protect the natural environment. This chapter also reflects the role of the Puget Sound Partnership in coordinating environmental management, including providing leadership for a coordinated and comprehensive environmental monitoring program across Puget Sound.

#### **Chapter 6: Shorelines**

King County adopted its first Shoreline Master Program in 1977. In November, 2010, King County approved an update to the Shoreline Master Program. This update incorporated the shoreline policies in the Comprehensive Plan for the first time and was approved by the Department of Ecology in 2014.

#### **Chapter 7: Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources**

Protecting and enhancing King County's environment and quality of life through the stewardship and enhancement of its open space system of parks, trails, natural areas and working resource lands along with its valued cultural resources continues to be the central focus of this chapter. Furthering the regional trail system will be guided by the Regional Trails Needs Report (Technical Appendix C2).

#### **Chapter 8: Transportation**

This chapter sets the policy framework that guides efficient provision of vital transportation infrastructure and services that support a vibrant economy, thriving communities, and the county's participation in critical regional transportation issues. The chapter reflects the goals of the King County Strategic Plan and the priorities established in the strategic plans for public transportation, airport and road services. It

also reflects the county's continuing transition to becoming a road service provider for a primarily rural road system, and speaks to the challenges of providing transportation services and infrastructure in a time of growing need and severely constrained financial resources.

The chapter promotes an integrated, multimodal transportation system that provides mobility options for a wide range of users, including historically disadvantaged populations. It also emphasizes safety, options for healthful transportation choices, and support for greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. Additional policy focus is provided on maintaining and preserving existing services and infrastructure; implementing clear service priorities and guidelines; using transportation resources wisely and efficiently; and developing sustainable funding sources to support the level of services needed by communities.

#### **Chapter 9: Services, Facilities and Utilities**

This chapter guides service provision in King County, while recognizing the different service levels within the Urban Growth Area and the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. The Growth Management Act requires coordinated planning so that the services required by new residents and their homes and businesses are available as growth occurs. This chapter addresses a wide range of facilities and services provided by the county consistent with specific operational plans, such as the Flood Hazard Management Plan and the Strategic Climate Action Plan, and recognizes that the county is both a regional and a local service provider. The chapter also clarifies the County's intent regarding water supply planning.

#### **Chapter 10: Economic Development**

This chapter supports the county's long-term commitment to a prosperous, diverse, and sustainable economy by promoting public programs and actions that create the foundation for a successful economy whether within the Urban Growth Area, the Rural Area or on Natural Resource Lands. A successful economy is one in which the private, nonprofit, and public sectors can thrive and create jobs compatible with the environment and community and land use expectations. King County understands that a successful and diverse economy contributes to a strong and stable tax base and a high quality of life for all residents. This chapter recognizes businesses and the workforce as customers of an economic development system and supports actions and programs that promote the strength and health of both groups.

#### **Chapter 11: Community Service Area Subarea Planning**

This chapter uses King County's seven Community Service Areas as the framework for its renewed subarea planning program that offers long-range planning services to unincorporated communities. The majority of King County's community plans are no longer in effect as separately adopted plans. In many cases, however, the plans contain valuable historical information about King County's communities and often provide background for the land uses in effect today. Policies from the community plans were retained as part of the Comprehensive Plan to recognize the unique characteristics of each community and to provide historical context. This chapter will be updated, where appropriate, to reflect the new Community Service Area subarea plans as they are adopted.

#### **Chapter 12: Implementation, Amendments and Evaluation**

The Comprehensive Plan policies, development regulations and Countywide Planning Policy framework have been adopted to achieve the growth management objectives of King County and the region. This chapter describes the County's process for updating the Comprehensive Plan and outlines and distinguishes the annual, midpoint, and the eight-year-cycle updates. The chapter identifies a series of major Workplan actions that



will be undertaken between the eight-year updates to implement or refine provisions within the Plan. This chapter further explains the relationship between planning and zoning.

## V. Technical Appendices

Integral to the vision and goals of the Comprehensive Plan are the detailed inventories, forecasts, finance plans and Urban Growth Area analysis required by the Growth Management Act. Four technical appendices (Volume 1) are adopted as part of the plan to implement these Growth Management Act requirements (RCW 36.70A.070, 36.70A.110, 36.70A.130). Technical Appendices A, B, C, and D were updated in 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020:

### Volume 1

Technical Appendix A. Capital Facilities and Services  
Technical Appendix B. Housing  
Technical Appendix C. Transportation  
    C1. Transportation Needs Report  
    C2. Regional Trail Needs Report  
Technical Appendix D. Growth Targets and the Urban Growth Area

Additional important information also supports the vision and goals of the Comprehensive Plan. Nine technical appendices (Volume 2) were prepared to provide supporting documentation to the 1994 plan:

### Volume 2 (1994)

Technical Appendix D. Growth Targets and the Urban Growth Area  
Technical Appendix E. Washington State Laws  
Technical Appendix F. History of Planning in King County  
Technical Appendix G. Economic Development  
Technical Appendix H. Natural Resource Lands  
Technical Appendix I. Natural Environment  
Technical Appendix J. Potential Annexation Areas  
Technical Appendix K. King County Functional and Community Plans  
Technical Appendix L. Public Involvement Summary

Information that supported amendments subsequent to 1994 is included as follows:

### Volume 3

Technical Appendix M. Public Participation Summary 2000

### Volume 4

Technical Appendix N. Public Participation Summary 2004

### Volume 5

Technical Appendix O. Public Participation Summary 2008

### Volume 6

Technical Appendix P. Public Participation Summary 2012  
Technical Appendix Q. School Siting Task Force Report

### Volume 7

Technical Appendix R. Public Participation Summary 2016  
Technical Appendix S. Public Participation Summary 2020

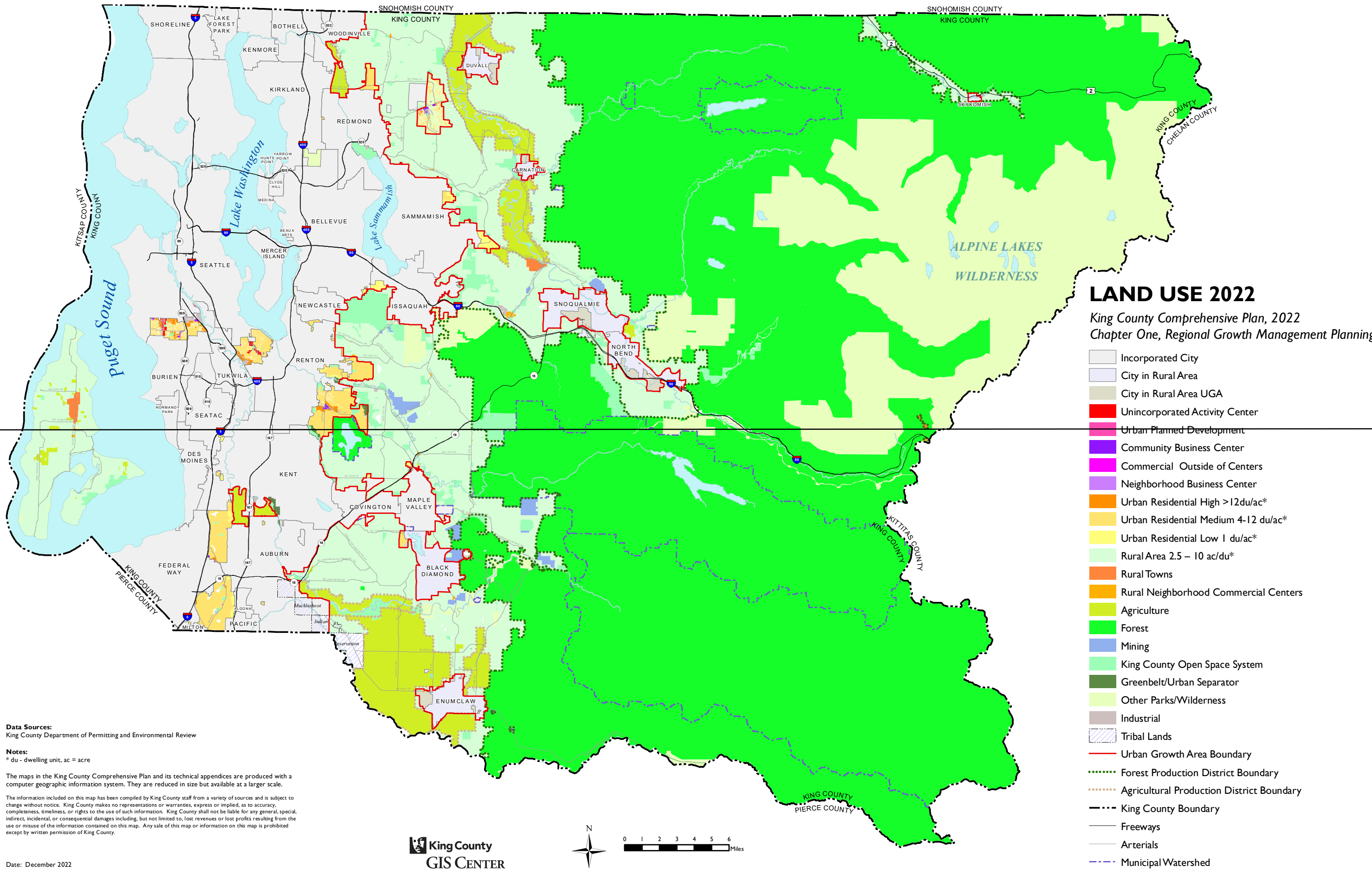
1260 ~~Volume 7~~  
1261 Technical Appendix R. ——— Public Participation Summary 2016

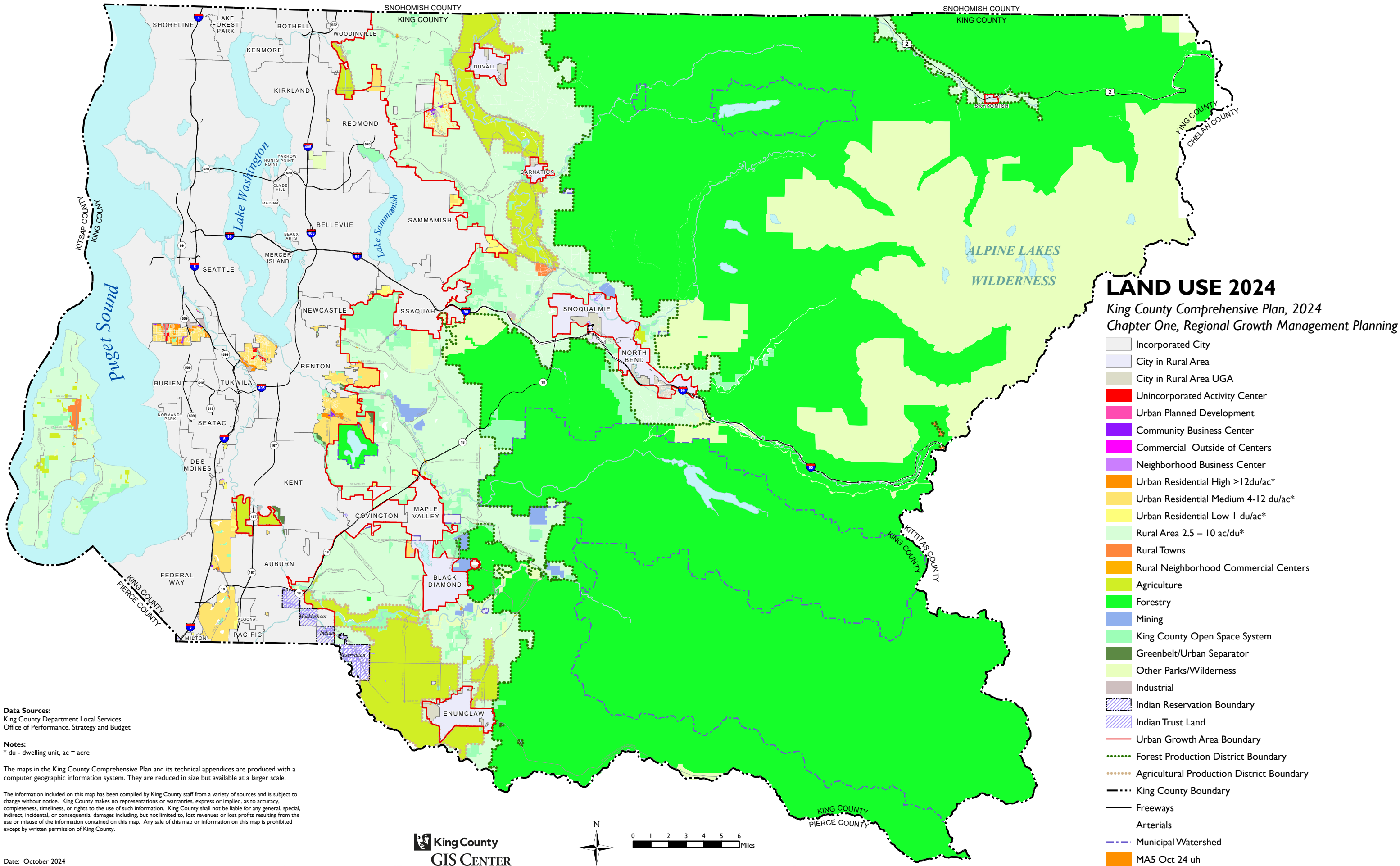
## 1262 ~~VI. The Regulations~~

1263 The King County Comprehensive Plan is implemented through regulations adopted as  
1264 part of the King County Code. All development proposals in King County must meet the  
1265 requirements of the Code. Additional information and policies are found in Chapter 12,  
1266 Implementation, Amendments and Evaluation.  
1267

## 1268 ~~VII. For More Information~~

1269 Please visit the website of the King County Department of Performance, Strategy and  
1270 Budget at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/compplan> for current information on planning in  
1271 King County and to view electronic versions of the plan and related documents.))







A photograph of a modern, multi-story apartment building with a mix of grey and white siding. The building features numerous windows and small balconies with black railings. In the foreground, there is a paved walkway and a grassy area with some young trees. A playground with yellow and green equipment is visible on the left. Several children are playing in the foreground: one is riding a pink bicycle, another is walking, and two others are standing near a small tree. A black car and a silver SUV are parked in a lot behind the walkway. The sky is clear and blue.

## CHAPTER 2

# URBAN COMMUNITIES

1 ((



2

3

The Urban Communities chapter brings together many of the major elements that combine to make a healthy and vibrant urban community whole: culture, recreation, business centers, jobs, and sustainability. By merging these elements of urban life into one chapter, King County emphasizes the importance each plays as part of a livable, sustainable and equitable community.

The chapter first defines the Urban Growth Area, where most growth has, will, and should continue to occur, and major land uses within it. The chapter then provides the framework to guide the development of new urban communities and redevelopment of existing communities within the unincorporated portion of the Urban Growth Area.

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Related components in the plan include Chapter 4, Housing and Human Services, Chapter 7, Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources, Chapter 8, Transportation and others.



It is the goal of King County to work toward a model sustainable community to balance growth with natural resource protection while addressing climate change. Sustainable development creates a balance between people, economy, and environment, balancing using resources to meet current needs while ensuring future generations can benefit from equivalent resources. Sustainable development seeks to achieve this goal by addressing the impacts of the built environment in which the residents of King County live and work. To highlight the importance of sustainable development and to consolidate policies applicable to both Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands as well as urban communities, text and policies regarding sustainable development for public projects can be found in Chapter 9, Services, Facilities and Utilities, Section II (Facilities and Services), subpart D (Capital Facility Planning). Text and policies regarding sustainable development in the private sector can be found in Chapter 10, Economic Development, Section V (Sustainable Development in the Private Sector).

## A.)) I. The Urban Growth Area

The Growth Management Act requires the ((e))County to designate an Urban Growth Area where most growth and development forecasted for King County will be accommodated. By designating an Urban Growth Area and focusing growth within it, King County ((and other counties in the state will)) can:

- Limit sprawl((ing development));
- Improve efficiencies and ((R))reduce costs of service provision ((by encouraging concentrated development));
- ((• Improve the efficiency of transportation and utilities;
- Improve equitable access to human services;))
- Protect the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands;
- Enhance the preservation of open space; and
- ((Mitigate the impacts of climate change and adapt to its effects)) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Urban Growth Area for King County is designated on the official Land Use Map ((adopted with this Comprehensive Plan)), which is generally depicted at the end of Chapter 1, Regional Growth Management Planning. ((The original Countywide Planning Policies provided the framework that the Metropolitan King County Council used when adopting the Urban Growth Area as part of the 1994 Comprehensive Plan.<sup>†</sup>))

The Urban Growth Area includes all cities within the county, including the Urban Growth Area((s)) for Cities in the Rural Area, the cities' Potential ((a))Annexation ((a))Areas, and other land within the unincorporated part of the county characterized by urban-type growth((The Urban Growth Area also includes the Bear Creek Urban Planned Developments)) such as the Redmond Ridge, Redmond Ridge East, and Trilogy neighborhoods east of Redmond. ((See Chapter 3, Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands, for additional policy guidance on growth within the annexation areas of Cities in the Rural Area.

King County's total Urban Growth Area covers 461 square miles, less than one-quarter of the county's total land area of 2,130 square miles. Cities comprise most of the land mass of the Urban Growth Area, at 418 square miles; the unincorporated portion of the Urban Growth Area is now about 43 square miles. A general representation of the

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((<sup>†</sup> As amended by Ordinance 17687.))

official Land Use Map is located at the end of Chapter 1, Regional Growth Management Planning:))

The Urban Growth Area is where King County plans for and accommodates housing needs for unincorporated King County, consistent with housing need allocations in the Countywide Planning Policies; policies in Comprehensive Plan Chapter 4, Housing and Human Services; and analysis in Appendix B, Housing Needs Assessment.

## ((I. Urban Communities))

A critical challenge for King County ((and its residents)) is to ((create)) encourage urban communities that provide ((the sense of place and the range of choices people want for a quality urban life and experience, as well as to respond to the cultural and economic needs of diverse urban communities. Urban areas need more than physical infrastructure. They also need a broad range of amenities and human services that make them attractive and safe places to work and live, while protecting the physical environment and maintaining the region's quality of life. In short, they need to become and be sustained as healthy and equitable communities. The design goals of healthy communities include making it easier for people to live healthy lives by encouraging mixed)) a healthy, safe built environment for people from all backgrounds at all stages of life, as well as accommodate housing affordable to all income levels. Components of creating such a community include: cultivating a sense of place; responding to cultural and economic needs; supporting access to affordable and healthy food and housing; providing a broad range of amenities; and planning for a mix of land uses and greater land density to shorten distances between housing, workplaces, transit, schools, and recreation so people can choose to ((walk or bicycle)) use active transportation to more easily access ((to)) these destinations. The County can meet these goals through periodic review and updates to its development regulations and functional and long-range plans.

People are more likely to walk to their destination if the distance is less than one-half mile ("walking distance") or to bicycle if the distance is less than three miles ("bicycling distance"). Incorporating high comfort pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure for all ages and abilities, especially sidewalks and bicycle paths that are separated from ((automobile)) vehicle traffic, can increase the safety and frequency of bicycle, pedestrian, and transit trips. ((Healthy communities provide opportunities for people to be physically active and socially engaged as part of their daily routine and include access to open space and parks. People can, if they choose, age in place and remain in their community as their lifestyle changes or as they face changing physical capabilities. This contributes to a healthy community, as does ensuring access to affordable, healthy food, especially fruits and vegetables, and limiting access to unhealthy substances. An integral part of a healthy community is "healthy housing," which protects residents from exposure to harmful substances and environments, and reduces the risk of injury. These goals can be achieved, in part, through implementing building practices that promote health.

**U-201a)) U-101 In all urban unincorporated areas, King County shall consider equity and racial and social justice in its planning, project development, and service delivery approach.**



106 ((U-101)) U-102 Development within the Urban Growth Area should create and  
107 maintain safe, healthy, and diverse communities. These communities  
108 should contain a range of affordable, healthy housing and employment  
109 opportunities, as well as school and recreational facilities, and should  
110 be designed to protect the natural environment and significant cultural  
111 resources.  
112

113 ((U-101a)) U-103 The Urban Growth Area is considered long-term and can  
114 only be amended consistent with the Countywide Planning Policies((;))  
115 and the King County Comprehensive Plan ((policies)).  
116

117 ((U-102)) U-104 The Urban Growth Area ((designations)) shown on the official Land  
118 Use Map includes enough land to provide the countywide capacity, as  
119 required by the Growth Management Act, to accommodate  
120 ((residential)) housing affordable to all income levels((;)) and  
121 commercial and institutional growth expected ((over the period  
122 2006-2034)) between 2019 and 2044. These lands ((should)) include  
123 only those lands that meet the following criteria:

124 a.1. Are characterized by urban development that can be  
125 efficiently and cost effectively served by roads, water, sanitary  
126 sewer and storm drainage, schools, and other urban governmental  
127 services within the next 20 years;

128 ((b:)) 2. Do not extend beyond natural boundaries, such as  
129 watersheds, ((which)) that impede provision of urban services;

130 ((c:)) 3. Respect topographical features that form a natural edge,  
131 such as rivers and ridge lines;

132 ((d:)) 4. Are sufficiently free of environmental constraints to be  
133 able to support urban growth without major environmental  
134 impacts, unless such areas are designated as an urban separator by  
135 interlocal agreement between jurisdictions;

136 ((e: Are included within the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development  
137 sites; and

138 f:)) 5. Are not Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands; and

139 6. Are not within the 100-year floodplain of any river or river segment  
140 that has a mean annual flow of 1,000 or more cubic feet per  
141 second, as determined by the Washington State Department of  
142 Ecology, unless otherwise exempted under Chapter 36.70A  
143 Revised Code of Washington; or

144 b. Are included within the Redmond Ridge, Redmond Ridge East, and  
145 Trilogy neighborhoods.  
146

147 ((U-103)) U-105 Parcels that are split by the Urban Growth Area boundary ((line))  
148 should be reviewed for possible redesignation to either all urban area  
149 or all Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands taking into consideration:

150 a. Whether the parcel is split to recognize ((environmentally sensitive  
151 features)) critical areas;

152 b. The parcel's geographic features;

153 c. Whether the parcel will be added to an adjoining city's Potential  
154 Annexation Area; and

155 d. The requirements of interlocal agreements, or the requirements of  
156 King County plans.  
157

158 ((Some cities that border the Urban Growth Area operate parks in the Rural Area. These  
159 parks may have been acquired by the city through a direct purchase or through a  
160 transfer agreement with King County. Cities can continue to operate parks in the Rural  
161 Area consistent with rural development standards. In specific circumstances, cities can  
162 request that these parks be redesignated to urban to allow future annexation by the city.  
163

~~U-104)) U-106~~ Rural area zoned properties that are currently a park immediately adjacent to a city ~~((and are planned or designated for park purposes by that city))~~ may be redesignated to urban when the city has committed to designate the property in perpetuity for park purposes ~~((in a form satisfactory to the King County Council for park purposes and:~~  
a. ~~The property is no more than 30 acres in size and was acquired by the city prior to 1994;~~  
b. ~~The property is no more than 30 acres in size and receives county support through a park or recreation facility transfer agreement between King County and a city; or~~  
c. ~~The property is or was formerly a King County park and is being or has been transferred to a city)).~~

~~((U-105~~ Existing or proposed churches in the Rural Area may be included within the Urban Growth Area when all of the following criteria are met:  
a. ~~The church property must have an interior lot line as defined by King County Code 21A.06.730 that is adjacent to the original Urban Growth Area boundary as established by the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan, excluding the Urban Growth Areas of Cities in the Rural Area and excluding Urban Growth Area boundaries established through the Four-to-One Program;~~  
b. ~~The church property shall not be adjacent to an Agricultural Production District or the Forest Production District;~~  
c. ~~Sewer service is required once the property is included in the Urban Growth Area;~~  
d. ~~Direct vehicular access to a principal arterial road is required; and~~  
e. ~~The church property shall be included in the Potential Annexation Area of the appropriate city at the same time it is included in the Urban Growth Area.~~

## 2.)) A. Urban Growth Area Targets

The Growth Management Act requires the ((e))County and ((its)) cities to plan for future housing and employment growth target ranges for each jurisdiction. ~~((In 1994, the Growth Management Planning Council adopted household and job targets for each jurisdiction to distribute the expected growth in the Countywide Planning Policies.~~

~~Growth target ranges represent regional agreement on jurisdictions' policy choices regarding the amount of growth they intend to accommodate. King County and its cities have also developed targets for employment to foster a local balance between population and employment. The countywide and unincorporated King County's housing growth target and employment targets are contained in the Countywide Planning Policies. In 2008, VISION 2040 was adopted and established a Regional Growth Strategy that provides guidance to countywide target setting. The Regional Growth Strategy built upon King County's target setting process and now requires the establishment of housing and employment targets.~~

~~In November 2009, consistent with the new guidance found in VISION 2040, a new set of housing and job growth targets were established to guide growth for the period 2006-2031. Each urban jurisdiction including unincorporated King County was assigned a growth target based on land capacity and other factors. The complete table of city growth targets approved in December 2010, and updated for annexations through 2016, is included in this chapter to provide the regional context for the unincorporated area targets.)) Growth targets are adopted in the Countywide Planning Policies for each city and unincorporated urban area in King County. The targets are updated on timelines consistent with the state's 10-year comprehensive planning periodic update schedule to incorporate current demographic data and to align with~~

the current Regional Growth Strategy adopted in VISION. Jurisdictions must then reflect the adopted targets in their local comprehensive plans.

Table 2-1, King County Jurisdiction Growth Targets 2019-2044, portrays the housing and job growth targets for each jurisdiction as adopted in the Countywide Planning Policies. Jurisdictions are categorized by the regional geographies in the Regional Growth Strategy in VISION, which includes Metropolitan Cities, Core Cities, High-Capacity Transit Communities, Cities and Towns, Urban Unincorporated Areas, and Rural Areas.<sup>2</sup> These geographies reflect that different types of cities and unincorporated areas will play distinct roles in the region's future based on regional centers, access to high-capacity transit, and future planning, and are therefore utilized in the target setting process.

The table includes targets for Potential Annexation Areas with development capacity. Portions of growth targets for Potential Annexation Areas will transfer into cities at the time of annexation. Although they may be refined through future planning with affected communities and adjacent cities, these urban unincorporated targets are intended to be used as a guide for future planning of land uses and decisions on services and infrastructure.

As detailed in Appendix D1, Growth Targets and the Urban Growth Area, urban unincorporated King County has sufficient capacity to accommodate its allocated growth targets. An approximate 128-housing unit capacity deficit exists for the Black Diamond PAA housing target, despite abundant urban residential capacity in other parts of urban unincorporated King County. This shortfall owes to differences between the identified land supply and capacity in the 2021 Urban Growth Capacity Report, used to proportionately allocate urban unincorporated growth to Potential Annexation Areas, and the land supply and capacity of the land capacity analysis supporting the 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan, outside of the Black Diamond PAA. The Urban Growth Capacity Report-based capacity showed a greater amount of capacity in the Black Diamond Potential Annexation Area relative to other Potential Annexation Areas, and thus the area received a larger target. With the full accounting of zoned capacity in the 2024 land capacity analysis, the proportional balance across Potential Annexation Areas shows less capacity concentrated in the Black Diamond Potential Annexation Area, and other Potential Annexation Areas with higher proportions. King County continues to work with the Growth Management Planning Council to reallocate targets within urban unincorporated King County to address this deficit, in a manner consistent with planning goals and the VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy.

**Table 2-1: King County Jurisdiction Growth Targets 2019-2044**

Jurisdiction	Net New Units and Jobs	
	2019-2044 Housing Target	2019-2044 Jobs Target
<b>Metropolitan Cities</b>		
Bellevue	35,000	70,000
Seattle	112,000	169,500
<b>Metropolitan Cities Subtotal</b>	<b>147,000</b>	<b>239,500</b>
<b>Core Cities</b>		

<sup>2</sup> While growth targets are not assigned to them, the Regional Growth Strategy's Regional Geographies also recognizes Natural Resource Lands, Indian Reservation Land, and Military Installations.

**((2016)) 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan - ((updated December 6, 2022)) Adopted TBD  
Attachment A to Ordinance ((18427, as amended by Ordinances 18623, 18810, 19034, 19146,  
and 19555)) xxxxx (Proposed Ordinance 2023-0440)**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Net New Units and Jobs</b>	
	<b><u>2019-2044 Housing Target</u></b>	<b><u>2019-2044 Jobs Target</u></b>
<u>Auburn</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>19,520</u>
<u>Bothell</u>	<u>5,800</u>	<u>9,500</u>
<u>Burien</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>4,770</u>
<u>Federal Way</u>	<u>11,260</u>	<u>20,460</u>
<u>Issaquah</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>7,950</u>
<u>Kent</u>	<u>10,200</u>	<u>32,000</u>
<u>Kirkland</u>	<u>13,200</u>	<u>26,490</u>
<u>Redmond</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>24,000</u>
<u>Renton</u>	<u>17,000</u>	<u>31,780</u>
<u>SeaTac</u>	<u>5,900</u>	<u>14,810</u>
<u>Tukwila</u>	<u>6,500</u>	<u>15,890</u>
<b><u>Core Cities Subtotal</u></b>	<b><u>112,860</u></b>	<b><u>207,170</u></b>
<b><u>High Capacity Transit Communities</u></b>		
<u>Des Moines</u>	<u>3,800</u>	<u>2,380</u>
<u>Federal Way PAA*</u>	<u>1,020</u>	<u>720</u>
<u>Kenmore</u>	<u>3,070</u>	<u>3,200</u>
<u>Lake Forest Park</u>	<u>870</u>	<u>550</u>
<u>Mercer Island</u>	<u>1,239</u>	<u>1,300</u>
<u>Newcastle</u>	<u>1,480</u>	<u>500</u>
<u>North Highline PAA*</u>	<u>1,420</u>	<u>1,220</u>
<u>Renton PAA* - East Renton</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Renton PAA* - Fairwood</u>	<u>840</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>Renton PAA* - Skyway-West Hill</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>600</u>
<u>Shoreline</u>	<u>13,330</u>	<u>10,000</u>
<u>Woodinville</u>	<u>2,033</u>	<u>5,000</u>
<b><u>High Capacity Transit Communities Subtotal</u></b>	<b><u>29,942</u></b>	<b><u>25,570</u></b>
<b><u>Cities and Towns</u></b>		
<u>Algona</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>325</u>
<u>Beaux Arts</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Black Diamond</u>	<u>2,900</u>	<u>680</u>
<u>Carnation</u>	<u>799</u>	<u>450</u>
<u>Clyde Hill</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Covington</u>	<u>4,310</u>	<u>4,496</u>
<u>Duvall</u>	<u>890</u>	<u>990</u>
<u>Enumclaw</u>	<u>1,057</u>	<u>989</u>
<u>Hunts Point</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Maple Valley</u>	<u>1,720</u>	<u>1,570</u>
<u>Medina</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Milton</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>900</u>



<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Net New Units and Jobs</u>	
	<u>2019-2044 Housing Target</u>	<u>2019-2044 Jobs Target</u>
<u>Normandy Park</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>North Bend</u>	<u>1,748</u>	<u>2,218</u>
<u>Pacific</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>75</u>
<u>Sammamish</u>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>728</u>
<u>Skykomish</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Snoqualmie</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>4,425</u>
<u>Yarrow Point</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>
<b><u>Cities and Towns Subtotal</u></b>	<b><u>17,583</u></b>	<b><u>17,891</u></b>
<b><u>Urban Unincorporated</u></b>		
<u>Auburn PAA*</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Bellevue PAA*</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Black Diamond PAA*</u>	<u>328</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Issaquah PAA*</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Kent PAA*</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>300</u>
<u>Newcastle PAA*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Pacific PAA*</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Redmond PAA*</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Sammamish PAA*</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Unaffiliated Urban Unincorporated</u>	<u>448</u>	<u>400</u>
<b><u>Urban Unincorporated Subtotal</u></b>	<b><u>1,292</u></b>	<b><u>700</u></b>
<b><u>Urban Growth Area Total</u></b>	<b><u>308,677</u></b>	<b><u>490,831</u></b>

*\*PAA means Potential Annexation Area*

**((U-106)) U-107 Most population and employment growth should locate in the contiguous Urban Growth Area in western King County (especially in cities and their Potential Annexation Areas). Cities in the Rural Area should accommodate growth in accordance with adopted growth targets.**

**((U-114)) U-108 ((Land use policies and regulations)) King County shall accommodate ((a)) assigned urban unincorporated area growth targets of ((approximately 11,140)) 5,412 housing units and ((approximately 6,810)) 3,340 jobs by ((2031)) 2044, ((established in the Countywide Planning Policies for the unincorporated portion of the Urban Growth Area)) and provide for housing needs for all incomes. The growth targets should be monitored and further refined over the planning period.**

**((U-115)) U-109 King County shall provide adequate land capacity ((for residential)) to accommodate housing affordable to all incomes, commercial, industrial, and other non((-))residential growth in the urban unincorporated area consistent with ((- As required under)) the Growth Management Act.((, this land capacity shall be calculated on a countywide basis and shall include both redevelopment opportunities as well as opportunities for development on vacant lands.<sup>3</sup>**

**U-116 — King County shall use housing and employment targets to implement the Comprehensive Plan in urban communities. The targets allocated to subareas of unincorporated King County will be monitored and may be refined through future planning that includes communities, affected cities and service providers.**

The following Figure: King County Growth Targets Update: Revised Table DP-1= adjusted 2015, portrays housing and job growth targets for each jurisdiction. It has been updated to reflect annexations that occurred between 2010 and 2016 in the cities of Burien, Kent, Kirkland, Bellevue, Bothell, Sammamish and Tukwila. These cities annexed large areas of unincorporated King County, shifting those areas' Potential Annexation Area (PAA) targets into the respective cities. That adjustment of Potential Annexation Area targets into cities was acknowledged by the Growth Management Planning Council, adopted by the County Council, and ratified by the cities in 2012-2013 and adjusted again in 2015. The time horizon remains 2006-2031, and the targets for all other jurisdictions remain the same.

The table further provides guidance, in the Potential Annexation Area columns, for transfer of portions of growth targets into cities when annexation takes place in the future. Although they may be refined through future planning with affected communities and adjacent cities, these ranges are intended to be used as a guide for future planning of land uses and decisions on services and infrastructure.

**Figure: King County Growth Targets Update: Revised Table DP-1-adjusted 2015**

Regional Geography City/Subarea	Housing Target	PAA Housing Target	Employment Target	PAA Emp. Target
	Net New Units	Net New Units	Net New Jobs	Net New Jobs
	2006-2031	2006-2031	2006-2031	2006-2031
<b>Metropolitan Cities</b>				
— Bellevue	17,290		53,000	
— Seattle	86,000		146,700	
<b>Total</b>	<b>103,290</b>		<b>199,700</b>	
<b>Core Cities</b>				
— Auburn	9,620		19,350	=
— Bothell	3,810	810	5,000	
— Burien	4,440		5,610	
— Federal Way	8,100	2,390	12,300	290
— Kent	9,270	90	13,280	210
— Kirkland	8,570	0	20,850	0

((<sup>3</sup>As amended by Ordinance 17687.))

**((2016)) 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan - ((updated December 6, 2022)) Adopted TBD  
Attachment A to Ordinance ((18427, as amended by Ordinances 18623, 18810, 19034, 19146,  
and 19555)) xxxxx (Proposed Ordinance 2023-0440)**

<b>Regional Geography</b> City / Subarea	<b>Housing Target</b>	<b>PAA Housing Target</b>	<b>Employment Target</b>	<b>PAA Emp. Target</b>
	Net New Units	Net New Units	Net New Jobs	Net New Jobs
	2006-2031	2006-2031	2006-2031	2006-2031
— Redmond	10,200	640	23,000	=
— Renton	14,835	3,895	29,000	470
— SeaTac	5,800		25,300	
— Tukwila	4,850	50	17,550	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,495</b>		<b>170,590</b>	
<b>Larger Cities</b>				
— Des Moines	3,000		5,000	
— Issaquah	5,750	110	20,000	
— Kenmore	3,500		3,000	
— Maple Valley**	1,800	1,060	2,000	
— Mercer Island	2,000		1,000	
— Sammamish	4,180	350	1,800	
— Shoreline	5,000		5,000	
— Woodinville	3,000		5,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,230</b>		<b>42,800</b>	
<b>Small Cities</b>				
— Algona	190		210	
— Beaux Arts	3		3	
— Black Diamond	1,900		1,050	
— Carnation	330		370	
— Clyde Hill	10		=	
— Covington	1,470		1,320	
— Duvall	1,140		840	
— Enumclaw	1,425		735	
— Hunts Point	1		=	
— Lake Forest Park	475		210	
— Medina	19		=	
— Milton	50	90	160	
— Newcastle	1,200		735	
— Normandy Park	120		65	
— North Bend	665		1,050	
— Pacific	285	135	370	
— Skykomish	10		=	
— Snoqualmie	1,615		1,050	
— Yarrow Point	14		=	
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,922</b>		<b>8,168</b>	
<b>Urban Unincorporated</b>				

Regional Geography City / Subarea	Housing Target	PAA Housing Target	Employment Target	PAA Emp. Target
	Net New Units	Net New Units	Net New Jobs	Net New Jobs
	2006-2031	2006-2031	2006-2031	2006-2031
— Potential Annexation Areas	8,760		970	
— North Highline	820		2,170	
— Bear Creek Urban Planned Dev	910		3,580	
— Unclaimed Urban Unincorp.	650		90	
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,140</b>		<b>6,810</b>	
<b>King County UGA Total</b>	<b>233,077</b>		<b>428,068</b>	

\*— King County Growth Management Planning Council, adopted October 2009 and ratified by cities in 2010. These were re-adopted with the countywide planning policies in 2012 and ratified in 2013.

— Targets base year is 2006. PAA / city targets have been adjusted to reflect annexations through 2016.

\*\* Target for Maple Valley PAA is contingent on approval of city-county joint plan for Summit Place.

## ~~H.))~~ **B. Potential Annexation Areas**

~~((The annexation of urban unincorporated areas is good public policy. The State Growth Management Act and the regionally adopted Countywide Planning Policies stipulate that counties are the appropriate providers of regional services and of local services to the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. For their part, cities are the appropriate providers of local urban services to all areas within the designated Urban Growth Area Boundary. This logical split of government services is in part a reflection of the greater taxing authority afforded to cities by the state Legislature. Annexation is a means to achieve the desired governmental service and land use vision set forth in regional policy and state law so that residents of urban areas receive urban level services:))~~

King County's annexation efforts are ~~((particularly))~~ important given the impacts of historical patterns of annexation. Over time, higher tax revenue-generating areas - retail, industrial, and commercial centers and more affluent residential neighborhoods - have incorporated or annexed first, while lower income, ethnically diverse communities remained unincorporated. Given the County's limited taxing authority, promoting annexation of these areas into cities, where a higher level of service can be provided. ~~((is the best way to advance equity))~~ will foster more equitable and socially just outcomes for residents in unincorporated urban areas. To provide access to opportunity, unincorporated urban growth is prioritized in areas that are connected to the region's high-capacity transit system.

Although it is the policy of the County to support and promote annexation, its formal ability to do so is extremely limited. State laws provide the cities, county residents, and property owners with the authority to initiate the annexation process. A successful annexation initiative depends on establishing a collaborative and ongoing dialogue between the three affected interest groups: residents, the County, and the affected city. ~~((However, King County has a successful history of engaging in annexation discussions~~



with urban unincorporated area residents. Most recently, from 2008 to 2019, there have been six major annexations:

- ~~Lea Hill and Auburn West Hill into Auburn;~~
- ~~Benson Hill into Renton;~~
- ~~North Highline Area X into Burien;~~
- ~~Panther Lake into Kent;~~
- ~~Juanita-Finn Hill-Kingsgate into Kirkland; and~~
- ~~Klahanie into Sammamish.~~

As a result of these and some smaller annexations, by 2016, King County's urban unincorporated population dropped by more than 110,000 persons from its 2007 level, to an estimated population of 119,900 (comparable to the population of Kent, the third largest city in the county:))

Much of the remaining urban unincorporated area is made up of geographically isolated islands surrounded by cities or adjacent to the ~~((t))Urban ((g))Growth Area~~ boundary. Because these areas are scattered across the county, the provision of local services is costly. ~~((Covering the cost of serving these areas reduces the amount of revenue available for regional services and for local services in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. Therefore, King County has a strong fiscal interest in seeing the remaining urban unincorporated areas annexed to cities within the next several years:))~~

The policies in this section are intended to guide the ~~((e))County's~~ decision making on annexation-related issues to ensure the needs of residents in the urban unincorporated area are considered, the perspective of the future annexing city is considered, and that a smooth transition from ~~((e))County~~ to city government occurs.

~~((U-201)) U-110 ((In order t))To meet the Growth Management Act and ((the regionally adopted)) Countywide Planning Policies goal of becoming a regional service provider for all county residents and a local service provider in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, King County shall encourage annexation of the remaining urban unincorporated area. The ((c))County may also act as a contract service provider where mutually beneficial.~~

~~((U-202)) U-111 To help create an environment that is supportive of annexations, King County shall work with cities and with neighborhood groups, local business organizations, public service providers, and other ((stakeholders)) affected parties on annexation-related activities to move the remaining urban islands towards annexation by the city most appropriate to serve it. King County ((will)) shall also seek changes at the state level that would facilitate annexation of urban unincorporated areas.~~

~~((U-202a)) U-112 The County should seek state legislative authority to impose taxes in unincorporated urban areas consistent with the taxing authorities and rates of cities, and seek to impose rates consistent with ((the city)) cities to improve service delivery and infrastructure levels.~~

~~((U-203)) U-113 The Potential Annexation Areas Map adopted ((by the Growth Management Planning Council)) in the Countywide Planning Policies illustrates city-designated ((p))Potential ((a))Annexation ((a))Areas ((PAA's)). This may include contested areas (where more than one city claims a ((PAA)) Potential Annexation Area), and those few areas that~~

are unclaimed by any city. For contested areas, the ((c))County should attempt to help resolve the matter, or to enter into an interlocal agreement with each city for the purpose of bringing the question of annexation before voters. For unclaimed areas, King County should work with adjacent cities and service providers to develop a mutually agreeable strategy and timeframe for annexation. ((For areas affiliated with a city for annexation, King County should proactively support annexations.

**U-114** King County shall support annexation proposals that are consistent with the Countywide Planning Policies and the Washington State Growth Management Act, when the area proposed for annexation is wholly within the annexing city's officially adopted ((PAA)) Potential Annexation Area, and when the area is not part of a contested area.

**U-115** King County shall not support annexation proposals that would:

- a. Result in illogical service areas;
- b. Create unincorporated islands, unless the annexation is preceded by an interlocal agreement in which the city agrees to pursue annexation of the remaining island area in a timely manner;
- c. Focus solely on areas that would provide a distinct economic gain for the annexing city at the exclusion of other proximate areas that should logically be included;
- d. Move designated Agricultural and/or Forest Production District lands into the Urban Growth Area, except as allowed in Policies R-760, R-671, and R-762a; or
- e. Apply zoning to maintain or create permanent, low-density residential areas, unless such areas are part of an urban separator or are environmentally constrained, rendering higher densities inappropriate.

**U-116** King County shall favor annexation over incorporation as the preferred method of governance transition. King County ((with)) shall not support incorporations when the proposed incorporation ((area)) is financially infeasible.

**U-117** King County shall work with cities to develop pre-annexation or annexation interlocal agreements to address the transition of services from the ((c))County to the annexing cities. The development of such agreements should include a public outreach process to include but not be limited to residents and property owners in the Potential Annexation Areas, as well as residents and property owners in the surrounding areas. Such agreements may address a range of considerations, including but not limited to:

- a. Establishing a financing partnership between the ((c))County, city, and other service providers to address needed infrastructure;
- b. Providing reciprocal notification of development proposals in Potential Annexation Areas, and opportunities to identify and/or provide mitigation associated with such development;
- c. Supporting the city's desire, to the extent possible, to be the designated sewer or water service provider within the Potential Annexation Area, where this can be done without harm to the integrity of existing systems and without significantly increasing rates;
- d. Assessing the feasibility and/or desirability of reverse contracting in order for the city to provide local services on the ((c))County's behalf prior to annexation, as well as the feasibility and/or desirability of the ((c))County continuing to provide some local services on a contract basis after annexation;

- e. Exploring the feasibility of modifying development, concurrency, and infrastructure design standards prior to annexation, when a specific and aggressive annexation timeline is being pursued;
- f. Assessing which ((c))County-owned properties and facilities should be transferred to city control, and the conditions under which such transfers should take place;
- g. Transitioning ((c))County employees to city employment where appropriate;
- h. Ensuring that land use plans for the annexation area are consistent with the Countywide Planning Policies with respect to: planning for urban densities and efficient land use patterns; provision of urban services, affordable housing, and transportation; the protection of critical areas; and the long-term protection of urban separators;
- i. Continuing equivalent protection of cultural resources, and county landmarks and historic resources listed on the King County Historic Resource Inventory;
- j. Maintaining existing equestrian facilities and establishing equestrian linkages; and
- k. Establishing a timeline for service transitions and for the annexation.

((King County will explore new options to affiliate unincorporated urban areas with cities, and to make the provision of services to such areas financially sustainable.

**U-208)) U-118** King County should engage in joint planning processes for the urban unincorporated areas with the area's designated annexation city. Alternatively, upon a commitment from the city to annex through an interlocal agreement, King County ((will)) **shall** engage in joint planning processes for the urban unincorporated areas in tandem with the annexing city. Such planning may consider land use tools such as:

- a. ~~((traditional s))~~Subarea plans(~~(, subarea studies))~~ or area ~~((rezoning))~~ **zoning and land use studies;**
- b. ~~((a))~~Allowing additional commercial and high-density residential development through the application of new zoning;
- c. Transfers of Development Rights that add units to new development projects; and
- d. ~~((a))~~Application of collaborative and innovative development approaches, such as design standards.

~~((King County will work through the Growth Management Planning Council to develop a plan to move the remaining unincorporated urban Potential Annexation Areas towards annexation.~~

**R-511)) U-119** Within Potential Annexation Areas of Cities in the Rural Area, ~~((the following uses))~~ **residential development at a density of one home per five acres or less shall be ((permitted)) allowed** until the area annexes to the city((:

- a. ~~Residential development at a density of one home per five acres or less with mandatory clustering; and~~
- b. ~~Nonresidential development such as commercial and industrial as determined through previous subarea plans)).~~

## ((1.)) II. Growth in ((Urban)) Centers and the Promotion of Public Health for All

((The Multicounty and Countywide Planning Policies guide the development of urban centers, which are principally located in cities, and should accommodate concentrations of housing and employment.)) Focusing growth into centers helps achieve the goals of a sustainable and equitable community. ((However, in its unincorporated urban area,)) King County has a ((small)) number of smaller-scale ((urban)) centers, which includes ((an)) unincorporated activity centers, community business centers, and neighborhood business centers. These are represented on the ((Urban)) Countywide and Local Centers map at the end of this chapter.

((Focusing development in urban areas can have a positive effect on public health while also addressing climate change. The percentage of King County residents who are overweight or obese has risen rapidly since the late 1980s. With obesity comes increased risk for diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. Evidence suggests one major reason for rising obesity is the lack of physical activity. Growth patterns in suburban areas, which discourage active transportation modes such as walking and bicycling and promote a reliance on private auto use, have contributed to this public health problem.))

Communities that feature a variety of land uses; access to healthy, affordable foods; higher housing density; sidewalks; bicycle infrastructure; and street connections to nearby services promote health and quality of life. Urban areas that are interesting and safe for pedestrians and bicyclists, and that provide many necessary services close to residential developments, can promote public health by increasing opportunities for physical activity during daily activities. ((Tobacco remains the leading cause of death for King County residents. Zoning regulations can be used to reduce concentrated exposure to alcohol, tobacco and marijuana by regulating the number of outlets that can sell these products and advertising that is in view of the general public. Tobacco use also creates environmental tobacco smoke, which contains more than 4,000 substances and has been classified by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Group A carcinogen. Tobacco-free area policies reduce this hazard.))

While creating communities that have a positive effect on public health, the ((c))County is also ((creating)) supporting the creation of communities that will have a positive effect on climate change. When people replace their ((auto)) vehicle trips with transit, walking, or biking, they are improving their health and reducing their carbon footprint at the same time. Communities that have integrated street networks, a mix of uses, and residential densities supportive of public transportation can reduce vehicle miles traveled because ((auto)) vehicle trips are being replaced with more walking, biking, and transit use.

**((U-107)) U-201 King County should support ((land use and zoning)) actions that promote public health ((by increasing opportunities for every resident to be more physically active)); address racially and geographically disparate health outcomes; support safe and convenient daily physical activity and social connectivity; protect from exposure to harmful substances and environments; and increase access to opportunities((-land use and zoning actions include)), through actions such as:**

- a. ((c))Concentrating growth, infrastructure, and services into the Urban Growth Area;**
- b. ((p))Promoting ((urban)) the development of countywide and local centers;**
- c. ((a))Allowing mixed-use developments;**



- d. ~~((s))~~ Supporting access to healthy, affordable retail foods; ~~((and))~~
- e. ~~((a))~~ Adding pedestrian and bicycle facilities and connections; and
- f. Prioritizing affordable housing in high opportunity areas.

~~((U-154))~~ U-202 ~~((Design features of unincorporated activity centers))~~ New development in centers should include the following:

- a. Safe and attractive walkways, ~~trails,~~ and bicycle facilities for all ages and abilities with access to ~~((each))~~ major destinations, including schools, community ~~((centers))~~ facilities, and commercial areas;
- b. Buildings close to sidewalks ~~((to promote walking and access to transit));~~
- c. Compact design with close grouping of compatible uses;
- d. Off-street structured parking ~~((in multistory structures))~~ located to the side or rear of buildings or underground;
- e. Public art;
- f. Public spaces, such as plazas and building atriums;
- g. Retention of attractive natural features, historic buildings, and established character;
- h. Aesthetic design and compatibility with adjacent uses through setbacks, building orientation, and landscaping ~~((and traffic control));~~
- i. Screening of unsightly views, such as heavy machinery, outdoor storage areas, loading docks, and parking areas from ~~((the view of))~~ adjacent uses and from arterials; ~~((and))~~
- j. Signs ~~((should be regulated to reduce))~~ that contribute to the character of the center while minimizing glare and other adverse visual impacts on nearby residences; ((, without limiting their potential contribution to the color and character of the center.))
- k. Low-impact design features; and
- l. Recreation space such as pocket parks.

~~((U-108))~~ King County should support the development of Urban Centers to meet the region's needs for housing, jobs, services, culture and recreation and to promote healthy communities; improving access to these services helps address social and economic needs of all residents, including disadvantaged communities. Strategies may include exploring opportunities for joint development or transit-oriented development, siting civic uses in mixed-use areas, and leveraging or utilizing existing county assets in urban centers.

U-109 King County should concentrate facilities and services within the Urban Growth Area to make it a desirable place to live and work, to increase the opportunities for walking and biking within the community, to more efficiently use existing infrastructure capacity and to reduce the long-term costs of infrastructure maintenance.

U-109a King County should encourage development, facilities and policies that lead to compact communities that transit can serve efficiently and effectively. As funding permits, King County should partner with jurisdictions and the private sector to spur development of compact communities and infrastructure investments that enhance alternatives to single-occupant vehicles such as transit, safe walking paths and trails, bicycle facilities, car and van pools, and other modes.

~~U-111))~~ U-203 Development standards for urban areas should emphasize ways to allow maximum ~~((permitted))~~ densities and uses of urban land while not compromising the function of critical ~~((environmental))~~ areas. ~~((Mitigating measures should serve multiple purposes, such as drainage control, groundwater recharge, stream protection, air quality~~

improvement, open space preservation, cultural and historic resource protection and landscaping preservation. When technically feasible, s) Standards should be simple and measurable, so they can be implemented without lengthy review processes.

**((U-132a)) U-204** King County shall allow and support the development of ((innovative)) community gardens and urban agriculture throughout ((the public realm of)) residential and commercial areas.

**U-205** King County should explore ways to encourage property owners to develop vacant and abandoned property.

While there are many benefits of focusing growth into centers, one impact of climate change is a greater likelihood ((that the frequency of hazardous)) of extreme heat in urban heat islands ((in urban areas will increase)). The term “heat island” refers to ((urban)) areas where air and surface temperatures ((that)) are higher than the nearby Rural Area(s) and Natural Resource Lands due to development. Heat islands form as cities replace natural land cover with pavement, buildings, and other built infrastructure. Heat islands exacerbate heat-related illnesses, such as heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Dense urban areas with a lot of paved surfaces and limited shade can be up to 20°F hotter during extreme heat events, when compared to areas with more trees and less pavement. The higher the temperature, the higher the likelihood people will suffer from heat-related illnesses and not be able to cool themselves sufficiently. Homes without air conditioning in urban heat islands may also be more prone to overheating, further exacerbating residents’ risk of heat-related illness. The heat island effect can be reduced by requiring cool roofs, cool pavements, tree canopy, and other vegetation. ((These tools are discussed in King County’s Green Building Handbook:

**U-112)) U-206** King County ((will)) shall work with cities, communities, residents, and developers to ((design communities and development projects that)) employ green infrastructure and other ((techniques)) approaches that help reduce heat islands ((throughout the community and the region)) and the health effects of extreme heat on residents, particularly in frontline communities and historically underserved neighborhoods with less tree canopy and open space.

((King County is successfully promoting and supporting policies and programs that focus on the health of students at school. However, the school environment is only one aspect of the overall health of the student.)) The environment surrounding a school and the routes a typical student travels to school or nearby school-related destinations ((also must be considered, including)) can affect health outcomes of youths. Strategies to improve these factors include managing density of retail uses that primarily sell alcohol, tobacco ((and marijuana)), cannabis, and low-nutrition products; enhancing green space sites; creating safe areas to walk and bicycle to school; providing for transit and related facilities; and((;)) reducing exposure to environmental toxins and other types of unsafe environments.

**((U-113)) U-207** King County shall promote children’s health by encouraging and supporting land uses in the environment surrounding a school and on travel routes to schools that complement and strengthen other formal programs, such as Safe Routes to School.

## **((1.)) A. Unincorporated Activity Centers**

Unincorporated activity centers are the primary locations for commercial and industrial development in urban unincorporated King County. White Center and Skyway are the only designated unincorporated activity centers. Both meet the criteria for countywide

centers designation and are designated as High-Capacity Transit Communities in VISION. King County intends to apply for countywide center designation for both communities following adoption of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. ~~((The North Highline Community Service Area Subarea Plan establishes the size of, and mix of uses allowed in, the White Center Unincorporated Activity Center. The Skyway-West Hill Community Service Area Subarea Plan establishes the size and mix of uses in the Skyway Unincorporated Activity Center.~~

~~U-151))~~ **U-208** Within unincorporated activity centers, the following zoning is appropriate: Urban Residential, with a density of ~~((twelve))~~ **12** to ~~((forty-eight))~~ **48** dwelling units per acre; Community Business; Neighborhood Business; Office; and Industrial.

~~((U-150))~~ **U-209** Unincorporated activity centers ~~((in urban areas))~~ should provide employment, housing, shopping, services, and ~~((leisure-time))~~ **other** amenities to meet the needs of the local economy. The mix of uses may include:

- a. Health, human service, and public safety facilities;
- b. Retail stores and services;
- c. Professional offices;
- d. Business/office parks;
- e. ~~((Multifamily))~~ **Multiunit** housing and mixed-use developments;
- f. Heavy commercial and industrial uses, when there is direct freeway or rail access;
- g. Light manufacturing;
- h. Parks and open space; and
- i. Farmers Markets.

~~((U-152))~~ **U-210** King County may designate new unincorporated activity centers or expand existing unincorporated activity centers only through a subarea planning process that should address:

- a. The relationship and role of the ~~((entire))~~ center to its surrounding uses, including adjacent cities and other nearby centers;
- b. Availability of supporting public services;
- c. ~~((The function of the center to other centers in the sub-region;~~
- d.)) The need for additional commercial and industrial development;
- ~~((e.))~~ d. The size and boundaries of the center; and
- ~~((f.))~~ e. Zoning.

~~((U-153))~~ **U-211** The size, uses, and boundaries of unincorporated activity centers should ~~((be consistent with the following criteria))~~:

- a. ~~Be~~ ~~((M))~~ more than ~~((forty))~~ **40** acres in size, excluding land needed for surface water management or protection of ~~((environmentally))~~ critical areas;
- b. Include ~~((R))~~ retail space based on the amount of residential development planned for the surrounding area to provide for community and local shopping needs; and
- c. Limit ~~((R))~~ retail space ~~((should not exceed))~~ to a maximum of 60 acres and 600,000 square feet unless ((it is served by direct freeway access by)) located on a principal or minor arterial that connects directly to a freeway and the retail space is well served by transit.

~~((U-158))~~ **New major residential, commercial, and mixed-use developments in unincorporated activity centers should include low impact design features and should promote public health by increasing opportunities for physical activity in daily life. The development should include: safe walkways and bicycle facilities for all ages and abilities with access to**

commercial areas, schools, and community facilities; trails; and pocket parks.

## 2.)) B. Community Business Centers

Community business centers are primarily retail developments designed to serve a moderately sized nearby market area ((of 15,000 to 40,000 people. Community business centers should be sited so they do not adversely affect other centers and are easily accessible by motor vehicles or public transportation, walking or bicycling. Community business centers should be designed to be compatible with adjacent residential uses, and should promote pedestrian and bicycle access)). As shown on the ((Urban)) Countywide and Local Centers map at the end of this chapter, these centers include Fairwood, Roxhill, Glendale, and Top Hat.

((U-159)) U-212 Community business centers in the urban areas should provide primarily shopping and personal services for nearby residents. Offices and ((multifamily housing)) mixed-use development are also encouraged. Industrial and heavy commercial uses should be ((excluded)) limited. Community business centers should include the following mix of uses:

- Retail stores and services;
- Professional offices;
- Community and human services;
- ((Multifamily)) Multiunit housing as part of a mixed-use development, with higher residential densities ((of at least 12 units per acre when well served by)) near transit; and
- Stands or small outlets that offer fresh, affordable fruit and produce and locally produced value-added food products.

((U-160)) U-213 ((Designated community business centers are shown on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map.)) Expansion of existing or designation of new community business centers shall be ((permitted)) allowed only through a subarea plan or area zoning and land use study. ((Redevelopment and infill development of existing community business centers is encouraged.

U-161)) U-214 Within community business centers, the following zoning is appropriate: Neighborhood Business, Community Business, and Office.

((U-162)) U-215 The specific size and boundaries of community business centers should be ((consistent with the criteria listed below.)):

- ((More than)) Between 10 acres and ((up to)) 40 acres in size, excluding land needed for surface water management or protection of ((environmentally)) critical areas;
- Designed to provide shopping and services for a market population of 15,000 to 40,000 people;
- Located one to three miles from an unincorporated activity center or from another community business center. May be located less than two miles from a neighborhood business center when it is demonstrated the neighborhood business center will not be adversely affected; and
- ((Must be 1)) Located at the intersection of two principal or minor arterials.

((U-163)) Design features of community business centers should include the following:

- Safe and attractive walkways and bicycle facilities for all ages and abilities;
- Close grouping of stores;



- ~~c. Off-street parking behind or to the side of buildings, or enclosed within buildings;~~
- ~~d. Public art;~~
- ~~e. Retention of attractive natural features, historic buildings and established character;~~
- ~~f. Landscaping, which may include planters and street trees;~~
- ~~g. Appropriate signage;~~
- ~~h. Public seating areas; and~~
- ~~i. Architectural features that provide variation between buildings or contiguous storefronts.~~

### 3.)) C. Neighborhood Business Centers

Neighborhood business centers are shopping areas offering convenience goods and services to local residents. Neighborhood business centers are intended to be small and compatible with adjacent residential areas and often are used on the way to another destination (for example, a fuel stop before or after commuting). Sometimes they consist of only one use or business. Neighborhood business centers should be designed to promote pedestrian and bicycle access.

As shown on the ((Urban)) Countywide and Local Centers map at the end of this chapter, King County has seven of these centers, including Avondale Corner, Beverly Park, Jovita, Lake Geneva, Martin Luther King Jr. Way((?)) between 60<sup>th</sup> Ave((-)) S and 64<sup>th</sup> Ave((-)) S, Rainier Ave((-)) S((-)) between S((-)) 114<sup>th</sup> St((-)) and S((-)) 117<sup>th</sup> St((-)), and Spider Lake.

~~((U-164))~~ **U-216** Neighborhood business centers in urban areas should include primarily retail stores and offices designed to provide convenient shopping and other services for nearby residents. Industrial and heavy commercial uses should be ~~((excluded))~~ **prohibited**. Neighborhood business centers should include the following mix of uses:

- a. Retail stores and services;
- b. Professional offices;
- c. ~~((Multifamily))~~ **Multunit** housing as part of a mixed-use development ~~((with residential densities up to 12 units per acre when convenient to a minor arterial. Higher densities are appropriate when the center is a walkable community, convenient to a principal arterial or well-served by transit));~~ and
- d. Farmers Markets.

~~((U-165))~~ **U-217** ~~((Designated neighborhood business centers are shown on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map.))~~ Expansion of existing or the designation of new neighborhood business centers shall only be ~~((permitted))~~ **allowed** through a subarea plan or area zoning and land use study. ~~((Redevelopment and infill development of existing neighborhood business centers is encouraged.))~~

~~((U-166))~~ **U-218** Within neighborhood business centers, the following zoning is appropriate: Neighborhood Business and Office.

~~((U-167))~~ **U-219** The specific size and boundaries of neighborhood business centers should be ~~((consistent with the criteria listed below.))~~:

- a. Ten acres or less in size, excluding land needed for surface water management or protection of ~~((environmentally sensitive features))~~ **critical areas**;
- b. Designed to provide convenience shopping for a market population of 8,000 to 15,000 people;
- c. Located within walking distance of transit corridors or transit activity centers; and

- d. Located one to three miles from another neighborhood business center.

~~((U-168)) Design features of neighborhood business centers should include the following:~~

- ~~a. Safe and attractive walkways and bicycle facilities for all ages and abilities;~~  
~~b. Close grouping of stores;~~  
~~c. Off-street parking behind or to the side of buildings, or enclosed within buildings;~~  
~~d. Public art;~~  
~~e. Retention of attractive natural features, historic buildings or established character;~~  
~~f. Landscaping, which may include planters and street trees;~~  
~~g. Appropriate signage;~~  
~~h. Public seating areas; and~~  
~~i. Architectural features that provide variation between buildings or contiguous storefronts.~~

#### 4.)) D. Commercial Development Outside of Centers

The Commercial Outside of Center ~~((CØ))~~ Land Use designation recognizes commercial uses predating the adoption of the ~~((C))~~ County's first Growth Management Act mandated Comprehensive Plan. These isolated unincorporated urban areas ~~((were and remain))~~ are located outside a designated ~~((urban center))~~ unincorporated activity center, community business center, or neighborhood business center ~~((The CØ designation is also appropriate))~~ and serve as a transitional designation within certain potential annexation areas. ~~((In these areas, the county will utilize the memorandum of understanding and applicable Comprehensive Plan policies to determine the appropriate zoning to implement this transitional designation.~~

~~U-169))~~ U-220 Stand-alone commercial developments legally established outside designated centers in the unincorporated urban area ~~((may))~~ should be recognized with the ~~((CØ))~~ Commercial Outside of Center designation and appropriate commercial zoning, including any identified potential zoning classification. An action to implement a potential zoning classification shall not require ~~((a detailed subarea))~~ an area zoning and land use study, if the current ~~((CØ))~~ Commercial Outside of Center designation is to remain unchanged. When ~~((more detailed))~~ subarea plans are prepared, these developments may be designated as centers and allowed to grow if appropriate, or may be encouraged to redevelop consistent with the residential density and design policies of the Comprehensive Plan.

((U-170)) **U-221** The ((€)) **Commercial Outside of Center** designation ((may))  
**should** be applied as a transitional designation in Potential Annexation  
Areas identified in a signed memorandum of understanding between a  
city and the ((c)) County for areas with a mix of urban uses and zoning  
((in order)) to facilitate the joint planning effort directed by the  
memorandum of understanding. Zoning to implement this transitional  
designation should recognize the mix of existing and planned uses. No  
zone changes to these properties to allow other nonresidential uses, or  
zone changes to allow expansion of existing nonresidential uses onto  
other properties, should occur unless or until a subarea plan or area  
zoning and land use study ((with the city)) is completed in consultation  
with the city.

## ((€)) **E. Commercial Land Use**

((The Countywide Planning Policies call for a significant share of new jobs and housing  
to occur within cities and in urban centers, which are areas of concentrated employment  
and housing. The designated urban centers are to accommodate 15,000 jobs within a  
one-half-mile radius of a major transit stop, an average employment density of 50 jobs  
per gross acre and an average of 15 housing units per gross acre. All of the urban  
centers are designated by the Puget Sound Regional Council as Regional Growth  
Centers and all are located in cities.

In addition to the urban centers, cities and unincorporated urban King County have  
existing intensive industrial, commercial and residential areas that will continue to grow  
and provide employment, services, shopping and housing opportunities, but not at the  
same level as urban centers. Three categories of centers are established for urban  
unincorporated areas of King County. Higher density, more-concentrated developed  
industrial and commercial areas are classified as unincorporated activity centers and are  
intended to be the primary location for this type of commercial development. Midrange  
centers are called community business centers and smaller, local centers are called  
neighborhood business centers. The locations of these centers are shown on the Urban  
Centers map at the end of this chapter. This Comprehensive Plan also recognizes  
existing commercial and industrial development that is outside of unincorporated  
activity centers, community business centers and neighborhood business centers.

**U-148)) U-222** New commercial and office development shall locate in designated  
unincorporated activity centers, community business centers, and  
neighborhood business centers, and in areas designated commercial  
outside of centers.

((U-147)) **U-223** Business((/)) and office park developments should be located in or  
adjacent to an unincorporated activity center. They may serve as a  
transition between office((/)) and retail areas and residential areas.  
They should be designed to take advantage of on-site or nearby  
structured parking and((/or bus)) transit service ((and passenger  
facilities should be compatible with the objective of higher  
employment densities)).

((Warehouse-style retail businesses, large retail complexes, stadiums, large churches  
and colleges are examples of land uses that serve as destinations from throughout the  
region. Such uses require a full range of urban services including transit, substantial  
parking, and access to arterials and freeways, and therefore should locate in the urban  
area where these services are available. In addition, these land uses have traffic and  
impervious surface impacts that are inappropriate for the Rural Area and Natural  
Resource Lands.

**~~U-149~~) U-224** New facilities and businesses that draw from throughout the region, such as large retail uses, large public assembly facilities, and ~~((institutions of))~~ higher education institutions should locate in the Urban Growth Area.

## ~~((6.))~~ E. Industrial Development

Maintaining a strong industrial land supply is an important factor in maintaining the county's economic base and providing family-wage jobs. The following policies assure that industrial development is supported and is also compatible with adjacent land uses while providing appropriate services for employees. In addition, King County is committed to helping return contaminated sites to productive use.

**~~((U-172))~~ U-225** Within the Urban Growth Area, ~~((but outside unincorporated activity centers;))~~ properties with existing industrial uses shall be protected.

**U-226** The ~~((c))~~County ~~((may))~~ should use tools such as special district overlays to identify ~~((them))~~ existing industrial uses and address impacts for property owners and residents of surrounding neighborhoods.

**~~((U-173))~~ U-227** Industrial development should have direct access from arterials or freeways. Access points should be combined and limited in number to allow smooth traffic flow on arterials. Access through residential areas should be avoided.

**~~((U-174))~~ U-228** Small amounts of retail and service uses in industrial areas may be allowed for convenience to employees and users.

**~~((U-175))~~ U-229** King County, in collaboration with cities and the development community, should ~~((create and fund a process to))~~ support clean up and reclaim polluted industrial areas ~~((in order))~~ to expand the land available for industrial development.

## ~~((4.))~~ G. Mixed-Use Development

Mixed-use development combines higher density residential units with retail or office uses in the same building or within an integrated development on the same lot. Quality mixed-use developments can provide convenient shopping and services to both residents of the development and those who live nearby. They can help to build a sense of community, as neighboring merchants and residents get to know each other.

~~((Mixed-use is traditional in older downtowns and commercial areas, where offices and retail typically occupy the first floor and residences are upstairs.))~~ Mixed-use developments can help meet projected housing needs, promote public health, and help provide mitigation for climate change by providing opportunities for people to walk or bicycle to retail shopping and services ~~((, such as grocery stores with fresh fruits and vegetables and locally produced value-added food products, such as cheese, meats, and preserves)).~~ It provides an opportunity to support ~~((disadvantaged))~~ historically underserved communities by clustering public services. If people can replace some of their driving trips with walking, biking, or transit, then vehicle miles traveled will decrease. Further, by placing shopping and services close to where people live, even if some of the trips are made by ~~((auto))~~ vehicle, they will be shorter than if the uses had been separated.

A food innovation district is an area of food-related activities supportive of healthy, affordable local food. Food innovation districts may encompass food retail, anchor food



businesses, small food business incubation, food industry education and training,  
markets and food hubs, urban agriculture, food programs and partnerships with urban  
and rural food growers and cooperatives, and food aggregation and processing.

((U-129)) **U-230** King County ((supports)) should allow mixed-use developments in  
community and neighborhood business centers, unincorporated  
activity centers, and in areas designated commercial outside of centers.

((U-130)) **U-231** ((Design features of m)) Mixed-use developments should ((include  
the following)) be designed to:

- a. Integrate((ion of the retail and/or office)) uses ((and residential  
units)) within the same building or ((on the same parcel)) property;
- b. ((Quality and appropriate ground level spaces built to  
accommodate)) Provide retail and office uses on the ground floor;
- c. ((Off-street)) Place parking within, behind, or to the side of the  
buildings((, or enclosed within buildings)); and
- d. ((Opportunities to have)) Provide safe, accessible pedestrian  
connections and bicycle facilities ((within the development and to  
adjacent residential developments)).

((U-131)) **U-232** In a mixed-use development where residential and nonresidential  
uses are proposed in separate structures and the residential uses are  
proposed to be constructed prior to the nonresidential uses, permitting  
and development reviews should be through a process that ensures an  
integrated design.

((U-132)) **U-233** In a mixed-use development, incentives such as increases in  
residential density or floor area ratio should be used to encourage the  
inclusion of well-designed and accessible public gathering spaces in  
the site design.

((U-132b)) **U-234** King County shall allow and support mixed-use food innovation  
districts supportive of affordable, healthy local food.

## ((B.)) H. Residential Land Use

((Housing is the major use of urban land in King County, occupying well over half of the  
county's developed land area. This plan supports the creation of a full range of housing  
choices for county residents.)) The Comprehensive Plan proposes ways to develop  
housing densities so that urban land is used more efficiently, homes are more  
affordable, more housing choices are available, and densities are adequate to support  
effective and efficient transit services.

((U-118)) **U-235** New residential development in the Urban Growth Area should  
occur where facilities and services can be provided at the lowest public  
cost and in a timely fashion. The Urban Growth Area ((should have))  
shall include zoning that provides for a variety of housing types, sizes,  
and ((prices)) affordability levels, including ((mobile)) manufactured  
home parks, ((multifamily development)) apartments, middle housing,  
townhouses, and small-lot((,)) single((family)) detached residential  
development.

~~((U-181)) U-236 ((Except for existing Fully Contained Community designations, n))~~ **No new Urban Planned Developments or Fully Contained Communities shall be designated or approved in King County.**

## **1. Residential Densities**

~~((The density of eight homes per acre expressed below is a long-term goal and would be an average density of single-family and multifamily developments. Single-family homes will continue to account for most of the land area used for new development in the county. This plan proposes ways to develop single-family homes and densities so that urban land is used more efficiently, homes are more affordable, more housing choices are available and densities are adequate to support effective and efficient transit services. Housing at higher densities can promote public health by creating urban communities that support public transportation and nearby services and thereby increase opportunities for walking or biking.~~

~~U-119))~~ **U-237 King County shall seek to achieve ((through future planning efforts, over the next 20 years, including collaborative efforts with cities;)) an average zoning density of at least eight ((homes)) dwelling units per acre in the ((Urban Growth Area)) urban unincorporated area. ((through a mix of densities and housing types. A lower density zone may be used to recognize existing subdivisions with little or no opportunity for infill or redevelopment.**

~~U-123))~~ **U-238 King County should apply minimum density requirements to all unincorporated urban residential zones of four or more ((homes)) dwelling units per acre, except under limited circumstances such as the:**

- a. Presence of significant physical constraints such as those noted in ~~((p))~~ **Policy U-((120))238, or**
- b. Implementation of standards applied to a property through a property-specific development condition((:)) **or** special district overlay((, or subarea study)).

~~((U-120))~~ **U-239 King County should apply the urban residential, low land use designation in limited circumstances ((in unincorporated urban areas in order)) to protect((:)) floodplains, critical aquifer recharge areas, high function wetlands and unstable slopes from degradation, and the link these ((environmental features)) critical areas have to a network of open space, fish and wildlife habitat, and urban separators. The residential density for this land ((so designated)) should be maintained at one unit per acre, and lands that are sending sites under the Transfer of Development Rights Program may transfer density at a rate of at least four units per acre.**

~~((U-121))~~ **U-240 ((New multifamily housing should be built to)) King County shall explore zoning regulations and provisions that increase housing density and affordability that is compatible with the character and scale ((and design)) of the existing communities((y or neighborhood)), ((while contributing to an area-wide density and)) with a focus on development patterns that support((s)) frequent transit and allow((s)) for a range of housing choices. ((Multifamily housing in unincorporated urban areas should be sited as follows:**

- a. ~~In or next to unincorporated activity centers or next to community or neighborhood business centers;~~
- b. ~~In mixed-use developments in centers and activity areas; and~~
- c. ~~On small, scattered parcels integrated into existing urban residential areas. Over time, zoning should encourage a larger~~

proportion of multifamily housing to be located on small scattered sites rather than on larger sites.))

**U-241** King County shall allow for the development of single detached residences through the splitting of a single residential lot into two residential lots.

~~((U-122) Land zoned for multifamily uses should be allowed to be converted to nonresidential zone categories only after new multifamily sites are identified and rezoned to replace the multifamily housing capacity lost due to the conversion.~~

~~**U-122a** King County should explore zoning policies and provisions and tools that increase housing density and affordable housing opportunities within unincorporated urban growth areas, with a focus on areas near frequent transit and commercial areas.~~

## **E.)) 2. Urban Separators ((and the Four-To-One Program))**

The Countywide Planning Policies call for the ((c))County and cities to implement urban separators. Different from the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, these are low-density areas within the Urban Growth Area that create open space corridors, provide a visual contrast to continuous development, and reinforce the unique identities of communities. Urban separators can play a significant role in preserving ((environmentally)) critical areas and in providing habitat for fish and wildlife. They also provide recreational benefits, such as parks and trails, and meet the Growth Management Act's requirement for greenbelts and open space in the Urban Growth Area. Urban Separators are ((mapped on the Land Use 2008 map in)) designated in the Countywide Planning Policies and are shown in the Land Use Map at the end of Chapter 1, Regional Growth Management Planning.

~~((U-182)) **U-242** Urban separators ((are corridors of land that define community or municipal identities and boundaries, provide visual breaks in the urban landscape, and link parks and open space within and outside the Urban Growth Area. These urban corridors)) should include and link parks and other lands that contain significant ((environmentally sensitive features)) critical areas, provide fish and wildlife habitat or critical resource protection, contain defining physical features, or contain historic resources. The residential density for ((land so designated)) urban separators should be maintained at one unit per acre, and lands that are sending sites under the Transfer of Development Rights Program may transfer density at a rate of at least four units per acre.~~

~~((U-183)) **U-243** King County should ((actively pursue designating urban separators in the unincorporated area and)) work with the cities to establish and maintain permanent urban separators within the incorporated area that link with and enhance King County's urban separator corridors.~~

~~((U-184)) **U-244** Designated urban separators should be preserved through park, trail, and open space acquisitions; incentive programs such as the Transfer of Development Rights Program; the Public Benefit Rating System Program; and ((regulatory measures)) regulations.~~

## **((2. — Minimum Density**

~~In accordance with the Countywide Planning Policies, King County has included a minimum density requirement in its zoning regulations for all new urban residential development with a zoned density of four or more homes per acre.))~~

### 3. Increases of Zoning Density

~~((While King County supports higher densities in unincorporated urban areas, increased densities that would be incompatible with existing neighborhoods or cause significant impacts on roads, services and the environment are discouraged.))~~ The following policies will guide decisions on application of densities and proposed rezones.

~~((U-124))~~ **U-245** Requests for increases in density of unincorporated urban residential property zoned for one dwelling unit per acre shall be considered unless the property meets the criteria for low land use designation ~~((in))~~ as set forth in Policy U-~~((120))~~ **238**.

~~((U-125))~~ **U-246** King County should only support proposed zoning ~~((changes))~~ reclassifications to increase density within the urban unincorporated ~~((urban))~~ area when consistent with the ~~((King County Comprehensive Plan))~~ Land Use Map and when the following conditions are ~~((present))~~ met:

- a. ~~((The development will be))~~ The proposed zoning reclassification is compatible with the character and scale of the surrounding neighborhood;
- b. ~~((Urban-p))~~ Public facilities and services are adequate~~((;))~~ and consistent with adopted levels of service and meet ((Growth Management Act)) concurrency requirements((; including King County transportation concurrency standards));
- c. The proposed ((density change will not increase unmitigated adverse impacts on environmentally)) zoning reclassification will cause no net loss to critical areas; ((or))
- d. The proposed zoning classification will not increase unmitigated ((adverse)) displacement impacts ((on)) to residents or businesses, either on or adjacent to the site ((or in the vicinity of the proposed development));
- ~~((d;))~~ e. The proposed ((density increase will be)) zoning reclassification is consistent with or contributes to achieving the goals and policies of ((this)) the ((c)) Comprehensive ((p)) Plan((; and subarea plan or subarea study, if applicable, or));
- f. ~~((t))~~ The ((development)) proposed zoning reclassification is within ((walking distance)) one-quarter mile of transit corridors or transit activity centers((e)) and retail and commercial activities, and is accessible to parks and ((other)) recreation opportunities; and
- ~~((e;))~~ g. An ((equity impact)) analysis has been completed that identifies all potential equity impacts and displacement risk to residents or businesses located on or adjacent to the site proposed for zoning reclassification:
  1. For ((area zoning or)) zoning reclassifications initiated by the County Executive, the analysis shall include, at a minimum, ((use of the County's Equity Impact Review tool)) an equity impact review.
  2. For zoning reclassifications not initiated by the County, a community meeting shall be held that meets the requirements of ((K.C.C.)) King County Code 20.20.035 prior to submittal of the application. Notice of the community meeting should be provided, at a minimum, in the top six languages other than English ((identified by the tier map of limited-English-proficient persons maintained by the office of equity and social justice and the county demographer)) spoken in that community. As part of the zoning reclassification application, the applicant shall provide a summary of the feedback provided at the community meeting and a description of how that feedback was incorporated into the proposal.

**~~((U-126)) U-247~~ King County, when evaluating rezone requests, shall consult with the city whose Potential Annexation Area includes the property under review; if a pre-annexation agreement exists, King County shall work with the city to ensure compatibility with the city's pre-annexation zoning for the area. King County shall also notify special purpose districts and local providers of urban utility services and should work with these service providers on issues raised by the proposal.**

~~((As part of its voluntary program with the Federal Aviation Administration to reduce aircraft noise inside residences surrounding the King County International Airport, the County completed a Federal Aviation Administration Part 150 Noise and Land Use Compatibility Study. As part of the study, noise contours were developed and plotted as part of a Noise Mitigation Boundary. Over the past seven years and with available Federal Aviation Administration funding, the County completed a residential sound mitigation program within the Noise Mitigation Boundary. The program provided a variety of noise mitigation components, including insulation, windows, and ventilation to 609 homes surrounding the airport. The program was completed in 2015.~~

**~~U-127)) U-248~~ King County shall not support requests for residential density increases or conversion of non((-))residential property to residential uses on lands located within the outer boundaries of the Federal Aviation Administration approved Noise Mitigation Boundary as identified by Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and King County International Airport.**

~~((Development in the Unincorporated Urban Growth Area at a greater density than permitted by the minimum zoning density, but equal to or less than the maximum zoning density allowed under the Residential Density Incentive Program, will be allowed in exchange for public amenities such as low-income housing, preservation of designated historic features or extra energy conservation measures, or through the transfer of development rights from other parts of the county.~~

**~~U-128~~ — Density incentives should encourage private developers to: provide affordable housing, significant open space, trails and parks; use the Transfer of Development Rights Program, Low Impact Development and Green Building; locate development close to transit; participate in historic preservation; and include energy conservation measures.**

#### **5.)) 4. Urban Residential Neighborhood Design and Infill/Redevelopment**

~~((King County unincorporated u))~~Urban unincorporated areas should be designed so that residents enjoy them both for their unique character and for the amenities they provide. These areas, through ~~((local))~~ subarea planning processes and permitting and design standards, should support development that is of the same quality as adjacent cities.

The high level of amenities and development include outdoor spaces that are usable, attractive, comfortable, and enjoyable. The design of urban streets, including features such as parking strips, street trees, alleys, and off-street parking all contribute to the character of urban neighborhoods. Careful site planning can incorporate neighborhood features, contribute to aesthetic value, minimize site disturbance, conserve energy, reduce urban heat, and, in some cases, reduce development costs. Neighborhood shopping, grocery stores with fresh fruits and vegetables, libraries, larger parks, and schools ~~((and public golf courses))~~ are examples of uses that provide amenities for nearby residents.



Small retail establishments integrated into residential development ~~((e.g.))~~ such as a laundromat ~~((t))~~ can provide convenient services and help residents reduce ~~((automobile))~~ vehicle trips. ~~((Urban areas that are interesting and safe for pedestrians and bicyclists, and that provide many necessary services close to residential developments, can promote public health by increasing opportunities for physical activity during daily activities.~~

**U-133)) U-249** King County shall encourage~~((s))~~ affordable, innovative, quality infill development and redevelopment in existing unincorporated urban areas that considers the size and scale of existing buildings and improves the overall character of existing communities. A variety of regulatory, incentive, and program strategies ~~((could))~~ should be considered, including:

- a. Special development standards for infill sites;
- b. Assembly and resale of sites to providers of affordable and healthy housing;
- c. ~~((Impact mitigation fee structures that favor infill developments;~~
- d.)) Greater regulatory flexibility in allowing standards to be met using innovative techniques;
- ~~((e.))~~ d. Coordination with incentive programs of cities affiliated to annex the area;
- ~~((f.))~~ e. Green ~~((B))~~ building techniques that create sustainable development; and
- ~~((g.))~~ f. Joint public/private loan guarantee pools.

**((U-134)) U-250** Single~~((family))~~ detached ~~((homes))~~ residences, accessory dwelling units, townhomes, duplexes, and ~~((apartments))~~ houseplexes shall be allowed in all urban residential zones~~((, provided that:~~

- a. ~~Apartment~~s shall not be a in the R-1 zone unless 50% or more of the site is environmentally constrained; and
- b. ~~Apartment~~s in R-1, R-4, R-6 and R-8 shall not be developed at densities in excess of 18 units per acre in the net buildable area)).

**((U-135)) U-251** Urban residential neighborhood design should preserve historic structures, natural features, and neighborhood identity, while accommodating housing affordable to all income levels and providing privacy, community space, and safety and mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities.

**((U-136)) U-252** Site planning tools, such as clustering, shall be ~~((permitted in order))~~ allowed, to ~~((allow))~~ accommodate preservation or utilization of unique natural features or critical areas within a development.

~~**((U-137)** New urban residential developments should provide recreational space, community facilities and neighborhood circulation for pedestrians and bicyclists to increase opportunities for physical activity and ensure access to transit facilities where they exist or are planned.~~

**U-138)) U-253** Residential developments should provide a variety of housing types and lot patterns through ~~((lot clustering;))~~ flexible setback requirements and mixed attached and detached housing.

~~((U-139)) U-254~~ Nonresidential uses, such as schools, religious facilities, libraries, and small-scale retail and personal services, should be integrated into urban residential neighborhoods to support compact and walkable communities ~~((to create viable neighborhoods with reduced dependence on the automobile))~~. These uses should be sited, designed, and scaled to be compatible with existing residential character and should provide convenient and safe walking and bicycling connections to neighboring residences.

~~((U-139a)) U-255~~ King County shall support ~~((policy and system changes that))~~ increased access to affordable, healthy foods ~~((in neighborhoods))~~.

~~((U-139b)) U-256~~ King County should allow the creation of local improvement districts, where required to carry out important public functions that are not otherwise able to be carried out by existing local governments.

~~((Multifamily residential development is important to King County's housing supply because it uses land and energy efficiently and provides opportunities for affordable rental and ownership housing. Multifamily development is defined as one building that contains two or more separate dwelling units. Multifamily developments can be apartments, duplexes, townhouses, or other innovative housing types.~~

~~U-140)) U-257~~ ~~((Multifamily residential))~~ Multiunit and mixed-use development should provide common and private open space; variation in facades and other building design features that may include varying window treatments, building colors, and materials; and light fixtures that will give a residential scale and identity to ~~((multifamily))~~ multiunit development.

~~((Generally, larger parcels of buildable vacant land in the Urban Growth Area have been preferred for development. Development of these large parcels, especially for attached units at higher densities, often provoked concerns about compatibility due to their scale and design.~~

~~As larger vacant lots become increasingly scarce, attention will turn more and more towards smaller vacant lots often located within built neighborhoods (i.e., infill) and to redevelopment. Residential development proposals on small lots and redevelopment often can be an unobtrusive and desirable means of increasing density and affordable housing within existing neighborhoods. Infill development and redevelopment are necessary to achieve growth management objectives such as maximizing the efficient use of land and increasing the variety of housing choices and prices.~~

~~U-141~~ King County should support infill and redevelopment proposals in ~~unincorporated urban areas that serve to improve the overall character of existing communities or neighborhoods.~~ New development should consider the scale and character of existing buildings.

## ~~5. Commercial))~~ I. Site Improvement Standards and Public Services

~~((The following policy governs King County land use regulations and functional plans that contain improvement standards for the review of proposed rezones and commercial construction permits.~~

~~U-171))~~ **U-258** The design and construction quality of development in unincorporated urban areas should meet or exceed the quality in the area's designated annexation city. Residential, ((C))commercial, retail, and industrial developments in the unincorporated urban area should foster community, create enjoyable outdoor areas, and balance needs of ((automobile)) vehicle movement with pedestrian and bicycle mobility and safety. ((Commercial and industrial d))Developments shall provide the following improvements, where appropriate:

- a. Paved streets and alleys;
- b. Sidewalks and internal walkways for all ages and abilities and bicycle facilities ((in commercial and retail areas));
- c. Adequate parking for employees, business patrons, and ((business users)) residents;
- d. Safe access to transit centers and frequent transit corridors;
- e. Landscaping along or within streets, sidewalks, and parking areas to provide an attractive appearance;
- f. Street lighting and street trees;
- g. Adequate stormwater control, including curbs, gutters, and stormwater ((retention)) facilities;
- h. Public water supply;
- i. Public sewers;
- j. Controlled traffic access to arterials and intersections; and
- k. Where appropriate, ((in commercial areas;)) common facilities, such as shared streets, walkways, and waste disposal and recycling, with appropriate levels of landscaping.

~~((The design and construction quality of development in unincorporated urban areas should meet or exceed the quality in the area's designated annexation city.~~

## ~~6.~~ Residential Site Improvement Standards and Public Services

The following policies govern King County land use regulations and functional plans that contain improvement standards for the review of proposed rezones, residential subdivisions, short subdivisions, multifamily buildings and construction permits:

~~U-142~~ Residential developments within the unincorporated urban area, including mobile home parks, shall provide the following improvements:

- a. Paved streets (and alleys if appropriate), curbs and sidewalks, and internal walkways when appropriate;
- b. Adequate parking and consideration of access to transit activity centers and transit corridors;
- c. Street lighting and street trees;
- d. Stormwater treatment and control;
- e. Public water supply;
- f. Public sewers; and
- g. Landscaping around the perimeter and parking areas of multifamily developments.

~~The design and construction quality of development in unincorporated urban areas should meet or exceed the quality in the area's designated annexation city.~~

~~U-143))~~ **U-259** Common facilities with appropriate levels of landscaping, such as recreation space, internal walkways ((that provide convenient and safe inter- and intra-connectivity)), roads, parking (including secure bicycle parking), and solid waste and recycling areas, ((with appropriate levels of landscaping)) should be included in ((multifamily)) multiunit developments. Common ((A))areas ((of multifamily buildings that are open to the public)) (such as common hallways and elevators) shall be

smoke-free and vapor-product free to the extent allowed by state and local regulations to avoid exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke and emissions from electronic smoking and vaping devices.

((Neighborhood recreation space and parks are important amenities for residents. The higher the density, the more essential such amenities become to a desirable living environment. If the site of a proposed development is large enough, a park site dedication or private park site can be required as a condition of a rezone, subdivision or site plan approval.

~~U-144))~~ **U-260 New residential developments should provide recreation space, community facilities, and neighborhood circulation for pedestrian and bicyclist access to transit where they exist or are planned. Recreation space shall be on-site and based on the size of the development((s shall be provided on site)), except that in limited cases, fee payments for local ((level)) park and outdoor recreation needs may be accepted by King County.**

~~((U-145~~ **Recreation spaces located within a residential development, except those for elderly or other special needs populations, shall include a child's play area.**

~~U-146))~~ **U-261 Recreation spaces located in residential developments in the Urban Area should include amenities such as children's play areas, play equipment, open grassy areas, barbecues, benches, bicycle racks, trails, and picnic tables.**

## ~~((D. Urban Planned Developments and Fully Contained Communities~~

The Growth Management Act allows, within the designated Urban Growth Area, development of large land ownerships that may offer the public and the property owner opportunities to realize mutual benefits when such development is coordinated through the review process as an Urban Planned Development. Possible public benefits include greater preservation of public open space, proponent contributions to major capital improvement needs, diversity in housing types and affordability, and the establishment of the specific range and intensity of uses for the entire Urban Planned Development. A property owner and the public could benefit from the efficiency of combined hearings and land use decision making, as well as the establishment of comprehensive and consistently applied project-wide mitigations guiding the review of subsequent land use approvals.

~~U-176~~ **Sites for potential new Urban Planned Developments may be designated within the established Urban Growth Area to realize mutual benefits for the public and the property owner. Two Urban Planned Developments areas have been designated by the county: the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development area, comprised of the Redmond Ridge (formerly known as Northridge) Urban Planned Development, the Trilogy at Redmond Ridge (formerly known as Blakely Ridge) Urban Planned Development, and the Redmond Ridge East Urban Planned Development; and Cougar Mountain Village Urban Planned Development. Future Urban Planned Development sites in the Urban Growth Area shall be designated through a subarea planning process, or through a Comprehensive Plan amendment initiated by the property owner.**

- U-177** — ~~The creation of Urban Planned Developments is intended to serve as a model for achieving a mix of uses, appropriate development patterns, and high quality design, as well as providing for public benefits that shall include:~~
- ~~a. Open space and critical areas protection;~~
  - ~~b. Diversity in housing types and affordability;~~
  - ~~c. Quality site design; and~~
  - ~~d. Transit and nonmotorized transportation opportunities.~~

~~The Bear Creek Urban Planned Development area was first designated for urban development in 1989 in the Bear Creek Community Plan. The urban designation of this area under the Growth Management Act was established in the Countywide Planning Policies in 1992 and affirmed in 1994. The Bear Creek Urban Planned Development area was included in the Urban Growth Area designated in the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan. Since the adoption of the 1994 Comprehensive Plan, both Redmond Ridge and Trilogy have been approved as Urban Planned Developments and King County has entered into development agreements governing the development of these sites. The legality of these development approvals was challenged and these legal challenges have been rejected. Therefore, these sites will be, and are being, developed at urban densities.~~

~~Through the adoption of the 2000 King County Comprehensive Plan update, King County reaffirmed its urban designation of the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development area. In addition to the reasons that led the County (and the region) to originally include this area within the County's Urban Growth Area, when the County adopted the 2000 update, it noted that: two sites within this area had been approved for urban development after the adoption of the original Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan; significant infrastructure improvements had been made at these sites; and the ultimate development of these sites was proceeding in accordance with issued permit approvals. The existence of these urban improvements further supported a conclusion that this area is characterized by urban growth within the meaning of the Growth Management Act and was therefore appropriately included within the County's Urban Growth Area.~~

~~Since the county considered and adopted the 2000 update, significant development within the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development area has taken place. The Urban Planned Development permits approved by the county required the construction of infrastructure needed to support urban development of the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development area. Those infrastructure improvements have now been completed or are under construction. This includes sanitary sewer trunk lines and pump stations; water trunk lines, pump stations, and storage facilities; stormwater collection, detention, treatment and discharge facilities; other utilities; a park and open space system linked by trails; and required road improvements. In addition, King County has granted final plat approval for lots for more than 2,100 of the dwelling units approved by the Redmond Ridge and Trilogy Urban Planned Development permits and more than 1,600 of those dwelling units have been built, are under construction, or have been permitted. Furthermore, major community facilities and services such as the 18-hole golf course and clubhouse, the Redmond Ridge Community Center, and the retail center and grocery store have been completed or are under construction. All of these developments support the conclusion that the Redmond Ridge and Trilogy Urban Planned Development sites are now fully characterized by and irrevocably committed to urban growth, and the county therefore reaffirms its urban designation of the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development area.~~

~~The urban designation of the Bear Creek, now referred to as Redmond Ridge East, has an approved Urban Planned Development permit and a Fully Contained Community permit that authorized the urban development of Redmond Ridge East. Redmond~~



Ridge East is served by the urban infrastructure that has already been constructed to serve the Redmond Ridge and Trilogy Urban Planned Development sites.

The county reaffirms its urban designation of the Redmond Ridge East for the following reasons: this site has always been treated by King County as part of the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development urban area; this site is adjacent to the urban development that has already occurred and that will continue to occur at Trilogy and Redmond Ridge; this site is located in relationship to the rest of the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development area so as to be appropriate for urban growth; and this site is an area that will be served by existing urban public facilities and services that have been provided in accordance with Trilogy and Redmond Ridge Urban Planned Development permit requirements.

The Growth Management Act allows counties to establish a process, as part of the Urban Growth Area designation, for reviewing proposals to authorize new Fully Contained Communities. Criteria for approval of Fully Contained Communities are contained in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.70A.350. If a county establishes in its comprehensive plan a process for authorizing Fully Contained Communities, it must adopt procedures for approving Fully Contained Communities in its development regulations. King County has established a Fully Contained Community consisting of the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development area.

**~~U-178 — King County has established a Fully Contained Community. This one area is designated through this Comprehensive Plan and is shown on the Land Use Map as the urban planned community of the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development area comprised of Trilogy at Redmond Ridge, Redmond Ridge, and Redmond Ridge East Urban Planned Development sites. Nothing in these policies shall affect the continued validity of the approved Urban Planned Development permits for these sites. This Fully Contained Community designation may be implemented by separate or coordinated Fully Contained Community permits.~~**

**~~U-179 — The population, household, and employment growth targets and allocations for the county's Urban Growth Area in this plan include the Bear Creek Urban Planned Development area. Accordingly, the requirements in Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.350(2) that the county reserve a portion of the 20-year population projection for allocation to new Fully Contained Communities has been satisfied.~~**

**~~U-180 — The review and approval process for a Fully Contained Community permit shall be the same as that for an Urban Planned Development permit, except the following additional criteria shall be met, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.70A.350:~~**

- ~~a. New infrastructure (including transportation and utilities infrastructure) is provided for and impact fees are established and imposed on the Fully Contained Community consistent with the requirements of RCW 82.02.050;~~**
- ~~b. Transit-oriented site planning and traffic demand management programs are implemented in the Fully Contained Community. Pedestrian, bicycle, and high occupancy vehicle facilities are given high priority in design and management of the Fully Contained Community;~~**
- ~~c. Buffers are provided between the Fully Contained Community and adjacent non-Fully Contained Community areas. Perimeter buffers located within the perimeter boundaries of the Fully Contained Community delineated boundaries, consisting of either landscaped areas with native vegetation or natural areas, shall be provided and maintained to reduce impacts on adjacent lands;~~**

- d. ~~A mix of uses is provided to offer jobs, housing, and services to the residents of the new Fully Contained Community. No particular percentage formula for the mix of uses should be required. Instead, the mix of uses for a Fully Contained Community should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, in light of the geography, market demand area, demographics, transportation patterns, and other relevant factors affecting the proposed Fully Contained Community. Service uses in the Fully Contained Community may also serve residents outside the Fully Contained Community, where appropriate;~~
- e. ~~Affordable housing is provided within the new Fully Contained Community for a broad range of income levels, including housing affordable by households with income levels below and near the median income for King County;~~
- f. ~~Environmental protection has been addressed and provided for in the new Fully Contained Community, at levels at least equivalent to those imposed by adopted King County environmental regulations;~~
- g. ~~Development regulations are established to ensure urban growth will not occur in adjacent nonurban areas. Such regulations shall include but are not limited to: rural zoning of adjacent Rural Areas; Fully Contained Community permit conditions requiring sizing of Fully Contained Community water and sewer systems so as to ensure urban growth will not occur in adjacent nonurban areas; and/or Fully Contained Community permit conditions prohibiting connection by property owners in the adjacent Rural Area (except public school sites) to the Fully Contained Community sewer and water mains or lines;~~
- h. ~~Provision is made to mitigate impacts of the Fully Contained Community on designated agricultural lands, forest lands, and mineral resource lands; and~~
- i. ~~The plan for the new Fully Contained Community is consistent with the development regulations established for the protection of critical areas by King County pursuant to RCW 36.70A.170.~~

~~For purposes of evaluating a Fully Contained Community permit the following direction is provided: The term "fully contained" is not intended to prohibit all interaction between a Fully Contained Community and adjacent lands but to limit impacts on adjacent lands and contain them within the development site as much as possible. "Fully contained" should be achieved through the imposition of development conditions that limit impacts on adjacent and nearby lands and do not increase pressures on adjacent lands for urban development. "Fully contained" is not intended to mandate that all utilities and public services needed by an urban population both start and end within the property (since sewer, water, power, and roads, are of such a nature that the origin and/or outfall cannot reasonably exist within the property boundaries), but that the costs and provisions for those utilities and public services that are generated primarily by the Fully Contained Community (schools, police, parks, employment, retail needs) be reasonably accommodated within its boundaries and not increase pressure for more urban development on adjacent properties.~~

## ~~F. Eastside Rail Corridor~~

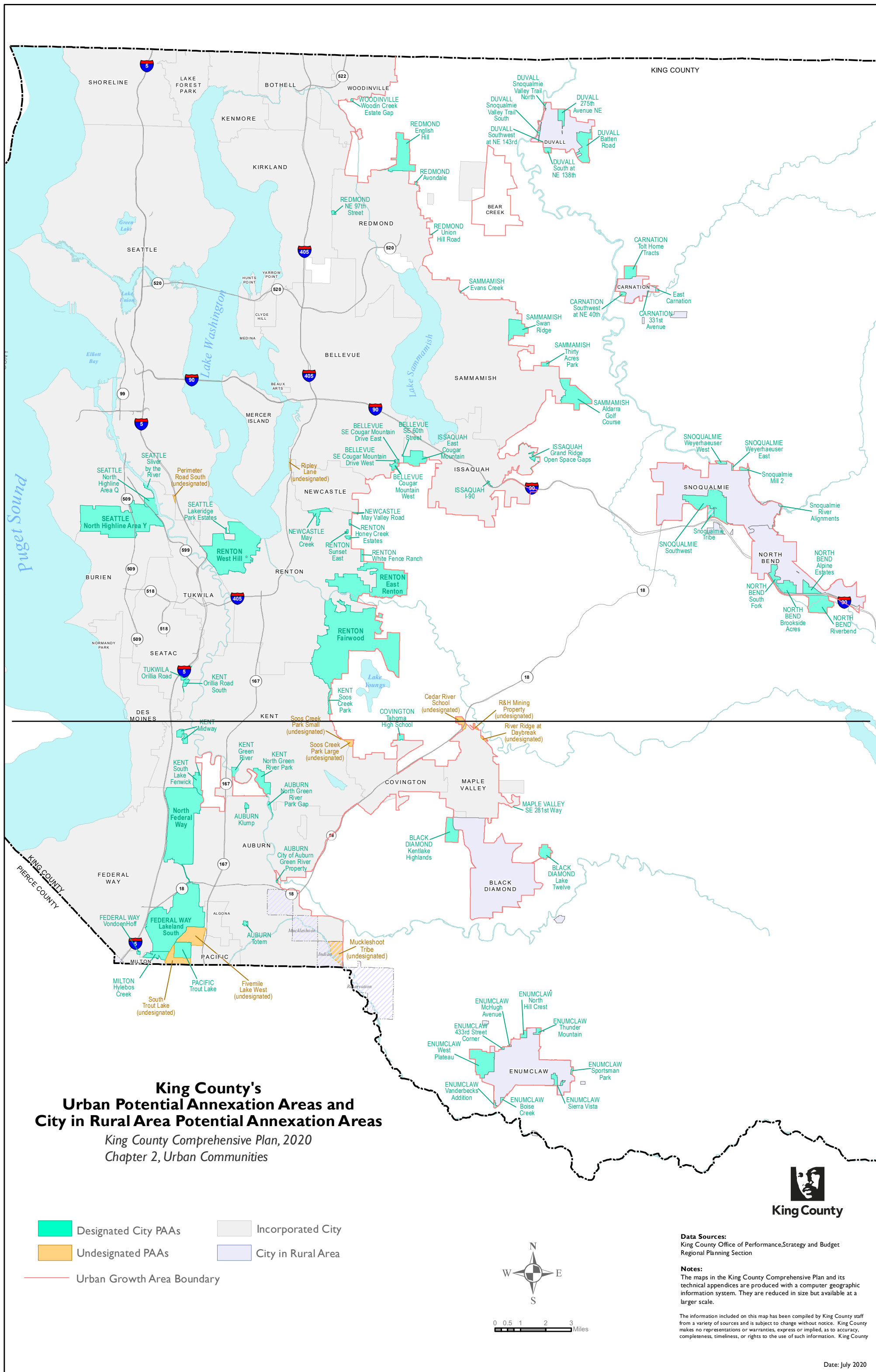
~~The Eastside Rail Corridor is a former freight-rail facility railbanked under the National Trails System Act, 16 USC 1247(d), extending approximately 19 miles on its mainline from Renton to Woodinville with an approximately seven mile "spur" extending from Woodinville to Redmond. King County, the cities of Redmond and Kirkland, Sound Transit, and Puget Sound Energy have acquired Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway's~~

(BNSF) property interests in the Eastside Rail Corridor and have established a shared policy goal of dual use (recreational trail and public transportation), supporting mobility through transit, nonmotorized and active transportation, including access to transit outside the corridor, consistent with its federal railbanked status. The owners share other multiple objectives for the corridor, including accommodating utilities, parks, recreation and cultural amenities, and encouraging equitable access to these facilities, and to housing and jobs, in support of economic opportunity for all King County residents.

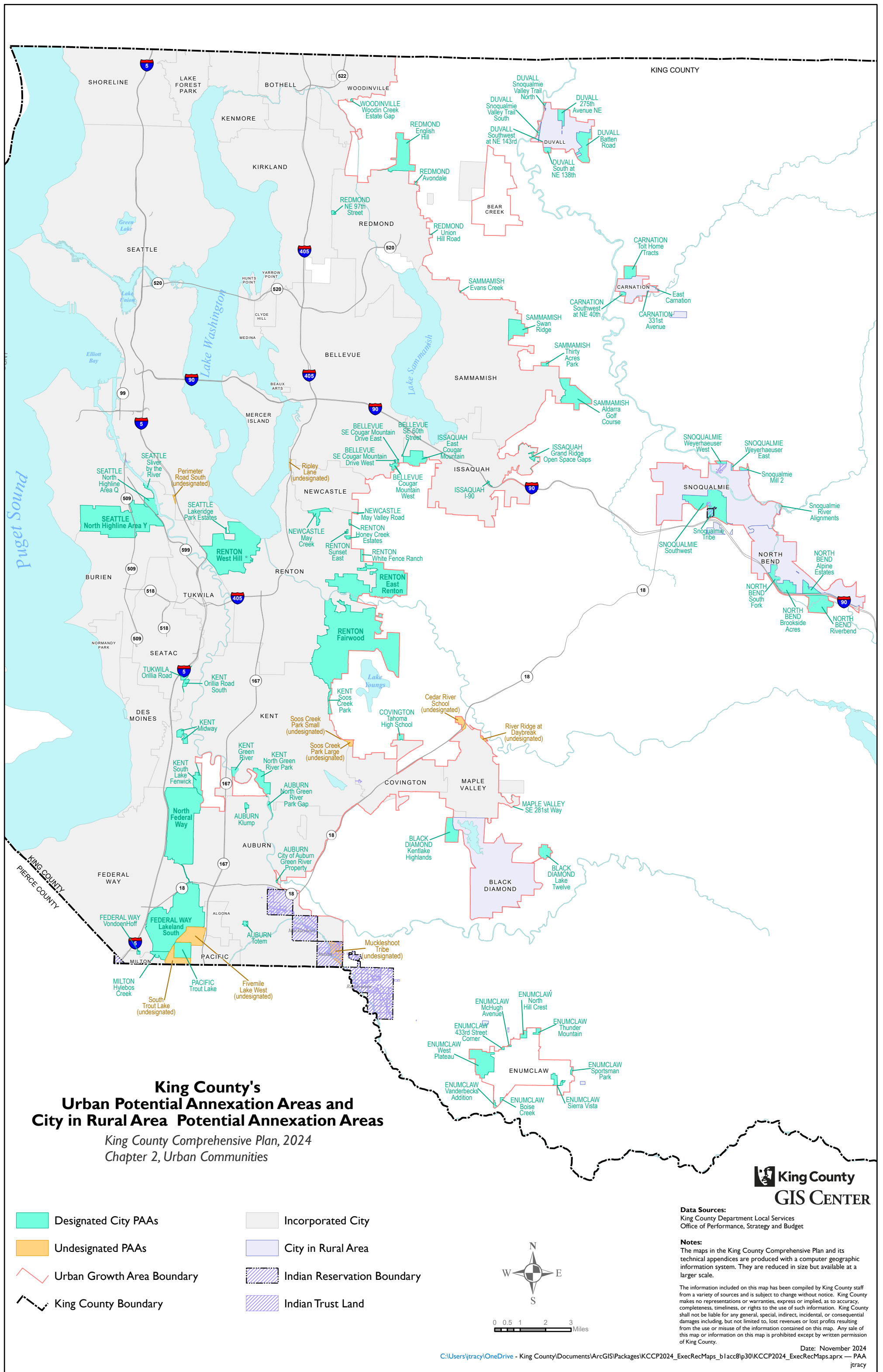
**~~U-191 — King County shall collaborate with all Eastside Rail Corridor owners, adjacent and neighboring jurisdictions, and other interested and affected parties in support of achieving a vision for the corridor that includes dual use (recreational trail and public transportation) and supports multiple objectives, consistent with federal railbanking.~~**

**~~U-192 — King County shall identify and implement actions that support development of the Eastside Rail Corridor to include dual use (recreational trail and public transportation), consistent with federal railbanking, and to achieve multiple objectives, such as actions to include property management and maintenance, service and capital planning and improvements, community and stakeholder engagement, securing funding to implement priority activities, and other actions.~~**

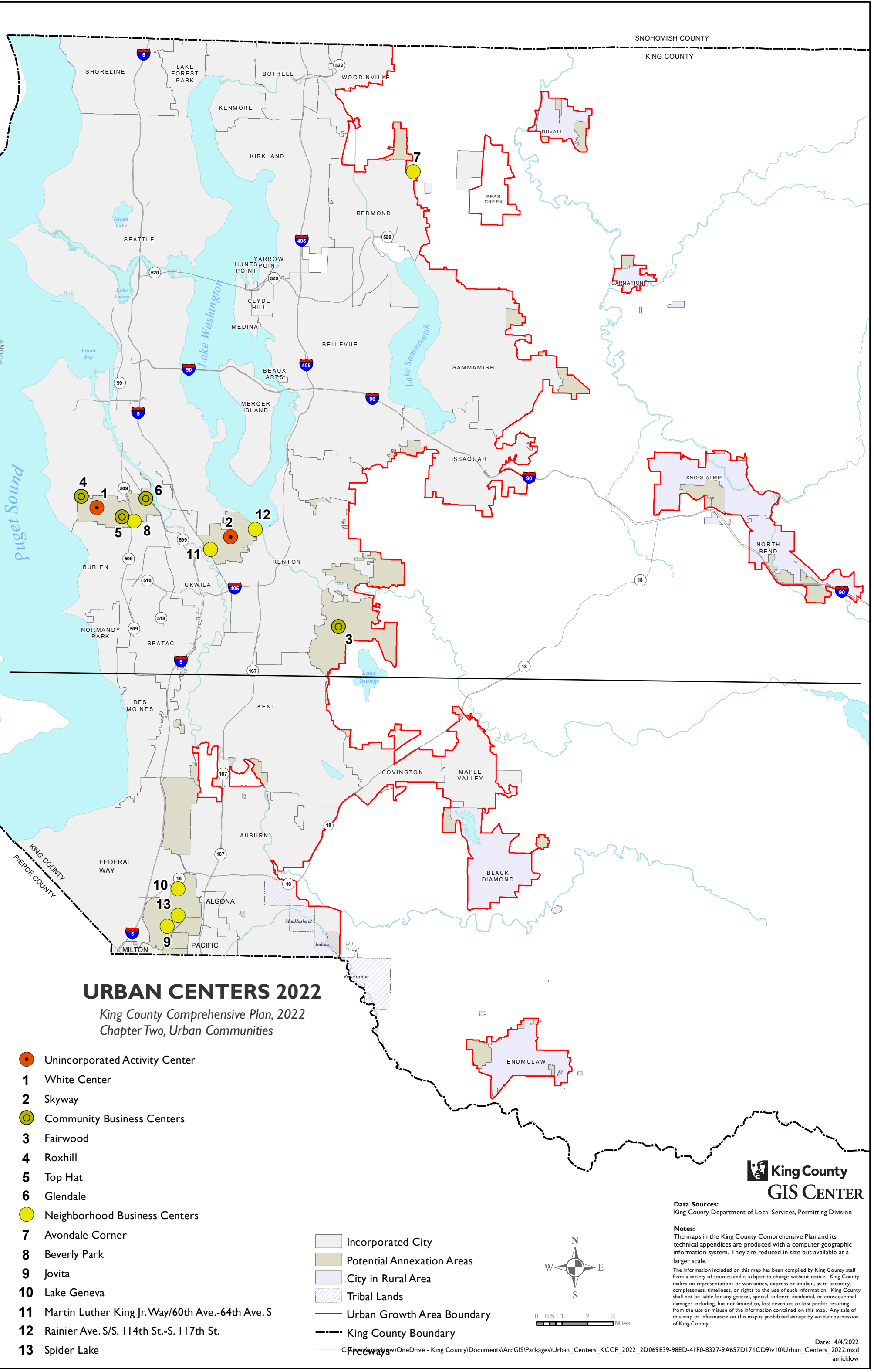
**~~U-193 — King County shall work within all appropriate planning venues and processes to integrate the Eastside Rail Corridor into land use plans, transportation system plans, trail system plans, utility plans, and other plans, including significant capital projects or plans that affect and relate to dual use (recreational trail and public transportation), consistent with federal railbanking, and achieving multiple objectives for the corridor.))~~**









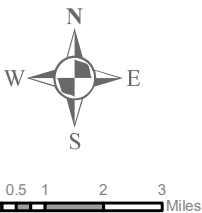


URBAN CENTERS 2022

King County Comprehensive Plan, 2022  
Chapter Two, Urban Communities

- Unincorporated Activity Center
- 1 White Center
- 2 Skyway
- Community Business Centers
- 3 Fairwood
- 4 Roxhill
- 5 Top Hat
- 6 Glendale
- Neighborhood Business Centers
- 7 Avondale Corner
- 8 Beverly Park
- 9 Jovita
- 10 Lake Geneva
- 11 Martin Luther King Jr. Way/60th Ave.-64th Ave. S
- 12 Rainier Ave. S/S. 114th St.-S. 117th St.
- 13 Spider Lake

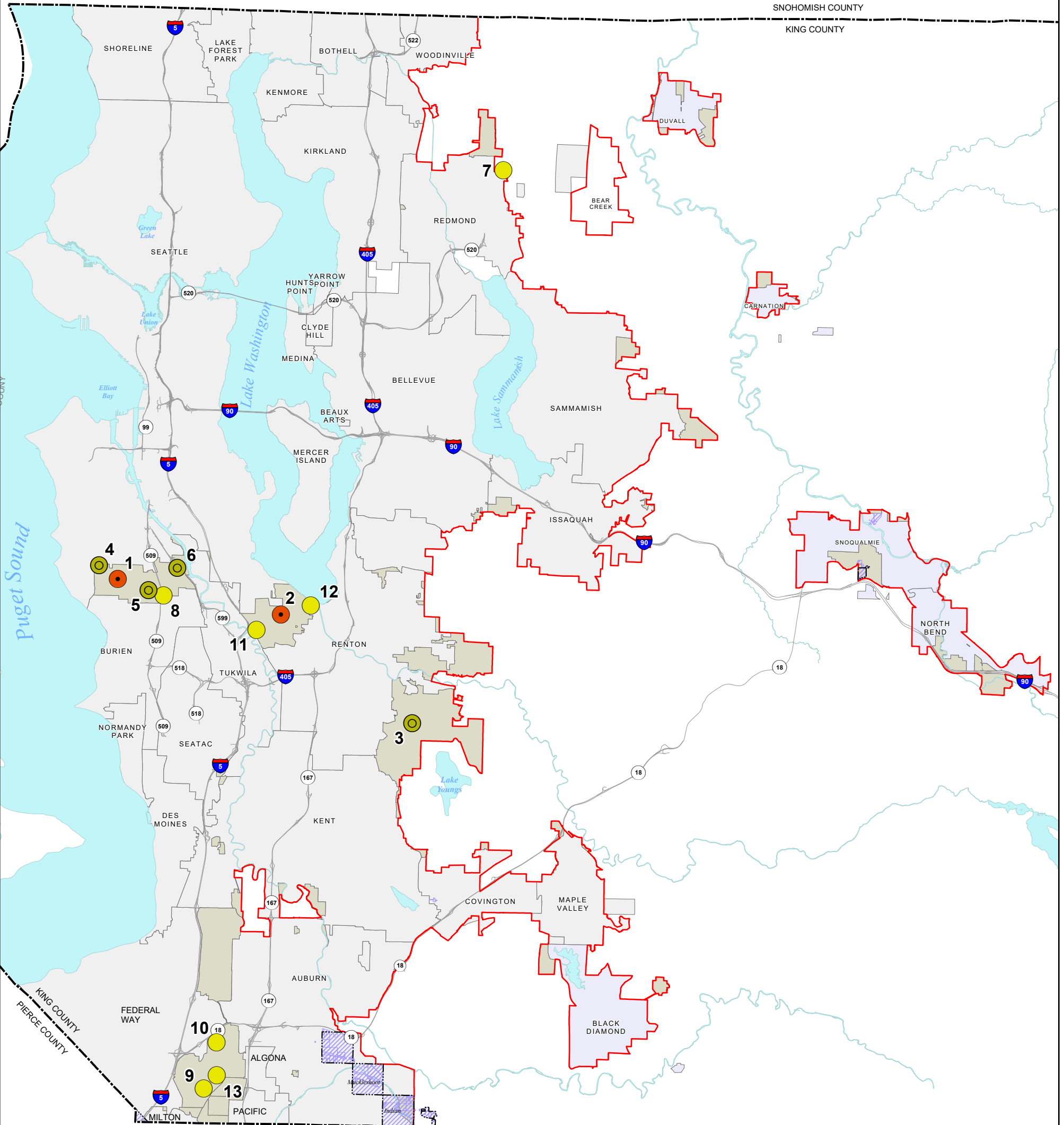
- Incorporated City
- Potential Annexation Areas
- City in Rural Area
- Tribal Lands
- Urban Growth Area Boundary
- King County Boundary
- Freeways



Data Sources:  
King County Department of Local Services, Permitting Division

Notes:  
The maps in the King County Comprehensive Plan and its technical appendices are produced with a computer geographic information system. They are reduced in size but available at a larger scale.  
The information included on this map has been compiled by King County staff from a variety of sources and is subject to change without notice. King County makes no representations or warranties, express or implied, as to accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or rights to the use of such information. King County shall not be liable for any general, special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages including, but not limited to, lost revenues or lost profits resulting from the use or misuse of the information contained on this map. Any sale of this map or information on this map is prohibited except by written permission of King County.

Date: 4/4/2022  
amicklow



**COUNTYWIDE AND LOCAL CENTERS  
IN UNINCORPORATED KING COUNTY**  
*King County Comprehensive Plan, 2024  
Chapter Two, Urban Communities*

- Unincorporated Activity Center
- 1 White Center
- 2 Skyway
- Community Business Centers
- 3 Fairwood
- 4 Roxhill
- 5 Top Hat
- 6 Glendale
- Neighborhood Business Centers
- 7 Avondale Corner
- 8 Beverly Park
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- 13 Spider Lake

- Incorporated City
- Potential Annexation Areas
- City in Rural Area
- Indian Reservation Boundary
- Indian Trust Land
- Urban Growth Area Boundary
- King County Boundary
- Freeways



**Data Sources:**  
King County Department Local Services  
Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

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## CHAPTER 3

# **RURAL AREA(~~S AND~~) & NATURAL RESOURCE LANDS**



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3

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~~Rural King County is an essential part of the County's rich diversity of communities and lifestyle choices, encompassing landscapes of scenic and great natural beauty. This chapter sets forth the County's intent and policies to ensure the conservation and enhancement of rural communities and natural resource lands.~~

5

6

~~In addressing these Rural Area needs, this chapter also comprises the rural land use designations, such as Rural Area, Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, and Rural Towns. It also addresses the designated Natural Resource Lands, which include lands designated Agriculture, Forest, or Mining on the Land Use Map.))~~

# I. Introduction

## ~~((1. — Growth Management Act Goals, Elements, and Requirements))~~

The "Rural Area History and Character," "Rural Area Geography," "Rural Densities and Development," and "Rural Commercial Centers" ((S))sections ((I through V)) of this chapter satisfy the Growth Management Act's mandatory rural element by designating Rural Area lands ((in order)) to limit development and prevent sprawl, by permitting land uses that are supportive of and compatible with the rural character established in the King County Countywide Planning Policies, and by providing for a variety of rural densities. These sections also satisfy the mandatory land use element by indicating the population densities that are appropriate for the Rural Area. The policies in these sections also encourage natural resource-based industries and uses in the Rural Area as required by the Growth Management Act.

The "Natural Resource Lands" ((S))section ((V)) of this chapter satisfies ((Growth Management Act Goal 8 to maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries;)) the Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.170 requirement to designate Natural Resource Lands; and the Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.080 optional conservation element by conserving Natural Resource Lands.

Preserving rural King County plays a key role in ensuring a continuing variety of landscapes, maintaining the diverse communities that often portray the county's rural ((legacy)) history and character, and supporting the evolving rural economic opportunities for the county and its residents. The rural landscape is characterized by extensive forests and farm lands, free-flowing rivers and streams that provide high-quality habitat for fish and wildlife, and a mixture of housing types along with small commercial enterprises and business hubs. The Rural Area(s) and rural-based economies contribute to the range of choices and enhance the quality of life ((of)) for all county residents. ((The Growth Management Act and the King County Strategic Plan envision different landscapes, infrastructure, and level of services for urban and rural communities.)) King County is committed to sustaining rural economic clusters and rural character.

Traditional rural economic activities have evolved over the decades as residents have responded to changing markets and the expansion of urban areas. Large-scale, commercial forestry and mining have been and continue to be the traditional land uses in the eastern half of King County. Farming continues in the prime soils found in the river valleys and on the Enumclaw Plateau. Although certain historically prevalent types of agriculture such as hops farming have disappeared, and the number of dairy farms has declined, today's farmers are exploring new crops, value-added products, and creative direct marketing. County residents raise livestock, such as poultry, cattle, sheep, ((llamas, alpacas, and buffalo)) hogs, and goats. Equestrian activities, including breeding, training, boarding, and recreation, have become a more significant part of the rural economy. The types of businesses now locating in the Rural Towns and Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers and those being developed as home-based businesses have also responded to these changes in the county, and in the commercial market((-))place.

~~((The glacial soils and terrain that give King County its natural beauty also create significant environmentally critical areas, such as steep, erodible slopes, wetlands and groundwater recharge areas. Maintenance of tree cover, natural vegetation and wetlands are critical to the continued functioning of the ecosystem and preservation of rural character. The interplay of forest cover, soils and water are essential to watershed health, ensuring adequate unpolluted groundwater recharge, stormwater runoff flow control and pollution reduction, carbon sequestration and habitat functions.))~~



Conserving the Rural Area(s) and Natural Resource Lands in King County is integral to providing diversity in lifestyle choices; sustaining farming((, livestock,)) and forestry economies; protecting environmental quality and wildlife habitat; providing recreation opportunities; and maintaining a link to the county's resource-based heritage.

## ~~((2. — Equity and Social Justice Initiative~~

~~It is the county's goal to consider Equity and Social Justice in its planning, project development and local government service delivery throughout the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. Policies consistent with the county's Environmental and Social Justice Initiative in this chapter are related to local service delivery, natural resources, food systems and economic development determinants, respectively.~~

~~In its role as a local government in the unincorporated area, King County is committed to work to reduce inequities and provide opportunities by incorporating the values of the county's Equity and Social Justice work into the daily practice of developing policies and programs, making funding decisions and delivering services.~~

~~Policies in this chapter also support healthy built and natural environments by protecting Natural Resource Lands from development and ensuring a mix of land uses that support rural jobs, natural resource-based businesses and conserved open spaces that provide environmental services such as clean air, clean water and wildlife habitat. Agricultural policies support local food systems and provide access to affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate foods for county residents. Agricultural policies in this chapter that implement the county's 2015 Local Food Initiative address the need to bring additional land into food production, to improve access to technical and financial resources for farmers that need them, and make local food more accessible in underserved communities.~~

~~Additional policies related to economic development in the agriculture and forestry sectors are located in Chapter 10, Economic Development.~~

~~The King County Rural Forest Commission and Agriculture Commission advise the county on the development and implementation of strategies, programs, policies and regulations that affect rural communities and resource lands. The members of these advisory boards are chosen to represent the diverse interests of affected rural residents and business owners.~~

## ~~3. — Rural Area and Communities))~~

~~Throughout this chapter and elsewhere the Comprehensive Plan, references are made to the "Rural Area" and to "Natural Resource Lands." This terminology aligns with two of the three geographies delineated in the Growth Management Act: the Urban Growth Area, the Rural Area, and Natural Resource Lands.~~

- ~~The "Rural Area" (capitalized) is a geography that includes the Rural Area (ra) land use designation and Rural Area (RA) zoning classifications. The Rural Area geography also includes other zoning classifications and land use designations on properties that are also located outside of the Urban Growth Area and Natural Resource Lands, such as Rural Towns and Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers.~~
- ~~If only the Rural Area land use designation (ra) or Rural Area zoning (RA) are meant, the words "land use designation" or "zone" (or equivalent term) will be included, respectively.~~
- ~~"Natural Resource Lands" (capitalized) are a separate geography from the Rural Area and include lands of long-term commercial significance that are required to be~~

designated and protected under the Growth Management Act, such as Agricultural Production Districts, Forest Production Districts, and Mineral lands.

- There are also other, non-designated resource lands (lower-case) that are not of long-term commercial significance that occur in the Rural Area geography.
- The term "rural" (lower-case), such as in "rural character" or "rural history," can apply to both the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands geographies.

Refer to the Glossary for more information about how these terms are used in the Comprehensive Plan.

~~((Understanding and c))~~Conserving the unique characteristics of the Rural Area and ~~((each of the county's distinct rural communities))~~ Natural Resource Lands will help King County retain its rural character and ~~((it's))~~ its agricultural, forestry, and mining heritage.

King County's Rural Area, including communities such as the Hobart Plateau, Vashon-Maury Island, the Snoqualmie Valley, and the Enumclaw Plateau, ~~((are))~~ is characterized by low-density residential development, farms, ranches, forests, watersheds crucial for both fisheries and flood hazard management, mining areas, ~~((small cities and towns,))~~ historic sites and buildings, archaeological sites, and regionally important recreation areas. These rural uses complement and support the more extensive resource uses in the ~~((designated))~~ Natural Resource Lands. The location of the Rural Area between the Urban Growth Area and the ~~((designated))~~ Natural Resource Lands helps to protect commercial agriculture and timber from incompatible uses.

Designation and conservation of the Rural Area supports and sustains rural communities and rural character as valued parts of King County's diversity. It also provides choices in living environments; maintains a link to King County's heritage; allows farming~~((; livestock uses,))~~ and forestry to continue; and helps protect environmental quality and ~~((sensitive resources))~~ critical areas, such as groundwater recharge areas and watersheds crucial for both fisheries and flood hazard management. Rural King County also acts to enhance urban areas by providing ~~((a safe and reliable local food source,))~~ nearby open spaces and parks for a variety of recreation and tourism opportunities, ~~((and))~~ as well as educational opportunities to explore current and ~~((historic))~~ historical agricultural and forestry practices.

~~((The purpose of the zoning and land use designations in the Rural Area is to provide services and limited goods that satisfy rural residents' and local businesses' daily needs.~~

#### ~~4. —~~ Resource Lands))

The growing, ~~((harvest))~~ harvesting, extraction, processing, and use of products from ~~((the))~~ Natural Resource Lands play an important role in King County's economy by providing jobs and products for local use and export. Agricultural and forest lands also provide scenic views, links to King County's cultural heritage, and environmental benefits such as wildlife habitat, improvements in air and water quality, food security, a climate-resilient ecosystem, and carbon sequestration. In large measure, King County's quality of life is dependent upon the thoughtful planning and sound management of these lands to ensure their long-term conservation and productive use.

~~((The population growth in the Puget Sound Region since 1945 has resulted in the conversion of agricultural and forest lands to other uses, and the reduction of mining opportunities. The natural resource land base has diminished for many reasons, among them the demand for more land for urban land uses, fragmentation of large acreages into rural residential properties, loss of infrastructure such as local processing facilities for resource-based industries, and the high cost of land. Since 1994, when King County~~

designated its Resource Lands of long term significance under Growth Management Act, it has been much more successful in retaining these areas:

Section VI contains King County's strategy for conservation of these valuable resource lands and for encouraging their productive and sustainable management. The strategy consists of policies to guide planning, incentives, education, and regulation. Although Section VI focuses on the designated Resource Lands of long term commercial significance, many of the policies are applicable to farm, forest and mineral lands in the Rural Area as well:))

## II. ((Rural Area)) Rural History and Character

### A. Rural ((Legacy)) History and Communities

King County's rural ((legacy)) history and character is found in ((the rich history of)) its rural communities ((and continues today)), in the preservation of the county's historic, cultural, ecological, and archaeological sites, and ((to)) in its rich and varied forestry, agricultural, and mining heritage. ((The)) Development of railroads played a significant role in the ((historic)) historical growth and development of the county((; its legacy)) that is still seen in tourism opportunities in the Cities in the Rural Area such as Skykomish and Snoqualmie. Historic barns and farmhouses are found throughout the agricultural areas of the county. A few commercial-scale ((Lumber)) sawmills influenced the development of communities, such as ((the Rural Commercial Neighborhood Center of)) in Preston, ((where the mill site is still in existence and historic photos adorn the walls of the community center. Chapter 7, Parks Open Space and Cultural Resources of this Comprehensive Plan provides the direction and policies for preserving the county's rural heritage. The policies that relate to conserving the farms and forests in King County are discussed in sections II and VI of this chapter)) which was active from 1896 to 1990 and is now preserved as part of Preston Mill Park.

**R-101      King County ((will)) shall continue to preserve and sustain its rural ((legacy)) history, character, and communities through programs and partnerships that support, preserve, and sustain its historic, cultural, ecological, agricultural, forestry, and mining heritage through collaboration with Indian tribes, local and regional preservation and heritage programs, community groups, rural residents, and business owners including forest and farm owners, ((rural communities, towns, and c))Cities in the Rural Area, and other interested ((stakeholders)) parties.**

### B. Rural Character

((The Growth Management Act requires the protection of traditional rural activities and rural character:)) King County is committed to protecting rural character and recognizes that each of its rural communities has distinct and unique characteristics. These communities vary depending on settlement and economic history, geography, and distance from the urbanizing areas of the region. For example, residents of Vashon-Maury Island, accessible ((only)) mainly by ferry((; sea or air)), enjoy an island((; leisurely and scenic)) lifestyle with marine recreational activities. Residents of the hilly gorge region around Black Diamond enjoy numerous recreational opportunities. There are small communities throughout rural King County, such as Hobart and Cumberland, each with its own unique history and lifestyle. Other communities with rich rural heritages, such as Old Maple Valley, are in transition as development of land in and adjacent to the

areas is occurring. In the Snoqualmie Valley, farming is still the mainstay, while further east, the Town of Skykomish has a significant railroad and forestry history.

Population growth in Puget Sound communities affects rural character everywhere in the region. ~~((King County was once firmly rooted in agriculture, forestry and mining. However, w))~~ With regional growth both the rural economy and the rural population are changing, as are the expectations of some rural residents for ~~((c))~~ County services. Some residents are more accustomed to independent lifestyles focused around resource uses such as farming~~((, dairying, keeping of livestock,))~~ or forestry. Other residents and visitors can be surprised by the sights, sounds, and smells associated with rural living; and can be accustomed to higher levels of service and facilities than are traditionally provided in the Rural Area. One of the challenges facing the ~~((c))~~ County is to provide for a diversity of lifestyle choices while providing public services at rural levels. ~~((As the county recognizes a profound difference between the nature and character of unincorporated rural King County as compared to the urban areas, it is the intent of the county to continue to provide services at established rural levels that support and help maintain rural character.~~

## ~~C.~~ Public Engagement

~~In order to implement its goals, objectives, and strategies for broader public engagement, King County has created several Community Service Areas that encompass all of unincorporated King County, including areas without representation by any Unincorporated Area Council. The Community Service Areas provide a conduit for greater participation by all residents in unincorporated King County and increase opportunities for residents to inform county decisions relating to programs and capital projects within each Community Service Area.))~~

## III. Rural ~~((Designation))~~ Area Geography

### A. ~~((Rural Area Designation Criteria))~~ Designation of the Rural Area Geography

The Rural Area ~~((designation))~~ in King County represents the multi-use nature of rural lands, including working farms and forests, livestock uses, home-based businesses, and housing. The sustainability and enhancement of these areas and their underlying economic health is critical to the range of lifestyle choices available in King County. It is a fundamental objective of the King County Comprehensive Plan to maintain the character of its designated Rural Area. The Growth Management Act specifies that the rural element of comprehensive plans include measures that apply to rural development and protect the rural character of the area (Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.070). The Growth Management Act defines rural character as it relates to land use and development patterns (Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.030). Rural development can consist of a variety of uses that are consistent with the preservation of rural character and the requirements of the rural element. In order to implement the Growth Management Act, it is necessary to define the development patterns that are considered rural, historical, or traditional and do not encourage urban growth or create pressure for urban facilities and service.

The criteria set forth in this section were used to draw the boundaries of the Rural Area designated by this plan.

**R-201** ~~((It is a fundamental objective of the King County Comprehensive Plan to maintain the character of its designated Rural Area. The Growth Management Act specifies the rural element of comprehensive plans~~



include measures that apply to rural development and protect the rural character of the area (Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.070(5). The Growth Management Act defines rural character as it relates to land use and development patterns (Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.030(15). This definition can be found in the Glossary of this Plan.) Rural development can consist of a variety of uses that are consistent with the preservation of rural character and the requirements of the rural element. In order to implement Growth Management Act, it is necessary to define the development patterns that are considered rural, historical or traditional and do not encourage urban growth or create pressure for urban facilities and service.

Therefore,)) King County's land use regulations and development standards shall protect and enhance the following attributes associated with rural character and the Rural Area:

- a. The natural environment, particularly as evidenced by the health of wildlife and fisheries (especially salmon and trout), aquifers used for potable water, surface water bodies including Puget Sound and natural drainage systems and their riparian ((corridors)) areas;
- b. Commercial and noncommercial farming, forestry, fisheries, mining, home((-)), occupations, and home industries;
- c. Historic resources, historical character, and continuity important to local communities, as well as archaeological and cultural sites important to Indian tribes;
- d. Community small-town atmosphere, safety, and locally owned small businesses;
- e. Economically and fiscally healthy Rural Towns and Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers with clearly defined identities compatible with adjacent rural, agricultural, forestry, and mining uses;
- f. Regionally significant parks, trails, and open space for all King County residents;
- g. A variety of low-density housing choices compatible with adjacent farming, forestry, and mining, and not needing urban facilities and services;
- h. Traditional rural land uses of a size and scale that blend with ((historic)) historical rural development; and
- i. Rural uses that do not ((include)) primarily ((urban-serving facilities)) serve the urban area.

R-202

The Rural Area geography shown on the ((King County Comprehensive Plan)) Land Use Map shall include areas that are rural in character and ((meet one or more of the following criteria)) that:

- a. Have ((Ø))opportunities ((exist)) for significant commercial or noncommercial farming and forestry (large-scale farms and forest lands are designated as Natural Resource Lands);
- b. ((The area will h))Help buffer nearby Natural Resource Lands from conflicting urban uses;
- c. ((The area is)) Are contiguous to other lands in the Rural Area, Natural Resource Lands, or ((large, predominantly environmentally)) areas largely comprised of critical areas;
- d. ((There are)) Have major physical barriers to providing urban services at reasonable cost, or ((such areas)) that will help foster more logical boundaries for urban public services and infrastructure;
- e. ((The area is)) Are not needed for the foreseeable future that is well beyond the 20-year forecast period to provide capacity for population or employment growth;

- 325                   f. ~~((The area has))~~ **Have outstanding scenic, historic, environmental,**  
326                   **resource, or aesthetic values that can best be protected by a rural**  
327                   **designation; or**  
328                   g. ~~Have ((S))significant ((environmental constraints))~~ **critical areas that**  
329                   **make the area generally unsuitable for intensive urban**  
330                   **development.**  
331

332       The Rural Area geography is generally located east of the Urban Growth Area, with the  
333       exception of the entirety of Vashon-Maury Island. Within the Rural Area, three land use  
334       categories are primarily applied:

- 335       • Rural Area (encompassing the Rural Area-2.5, Rural Area-5, Rural Area-10, and Rural  
336       Area-20 zones), allowing a range of low-density residential developments, forestry,  
337       farming, livestock uses, recreation, and a range of traditional rural uses;  
338       • Rural Towns, recognizing historical settlement patterns and allowing commercial  
339       uses to serve rural residents; and  
340       • Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, allowing small-scale convenience  
341       services for nearby rural residents.  
342

343       ~~((While the Growth Management Act, the Countywide Planning Policies and King~~  
344       ~~County's policies and regulations call for protecting the Rural Area by limiting housing~~  
345       ~~densities, there are many other features in addition to density that characterize the Rural~~  
346       ~~Area. Some of the most important features include integration of housing with~~  
347       ~~traditional rural uses such as forestry, farming and keeping of livestock; protection of~~  
348       ~~streams, wetlands and wildlife habitat; preservation of open vistas, wooded areas and~~  
349       ~~scenic roadways, and availability of and reliance on minimal public services. King~~  
350       ~~County is committed to maintaining these features as well, and the policies in this~~  
351       ~~chapter call for continuing and expanding upon these efforts:))~~  
352

353       **R-203       ((King County's)) The Rural Area geography is considered to be**  
354       **permanent and shall not be redesignated to ((an)) be in the Urban**  
355       **Growth Area ((until reviewed pursuant to)) except when consistent with**  
356       **the Growth Management Act (Revised Code of Washington**  
357       **36.70A.130(((3))))). ((and)) the Countywide Planning Policies, and the**  
358       **Comprehensive Plan.**

## 359       B.   Forestry and Agriculture in the Rural ((King 360       County)) Area Geography

361       ~~((The Rural Area includes working farms and forests. These contribute to rural~~  
362       ~~character, the diversity and self-sufficiency of local economies, and open space, wildlife~~  
363       ~~habitat, flood hazard management, and environmental quality. However, Rural Area~~  
364       ~~land in farm and forest use has diminished since 1985, mostly through the conversion of~~  
365       ~~these lands to residential uses. Pressures to convert from resource use include the high~~  
366       ~~land value for alternative uses and the encroachment of residential and other~~  
367       ~~development that conflicts with the resource use:))~~  
368

369       Although most of King County's agriculture and timber lands are within designated  
370       Agricultural and Forest Production Districts, there is a significant land base for  
371       agriculture and forestry in the Rural Area. King County has ~~((studied this land base, has))~~  
372       mapped agricultural use(;) and ~~((has))~~ identified rural forest areas where forestry will be  
373       enhanced and protected. Efforts to conserve ~~((the))~~ forest(;) and farm~~((, and livestock))~~  
374       uses are important and include training, technical assistance, and incentive programs  
375       such as the Transfer of Development Rights Program ~~((as presented in Section III))~~.  
376

**R-204 Farming and forestry are vital to the preservation of rural King County and should be encouraged throughout the Rural Area. King County should encourage ~~((the retention of existing and establishment of new))~~ rural resource-based uses, with appropriate site management that protects habitat resources. King County's regulation of ~~((farming, keeping of livestock,))~~ agriculture and forestry in the Rural Area should be consistent with these guiding principles:**

- a. Homeowner covenants for new subdivisions and short subdivisions in the Rural Area should not restrict farming and forestry;**
- b. Development regulations for resource-based activities should be tailored to support the resource use and its level of impact;**
- c. Agricultural and silvicultural management practices should not be construed as public nuisances when carried on in compliance with applicable regulations, even though they may impact nearby residences; and**
- d. County environmental standards for forestry and agriculture should protect environmental quality, especially in relation to water and fisheries resources, while encouraging forestry and farming.**

**R-205 Uses related to and appropriate for the Rural Area include those relating to agriculture, forestry, mineral extraction, and fisheries, such as the raising of livestock, growing of crops, ~~((creating))~~ creation of value-added products, and sale of agricultural products; small-scale ~~((cottage))~~ home occupations and home industries; and recreational and small-scale tourism uses that rely on a rural location.**

~~((Most of the policies related to agriculture and forestry are found in the Resource Lands section (Section VI) of this chapter. Many of these policies are relevant to agriculture and forestry in the Rural Area as well as in the designated Agricultural and Forest Production Districts.~~

~~The importance of farming and forestry to the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands was first emphasized in the 1994 Comprehensive Plan. Subsequently, the county took steps to encourage the continuation of farm and forestry practices in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, including developing a *Farm and Forest Report* in 1996. The report recommended a series of actions to protect the rural farm and forest land base as well as the practices of farming and forestry, including the provision of technical assistance to aid property owners in land management, outreach to owners of properties vulnerable to development, creating opportunities for property owners to sell their development rights, and seeking funding for public acquisition of rural properties that had an existing resource-based use. The report also recommended the continuation of the King County Agriculture Commission and the appointment of a Rural Forest Commission to review the impact of proposed regulations on rural forestry and recommend incentive programs.))~~

## **1. Forestry**

~~((Since 1996, King County has been actively implementing the recommendations of the *Farm and Forest Report* through the Forestry Program.)) Throughout the Rural Area, King County encourages small -scale forestry and land stewardship through a variety of ~~((land owner incentive))~~ landowner-focused and community-based programs. ~~((that))~~ These programs provide technical assistance and information to promote forest stewardship that:~~

- ~~a. ((Promote forest stewardship through education and technical assistance programs, such as the Washington State University Extension Forest Stewardship Programs~~

- b. ~~Provide technical assistance and information to landowner groups and community associations seeking to implement land/water stewardship, management of stormwater runoff, habitat restoration and management plans;~~
- c. ~~Create opportunities and incentives for voluntary, cooperative management of woodlots and open space currently in separate ownership;~~
- d. ~~Offer technical assistance and information to landowners who are interested in managing their forest for non-timber specialty forest products;~~
- e. ~~Explore opportunities for providing relief from special levies and assessments;~~
- f. ~~Conduct projects on King County park lands to demonstrate sustainable forestry practices;)) Improves forest health and climate resiliency, reduces wildfire risk, controls stormwater runoff, and improves wildlife habitat; and~~
- ~~((g.)) b. ((Provide education and assistance in the control of)) Controls noxious and invasive weeds, ((including information on)) through methods such as integrated pest management and protection of pollinators((in accordance with the best management practices established by the Environmental Protection Agency and Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, and as implemented by the King County Noxious Weeds Program)).~~

The ~~((e))~~County encourages forest stewardship planning and active forest management as a means of reducing conversion of forestland to other uses, improving forest health and climate resiliency, increasing rural economic prosperity, increasing potential to sequester and store carbon, and reducing risks from wildfire. Hundreds of landowners have written forest stewardship plans and have enrolled in current use taxation programs, ~~((demonstrating))~~ which demonstrates a commitment to private forest management.

~~((The county has worked with the Rural Forest Commission to identify and propose changes to the King County Code to remove impediments to the implementation of forest stewardship plans. However, t))~~The small size of most rural forest properties presents ~~((another))~~ an obstacle to implementation of private forest stewardship plans. Because the volume of timber harvested at any one time is usually small, it is difficult for landowners to find forestry services or log buyers. Many contractors do not consider small sites to be forestland with potential management opportunities, and they have not developed the tools and skills to work with small sites. There is untapped potential for work to be done by the private sector on small private forestlands. Outreach to forestry consultants and labor contractors concerning the potential small lot forest market is needed. Continuing forestry technical assistance and cost share to landowners, who otherwise are unlikely to pursue management activities, will encourage active forest stewardship and rural economic development.

King County continues to explore ways to facilitate the harvest, utilization, and marketing of wood products grown in the Rural Area.

**R-206 ((The)) King County shall prioritize conservation of forest land and forestry throughout the Rural Area ((shall remain a priority for King County)). Landowner property tax incentives, technical assistance, permit assistance, regulatory actions, and community-based education shall be used throughout the Rural Area to sustain the forest land base and forestry activities. King County should ensure that its regulations, permitting processes, and incentive programs facilitate and encourage active forest management and implementation of forest stewardship plans.**

~~((The Forestry Program will))~~ King County continues to evaluate additional ways to conserve rural forest lands and encourage forestry. For example, King County's Land

Conservation Initiative is a regional collaboration between King County, cities, businesspeople, farmers, environmental partners, and others to conserve the last, most important natural lands and urban green spaces in King County between 2016 and 2050. It calls for a series of accelerated actions to address rapidly shrinking open spaces and climbing land prices, which is estimated to save \$15 billion over what it would take under the previous land conservation trajectory and will protect many of these lands before they are lost. The initiative has identified approximately 20,000 acres of forestland that are high priorities for conservation, either through easement or fee title acquisition, or through one of the current use taxation programs. ~~((In addition, King County has identified properties for acquisition, and has worked))~~ King County will work in partnership with other jurisdictions and ~~((stakeholder groups))~~ community partners to match high priority sites with funding sources for permanent conservation.

King County owns and manages approximately ~~((26,000))~~ 30,000 acres of forestland. Of this, ~~((3,850))~~ 4,300 acres (14 percent) are designated as working forests ~~((Taylor Mountain Forest, Ring Hill, Sugarloaf, Island Center, Dockton, Mitchell Hill, Tokul Creek and Preston Ridge forests. The county has extended its forest stewardship program to implement active management for forest health on other forested open space properties:))~~ In support of the goals outlined in the Strategic Climate Action Plan, the County is accelerating development and implementation of forest stewardship plans for County-owned forestland to improve forest health, enhance climate resilience, reduce wildfire risk, and increase potential to sequester carbon. The ~~((c))~~ County has also conserved more than 142,000 acres of forested properties by purchasing ~~((the))~~ development rights and over 230,000 acres of privately owned forestland through the current use taxation programs. ~~((These properties remain in either private ownership or under Washington State Department of Natural Resources ownership:))~~

Although economic incentive programs and technical assistance are available to all property owners of forestland in the Rural Area ~~((interested in pursuing small-scale forestry))~~, special efforts to maintain forest cover and the practice of sustainable forestry are warranted where there are opportunities to sustain large, contiguous blocks of rural forest adjacent to or in close proximity of the Forest Production District. The Agricultural and Forest Lands map identifies such areas as Rural Forest Focus Areas and notes the locations and boundaries of each focus area.

**R-207      King County shall designate Rural Forest Focus Areas ~~((are identified geographic areas))~~ where special efforts are necessary and feasible to maintain forest cover and the practice of sustainable forestry. King County shall continue to target funding, when available, ((new)) economic incentive programs, regulatory actions, fee and easement acquisition strategies, and ((additional)) technical assistance to the Rural Forest Focus Areas. Strategies specific to each Rural Forest Focus Area ((shall)) should be developed, employing the combination of incentive and technical assistance programs best suited to each focus area.**

**R-208      King County should maintain ~~((The))~~ Rural Forest Focus Areas ~~((should be maintained))~~ in parcels of 20 acres or more, ~~((in order))~~ to retain large, contiguous blocks of rural forest. Regulations and/or incentives should seek to achieve a maximum density of one home per 20 acres.**

## **2. Farming**

~~((The 1996 Farm and Forest Report provided a series of strategies for conserving farmland and sustaining farming both within the designated Agricultural Production District where some of the County's best agricultural soils are found and outside the Agricultural Production District, where there continues to be a significant amount of farming. A 2013 aerial photo survey identified about 12,000 acres of Rural Area land in~~



active agriculture, much of it in livestock production:)) The King County Local Food Initiative is a strategy that aims to build a stronger farm-to-plate pipeline by setting targets and connecting local farms to consumers, increase access to healthy and affordable foods in underinvested areas, support farmers and protect farmland, and create a sustainable food system that is more resilient to the effects of climate change. King County has a long history of conserving and sustaining farmland both within and outside of Agricultural Production Districts and continues to adapt strategies in expanding the County's local food economy to ensure job growth, economic viability, and climate resiliency for King County food businesses and farms. Although most active farmland in King County is found within Agricultural Production Districts, approximately 40 percent of the County's farmland is located in the Rural Area.

**R-209 King County should develop incentives to encourage agricultural activities ((in the remaining)) on prime farmlands located outside the Agricultural Production District. These incentives could include tax credits, expedited permit review, reduced permit fees, permit exemptions for activities complying with best management practices such as regenerative agriculture, assistance with agricultural waste management, or similar programs.**

~~((The raising and management of livestock and the production of associated products are components of the county's agricultural economy. Livestock raised in the county includes, but is not limited to, cattle, buffalo, sheep, hogs, llamas, alpacas, goats, and poultry:))~~

**R-210 King County shall support((s)) the raising and management of livestock and the production of related value-added products. The management of livestock and the lands and structures supporting the raising of livestock(;) should be consistent with industry best management practices ((and must comply with county, state, and federal regulations related to the specific industry)).**

~~((Additional policies related to farming can be found in Section VI. Resource Lands.))~~

## ~~((III))~~ **IV. Rural Densities and Development**

### **A. Rural Growth Forecast**

~~((The Growth Management Act requires new growth to be substantially accommodated in Urban Growth Areas, yet growth may be permitted outside the Urban Growth Area provided it is not urban in character:))~~

The Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands are restricted from accommodating large amounts of growth, but low-density residential development and other traditional rural uses are allowed. ~~((The Growth Management Act requires that rural development be contained and controlled to ensure the protection of rural character, assure the visual compatibility of rural development with the surrounding Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, protect environmentally critical areas and habitat, and protect against conflicts with natural resource uses, such as farming, forestry, and mining.~~

In 2009, the Growth Management Planning Council adopted urban area targets to accommodate the most recent countywide population projections supplied by the state. These urban targets assumed Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands forecast of fewer than 6,000 additional housing units during the period 2006 to 2031. No attempt has been made to allocate this rural forecast to subareas of rural King County. As

targets will not be updated until approximately 2019, these assumptions remain unchanged:))

Rural growth is projected as a part of King County's countywide population projection and growth target allocation process. While the Rural Area is not assigned a growth target, the Regional Growth Strategy shares are used to project growth in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. Approximately 4,200 additional housing units during the period 2019 to 2044 are assumed in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.

~~((Since adoption of King County's initial Comprehensive Plan under the Growth Management Act in 1994, annual building permit activity in the Rural Area and on Natural Resource Lands has continued to drop to an average of less than 200 new building permits per year since 2007. Between 2000 and 2010)) Between 2010 and 2020, the Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands grew by about ((4,000)) 500 housing units to a total of approximately 49,000 and a population of about 128,000. ((However, the population of these areas actually declined slightly during the decade, and stood at 124,000 in 2010. Since then, the population has grown slightly. Application of new zoning measures and other regulatory tools have helped to reduce subdivision activity. The current rate of 200 new homes per year could continue for decades.)) At the current rate of growth, the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands will continue to have undeveloped lots through the 20-year planning period.~~

Prior to the implementation of the Growth Management Act in 1994, approximately 12 percent of new residential units were permitted in the Rural Area and on Natural Resource Lands in King County. By 2010, that growth was reduced to approximately two percent, and since 2020, it was approximately one percent. King County continues to employ a variety of strategies to reduce growth in these areas, such as: directing 99 percent of new growth to urban areas, consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy; utilizing the Transfer of Development Rights program, Farmland Preservation Program, and Land Conservation Initiative to purchase development rights and permanently reduce development capacity on over 150,000 acres of rural lands and Natural Resource Lands; and preventing the extension of urban services to and through the Rural Area.

~~((The application of lower-density zoning or more restrictive standards could reduce the creation of new lots, but there are limited opportunities to address development of existing legal lots. One measure that would slow the growth rate on existing lots would be the establishment of an annual limit on the number of building permits to be issued in the Rural Area and on Natural Resource Lands. This alternative would be more palatable if it were linked to a development rights transfer or purchase program.))~~

**R-301     King County shall use all appropriate tools at its disposal to limit growth in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, such as land use designations, development regulations, level of service standards, and incentives, to:**

- a.   Retain ((A)) a low growth rate ((is desirable for the Rural Area, including Rural Towns and Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, to));**
- b.   ((c))Comply with the State Growth Management Act((:));**
- c.   ((continue preventing)) Prevent sprawl, the conversion of rural land, and the overburdening of rural services((:));**
- d.   ((r))Reduce the need for capital expenditures for rural roads((:));**
- e.   ((m))Maintain rural character((:));**
- f.   ((p))Protect the environment; and**
- g.   ((r))Reduce ((transportation-related)) greenhouse gas emissions. ((All possible tools may be used to limit growth in the Rural Area. Appropriate tools include land use designations, development regulations, level of service standards and incentives.))**

- R-302 King County should support opportunities for rural affordable housing, such as through affordable housing regulatory incentives where appropriate, accessory dwelling units, and middle housing, when the housing:**
- a. Would not, when taken in total with other development in the Rural Area and on Natural Resource Lands, exceed one percent of new growth in King County;**
  - c. Is sized, scaled, and designed to protect rural character; and**
  - d. Would be able to be served by existing levels of service.**

## B. Residential Densities

The low-density residential living choices available in the Rural Area provide an important part of the variety of housing options for King County residents. The residential land use policies in this section, together with their implementing regulations, strike a balance between making rural housing available to those who desire a rural way of life and keeping densities and the number of housing units low enough so they can be supported by a rural level of public facilities and services, be compatible with nearby ((commercial and noncommercial)) farming and forestry, and prevent or significantly reduce adverse impacts of development on the natural environment.

((These policies and implementing regulations could allow 14,000 to 24,000 more housing units at ultimate buildout in addition to the roughly 45,000 residences existing in the designated Rural Area in 2000. The Transfer of Development Rights Program will help reduce development capacity in the Rural Area, and King County should continue to seek other programs that provide economic incentives for property owners to voluntarily limit residential development of their land.))

- R-((302))303 Residential development in the Rural Area should only occur ((as follows)):**
- a. In Rural Towns at a variety of densities and housing types as services and infrastructure allow, compatible with ((maintenance)) protection of historic resources and community character; ((and))**
  - b. In rural neighborhood commercial centers at low or middle densities that support housing co-located with commercial development, to provide workforce housing, compatible with rural character and service levels; and**
  - c. Outside Rural Towns and rural neighborhood commercial centers at low densities compatible with traditional rural character and uses((:)); farming, forestry, and mining; and rural service levels.**

((The use of land and the density of development (measured as the number of homes or other structures per acre or per square mile of land) are)) Residential densities are a key determinant((s)) and contributor((s)) to the character of the Rural Area((, as described above in Section A. Although human settlement of King County's)). Although the Rural Area has a wide variety of uses and densities, ((both the historical and desirable)) the range of uses and densities defined here are necessarily narrower and less intense than that found in the Urban Growth Area. ((Residential development at very low densities (including the land for accessory uses, on-site sewage disposal and local water supply) consumes or will consume most of the land in the Rural Area.)) Residential density may be the single((:)) most important factor in protecting or destroying rural character that can be influenced by government policies and regulations.

Low overall densities in the Rural Area ((will be)) are achieved through very large minimum lot sizes or limited clustering at the same average densities when facilities and services permit (((for example, soil conditions allow on-site sewage disposal on smaller

lots)). The Rural Area cannot be a significant source of affordable housing for King County residents, but it will contain diverse housing opportunities ~~((through a mix of large lots, clustering, existing smaller lots))~~, and higher densities are offered in Cities in the Rural Area and Rural Towns((;)) (as services and infrastructure permit).

**R-((303))304 Rural Area zoned properties ((should)) shall have low residential densities that:**

- a. ~~((c))~~Can be sustained by minimal infrastructure improvements, such as septic systems and rural roads((;));
- b. ~~((should c))~~Cause minimal environmental degradation and impacts to significant historic resources((;)); and
- c. ~~((that w))~~Will not cumulatively create the future necessity or expectation of urban levels of services.

**R-((304))305 ~~((Rural Area zoned residential densities shall be applied in accordance with R-305 - R-309. Individual zone reclassifications are discouraged and should not be allowed in the Rural Area. Property owners seeking i))~~Individual zone reclassifications ((should)) are discouraged and should not be allowed in the Rural Area unless the applicant demonstrates compliance with the applicable criteria in Policies R-305 - R-((309))308.**

~~((Although King County designated Resource Lands and zoned extensive portions of its territory as Agricultural Production Districts or Forest Production Districts, v))~~Very low residential densities adjacent to Natural Resource Lands are essential to minimize land use conflicts. In addition, a significant part of the Rural Area land base is still used for farming or forestry uses. Therefore, suitability of lands for continuing resource uses and proximity to ~~((designated n))~~Natural Resource Lands ~~((will be))~~ are important considerations in applying the lower rural densities.

**R-((305))306 A residential density of one home per ~~((20))~~ 10 acres or ~~((10))~~ 20 acres shall be achieved through regulatory and incentive programs on lands in the Rural Area that are managed, preserved, or prioritized for forestry or farming respectively, and lands that are found to qualify for a Rural Forest Focus Area designation in accordance with Policy R-207.**

**R-((306))307 A residential density of one home per 10 acres shall be applied in the Rural Area where:**

- a. The lands are adjacent to or within one-quarter mile of ~~((designated Agricultural Production Districts, the Forest Production District or legally approved long-term mineral resource extraction sites))~~ Natural Resource Lands; ((or))
- b. The lands contain moderate or significant ~~((environmentally constrained))~~ critical areas; ~~((as defined by county ordinance, policy or federal or state law, or regionally significant resource areas or substantial critical habitat as determined by legislatively approved basin plans or Watershed Resource Inventory Area Plans; and))~~ or
- c. ~~((The predominant lot size is greater than or equal to 10 acres in size))~~ A residential density of one home per five acres would harm or diminish the surrounding area, burden infrastructure, increase development pressure, or be inconsistent with the development patterns promoted by the Comprehensive Plan.

**~~((R-308)) R-308~~ A residential density of one home per five acres shall be applied in the Rural Area where:**

- a. The lands are more than one-quarter mile away from Natural Resource Lands;
- b. The lands ~~((is))~~ are physically suitable for development with minimal ~~((environmentally sensitive features))~~ critical areas ~~((or~~

critical habitat as determined by legislatively adopted watershed  
based plans)); and  
((b. Development can be supported by rural services;  
c. The land does not meet the criteria in this plan for lower density  
designations; and  
d. The predominant lot size is less than 10 acres.))  
c. This residential density would not harm or diminish the  
surrounding area, burden infrastructure, increase development  
pressure, or be inconsistent with the development patterns  
promoted by the Comprehensive Plan.

((Although King County intends to retain low residential densities in the Rural Area,  
residential development has occurred in the past on a wide variety of lot sizes. Both  
existing homes on small lots and rural infill on vacant, small lots contribute to the variety  
of housing choices in the Rural Area. In some cases, however, rural-level facilities and  
services (e.g. on-site sewage disposal, individual water supply systems) may not permit  
development of the smallest vacant lots. Policy R-309 recognizes that some of the Rural  
Area has already been subdivided at a density greater than one lot per five acres (for  
example, parts of the shoreline of Vashon-Maury Island) when the original 1994  
Comprehensive Plan was adopted, and applied a zoning category to just those  
properties in existence at that time. Zoning to implement policies R-306 through R-309  
has been applied through subarea and local plans and area zoning maps:

**R-309)) R-309** The RA-2.5 zone has generally been applied to properties in the  
Rural Area((s)) with an existing pattern of lots below five acres in size  
that were created prior to the adoption of the 1994 Comprehensive  
Plan. These smaller lots may still be developed individually or  
combined, provided that applicable standards for sewage disposal,  
environmental protection, water supply, roads, and rural fire protection  
can be met. A subdivision at a density of one home per 2.5 acres shall  
only be ((permitted)) allowed through the Transfer of Development  
Rights from property in the designated Rural Forest Focus Areas. The  
site receiving the density must be approved as a Transfer of  
Development Rights receiving site in accordance with the King County  
Code. Properties on Vashon-Maury Island shall not be eligible as  
receiving sites.

((Accessory dwelling units provide opportunities for affordable housing, on-site housing  
for workers and caretakers, housing for extended family members, and rental income  
for landowners. However, detached accessory dwelling units function similarly to  
separate homes on separate lots and should be treated as such. When a subdivision is  
proposed for a property that already has a house and a detached accessory dwelling  
unit, the house and accessory dwelling unit shall count as two units. For example, on an  
RA-5 zoned 20-acre parcel, which could be subdivided into four lots, the existing  
primary dwelling and the accessory unit in a separate building shall count as two of the  
four units allowed on the site:))

**R-310** Accessory dwelling units in structures detached from the primary  
dwelling shall be counted as a separate dwelling unit for the purpose  
of lot calculations under the zoning in place at the time of a proposed  
subdivision.



**~~((R-311)) R-311 ((The)) King County ((Residential Density Incentive)) density-based affordable housing ((P))programs shall not be available for development in the Rural Area zones.~~**

## **~~((E)) C.~~ Character and Development Standards**

The aesthetic qualities and character of the Rural Area depend on a combination of factors, including low densities; a high ratio of undeveloped or undisturbed soil and natural or crop vegetation to development (impervious surfaces), such as roads and structures; historic buildings and landscapes; and minimal development standards, public facilities, and services beyond those needed for environmental protection and basic public health and safety.

**~~((R-330)) R-312~~ New subdivisions in the Rural Area should strive to maintain the size and scale of traditional development patterns and rural character.**

**~~((R-331)) R-313~~ New subdivisions in the Rural Area should be designed and developed to maximize conservation of existing forest cover and native vegetation, and to minimize impervious surfaces within individual lots and in the subdivision as a whole. King County ~~((shall develop additional site design standards for new subdivisions that further reduce the impacts of new homes in the Rural Area))~~ should continue to evaluate whether existing subdivision standards and new subdivisions in the Rural Area minimize impacts on the natural environment, resource uses, and other adjacent land uses.**

**~~((R-332)) R-314~~ Site design standards for new subdivisions in the Rural Area should include: minimization of impervious surfaces; maximizing retention of native soil and vegetation; supporting green stormwater infrastructure; site layout and landscaping that minimizes wildfire risk; limitations on entrance signage; preservation of natural contours, existing meadows, and opportunities for keeping of horses; and other standards to limit features typical of urban or suburban development.**

**~~((R-333)) R-315~~ Rural residential development adjacent to Agricultural and Forest Production Districts shall be sited to minimize interference with activities related to resource uses. Residences next to the Forest Production District shall be built with greater setbacks from the Forest Production District boundaries for safety and to reduce nuisance complaints.**

**~~((ED-502)) R-316~~ In the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, King County shall provide assistance through development of customized stewardship plans for individual properties, to help property owners understand their properties' characteristics and the potential impacts of their actions, and to make sustainable land management choices that protect natural resources.**

**~~((R-334)) R-317~~ To maintain traditional rural development patterns and ~~((assure))~~ ensure continued opportunities for resource activities in the Rural Area, large lot development is preferred in the Rural Area. Clustering of lots is only ((permitted)) allowed when:**

- a.** The development provides equal or greater protection of the natural environment, natural resource lands, historic resources, or archaeological sites;
- b.** Clusters are limited in size to be compatible with surrounding large lots or nearby agricultural and forestry uses;
- c.** The clustered development is offset with a permanent open space or resource land tract preserved for forestry or agriculture, as

designated by the owner at time of subdivision or short subdivision, or a permanent open space tract. Under no circumstances shall the tract be reserved for future development; and

- d. The development can be served by rural facilities and service levels (such as on-site sewage disposal and fire protection).

((Resource and open space tracts often require stewardship over time to control stormwater runoff and associated pollutants, prevent or control invasive species encroachment and to restore forest health, species diversity, and wildlife habitat structure.

**R-335)) R-318** When a resource or open space tract is created as part of a plat, the ((c))County should require a stewardship plan to ensure appropriate management of the tract.

((Low-density development in the Rural Area will have different residential street needs from those in the Urban Growth Area. Travel demand is generally lower on rural roads and road maintenance is a proportionately greater per capita cost than in the Urban Growth Area.

Rural streets and roads outside Rural Towns generally will have no more than two travel lanes, no curbs or sidewalks and feature unpaved shoulders and open drainage ditches. Local access streets for residential subdivisions will constitute a significant proportion of the site disturbance and impervious surface associated with new development in the Rural Area and therefore must take the environment into consideration equally with traffic flow and vehicular access.

**R-336)) R-319** King County shall continue to support the rural development standards that have been established to protect the natural environment by addressing seasonal ((and maximum)) clearing limits, impervious surface limits, and resource-based practices. Stormwater management practices should be implemented that emphasize preservation of natural drainage systems((, protect)) and protection of water quality and natural hydrology of surface waters and groundwater. Rural development standards should also, where feasible, incorporate and encourage ((t))low ((t))impact ((t))design principles for managing stormwater ((onsite)) on-site by minimizing impervious surfaces, preserving ((onsite)) on-site hydrology, retaining native vegetation and forest cover, capturing and reusing rainwater, controlling pollution at the source, and protecting groundwater. King County shall take care that requirements for ((onsite)) on-site stormwater management complement requirements for ((onsite)) on-site wastewater management.

**((R-336a** To help achieve the goal of reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions associated with new construction, King County should adopt and implement green building codes that are appropriate, ambitious and achievable.

## **E. Promoting Public Health in the Rural Area for AH))**

Planning for and features of the built environment are important in providing healthy, safe places for people regardless of whether the setting is rural or urban. The built environment refers to various physical features, such as buildings, parks, and roadways, and their spatial arrangement in neighborhoods and communities. These features influence public health through the range of choices provided for engaging in various

activities. For example, well((-))designed roads can enhance the safety and walkability of neighborhoods, while having a park or other gathering place to come together with family, friends, or community members can strengthen social and mental health and increase community cohesiveness. People with access to places to play are twice as likely to reach recommended levels of physical activity than those who have little or no access. ((See Chapter 2, Urban Communities, for additional information on the linkages between the built environment and various aspects of health.))

Many locations in King County's Cities in the Rural Area(;) and Rural Towns((-and Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers)) function as important hubs for their respective communities because they provide shops and services. Parks, schools, or other public services within walking distance of these community hubs cannot always be safely or conveniently reached without a car. Opportunities for daily physical activity can be increased by establishing safe walking and bicycling connections to and within these rural hubs.

In addition to physical activity, another major determinant of health is what people eat. Everything from quality and location of food retail outlets and restaurants to food cost to school food choices influence the food choices of rural residents. ((According to data from national surveys, adults in the United States consume on average only 1.1 and 1.7 servings of fruits and vegetables daily.)) There are people in every community for whom hunger is a daily issue. Land use planning can play a role in providing and improving access to healthy foods. Garden plots located in neighborhoods, parks, vacant lots, surplus public rights-of-way, and public utility lands in various communities can be used as places to grow fruits and vegetables, build community, and address hunger. Similar locations in the Rural Area of King County should be explored for this purpose.

**((R-516)) R-320 ((Within Rural Towns and larger Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, non-motorized connectivity , where consistent with rural character,)) Connectivity for active transportation uses should be encouraged in Rural Towns and larger Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, where consistent with rural character, to promote ((walking and bicycling)) physical activity and to improve public health.**

**((R-517)) R-321 King County should explore ways of creating and supporting community gardens, ((F))farmers ((M))markets, produce stands, and other similar community-based food growing projects to provide and improve access to healthy, affordable food for all rural residents.**

**((R-517a)) R-322 King County shall promote children's health by encouraging and supporting land uses in the environment surrounding a school and on travel routes to schools that complement and strengthen other formal programs, such as Safe Routes to School, at a size and scale appropriate to the Rural Area.**

## D. Rural Nonresidential Uses

Although low-density residential development, farming, and forestry are the primary uses in the Rural Area, some compatible ((public and private)) nonresidential uses are appropriate and contribute to rural character. Compatible uses might include small, neighborhood ((churches)) religious facilities, feed and grain stores, produce stands, value-added products, forest product sales, and home occupations such as woodcrafters, small day care facilities, or veterinary services. In addition, it may be necessary to locate some public facilities in the Rural Area, such as utility installations that serve rural homes. Any allowed nonresidential uses should be designed to blend with rural residential development and resource uses.

**((R-324)) R-323 Nonresidential uses in the Rural Area shall be consistent with the other applicable policies in this chapter and limited to those that:**

- a. Provide convenient local products and services for nearby residents;
- b. Require location in a Rural Area;
- c. Support the economic vitality of natural resource-based industries;
- d. Provide adaptive reuse of significant historic resources; ((or))
- e. Provide recreational ((and)) or tourism opportunities that are compatible with the surrounding Rural Area;
- f. Provide or support infrastructure for nearby residents; or
- g. In Rural Towns and on industrial-zoned properties, involve commercial or manufacturing-related development.

**R-324 ((These)) Nonresidential uses in the Rural Area shall be sited, sized, and landscaped to complement rural character((as defined in policy R-101 and R-201)), prevent impacts to the environment, and function with rural services, including on-site wastewater disposal.**

**R-325 Golf facilities ((shall be permitted)) may be allowed as a conditional use in the RA-2.5 and RA-5 zones and when located outside of Rural Forest Focus Areas((, Regionally Significant Resource Areas and Locally Significant Resource Areas, as a conditional use, in the RA-2.5 and RA-5 zones)).**

**R-326 Daycare facilities in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands shall primarily serve residents of the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands.**

In 2011, a School Siting Task Force was convened at the request of the Growth Management Planning Council to examine the issue of siting schools in the Rural Area(s), including whether they may be served by sewers. The Task Force examined undeveloped rural properties owned by school districts and made recommendations as to their use or disposition. In its final report, the Task Force recommended that all future school siting be consistent with the policies in VISION 2040. Placing schools in cities in the Rural Area, or in Rural Towns, reduces transportation and environmental impacts, protects rural character, and allows schools to be served with urban-level utilities and fire protection and used efficiently for other community activities. Some of the properties listed in R-328 have already been developed or otherwise no longer apply; however, they are retained here for transparency and guidance for review of future redevelopment proposals.

**((R-326)) R-327 Except as provided in Policy R-((327))328:**

- a. New schools and institutions primarily serving rural residents shall be located in ((neighboring)) cities and ((r))Rural ((t))Towns;
- b. New schools, institutions, and other community facilities primarily serving urban residents shall be located within the Urban Growth Area; and
- c. New community facilities and services that primarily serve rural residents shall be located in ((neighboring)) cities and ((r))Rural ((t))Towns, ((with limited exceptions)) except when ((their use is)) dependent on a rural location and ((their)) at a size and scale that supports rural character.

**((R-327)) R-328 Consistent with the recommendations of the School Siting Task Force, included as Appendix ((Q)) F, in the Rural Area:**

- a. Except as otherwise provided in subsections d. and e. of this policy, an existing elementary, middle, or junior high school may be modified or expanded but shall not be converted to a high school;
- b. An existing high school may be modified or expanded or converted to an elementary, middle, or junior high school;

- c. Snoqualmie Valley 1: parcel number 1823099046, as shown on the King County Department of Assessments map as of March 31, 2012, may develop as a new school;
- d. Lake Washington 4: parcel numbers 0825069008 and 0825069056, as shown on the King County Department of Assessments map as of March 31, 2012, may develop as a new school and convert an existing school on the site to a high school use;
- e. Tahoma 1: parcel number 2622069047, as shown on the King County Department of Assessments map as of March 31, 2012, may develop as a new school and convert an existing school on the site to a high school use only if no feasible alternative site can be located within the Urban Growth Area;
- f. Lake Washington 2: parcel numbers 3326069010 and 3326069009, as shown on the King County Department of Assessments map as of March 31, 2012, may develop as a new school only if no feasible alternative site can be located within the Urban Growth Area, in which case it may be incorporated into the Urban Growth Area; and
- g. Enumclaw A and D: the rural portions of parcel numbers 2321069064, 2321069063, and 2321069062, as shown on the King County Department of Assessments map as of March 31, 2012, may develop as ballfields or recreational playfields only, for a school located on the urban portions of the parcels.

~~((R-328))~~ **R-329** Small airfields beyond those already established in the Rural Area should not be ~~((permitted))~~ **allowed**, due to their cumulative impacts on air traffic and nearby uses.

~~((R-329))~~ **R-330** Library services for the Rural Area should be provided by bookmobiles, or by libraries in Rural Towns or Cities in the Rural Area, **or may be allowed as an accessory use to a park or in a historic building in the Rural Area.**

**R-331** Master planned resorts as defined in Chapter 36.70A Revised Code of Washington shall not be allowed in unincorporated King County.

**R-332** ~~((Adoption of such codes may result in an increased use of~~ Renewable energy technologies ~~((that))~~ may be sited in the Rural Area~~((s))~~ and Natural Resource Lands, as appropriate. Development standards ~~((will seek to))~~ **should** ensure that the siting, scale, and design of these facilities respect and support rural character.

## ~~((IV. Rural Public Facilities and Services~~

~~The policies below set forth King County's general approach to providing services and setting facility standards for the Rural Area and provide guidance for siting those facilities that require Rural Area locations. See Chapter 8, Transportation, and Chapter 9, Services, Facilities and Utilities, for more detailed policies on specific facilities and services such as roads, on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems and water supply.~~

~~In order to) To~~ focus growth within the Urban Growth Area, financial resources must be prioritized to develop and maintain sufficient urban infrastructure and services in the Urban Growth Area to accommodate that growth. Further, the presence of a high level of public infrastructure and services has been demonstrated to create pressure for new growth. To use financial resources efficiently and reduce growth pressure in the Rural



Area and Natural Resource Lands, King County will not provide an urban level of infrastructure and services to the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. Chapter 8, Transportation, and Chapter 9, Services, Facilities, and Utilities, clarify King County's priorities for transportation and other facility improvements in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. The policies below set forth King County's general approach to providing services and setting facility standards for the Rural Area and provide guidance for siting those facilities that require Rural Area locations.

**~~((R-401))~~ R-333** King County shall work with cities and other agencies providing services to the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands to adopt standards for those partners' facilities and services in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. Those standards shall ((that)):

- a. ~~((p))~~Protect ~~((basic))~~ public health and safety and the environment~~((; but))~~;
- b. ~~((are))~~ Be financially supportable at appropriate densities;
- c. Provide services at an appropriate size and scale; and
- d. ~~((do n))~~Not require a substantial investment in public infrastructure or encourage urban development.

**~~((R-402))~~ R-334** Public spending priorities for facilities and services within the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands should be as follows:

- a. First, to maintain existing facilities and services that protect public health and safety;
- b. Second, to upgrade facilities and services when needed to correct level of service deficiencies without unnecessarily creating additional capacity for new growth; and
- c. Third, to support sustainable economic development that is sized and scaled at levels appropriate for the Rural Area(s) and Natural Resource Lands and does not ~~((foster))~~ promote urbanization.

~~((In 2014, King County adopted an update to the Rural Economic Strategies Plan, through Ordinance 17956; this ordinance provides guidance to economic development activities in the Rural Area, as well as on Natural Resource Lands, and is described in more detail in Chapter 10, Economic Development.~~

**~~R-403))~~ R-335** In the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, standards and plans for utility service should be consistent with long-term, low-density development and resource industries. Utility facilities that serve the Urban Growth Area but must be located in the Rural Area or on Natural Resource Lands (for example, a pipeline from a municipal watershed) should be designed and scaled to serve primarily the Urban Growth Area. Sewers needed to serve the previously established ~~((urban "islands,"))~~ Redmond Ridge, Redmond Ridge East, and Trilogy neighborhoods. Cities in the Rural Area, Rural Towns, or new or existing schools pursuant to Policies R-((327))328 and ((F-264)) F-453 shall be tightlined and have access restrictions precluding service to other lands in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.

## ~~((D. Non-Resource — Industrial — Uses — and Development Standards in the Rural Area))~~

There are ~~((three))~~ existing industrial-zoned areas in the Rural Area containing multiple industrial uses on several sites~~((One is located within the southwest portion of the Town of Vashon. The second is a designated industrial area adjacent to the Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center of Preston. The Preston Industrial Area recognizes an existing concentration of industrial uses that contributes to the economic diversity of the Rural Area, but expansion of this industrial area beyond the identified boundaries is not permitted (see Policy CP-547). The third industrial area is located along State Route~~

~~169 on lands that have been and continue to be used as for industrial purposes and~~  
~~have a designation as a King County Historic Site:)) in the following locations:~~

- ~~• Within the southwest portion of Vashon Rural Town;~~
- ~~• The Preston Industrial Area;~~
- ~~• Along State Route 169;~~
- ~~• Between Covington and Auburn; and~~
- ~~• East of Enumclaw along State Route 410.~~

**((R-512)) R-336** The creation of new Industrial zoned lands in the Rural Area shall be limited to those that have long been used for industrial purposes, that do not have potential for conversion to residential use due to a historic designation, and that may be accessed directly from State Route 169.

**((R-513)) R-337** Rural Public Infrastructure Maintenance Facilities, and agriculture and forestry product processing should be allowed in the Rural Area. Other new industrial ~~((uses))~~ developments in the Rural Area shall be ~~((permitted))~~ allowed only on existing Industrial-zoned properties in Rural Towns and ~~((in the designated industrial area adjacent to the Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center of))~~ the Preston Industrial Area.

~~((In order to preserve rural character and protect sensitive natural features, new rural industrial development in the Rural Area needs to be of a scale and nature that is distinct from urban industrial development. The scale and intensity and many of the uses allowed in urban industrial development are not appropriate for rural industrial areas. The following policy applies to all new industrial development in the Rural Area:~~

**~~R-514))~~ R-338** Development regulations for new industrial development on Industrial-zoned properties in the Rural Area shall require the following:

- a. **Greater setbacks, and reduced building height, floor/lot ratios, and maximum impervious surface percentage standards in comparison to standards for urban industrial development;**
- b. **Maximum protection of ~~((sensitive natural features))~~ critical areas, especially with regards to salmonid habitat and water quality;**
- c. **Building and landscape design that respects the aesthetic qualities and character of the Rural Area, and provides substantial buffering from the adjoining uses and scenic vistas;**
- d. **Building ~~((colors and materials that are muted;))~~ design that is compatible with a rural setting, signs that are not internally illuminated, and site and building lighting that is held to the minimum necessary for safety;**
- e. **Prohibition of ~~((H))~~ heavier industrial uses, new industrial uses producing substantial waste byproducts or wastewater discharge, or new paper, chemical and allied products manufacturing uses allowed in the urban industrial zone ~~((shall be prohibited))~~; and**
- f. **Industrial uses ~~((requiring))~~ be sized to avoid substantial investments in infrastructure, such as water, sewers, or transportation facilities, or facilities that generate substantial volumes of heavy-gross weight truck trips~~((, shall be reduced in size to avoid the need for public funding of the infrastructure))~~.**

~~((The intent of this policy is to preclude expansion of the industrial area beyond the identified boundaries and to ensure that new development (not previously constructed or vested) in the industrial area meets rural character standards. Site design,~~

landscaping, design and construction of internal and access roads and building scale should reinforce the set boundaries and rural nature of the industrial area to further discourage future industrial expansion beyond the industrial boundary.))

There are also existing, isolated industrial sites in the Rural Area that are recognized, but are not appropriate for new industrial uses. Further expansion of these isolated industrial uses is not encouraged, and therefore they are not zoned Industrial.

**((R-515)) R-339 Existing industrial uses in the Rural Area outside of Rural Towns((; the industrial area on the King County-designated historic site along State Route 169 or the designated industrial area adjacent to the Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center of Preston)) without Industrial zoning currently shall be zoned ((r))Rural ((residential)) Area but may continue if they qualify as legal((;)) conforming and/or nonconforming uses.**

## V. Rural Commercial Centers

((This section addresses Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, Rural Towns, Cities in the Rural Area, industrial uses in the Rural Area, and promoting public health in the Rural Area.))

The Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers((;)) and Rural Towns((, the Cities in the Rural Area, and non-resource industrial uses located in rural King County)) contribute to the vitality of the rural economy. ((Additionally, the Cities in the Rural Area and)) Rural Towns provide variety in development patterns and housing choices and provide employment opportunities, retail shopping, and other services to nearby residents((;)) ((These cities and towns also)) and contain a significant portion of King County's historic architecture and are the primary locations for nonresidential uses in the Rural Area. The Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers and Rural Towns provide limited, local convenience shopping, restaurants, and services to meet the daily needs of rural residents.

### A. Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center((s)) Designation

The Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center((s are)) land use designation is used to recognize existing small pockets of commercial development((s)), or in some cases, historic ((towns)) communities or buildings, that are too small to provide more than convenience shopping and services to surrounding residents. They generally do not have infrastructure or services such as water supply or sewage disposal systems any different from those serving the surrounding area. ((Examples of Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers include the store at Stillwater on the Carnation-Duvall Road, the town of Cumberland on the Enumclaw Plateau, and Preston. The county is implementing projects and exploring new options to ensure the continuation of the character and businesses in these important rural centers.))

The locations of existing nodes of lands designated as Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers are:

<u>Bear Creek/Sammamish:</u>	<u>Cottage Lake and Redmond-Fall City Road/236th NE</u>
<u>Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain:</u>	<u>Issaquah-Hobart Road/Cedar Grove Road SE, SE Renton-Issaquah Road and 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, and SE 128<sup>th</sup> Street/164<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE</u>

Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River: Renton-Maple Valley Road SE/State Route 18, Ravensdale, Hobart, Kangley, and Kanasket

Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County: Preston, Timberlane Village, and Baring

Southeast King County: Enumclaw-Black Diamond Road SE/SE Green Valley Road, Cumberland, Krain's Corner, Newaukum, and 228<sup>th</sup> Ave SE/State Route 164

Vashon-Maury Island: Burton, Dockton, Tahlequah, Portage, Heights Dock, Jack's Corner, Valley Center, Vashon Service Center, Vashon Heights, and Maury Island Service Center

~~((R-501))~~ **R-401** The uses allowed on lands with the Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center(~~(s designated on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map are))~~ land use designation shall be limited to:

- a. ~~((s))~~Small-scale ~~((business areas))~~ businesses that ~~((should))~~ provide convenience shopping and services for ~~((the surrounding community))~~ surrounding Rural Area and Natural Resource Land residents, such as retail, community and human services, and personal services; and
- b. Workforce housing, when part of a mixed-use development that is appropriately sized and scaled to be compatible with rural character.

**R-402** No new Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers are needed to serve the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. Expansion of the boundaries of the existing Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers shall ~~((not be permitted except))~~ only be designated through a subarea plan or area zoning and land use study.

~~((The designated Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers shown on the Land Use map are:~~

**Bear Creek:** Cottage Lake and Redmond-Fall City Road/236th NE

**East King County:** Greenwater, Baring and Timberlane Village

**Enumclaw:** Cumberland, Krain's Corner and Newaukum

**Newcastle:** Coalfield and East Renton Plateau

**Snoqualmie:** Preston and Stillwater

**Tahoma/Raven Heights:** Maple Valley, Hobart, Ravensdale and North Cedar Grove Road

**Vashon:** Burton, Dockton, Tahlequah, Portage, Heights Dock, Jack's Corner, Valley Center, Vashon Service Center, Vashon Heights and Maury Island Service Center

~~The policies in this section are based on a recognition of the limited size of most Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, the limited utilities and other services available to them, and a desire to preserve their existing character and relationship to the surrounding rural community:~~

~~**R-502** Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers should accommodate only small-scale retail, community and human services, and personal service uses that provide convenience shopping and services to nearby Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands residents:~~

~~R-503))~~ **R-403** King County commercial development standards for Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center(~~(s))~~ lands should facilitate economic

reuse of existing structures, minimize increases in impervious surfaces, and encourage retention of historic character and scale. Urban-level parking, landscaping, and street improvement standards are not appropriate for Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers except ((as demonstrated as being)) when needed to address the safety of the public.

((R-503a)) **R-404** ((Where appropriate,)) King County should allow the use of existing structures((?)) and parcels to accommodate Farmers Markets ((within)) on Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center((s)) lands.

## B. Rural Towns

Rural Towns are unincorporated towns governed directly by King County((, but may provide a focal point for community groups such as chambers of commerce or community councils to participate in public affairs)).

The purposes of the Rural Town designation are to recognize existing concentrations of higher density and economic activity in the Rural Area((, whether by virtue of historical rural settlements or redesignation of an urban commercial center)); provide a physical focus for the historic identity of rural communities; and allow for modest growth of residential and economic uses within these designations if supported by the community and adequate utilities and other public services are available. ((At the present time, t))The Rural Towns designated by the Comprehensive Plan are Fall City, Snoqualmie Pass, and ((the Town of)) Vashon. ((and are recognized as such within the Comprehensive Plan. The county supports the economic vitality of these communities and is offering programs and working with the businesses and residents in and near these communities to help ensure their continued economic health.))

Each of these three Rural Towns has unique features and needs, and therefore different standards may be appropriate for each, while meeting the purposes described above. For instance, Snoqualmie Pass is adjacent to a significant seasonal recreation area that draws thousands of visitors during the winter months. Fall City, on the other hand, is adjacent to prime agricultural land and can provide housing opportunities for seasonal agricultural workers. Vashon, accessible mainly by ferry and limited in terms of water supply, has natural constraints upon the type and intensity of development that can occur.

((Although higher-density development in Rural Towns may require public sewers, applying the full range of urban development standards (e.g. for street improvements or landscaping) may not be necessary, and may not be consistent with the historic character of these communities:)) Although Rural Towns ((also)) may ((in some circumstances)) develop at densities similar to those in the Urban Growth Area ((or in Cities in the Rural Area)), ((they)) Rural Towns are considered part of the Rural Area for purposes of the Growth Management Act, do not provide significant growth capacity, and are not subject to the growth targets adopted for the Urban Growth Area.

((R-507)) **R-405** Rural Towns shall serve as activity centers for the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. ((and)) may be served by a range of utilities and services, and may include several or all of the following land uses, if supported by necessary utilities and other services and if scaled and designed to protect rural character:

- a. Retail, commercial, and industrial uses to serve the surrounding Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands population;
- b. Residential development, including single((-family)) detached ((housing)) residences on small lots, as well as ((multifamily)) multiunit housing and mixed-use developments;



- c. Other retail, commercial, and industrial uses, such as resource industries, tourism, commercial recreation, and light industry; and  
d. Public facilities and services such as community services, parks, ((churches)) religious facilities, schools, and fire stations.

~~((R-504))~~ **R-406** King County designates ~~((the Rural Towns of))~~ Fall City, Snoqualmie Pass, and ~~((the Town of))~~ Vashon as unincorporated Rural Towns. These historical settlements in unincorporated King County should provide services and a range of housing choices for Rural Area residents. The boundaries of the designated Rural Towns are shown on the ~~((Comprehensive Plan))~~ Land Use Map. Adjustments to these boundaries shall only occur through a subarea plan or area zoning and land use study, and shall not allow significant increases in development potential or environmental impacts. No new Rural Towns are needed to serve the Rural Area.

~~((R-505))~~ **R-407** Commercial and industrial development that provides employment, shopping, and community and human services that strengthen the fiscal and economic health of rural communities should locate in Rural Towns if utilities and other services permit. ~~((Urban-level-p))~~ Parking, landscaping, and street improvement ((standards are not appropriate for Rural Towns)) should be scaled and designed to protect rural character. Sidewalks and other pedestrian safety measures should be provided to serve ~~((the))~~ Rural Towns.

**R-408** Roads in Rural Towns should, to the extent practical, allowed by law, and consistent with rural character, incorporate complete streets infrastructure, to enhance walkability and accommodate multimodal transportation, including active transportation users.

~~((R-506))~~ **R-409** Rural Towns may contain higher-density housing than ~~((permitted))~~ allowed in the surrounding Rural Area, and should provide affordable and resource-worker housing ~~((if utilities and other services permit. Development density in Rural Towns may approach that achieved in Cities in the Rural Area)).~~

~~((The policies in this section apply only to the unincorporated Rural Towns. King County encourages Cities in the Rural Area to adopt land use policies and development standards that protect and enhance their historical character.~~

~~R-508))~~ **R-410** Sewers may be allowed in Rural Towns if necessary to solve existing water quality and public health problems ~~((which))~~ that cannot be addressed by other methods, provided that any extension of sewer mains from urban areas to serve a Rural Town shall be tightlined systems designed to not serve any intervening lands. All alternatives shall be exhausted before sewers may be allowed. Rural Towns shall not be enlarged to facilitate provision of sewers.

~~((Rural and urban residents alike value the historic character of King County's Rural Towns. New development can enhance the character and valuable features of Rural Towns through careful design and location.~~

~~R-509))~~ **R-411** Rural Towns should be compact, promoting ~~((pedestrian and nonmotorized travel))~~ active transportation while ~~((permitting automobile))~~ allowing vehicle access to most commercial and industrial uses. New development should be designed to strengthen the desirable characteristics and the historic character of the town, be supported by necessary public facilities and services, and be compatible with historic resources and nearby Rural Area or Natural

**Resource Land uses. New industrial uses should locate where they do not disrupt pedestrian or bicycle traffic in established retail areas of town or conflict with residential uses.**

## ~~((€))~~ VI. Transfer of Development Rights Program

The Growth Management Act encourages the use of innovative techniques for land use management. King County has a long tradition of using such techniques, including programs promoting transfers of development rights, to achieve its land management goals. Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands face ongoing development pressure, yet the County must simultaneously plan for and allow future residential growth. This tension makes it incumbent on the County to strengthen its transfer of development rights efforts. For this reason, King County seeks to increase the number of development rights transfers via its Transfer of Development Rights Program to reduce and redirect rural development potential into urban areas.

To that end, King County promotes the transfer of development rights from land ~~((valuable to the public as undeveloped))~~ with conservation values whose protection creates public benefit ("sending sites"), to land better able to accommodate growth ("receiving sites"). The Transfer of Development Rights Program is a voluntary program that allows sending site landowners to achieve an economic return on their property while maintaining it in forestry, farming, habitat, ~~((parks,))~~ or open space in perpetuity. It also increases housing opportunities in Urban Area receiving sites where urban services and infrastructure can accommodate additional growth.

Sending site landowners choose to sever the right to develop their land from the land itself and sell their development rights to the King County Transfer of Development Rights Bank, or directly to receiving site landowners who are ~~((permitted))~~ allowed to build additional development capacity above the base density, but at or below the allowed maximum density under current zoning, with the purchase of Transferable Development Rights. ~~((When Transferable Development Rights are allocated to sending site property owners, the land is protected from future development in perpetuity through a conservation easement.))~~

In so doing, the Transfer of Development Rights Program: (1) benefits Rural Area and Natural Resource Land property owners by providing them financial compensation to not develop their land, (2) directs future Rural Area and Natural Resource Land development growth into urban areas, saving the County the cost of providing services to rural development, supporting County and regional growth management objectives, and yielding climate change benefits ~~((through reduced household transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions)),~~ and (3) permanently ~~((preserves))~~ conserves land through private market transactions. Transfer of Development Rights can also be used to permanently protect open space and ~~((parks))~~ natural resources in urban portions of the County while still focusing growth into other urban areas.

**((R-312)) R-501 ((As an innovative means to)) King County shall continue to operate an effective Transfer of Development Rights Program to:**  
**a. ((p)) Permanently ((preserve)) conserve private lands with countywide public benefit((;)):**  
**b. ((to e)) Encourage higher densities in urban areas; ((and))**  
**c. ((r)) Reduce residential development ((capacity)) potential and maintain low density in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, and on low-density urban lands along the Urban Growth Area boundary;**  
**d. Incentivize establishment of regional open space, as well as local open space in urban areas((, King County shall continue to operate an effective Transfer of Development Rights Program));**  
**e. Protect natural resources while preserving housing potential and incentivizing development in locations best suited for growth**  
**f. Steer development growth inside the Urban Growth Area in ways that promote quality urban neighborhoods where residents want to work and live; and**  
**g. Contribute to climate change benefits.**

~~**((R-313) The purpose of the Transfer of Development Rights Program is to reduce development potential in the Rural Area and designated Natural Resource Lands, and its priority is to encourage the transfer of development rights from private rural properties into the Urban Growth Area.**~~

~~**R-314 King County supports and shall work actively to facilitate the transfer of Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands development rights to:**  
**a. Preserve the rural environment, encourage retention of resource-based uses and reduce service demands;**  
**b. Provide permanent protection to significant natural resources;**  
**c. Increase the regional open space system;**  
**d. Maintain low density development in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands;**  
**e. Steer development growth inside the Urban Growth Area in ways that promote quality urban neighborhoods where residents want to work and live; and**  
**f. Provide mitigation for the impacts of urban development on global climate change by simultaneously reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions and sequestering carbon through retention of forest cover and conserving agricultural lands.**~~

~~**R-315)) R-502 To promote transfers of development rights, King County shall:**  
**a. Facilitate transfers from private property owners with sending sites to property owners with receiving sites;**  
**b. Operate the King County Transfer of Development Rights Bank to facilitate the Transfer of Development Rights market, maintain supply to the extent feasible, and bridge the time gap between willing sellers and buyers of Transferrable Development Rights through buying, holding, and selling Transferable Development Rights;**  
**c. Work with cities to develop interlocal agreements that encourage transfers of development rights ((from Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands)) into cities;**  
**d. Work with cities regarding annexation areas where Transferrable Development Rights are likely to be used;**  
**e. Work with communities and seek funding and other means to provide public amenities to enhance the livability of incorporated ((and unincorporated)) area neighborhoods accepting increased densities through the Transfer of Development Rights Program; ((and))**~~

- f. Provide amenities to urban unincorporated Transferrable Development Right receiving areas to improve the livability of the receiving area; the type, timing, and location of amenities provided to urban unincorporated Transferrable Development Right receiving areas should be informed by a public engagement process including members of the affected receiving area and the city affiliated with annexation;
- g. Work with the Washington State Department of Commerce, Puget Sound Regional Council, and King County cities to implement Washington State Regional Transfer of Development Rights legislation; and
- h. Explore new opportunities to increase Transfer of Development Right demand, prioritizing new receiving sites or Transfer of Development Right use within urban areas.

((1. — Sending and Receiving Sites

~~R-316)) R-503 ((Eligible sending sites shall be lands designated on the King County Comprehensive Plan land use map as: Rural Area (with RA-2.5, RA-5, or RA-10 zoning), Agriculture (with A zoning), Forestry (with F zoning), Urban Separator (with R-1 zoning), or Urban Residential Medium or Urban Residential High (with R-4, R-6, R-8, R-12, R-18, R-24 or R-48 zoning) and that are approved for Conservation Futures Tax funding). These))~~ Sending sites shall provide permanent land protection to create a significant public benefit. Priority sending sites ((are)) shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Lands in Rural Forest Focus Areas;
- b. Lands adjacent to the Urban Growth Area boundary;
- c. Lands contributing to the protection of endangered and threatened species;
- d. Lands that are suitable for inclusion in and provide important links to the regional open space system;
- e. Agricultural and Forest Production District lands;
- f. Intact shorelines of Puget Sound;
- g. Lands ((identified as important according to the Washington State Department of Ecology's Watershed Characterization analyses)) in the RA zone with conservation values related to farming, forestry, carbon sequestration, or open space; or
- h. Lands contributing to urban open space or strengthening protection of flood hazard areas or other critical areas in ((urban unincorporated areas)) any area.

~~((R-317 — For Transfer of Development Rights purposes only, qualified sending sites are allocated development rights as follows:~~

- a. ~~Sending sites in the Rural Area zoned RA-2.5 shall be allocated one Transferrable Development Right for every two and one-half acres of gross land area;~~
- b. ~~Sending sites in the Rural Area zoned RA-5 or RA-10 or Agricultural zoning shall be allocated one Transferrable Development Right for every five acres of gross land area;~~
- c. ~~Sending sites with Forest zoning shall be allocated one Transferrable Development Right for every eighty acres of gross land area;~~
- d. ~~Sending sites with Urban Separator land use designation shall be allocated four Transferrable Development Rights for every one acre of gross land area;~~
- e. ~~Sending sites with an Urban Residential, Medium or Urban Residential, High land use designation shall be allocated Transferrable Development Rights equivalent to the zoning base density for every one acre of gross land area;~~

- f. ~~If a sending site has an existing dwelling or retains one or more development rights for future use, the gross acreage shall be reduced in accordance with the site's zoning base density for the purposes of Transferrable Development Right allocation; and~~
- g. ~~King County shall provide bonus Transferrable Development Rights to sending sites in the Rural Area as follows:~~
- ~~1. The sending site is a vacant RA zoned property and is no larger than one-half the size requirement of the base density for the zone; and~~
  - ~~2. The sending site is a RA zoned property and is located on a shoreline of the state and has a shoreline designation of conservancy or natural.~~

**R-318** ~~Prior to the county's allocation of Transferable Development Rights to a sending site landowner, the landowner shall record and place on title of sending site parcel a conservation easement documenting the development restrictions. If development rights are being retained for future development, the subsequent development must be clustered, and the tract preserved with a permanent conservation easement shall be larger than the developed portion. In the case of lands within the Rural Forest Focus Areas, no more than one dwelling unit per 20 acres shall be retained, and the tract preserved with a conservation easement shall be at least 15 acres in size.~~

**R-319** ~~Transferrable Development Rights may be used on receiving sites in the following order of preference as follows:~~

- ~~a. Incorporated Cities. Transfers into incorporated areas shall be detailed in an interlocal agreement between the city receiving the development rights and the county;~~
- ~~b. Unincorporated urban commercial centers;~~
- ~~c. Other unincorporated urban areas; and~~
- ~~d. Rural Areas zoned RA-2.5, unless they are on Vashon-Maury Island, may receive transfers of development rights, but only from the Rural Forest Focus Areas.~~

**~~U-110~~) R-504** ~~King County shall work with cities, especially those designated as Urban Centers, in collaborative efforts that result in transfers of development rights from the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.~~

**~~((R-319a~~ ~~King County should designate urban unincorporated areas as Transferrable Development Right receiving sites for short subdivisions. Use of Transferrable Development Rights in formal subdivisions shall be allowed only through a subarea study.))~~**

**R-505** ~~King County should prioritize Transferable Development Rights uses for residential density in urban areas. King County may also allow Transferrable Development Rights:~~

- ~~a. In limited instances for development in the Rural Area, except for Vashon-Maury Island; and~~
- ~~b. To provide incentives to developers for uses other than additional residential density.~~



~~((R-320) King County should seek other public funding and private-public partnerships for incorporated and unincorporated urban area amenities to strengthen the Transfer of Development Rights Program and facilitate the transfer of development rights from Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands into the King County Urban Growth Area to preserve the rural environment, encourage retention of rural and resource-based uses, and avoid urban service demands in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.~~

~~R-320a King County shall provide amenities to urban unincorporated Transferrable Development Right receiving areas to improve the livability of the receiving area. Amenities should be provided at levels commensurate with the number of Transferrable Development Rights used in the receiving area. The type, timing and location of amenities provided to urban unincorporated Transferrable Development Right receiving areas should be informed by a public engagement process including members of the affected receiving area and the city affiliated with annexation.~~

~~R-321 King County should pursue public funding and public-private partnerships, and bond or levy proposals, for additional Transfer of Development Rights Bank funding to target threatened private Rural Areas or Natural Resource Lands. Development rights purchased through such a program should be sold into any appropriate urban location.~~

## ~~2. Rural and Resource Land Preservation Transfer of Development Rights Program~~

~~Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands face increasing development pressure, yet the county must simultaneously plan for, and allow, future development growth. This tension makes it incumbent on the county to strengthen its Transfer of Development Rights efforts. For this reason, King County seeks to increase the number of development right transfers and adopt an expanded Rural and Resource Land Preservation Transfer of Development Rights Program to reduce and redirect rural development potential into the urban areas.~~

~~R-322 The goals of the Rural and Resource Land Preservation Transfer of Development Rights Program are to: (1) reduce the development potential in Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands by 25%; (2) increase activity in the Transfer of Development Rights market; (3) bolster demand for Transferrable Development Rights; (4) offer Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands property owners access to incentive programs; (5) protect low-density Rural Areas from encroaching urban development; and (6) reduce greenhouse gas emissions by decreasing vehicle miles traveled from the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands and by sequestering carbon.~~

~~R-323 The Rural and Resource Land Preservation Transfer of Development Rights Program shall include, but is not limited to, the following:~~  
~~a. In addition to the density that is allowed on a receiving site in the urban growth area from the purchase of Transferrable Development Rights, the county shall evaluate the climate change benefits achieved by reducing transportation related greenhouse gas emissions that result from the transfer of development rights from the sending site, provided that such consideration is not precluded by administrative rules promulgated by the state;~~  
~~b. In order to satisfy transportation concurrency requirements in the Rural Area in a transportation concurrency travel shed that is~~

~~non-concurrent, a development proposal for a short subdivision creating up to four lots may purchase Transferrable Development Rights from other Rural Area or Natural Resource Land properties in the same travel shed; allowing this is intended to reduce overall traffic impacts in rural travel sheds by permanently removing development potential. The transfer shall not result in an increase in allowable density on the receiving site. A short subdivision creating two lots where the property has been owned by the applicant for five or more years and where the property has not been subdivided in the last ten years shall satisfy the transportation concurrency requirements without having to purchase Transferrable Development Rights;~~

~~c. King County shall provide an added density bonus of up to a 100% increase above the base density allowed in K.C. Code 21A.12.030, when Transferrable Development Rights are used for projects within any designated commercial center or activity center within the Urban Growth Area that provides enhanced walkability design and incorporates transit-oriented development, and may provide an added density when Transferrable Development Rights are used for projects that provide affordable housing in the R-4 through R-48 zones;~~

~~d. King County may allow accessory dwelling units in the Rural Area that are greater than one thousand square feet, but less than 1,500 square feet, if the property owner purchases one Transferrable Development Right from the Rural Area, Agriculture or Forestry designations;~~

~~e. King County may allow a detached accessory dwelling unit on a RA-5 zoned lot that is two and one-half acres or greater and less than three and three-quarters acres if the property owner purchases one Transferrable Development Right from the Rural Area, Agriculture or Forestry designations.))~~

## VII. Equestrian Activities

King County recognizes the contributions of equestrian livestock husbandry, training, competition, and recreation activities to the overall rural quality of life and economic base in King County. ((Equestrian activities provide a lifestyle value to numerous county residents and visitors and a source of revenue for rural residents and business owners. There are numerous organizations that support the equestrian industry by providing education and promoting equine husbandry, including the King County Agriculture Program, Washington State University Extension, Future Farmers of America, 4-H, the King County Executive Horse Council, Backcountry Horsemen, the Enumclaw Forested Foothills Recreation Association, and numerous other special interest equestrian-related groups.

In recent years the diversity of equestrian uses has expanded throughout the rural portions of the county, going well beyond the traditional uses of a child and his or her favorite horse, a 4-H horse show, or a trail ride through the woods.)) Today's equestrian uses include raising and training a variety of horse breeds((, an increase in the number of)) and riding arenas((, and the construction of a state-of-the-art horse rehabilitation facility)). ((This diversity of equestrian uses should be sustained and encouraged where compatible with the existing character of the area in which equestrian facilities are proposed to be built or expanded.

Several constraints may limit the development or expansion of equestrian activities. Even though the Growth Management Act limits growth in the Rural Area, some growth continues to occur throughout the Rural Areas of the county, reducing the availability of open land to sustain livestock, equestrian activities, and threatening existing or potential trail segments that may be lost to uncoordinated land developments.

**R-211)) R-601** King County should continue to support and sustain equestrian activities and ensure that regulations support those activities compatible with the area in which they are located. The ((c))County should encourage subdivision layouts that preserve opportunities for livestock and equestrian activities.

((Trail riding throughout rural King County is a popular equestrian use enjoyed by both urban and rural residents. Although llama and alpaca treks are becoming increasingly popular, most of the trail riding in King County is on horses and mules. Several constraints, including uncoordinated land development, may limit the continuation, development, or expansion of equestrian trails or trail segments. Additionally, as ownership of private and/or public land with existing trails is transferred, these trails may be lost when easements are not in place to protect the trails at the time of the transaction or if the new owner is not aware that a trail runs across the parcel.

The following policies address the need to continue to support trails for equestrian, multi-use, and existing trail linkage purposes:

**R-212)) R-602** King County should support equestrian use trails throughout the Rural Area and in the Agricultural and Forest Production Districts, as appropriate, by:

- a. Working with local communities to identify and protect multiple-use trails and key linkages that support equestrian travel;
- b. Maintaining equestrian links, including multiple-use trails, where appropriate;
- c. Ensuring parking areas serving multiple-use trails are designed and constructed, whenever possible to handle parking for horse trailers; and
- d. Constructing and maintaining equestrian trails under County ownership or management consistent with King County Backcountry Trail or Regional Trail Standards whenever possible.

**((R-213)) R-603** Soft-surface multiple-use trails in corridors ((separate from road right-of-way)) **not associated with a road** are the preferred option for equestrian travel for safety reasons and to avoid conflicts with residential activities associated with the ((street)) road. Existing off-road trails should be preserved during site development, with relocation as appropriate to accommodate development while maintaining trail connections. Where appropriate, capital improvement programs for transportation or park facilities shall also enable the use of new facilities by equestrians. Construction standards for soft-surface multiple-use trails shall be consistent with current trail construction and maintenance practices as promulgated by the U.S. Forest Service.

**R-604** The King County Road Design and Construction Standards ((with)) shall ensure adequate space to accommodate safe equestrian travel within road rights-of-way. ((Where appropriate, capital improvement programs for transportation and park facilities shall also enable the use of new facilities by equestrians. Construction standards for multiple-use nonmotorized trails to be established in road rights-of-way within the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands should assure a minimum eight-foot-wide gravel shoulder on arterial roads

and 4.0 foot gravel shoulder on local access roads, or provide a trail separated from the driving lanes by a ditch or other barrier. Construction standards for soft-surface multiple-use nonmotorized trails in corridors separate from road rights-of-way shall be consistent with current trail construction and maintenance practices as promulgated by the U.S. Forest Service.

**R-214)) R-605** King County's land use regulations should protect rural equestrian community trails by supporting preservation of equestrian trail links in the Rural Area and within the Agricultural and Forest Production District. Representatives of the equestrian community should be given the opportunity to review and monitor regulatory and policy actions by King County, such as Rural Area development regulations, that have the potential to affect equestrian trails.

**((R-215)) R-606** King County should encourage ((P))property owners in the Agricultural and Forest Production Districts ((are encouraged)) to voluntarily allow continued equestrian access to existing trails or alternative access if the existing trail impedes future use of their property.

**((R-216)) R-607** Equestrian trails should be a category in the (c))County's Public Benefit Rating System, so that a landowner who provides trail access may qualify for a tax reduction under the program.

**((R-217)) R-608** County departments negotiating trades or sales of ((c))County-owned land shall determine whether any historically established trails exist on the property, and, when economically feasible, ensure that those trails are retained or replaced and are not lost as a condition of the trade or sale. Trails that provide key linkages, for either multi-use or equestrian trails, shall be considered to have strategic value to the county's trail network and shall be retained or replaced whenever possible.

## VIII. Natural Resource Lands

### A. ((Ensuring Conservation and Sustainable Use of Resource Lands)) Resource Conservation

This section contains King County's strategy for conservation of valuable resource lands and for encouraging their productive and sustainable management. The strategy consists of policies to guide planning, incentives, education, and regulation. Although this section focuses on the Natural Resource Lands of long-term commercial significance, many of the policies are applicable to farm, forest, and mineral lands in the Rural Area as well.

King County's Natural Resource Lands ((contribute to the economic prosperity of the region. They)) are the lands with long-term commercial significance for farming, forestry, and mineral extraction. Businesses that rely on resource lands provide jobs and products, such as food, wood, and gravel. ((They also are an important part of the cultural heritage.)) Conservation and responsible stewardship of working farm and forest lands also produces multiple environmental benefits, such as:

- Stream and salmon protection;
- Clean air and water;

- Wildlife habitat;
- Landslide hazard reduction;
- Flood risk reduction;
- Groundwater recharge and protection; and
- Carbon sequestration and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

For mineral extraction, responsible stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, and site remediation can help to mitigate many of the impacts while providing local sources of materials such as sand and gravel.

King County has taken major steps to conserve ~~((and manage agricultural soils and activities,))~~ farmland and forestland to support commercial agriculture and forestry ~~((and)), while also allowing for regulated extraction of minerals ((extraction opportunities)).~~ Natural Resource Lands and the industries they support are conserved by encouraging development to occur primarily in the Urban Growth Area as directed by the Growth Management Act. Under this Comprehensive Plan, Natural Resource Lands, including designated Agricultural Production Districts, the Forest Production District, and sites of long-term commercial significance for mineral resource uses, will have minimal new residential and commercial development. New development that does occur will be designed to be compatible with active resource-based uses.

~~((This chapter contains King County's strategy for conservation of these valuable Resource Lands and for encouraging their productive and sustainable management. The strategy consists of policies to guide planning, incentives, education, regulation and purchase or transfer of development rights.))~~

Forest, agriculture, and mineral resource lands are not King County's only natural resources. Many other resource-based industries, such as the recreational and commercial fisheries ~~((industry))~~ industries, are influenced by King County's land use and planning policies. Policies for the protection and enhancement of fisheries, as well as air, water, vegetation, wildlife, and other natural resources, can be found in Chapter 5, Environment.

~~((The Rural Forest Commission was established in 1997 to represent the diversity of forest interests in King County. The Commission reviews the development and implementation of strategies, programs, policies and regulations that benefit forestry and advises the county on ways to preserve rural forests and promote rural forestry.~~

**~~R-601))~~ R-701 The Rural Forest Commission shall advise the King County Executive and Council on the development and implementation of ~~((innovative))~~ strategies, programs, policies, and regulations that benefit forestry ((and)), that encourage the retention of the forest land base in King County, and that support rural forest landowners. King County shall continue to support the Rural Forest Commission with staff and other resources.**

~~((In 1994, the Agriculture Commission was established as a forum for farmers to take an active role in land use decisions, policies and regulations affecting commercial agriculture. The commission solicits input from agricultural agency technical advisors and others with land use and technical expertise, as well as other affected groups.))~~

**~~((R-602))~~ R-702 The Agriculture Commission shall advise the King County Executive and Council on ~~((agricultural issues and programs, including, but not limited to:~~**  
**a. ~~Existing and proposed legislation and regulations affecting commercial agriculture;~~**  
**b. ~~Land use issues that affect agriculture; and~~**



c. ~~Ways to maintain, enhance and promote agriculture and agricultural products in the region:))~~ programs, policies, regulations, and land use issues that affect commercial agriculture, encourage retention of farmland, support farmland access for traditionally underinvested communities, and contribute to a strong local food system. King County shall continue to support the Agriculture Commission with staff and other resources.

## ~~((B. Resource Conservation Strategy~~

~~In 1985, the King County Comprehensive Plan designated the county's initial Forest Production District and five Agricultural Production Districts. Subsequent)) King County designates agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance as Agricultural Production Districts and forest lands of long-term commercial significance as the Forest Production District, as shown on the Agricultural and Forest Lands Map in this chapter. These designations and accompanying planning efforts establish((ed)) minimum lot sizes and uses for these districts and their surrounding areas. These land use regulations are consistent with the requirements of the Growth Management Act to ((designate productive lands and to)) plan for adjacent and nearby land uses compatible with long-term commercial farming and forestry. ((The Growth Management Act requires designation of agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance. Agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance are designated as Agricultural Production Districts and forest lands of long-term commercial significance are designated as the Forest Production District as shown on the Agricultural and Forest Lands Map.))~~

The Growth Management Act also requires designation of mineral resource lands that are primarily devoted to the extraction of minerals or that have known or potential long-term commercial significance for the extraction of minerals. Minerals include, but are not limited to, gravel, sand, and valuable metallic substances. Coal is not considered a mineral resource in King County. Such lands are shown as ((D)) designated Mineral Resource Sites on the Mineral Resources Map in this chapter. ~~((The role of the Forest Production District in the conservation of mineral resources is also explained below.~~

~~R-606))~~ **R-703** Farm lands, forest lands, and mineral resources shall be conserved for productive use through the use of ((D))designated Agricultural and Forest Production Districts and ((D))designated Mineral Resource Sites where the principal ((and preferred)) land uses ((will)) shall be commercial resource management activities((, and by the designation of appropriate compatible uses on adjacent Rural Area and urban lands)).

~~((R-604))~~ **R-704** King County shall promote and support commercially viable and environmentally sustainable forestry, agriculture, and other resource-based industries as a part of a diverse and regional economy.

~~((R-604a))~~ **R-705** King County shall support ((and designate)) mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance and promote policies, environmental reviews, and management practices that minimize conflicts with neighboring land uses and mitigate environmental impacts.

~~((R-605~~ **Forestry and agriculture best management practices are encouraged because of their multiple benefits, including natural resource preservation and protection:))**

~~((R-607))~~ **R-706 Land uses, utilities, and transportation facilities within and adjacent to ((D))designated Agricultural and Forest Production Districts and ((D))designated Mineral Resource Sites(;) shall be sited and designed to ensure compatibility with resource management.**

~~((R-608))~~ **R-707 King County should encourage infrastructure and services that support ((resource-lands)) Natural Resource Land management and resource-based businesses. These should be sited ((in-close-proximity)) close to designated Agricultural and Forest Production Districts and ((D))designated Mineral Resource Sites when potential adverse impacts and incompatibilities can effectively be mitigated.**

~~((King County recognizes that maintaining viable resource-based businesses is challenging. Owners of resource lands make substantial investments in managing their land. Market uncertainties, labor costs, vandalism, taxes and fees can affect the profitability of resource-based industries.~~

~~Conflicts with surrounding land uses and environmental problems can arise even with the best of precautions. Resource-based industries need reasonable certainty that policies are in place to help avoid such conflicts and operations can continue if activities are performed in an environmentally sound manner.~~

~~The Forest Lands Program (Revised Code of Washington 84.33), and the Open Space Taxation Program, which includes the Timberland and Public Benefit Rating System programs (Revised Code of Washington 84.34) are property tax incentives that encourage continued farm and forest management both within and outside the Forest Production District and Agricultural Production Districts.~~

~~R-609))~~ **R-708 King County should expand access to property tax incentive programs to encourage landowners to continue ((practicing)) and expand farming and forestry and to help ensure retention of the resource land base. These programs should be publicized and marketed to ensure equitable access to program benefits.**

~~((R-610) King County shall employ a variety of innovative programs and incentives to help maintain and enhance resource-based industries.~~

~~Examples of such programs include technical assistance and education for sustainable land management, education for urban and suburban residents, purchases of land or development rights, transfer of development rights, the purchase of scenic easements and other less-than-fee-ownership interests that conserve resource uses, establishment of buffers and setbacks for adjacent properties, and relief from special levies and local improvement district fees.~~

~~When urban development occurs near Resource Lands, conflicts can result. Examples of such conflicts are greater risk of forest fires; vandalism to logging, farm and mining equipment; destruction of young trees; and increased mixing of heavy truck and residential traffic, which presents safety problems. Increased development near resource lands also results in increased encroachment of noxious weeds into forests and farmland. It is important for neighboring property owners to understand the value of resource industries and what kinds of resource activities are likely to occur.~~

- ~~R-611~~) R-709** King County should develop and employ effective means to inform affected property owners about nearby resource management activities. This may include, but not be limited to:
- Notice on title, and notification on recorded subdivisions, short subdivision maps, and issued development permits for properties within five hundred feet of designated agriculture, forestry, and mineral resource lands;**
  - Signage; and**
  - Community meetings and other public notification tools.**

Successful Natural Resource Land conservation requires a regional perspective and intergovernmental cooperation. Although the ~~((designated))~~ Natural Resource Lands are located in unincorporated King County, they benefit nearby cities and can be affected by activities in those cities. Furthermore, some ~~((R))~~ resource ~~((L))~~ lands in King County are owned or managed by Indian tribes or city, county, state, and federal agencies ~~((and tribes. A regional perspective is also important because many resource activities are regulated or supported by state and federal programs))~~. As the population in the Puget Sound area continues to grow, the protection of Natural Resource Lands and the continued success of commercial agriculture and forestry is a regional challenge.

**~~((R-612)) R-710~~** King County shall work cooperatively with ~~((cities;))~~ Indian tribes, cities, other public agencies, private utilities, resource managers, land(( ))owners, and residents to conserve ((public and private)) Natural Resource Lands for long-term productivity and environmental protection in a consistent and predictable manner.

**~~((R-613)) R-711~~** Designated Forest and Agricultural Production District lands shall not be annexed by cities, except as allowed in Policies R-760, R-761, and R-762.

**~~((R-614)) R-712~~** King County should establish written agreements with Indian tribes, agencies, ((tribes)) and other affected parties whose close coordination and collaboration are essential to effective implementation of resource management programs. Such agreements should serve to establish consensus and commitment to achieving specific resource management goals and to define the specific roles and responsibilities of each agency.

**~~((R-615))~~** ~~King County should avoid duplication of federal and state regulations that apply to resource-based industries. However, King County reserves the authority to address issues of local concern with regard to resource-based activities and operations.~~

~~Many of the issues facing King County's resource industries are also faced by neighboring counties. Furthermore, some of the infrastructure and support businesses necessary to sustain agriculture and forestry may serve more than a single county. Therefore, King County's efforts to retain healthy resource economies will be more successful if the county collaborates with other agencies and agriculture and forestry interest groups in the region. These efforts may include policy development, training for service providers and outreach that is supportive of commercial agriculture and timber production and encourages the purchase of local food and local wood.~~

**~~R-615a~~) R-713** King County should work with other jurisdictions, agencies, and agriculture and forestry interest groups to help maintain and enhance commercial agriculture and forestry production by addressing challenges common across the region.

((Resource management strategies that protect the environment are necessary to maintain the long-term productivity of the resource. Chapter 5, Environment, describes the value of using an integrated, ecosystem-based approach to natural resource and environmental planning and management. This approach, along with sound operational practices by resource-based industries, may be able to prevent or minimize environmental impacts associated with common agricultural and forest practices and mineral extraction while maximizing co-benefits.

**R-616)) R-714 King County should encourage ((R))resource-based industries ((should)) to use practices that:**

- a. Protect the long-term integrity of the built environment, adjacent land uses, and cultural resources;**
- b. Maintain the long-term productivity of the resource base; and**
- c. Result in maintenance of ecosystem health and habitat.**

**((R-617)) R-715 Habitat protection requirements should not fall disproportionately on land maintained in agriculture or forestry, and the costs of such protection shall not be disproportionately placed on the owners of such land.**

**((R-618)) R-716 King County shall be a leader in resource management by demonstrating environmentally sound agriculture and forestry on ((c))County-owned land.**

**((R-619)) R-717 King County shall include resource education through its signs on trail systems that are linked with working farms, forests, and mines. ((Interpretation should:**

- a. Provide historical perspective;**
- b. Demonstrate current adaptive resource management practices (forestry, fisheries, wildlife, agriculture); and**
- c. Explain economics of various resource uses.**

## **€.)) B. Forestry**

((King County forestlands provide local, regional and national benefits that are basic to quality of life. In addition to supplying a variety of wood and other products, forests emit oxygen, filter water, reduce risks from flooding and soil erosion, enhance groundwater recharge, provide habitat for innumerable plant and animal species, capture carbon, and offer scenic vistas and recreational opportunities. Conservation of the extensive forests in the county saves the region millions of dollars by reducing the need for costly infrastructure for stormwater and flood control, water treatment, and air quality remediation. King County's forests provide employment in forestry, wood, paper, recreation, and tourism industries. In sum, properly managed forests are fundamental to a healthy, diverse economy and environment.

The growth in human population has resulted in the loss of forestlands through conversion to non-forest uses. Increasing demands are being placed upon the remaining forest land base to provide goods, recreational opportunities and ecological functions. Climate change has the potential to put additional stress on forestlands due to changes in seasonal temperature fluctuations, rainfall patterns, and distribution of insect populations. In the next 10 to 20 years, Pacific Northwest forests are expected to face increasing drought mortality, difficulty in getting seedlings established, and severity of forest fires.

To address these challenges, forest managers are embracing more broad-based management methods and strategies that encompass ecosystems, landscapes and watersheds, while continually incorporating new scientific information to improve these approaches. Their efforts, together with the collective foresight and dedication of

landowners, interest groups, tribes, residents and agencies, are needed to ensure that King County's forests continue to contribute to a sustainable way of life for present and future generations.

The first step to maintain and enhance commercial forestry is to protect the forest land base. The second step is to encourage an ecosystem approach to forest management that provides for long-term ecosystem health and productivity and addresses cumulative impacts on non-timber resources. The third step is to minimize land use conflicts and offer incentives for the retention of commercial forestry and the forest land base.))

## 1. Protecting Forest Lands

The purpose of the Forest Production District is to conserve large blocks of commercially valuable forestland for the long term. The designation and zoning ((is)) are designed to prevent intrusion of incompatible uses, manage adjacent land uses to minimize land use conflicts, and prevent or discourage conversion from forestry to other uses. ((A comparison of the area of forestland converted since 1987 inside the Forest Production District with the area converted outside the District indicates that designation and zoning of commercial forest lands help to discourage subdivision and conversion.)) Recent studies indicate that total forest cover within the Forest Production District has remained stable in recent decades, but has declined marginally in the Rural Area, and declined significantly in the Urban Growth Area and cities. Taken as a whole, forest cover in King County has declined slightly, with 98.9 percent of the area supporting forest cover in 1992 still forested in 2016.

Sixty percent of the land area in King County is within the designated Forest Production District. The Forest Production District comprises 1,300 square miles (825,000 acres) of forestland in east King County. Most of this land is held in large blocks of contiguous ownership. ((At this larger scale, it is easier to manage for multiple purposes such as habitat and long-term forest health.)) About 70((%)) percent of the Forest Production District is in public ownership, including parts of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, ((including)) wilderness areas, state and county parks, Washington State Department of Natural Resources lands, and watersheds for the cities of Seattle and Tacoma. The Forest Production District includes approximately ((220,000)) 186,000 acres in private ownership, most of which is commercial forestland.

~~((Although it has declined from its height in the late 1980s, c))~~Commercial timber harvest remains a significant economic activity in King County. At the same time, forest management strategies have become more diverse and may include objectives for forest health, biodiversity, and fish and wildlife habitat, instead of timber production alone. Likewise, economic activity related to recreation, traditional cultural practices, and aesthetics may be included in commercial forestry activities.

**~~((R-620)) R-718~~ The Forest Production District shall remain in large blocks of contiguous forest lands where the primary land use is commercial forestry. Other resource ((industry)) uses, such as mineral extraction and agriculture, should be ((permitted)) allowed within the Forest Production District when managed to be compatible with forestry.**

**~~((R-621)) R-719~~ The Forest Production District is a long-term designation. Lands may be removed from the Forest Production District only through a subarea plan or area zoning and land use study, and only to recognize areas with historical retail commercial uses.**

~~((Public land management affects the region's economy, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, forest health, stream flows, water supply, flood control and climate change mitigation capabilities. The county should take advantage of opportunities to~~



collaborate with public land managers such as the U.S. Forest Service at Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, and other stakeholders, to manage forests for multiple public values.

For example, in the last two decades, there have been significant changes in how forest lands in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest are managed. In King County, more than 350,000 acres are within the National Forest. Management emphasis has shifted from commodity timber production (in the 1960s, 70s and 80s) to management with an emphasis on ecological values and public use. The U.S. Forest Service has struggled to keep pace with the increasing demand for recreation infrastructure and to maintain access roads.

While timber harvest levels have declined significantly from those in the 1980s, ~~t~~)The supply of forest products from ~~((the national forest remains))~~ public and private forestland is important to the regional viability of the forestry industry. ~~((Forest fire suppression since the early 1900s resulted in abnormally high fuel levels on the forest floor, which can increase the severity of wildfires. More r))~~Recent federal, state, and county policies have placed emphasis on projects ~~((to))~~ that enhance forest ecosystems, ~~((restore and))~~ improve ~~((land health and))~~ water quality, ~~((address fuel levels, and improve the maintenance of existing facilities within national forests))~~ recover endangered species, improve opportunities for recreation, and enhance climate resiliency, all of which may alter the types and volumes of timber product.

~~((Much of the 116,790 acres of forestland managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources in King County are trust lands that generate income from the sale of timber and other resources for the beneficiaries, such as schools, universities and counties. These lands also provide wildlife habitat and are heavily used for recreation. In January 1997 the Washington State Department of Natural Resources made a far-reaching commitment to protect native animal and fish species through a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan that covers about 1.6 million acres of Washington State Department of Natural Resources-managed trust land forests—mostly in Western Washington. In 2007, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources initiated Forest Stewardship Council certification on state forest land located in the South Puget Sound Region, including part of Tiger Mountain near Issaquah and state-owned forestland near Enumclaw in King County.~~

**R-622)) R-720 King County recognizes the many values provided by the public forestland in the county, and encourages continued responsible forest management on these lands. King County should collaborate with other public land managers in planning for the restoration, conservation, use, and management of forest resources on public lands for multiple public values such as sustainable supply of timber, carbon storage and sequestration, and other ecosystem benefits.**

~~((County policies are intended to maintain and facilitate commercial forestry in the Forest Production District. The policies in this section allow for very limited residential uses in the designated Forest Production District, consistent with the objective of continuing forestry as the primary land use. For example, residences may be appropriate to permit forest managers to live on their land. King County zoning and subdivision regulations establish a large parcel size to promote efficient forest operations and to reduce incompatible residential development. Although the zoning calls for an 80-acre minimum lot size, many smaller lots were created prior to application of the zoning. Proliferation of residences in the Forest Production District makes commercial forestry less viable.~~

**R-623)) R-721 King County is committed to maintaining working forestland in the Forest Production District, and shall continue to ~~((work with landowners and other stakeholders))~~ collaborate with public and**

**private forest managers and other partners to promote ((forestry)) and encourage long-term forest productivity, reduce uses and activities that conflict with resource uses, and recognize forestland values.**

**~~((R-624)) R-722~~ To reduce conflicts with resource uses and wildfire risks, a forest management plan shall be required as a condition of development for any residential uses in the Forest Production District. Accessory dwelling units shall not be allowed in the Forest Production District.**

**~~((R-625)) R-723~~ Structures within the Forest Production District should be sited to maintain the productivity of the district. Site plan requirements should limit impervious surface, provide for fire control, protect domestic water supply, and prevent conflicts with forest management.**

~~((In 2004, King County purchased the development rights on the 90,000-acre Snoqualmie Forest. This purchase conserves the forest land base for the long term while supporting the continuation of commercial forest production. It is important that the county consider its responsibility to protect the long-term commercial significance of the Forest Production District in its efforts to conserve land within the District.~~

**~~R-626)) R-724~~ King County should conserve working forests and should encourage continued private forestry through the acquisition or transfer of development rights in the Forest Production District. Land acquisition proposals that would remove lands from forest management should be evaluated to ensure that the long-term commercial significance of the Forest Production District is not compromised.**

~~((Although there is considerable acreage in commercial forestry in King County, there are no major lumber mills still in operation in the county. There are a few small mills in the county, but they have limited capacity. As a result, small landowners have few options for marketing their logs, and usually have a long haul to the closest mill. The county should work with forest landowners and forestry business to better understand and address the barriers to local wood processing:~~

**~~R-627)) R-725~~ King County should promote and support production, harvest, utilization, and marketing of wood products grown in the county's Rural Area and forest areas. King County should ensure that regulations applying to the Rural Area and ~~((forest areas)) Forest Production District~~ do not discourage the establishment of sawmills and other wood product businesses and services.**

~~((King County can further protect commercial forestlands and prevent conflicts by working with other public agencies and service providers to consolidate lands and to locate infrastructure facilities to prevent or minimize intrusions. Such actions can also improve the owner's capacity to protect fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources:~~

**~~R-628)) R-726~~ In consultation with Indian tribes and other affected agencies and landowners, King County should support land trades that result in consolidated forest ownership and work with forest managers to identify and develop other incentives for continued forestry.**

**~~((R-629)) R-727~~ King County opposes the establishment or expansion of special purpose taxing districts and local improvement districts in the Forest Production District, and shall not grant new or expanded franchises for utilities in the Forest Production District, unless demonstrated that they directly benefit forestry or are necessary for transmission of power or water.**

Forest lands have tremendous recreational and aesthetic value. ~~((For example, Forest Production District lands are included within the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway along the I-90 corridor. Opportunities for hiking and other forms of outdoor recreation exist within the working forests that are part of the Greenway.))~~ Access to ~~((R))~~ resource ~~((t))~~ lands must be carefully managed, however, to prevent conflict with natural resource goals. For example, open gate policies allowing public access may be incompatible with fish and wildlife protection goals and sometimes may interfere with forestry operations by risking such activities as garbage dumping, vandalism, and timber theft. ~~((In the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, a variety of federal partnerships and volunteer programs help to better connect urban dwellers with the forest while providing ecological benefits.~~

**~~R-630)) R-728~~ Public and private forest owners are encouraged to provide for recreational, educational, and cultural uses, when compatible with forest protection.**

~~((Recreational and institutional d))~~ Developments ~~((;))~~ such as conference centers, ski areas, and associated hotels ~~((;))~~ allow more people to enjoy the aesthetic benefits of forest lands. Such facilities are acceptable if ~~((located in areas of existing development, such as Snoqualmie Pass, and if))~~ their operation and use are resource dependent and restricted adequately to minimize conflict with resource lands. Major ~~((recreational or institutional))~~ development ~~((sites))~~ of this type can adversely affect the Forest Production District because ~~((they))~~ it reduces the forest land base and conflicts with other resource management goals.

**~~((R-631)) R-729~~ ~~((No master planned resorts shall be permitted in the Forest Production District.))~~ New or expansion of existing ~~((recreational or institutional uses))~~ destination resorts and similar uses in the Forest Production District may be ~~((permitted))~~ allowed if compatible with long-term forestry, the interests of Indian tribes, and other resource management goals.**

## **2. Promoting Forest Management**

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources regulates forestry through the Forest Practices Act. If the forest practice is associated with a conversion from forestry to another use on the property, such as development, the ~~((e))~~ County has jurisdiction, and the ~~((e))~~ County's development regulations must be followed. ~~((On rural properties, it is typical that a landowner will combine a long-term forest use on one part of the property with a residence on another part of the property. It is in the interest of the county to ensure that development regulations are followed for the permanent clearing for development, but also to regulate the long-term forest parts of the property with regulations appropriate for forest harvest.~~

**R-632)) R-730** King County should continue to work with all affected parties and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to improve the clarity of jurisdictional responsibilities for proposed timber harvests and associated enforcement of forest practice regulations ((in the Rural Area)), and to ensure that landowners comply with ((c)) County regulations when they are converting portions of a site to a non-forest use. ~~((Harvesting of forest lands for the purpose of converting to non-forest uses shall meet all applicable county standards for clearing and critical areas management, and the loss of carbon sequestration capacity resulting from such forest conversions should be fully mitigated. Landowners opting to conduct forest management activities under state approved forest practices permits should be restricted from developing those areas for non-resource purposes for six years from the date of forest practice approval. Recognizing that some landowners combine the development of a residence or an agricultural activity on a portion of the property with long-term forestry on the rest, the county should provide flexibility in its regulations to address the residential development and agricultural activity differently from the forest management.~~

**R-633)) R-731** King County should ensure that regulations applying to forest practices do not discourage forest management on properties in long-term forestry~~((Forestry should be regulated consistent with best management practices in))~~ use, consistent with the Forest Practices Act. The ((c)) County should work to simplify its regulatory processes related to forest management.

~~**((R-634** King County should promote public understanding of the benefits of commercial timber production and encourage the use of local wood.~~

~~King County has worked with state, federal, and private landowners on multiparty resource plans, such as the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Plan, the plan for Rattlesnake Ridge, and numerous watershed planning efforts. There will continue to be opportunities for interagency cross-ownership cooperation, which will result in improved resource management and conservation.~~

~~**R-635** Working with public and private forest land managers, King County shall encourage long-term forest productivity and the protection of land and water resources by participating in collaborative, multi-ownership planning efforts.~~

**R-636)) R-732** King County promotes forest management that achieves long-term forest health; protection of watersheds, critical areas and habitat to support fish and wildlife populations; protection of threatened and endangered species; management of stormwater runoff and associated pollutants; conservation and economic viability of working forests; wildfire risk reduction; recreation; carbon storage and sequestration ~~((and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions));~~ and adaptation to climate change.

~~((In 2005, King County worked with the Tolt Triangle community near Carnation, assisting with the formation of Tolt Triangle Fire Council and the development of their comprehensive community wildfire protection plan. The 500 rural residences on 5,800 acres covered by the plan became the first area in King County to earn the status of "Firewise Community" from the national Firewise® Program. Since 2005, additional communities in forested areas have adopted wildfire protection plans. The county provides training and technical assistance regarding fire planning and best management practices for implementing wildfire protection throughout forested areas of King County with a focus in the foothill areas prone to east winds.~~

**~~R-638)) R-733~~ King County shall encourage the development of private/public partnerships that provide incentives for landowners to practice innovative, fish-friendly forestry and that can help ensure retention of the forest resource land base in perpetuity.**

~~((An example of such a partnership is the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway Biosolids Forestry Program, which includes King County, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, the Greenway Trust, the University of Washington and Hancock Forest Management. One of the elements of this program involves the acquisition of forestlands that are vulnerable to residential and commercial development. Lands are acquired by a combination of county funds and federal Forest Legacy funds and then transferred to the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for management. By deed, these lands stay in forest resource use in perpetuity and are managed according to the state's Habitat Conservation Plan. Seventy-five percent of all revenues generated are returned to King County. The lands that have been acquired help to form the block of public ownership along I-90, providing wildlife corridors, opportunities for trails and recreation, and the water quality protection provided by forest cover.~~

~~In addition to landscape-level planning and analysis, resource managers should identify specific areas in their forest ownership that are degraded or negatively impacting aquatic resources. Examples of such areas are logging roads or gravel mines no longer needed and scheduled to be abandoned or riparian zones that are not sufficiently vegetated. Organic soil amendments, when properly used, can greatly enhance vegetative growth and restore productivity to these sites, thus protecting fish and other aquatic resources. The use of recycled organic wastes generated in King County closes the recycling "loop" and helps sustain the productivity of resource lands.~~

**~~R-639)) R-734~~ King County encourages the use of recycled, organic-based soil amendments, such as biosolids, and fertilizers in forest ecosystems, which can help reduce erosion and sedimentation into streams, increase water-holding capacity of soils, stimulate the growth of trees and other vegetation, capture carbon, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. King County shall work with the general public, ~~((and)) private and public forestland owners, and scientists~~ to encourage the safe, selective, and appropriate use of these materials for ecosystem enhancement and restoration.**

~~((One of the most successful efforts is the use of the county's biosolids to fertilize public and private forests. Annually, about 1,400 acres of forestland in east King County are fertilized with Loop® biosolids.~~

~~Maintaining land in long-term forest use offsets greenhouse gas emissions through sequestration of carbon in growing trees and in forest soils. In addition to providing plant nutrients, organic soil amendments such as Loop can significantly increase carbon storage in forests and help soils retain moisture. Efforts to conserve forests and encourage forest management for health and resilience are a major means of implementing King County's climate change policies. Even with these and other efforts~~



to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, forests in the Pacific Northwest face potential impacts from climate change. In the coming decades, mortality of trees and plants is projected to increase due to insects and pathogens, increased temperature, and lack of groundwater in the summer. Climate change also is projected to affect the composition and density of plant and animal species and the severity and frequency of forest fires. All of these potential impacts underscore the need for monitoring of climate-induced changes and active management of forest health.))

### 3. Wildfire Risk Reduction

King County's extensive forest lands provide a wide range of economic and ecological benefits. Under the right conditions, however, these same forests are also vulnerable to wildfire and post-wildfire debris flows and floods, creating potentially significant risks for communities in the wildland-urban interface.

Climate change is increasing the potential for wildfire in western Washington. Warmer seasonal temperatures and drier summers create conditions more favorable for wildfire for longer periods of time. Climate change may also lead to changes in insect and pathogens that can leave forests more vulnerable to drought and fire. The potential for large, fast-moving fires is greatest when these conditions coincide with strong east wind events. The potential for fast-moving debris flows and floods is high after a wildfire has occurred, reducing soil infiltration, and increasing risks for more overland surface water flow during a rainfall event. Population growth and development in areas within and in proximity to forested areas (the wildland-urban interface) are also important factors increasing the potential for wildfire in western Washington, as well as the human and economic costs of wildfire.

#### Promoting Forest Resilience

Forests with a diversity of tree species (conifer, deciduous, mixed-species) and development stages (young, mid-age, mature/old-growth) are more resilient to disturbances such as wildfire and have greater capacity to maintain and recover ecological functions following disturbance. Forests with species and structural diversity also provide important ecosystem and community benefits such as habitat for fish and wildlife, improved air and water quality, carbon sequestration, recreation opportunities, and cultural resources. Proactive steps that support forest diversity include retaining larger trees that are more fire resistant, managing forests to promote a broad range of native tree species, planting trees sourced from a wider range of seed zones, managing density, and reducing invasive species.

**((R-641)) R-735 King County ((should)) shall consider climate change impacts and take steps to improve forest health ((and resilience to climate change impacts through its technical assistance to forest land owners, management of county-owned forest lands, and support of neighborhood-based efforts to reduce risks from wildfires)) and wildfire resilience on County-owned forest lands.**

#### Reducing Risk in the Wildland-Urban Interface

Wildland-urban interface areas include Vashon-Maury Island and areas of east King County, such as in the Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain, Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County, and Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River Community Service Areas.

Proactive steps that can benefit wildfire risk reduction in the wildland-urban interface include outreach and technical assistance to forest landowners and residents on best management practices for reducing wildfire risk; developing wildfire preparedness, response, and recovery plans; controlling for invasive species that can act as an accelerant for fire; evacuation planning; and building strong partnerships that support effective planning and response. Vegetation management around homes and critical

infrastructure is also an important tool for reducing risk and should be pursued in ways that avoid impacts to critical areas.

**R-736 King County shall take steps to plan for and reduce wildfire risk in the wildland-urban interface in unincorporated King County including wildfire risk assessment and planning, amending codes to align with best practices for wildfire risk reduction, and public education.**

**R-737 King County shall encourage wildfire preparedness, including wildfire risk assessment and planning, in cities and towns located in the wildland-urban interface in King County.**

~~((R-637))~~ **R-738 King County ((should)) shall ((encourage community fire planning so that)) make residents ((are)) aware of the dangers of forest fires and encourage them to take steps to make their properties less vulnerable. ((King County should support neighborhood-based efforts to manage forests to improve forest health and reduce the risk of wildfire.))**

**R-739 King County wildfire risk reduction activities shall prioritize the needs of residents whose ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from wildfire impacts may be limited by income, health, mobility, or other disparities.**

**R-740 King County should adopt regulations that do not require permits for vegetation management in areas outside of critical areas and their buffers if implementing approved best management practices for wildfire risk reduction or as included within an approved forest stewardship plan that includes wildfire best management practices.**

#### Regional Collaboration on Wildfire Risk Reduction

Wildfire risk reduction benefits from ongoing opportunities to leverage resources and partnerships that support action around shared priorities and promote learning between organizations and subject matter experts. Partners includes local planners, first responders, natural resource managers, emergency management officials, and researchers.

Collaboration with small forest landowners and residents is also important. King County works in partnership with King Conservation District and Washington State University Extension Forestry to provide technical assistance to small forest landowners and residents related to wildfire mitigation. This includes providing education and technical training about forest management, working with forest landowners to develop and implement forest stewardship plans that account for climate change and wildfire risk, increasing access to cost-share programs that incentivize forest management, and hosting neighborhood-based workshops focused on identifying and acting on wildfire risks and community wildfire planning.

~~((R-640))~~ **R-741 King County ((should continue to)) shall collaborate with key partners, such as Indian tribes, the University of Washington, Washington State University including Extension, state and federal agencies, cities, first responders, and ((forest)) landowners, ((to)) on activities that improve forest resilience and reduce wildfire risks, including the following:**

- a. ((monitor)) Monitoring and ((evaluate)) evaluating impacts of climate change on forests and wildfire potential in King County;**
- b. Promoting species and structural diversity within and across forest stands in King County;**
- c. Providing educational and technical assistance for small forest landowners;**

- d. Leveraging partnerships to increase funding for landowner incentive cost-share programs;
- e. Expanding and enhancing opportunities for building public awareness and promoting shared learning about wildfire preparedness and risk reduction in King County;
- f. Reducing landslide and flooding risks resulting from wildfire damage and associated impacts;
- g. Supporting the recovery of natural systems and communities affected by wildfire; and
- h. Encouraging research on and development of fire suppression methods that have less negative impact on the environment.

((King County's 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan calls for the county to manage and restore its forested parks and natural lands in ways that maximize biological carbon storage and sequestration, and increase resilience to changing climate conditions. To help guide forest management activities, in 2012 the Parks Division completed an initial assessment of the forest types on all of Parks' forested acreage. Additional assessment will continue to be conducted on newly acquired forested properties as well. Parks will develop and implement stewardship plans on all forested properties of 200 acres or more in size, which will result in healthier and forests that are more resilient to climate change. The Parks and Water and Land Resources Divisions will also continue to develop opportunities for volunteers to plant native trees and shrubs and remove invasive species from County-owned lands and have established an ambitious goal for the planting of new trees in the county.

## D.)) C. Agriculture

Land suitable for farming is an irreplaceable natural resource. Agricultural lands and farming provide many benefits to the residents of King County, including a connection to its cultural heritage, fresh local foods, and a diverse economy. In ((2012)) 2017, farmers in King County produced over ((\$120)) \$135 million in agricultural sales. Farmlands are an intrinsic component of the varied open space landscape of the region. Farmland provides scenic vistas and low-density separation between rural communities. Many farms in the county include an educational experience through U-Pick operations, harvest tours, and demonstrations of agricultural practices. Agricultural lands also provide environmental benefits, including the temporary storage and conveyance of floodwaters, habitat for birds and other wildlife, large areas without impervious surfaces, and opportunities for providing riparian vegetation along rivers and streams. Farming and growing food is also an essential source of fresh food for communities across the county that supports resilience, healthy eating, and cultural identity.

((The concern about the loss of farmland in King County in the 1970s resulted in adoption of an agricultural lands policy framework through Ordinance 3064 in 1977 that called for the County to designate certain areas within King County as agricultural lands and then to develop an agricultural land protection program based upon both land use regulations and compensation to protect existing agricultural lands and private property. This led to the successful Farmland Preservation Program bond issue in 1979, which has funded the purchase of farmland development rights.

In 1985, the county first designated its Agricultural Production Districts, which have remained stable since then at more than 41,000 acres. However, despite the land conservation accomplished through the Farmland Preservation Program and the designation of the Agricultural Production Districts, not all of this land is farmed. Based on surveys, approximately 27,000 acres of the Agricultural Production Districts are farmable, the rest being forested, farm building, water bodies or other non-farmable areas. About 25,000 areas are being actively farmed. In addition, there are 13,000

acres in active agriculture outside the Agricultural Production Districts on Rural Area and in urban areas.))

This section focuses on the ((e))County's efforts to maintain and enhance commercial agriculture for the value of local produce, dairy products, specialty horticultural and energy crops, keeping livestock, and for scenic and historic values. To meet the Growth Management Act requirement to maintain and enhance agriculture, a variety of methods and programs continue to be necessary.

((The policies call for King County to:

- ~~Protect productive farmland by designation and zoning;~~
- ~~Limit development to appropriately-scaled uses that are necessary to support commercial agriculture;~~
- ~~Prevent or minimize land use conflicts between farming operations and adjacent land uses;~~
- ~~Encourage and allow necessary infrastructure and services (markets, water, affordable housing, supply stores, technical services, tax incentives) that support commercial agriculture and contribute to growing, storing, processing, and distributing a local food supply and other horticultural and livestock activities;~~
- ~~Support the economic development of the local food economy and improve access to healthy, affordable food;~~
- ~~Continue to preserve farmland and develop additional mechanisms to maintain the affordability of farmland; and~~
- ~~Encourage farming practices that conserve soils and protect water quality, fisheries, and wildlife.~~

King County's Local Food Initiative includes targets and recommendations to expand the local food economy to ensure job growth and economic viability for King County food businesses and farms.))

The Local Food Initiative(~~'s production targets are to add 400 net new acres in food production and 25 new food farmers per year over the next ten years~~) includes strategies and actions to increase land in food production and support the development of new farmers. Success ~~((in meeting the targets))~~ will require protection of existing farmland, keeping it farmed, addressing problems that impair farming, and enhancing programs that provide technical assistance to farmers and expand markets for local farm products. To ~~((meet this target))~~ support these goals, the County should also pursue feasible opportunities to return formerly farmed land into production(~~((such as the recent purchase of Tall Chief Golf Course in the Snoqualmie Valley which will be returned to agricultural use))~~). In advancing this initiative, King County ~~((will))~~ encourages ~~((B))~~best ~~((M))~~management ~~((P))~~practices and sustainable farming activities and ~~((will))~~ prioritizes farming operations that have minimal adverse impacts on the environment.

## 1. Protecting Agricultural Lands

~~((In 1979, voters approved a \$50 million ballot measure to protect farmland threatened by development. The Farmland Preservation Program became the first voter-approved measure in the nation to protect farmland in a metropolitan area. By purchasing the development rights, t))~~The Farmland Preservation Program purchases development rights to keep~~((s))~~ farmland open and available through covenants that restrict development and limit the uses of the property to agriculture and open space. The covenants remain with the land in perpetuity, so the land is protected regardless of ownership. Under the Farmland Preservation Program, the ~~((e))~~County holds the development rights in trust while the land remains in private ownership. By law, the

((c)) County cannot sell or remove its interest in Farmland Preservation Program lands, with the exception of conveying public road or utility easements. ((

~~In 1995, the county approved an additional \$3 million for the purchase of additional development rights under the Farmland Preservation Program, and continues to add to the program with a variety of grant funding and use of the Transfer of Development Rights Program.)) To date, the Farmland Preservation Program and Transfer of Development Rights Program ((has)) have succeeded in preserving more than ((14,000)) 16,000 acres of farmland.~~

**~~((R-642)) R-742~~ King County shall continue to implement the objectives of the Farmland Preservation Program. Protection of property purchased under the Farmland Preservation Program shall be a high priority when balancing conflicting interests such as locating transportation, active recreation, utility facilities, or other uses that could have an adverse impact on farm operations. ((King County shall use the Transfer of Development Rights Program as another tool to preserve farmland.**

~~Even farmland in the Farmland Preservation Program is challenged by pressures from adjacent development, the need to maintain drainage and irrigation systems, non-farmer ownership, and high real estate costs. To protect the farmland for the long term, investments in improving the farmability and managing the easements to ensure compliance are necessary.~~

**~~R-642a)) R-743~~ King County should develop a long((-))-term strategy for financing protection of sufficient farmland to significantly expand and retain food production, including improving the farmability of protected farmland, and ensuring that the easements are well((-))managed for the long((-))term.**

**~~((R-642b)) R-744 ((Farmers conducting work on property)) Properties on which King County owns a Farmland Preservation Program easement, or ((farmers leasing properties owned by King)) that the County leases for agricultural purposes, should be limited to predominantly agricultural activities and agricultural((-supportive activities)) support services.~~**

~~Agriculture is most productive in agricultural communities where neighbors support agriculture, where parcels are large enough for commercial agriculture and where labor, supplies, and markets for farm products are available. King County's farm soils and most profitable farms are usually found in contiguous blocks with few nonagricultural uses. ((In 1985, King County established Agricultural Production Districts with large lot zoning and agriculture as the preferred use.))~~

The Agricultural Production Districts, shown on the Agriculture and Forest Lands Map in this chapter, present the least number of land use conflicts for agriculture, contain agricultural support ((activities)) services, and provide the best environment for farming in King County. The five Agricultural Production Districts are Sammamish Valley, Snoqualmie Valley, Lower Green River Valley, Upper Green River Valley, and Enumclaw Plateau. Most of the farmlands preserved under the Farmland Preservation Program are found in these Agricultural Production Districts.



2726 ((R-643)) **R-745 Agricultural Production Districts ((are)) shall be blocks of**  
2727 **contiguous farmlands where agriculture is supported through the**  
2728 **protection of agricultural soils and related support services and**  
2729 **activities. King County should use ((R))roads and natural features**  
2730 **((are)) as appropriate boundaries for Agricultural Production Districts to**  
2731 **reduce the possibility of conflicts with adjacent land uses.**  
2732

2733 ((R-644)) **R-746 King County should continue to seek funding and purchase**  
2734 **additional development rights to farmland in the Agricultural**  
2735 **Production Districts.**  
2736

2737 ((Livestock, dairy and large-scale commercial row-crop operations require large parcels  
2738 of land to allow for production that is profitable and sustainable. Generally, at least 35  
2739 acres is needed for full-time wholesale commercial production of such products.  
2740 Specialty agricultural products, products that are direct-marketed, and part-time  
2741 farming enterprises generally do not need as much acreage to be profitable.  
2742

2743 **R-645)) R-747 All parcels within the boundaries of an Agricultural Production**  
2744 **District ((should)) shall be zoned Agricultural, either A-10 or A-35. In**  
2745 **order for ((R-646 Lands within Agricultural Production Districts**  
2746 **should remain in)) parcels to remain large enough for commercial**  
2747 **agriculture((-A)), a maximum residential density of one home per 35**  
2748 **acres shall be applied where the predominant lot size of agricultural-**  
2749 **zoned parcels in the surrounding area is 35 acres or larger, and a**  
2750 **maximum residential density of one home per 10 acres shall be applied**  
2751 **where the predominant lot size of agricultural-zoned parcels in the**  
2752 **surrounding area is smaller than 35 acres.**  
2753

2754 ((R-647)) **R-748 Agriculture ((should be)) shall remain the ((principal)) predominant**  
2755 **land use in ((the)) any Agricultural Production District((s)). Permanent**  
2756 **new construction within districts shall be sited to prevent conflicts with**  
2757 **commercial farming or other agricultural uses, and nonagricultural uses**  
2758 **shall be limited. New development shall not disrupt agriculture**  
2759 **operations and shall have a scale compatible with an active farming**  
2760 **district.**  
2761

2762 ((R-648)) **R-749 On-site housing for farm employees shall be allowed where this**  
2763 **can be accomplished without unnecessarily removing land from**  
2764 **agricultural use or conflicting with other public interests. King County**  
2765 **should address the regulatory constraints that make it difficult for**  
2766 **farmers to offer housing for farm employees.**  
2767

#### 2768 Fish, Farm, Flood

2769 The river valleys in King County are ((critical locations)) important natural resource areas  
2770 for agriculture, salmon habitat, and natural floodplain processes. In compliance with the  
2771 ((g))Growth ((m))Management Act, portions of several of these valleys were designated  
2772 as Agricultural Production Districts to protect ((the diminishing farmland)) land for  
2773 long-term commercial ((agriculture)) agricultural uses, ((thereby preventing their  
2774 conversion to other uses that are often incompatible with habitat protection or that  
2775 would require expensive flood risk reduction projects)) including the highest quality  
2776 soils for food production, and to limit conversion of the land uses to those that would be  
2777 incompatible with viable, long-term, commercial agriculture. Many areas of farmland  
2778 within Agricultural Production Districts are: located on a geologically active landscapes;  
2779 below upland creeks and streams; on or adjacent to an alluvial fan; and/or within  
2780 floodplains, floodways, or other low-lying areas. Because of this, the ability to manage  
2781 drainage and infrastructure to support farming is an important aspect of retaining  
2782 farmable land and supporting continued agricultural uses within the Agricultural  
2783 Production Districts. Management in these areas requires consideration of not only

current, but future impacts to agricultural use, geological processes, and stream function and values essential to fish passage and spawning.

The same geography covered by Agricultural Production Districts also provides salmon habitat restoration opportunities of importance to King County, Indian tribes, and other regional partners. Some of both the highest-quality ((of)) and most-degraded salmon habitat in King County is ((found within)) in and adjacent to rivers and streams flowing through the Agricultural Production Districts. ((As a result of federal listing of Chinook salmon as a threatened species, King County is obligated to take actions for protection of Chinook habitat in the county's watersheds. Such actions include restoration of habitat in portions of each of the county's rivers and, because many sections of the county's river systems are in a highly altered state, those reaches within Agricultural Production Districts offer some of the most promising opportunities for habitat restoration critical to salmon recovery. Each of the Water Resources Inventory Area Salmon Recovery Plans has recommended additional protection or restoration of critical habitat within the Agricultural Production Districts. At the same time, King County is committed to the preservation of productive agricultural soils and local agricultural production and protection of public safety in flood-prone areas through the restoration of floodplain processes.)) King County continues to work diligently to restore habitat and advance recovery of depleted salmon stocks, and strives to protect and enhance fish stocks, ecological functions and aquatic habitat in all county waterbodies and floodplain areas, including in floodplains, rivers, streams, and wetlands in Agricultural Production Districts. Furthermore, King County continues to work toward recovery of all salmonid species given the nexus of salmonid populations and honoring and sustaining the rights held by Indian tribes as sovereign trustees for fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources, and by the State of Washington.

((The farmers in the county support fish protection and fish recovery through many regulated and voluntary actions. King County recognizes that fish, flood management, and farm interests must work together in a collaborative manner. It is essential that farmers and other property owners in each watershed be directly included in planning and in the review of integrated, watershed-wide strategies that support the needs of agriculture, fish recovery, and flood risk reduction and floodplain management. Specific habitat protection rules should not jeopardize the agricultural productivity within the Agricultural Production Districts.)) Some of King County's Agricultural Production Districts have vast areas of designated and mapped floodways and 100-year floodplains. King County is committed to restoring floodplain processes and mitigating flood risks to ensure human health and protect public safety, reducing the risk of property damage, maintaining critical infrastructure supporting residents and businesses, restoring salmon habitat, and reducing public and private economic impacts of flood events. As climate change results in more-frequent and more-damaging floods, agriculture businesses and homes will need increased support for home and agricultural building elevations. Maintaining land use rules that prevent conversions of agricultural land to other uses other than habitat restoration or flood protection will have a co-benefit of limiting new development that may be at increased risk of damage from floods and alluvial fan hazards.

King County supports ongoing viability of agriculture, restoration, and enhancement of salmon habitat, and actions to reduce flood risks and enhance ecological functions of floodplains, all of which combine to create a resilient landscape in the face of climate change and pressures of population growth. However, because current or proposed land uses supporting one goal may affect advancement of other goals, decision-making about the size and location of habitat and floodplain restoration and agricultural infrastructure projects can be challenging. The 2012 Comprehensive Plan update added ((p))Policy R-((650))753 that directed the County to ((convene a collaborative watershed planning process)) develop an approach to improving and balancing the interests of agricultural production, ecological function and habitat quality for salmon,

and flood risk reduction and floodplain restoration within each of the Agricultural Production Districts. ~~In response, ((F))the County ((choose to start the process in)) and partners piloted a planning effort focused on the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District((, where the County has undertaken a number of habitat restoration projects, to develop an approach to improving and balancing the interests of agricultural production, ecological function and habitat quality for salmon, and flood risk reduction and floodplain restoration)) by convening the Snoqualmie Valley Fish, Farm, and Flood Advisory Committee with the goal of understanding context and improving balance in King County's work to advance multiple objectives. As a result of the ongoing efforts of the Snoqualmie farm, fish, flood process, the County has begun to operationalize recommendations, including recommendations for a revised administrative process for reviewing proposed County project and programmatic actions in locations where agriculture, fish habitat, and floodplains intersect.~~

~~((In response to this, the Fish, Farm, and Flood Advisory Committee was formed in 2013, and the group of stakeholders representing agriculture, salmon recovery and flood management interests have been meeting regularly for the past three years. In 2016 the Advisory Committee developed a final report and a set of recommendations that balances near term actions as well as program and policy recommendations for all three resource interests. The Advisory Committee also recommended the formation of three task forces to undertake more detailed analyses of specific policy areas. Together the final recommendations and the work of the three task forces will form the foundation of a watershed planning approach in the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District to sustain agriculture production, salmon recovery, and flood risk reduction.~~

~~The Fish, Farm and Flood advisory committee participants recognize the importance of salmon recovery efforts, a vibrant agricultural economy and protecting agricultural soils in the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District, and the importance of protecting the public in flood prone areas. To address inherent conflicts between these three overlapping interests, the Advisory Committee recommended a suite of near term actions to address critical needs for all three resource areas, and the creation of three task forces)) The revised administrative review process will occur in a watershed context by considering information from a variety of sources, including the following four task forces convened based on recommendations of the Snoqualmie fish, farm, flood effort:~~

- ~~• Buffers Task Force((, with the goal of developing a science-based riparian buffer planting implementation strategy for the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District that strikes a balance between increasing ecological function of waterways and maintaining the agricultural viability of the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District)) and Buffers Implementation Task Force, created to evaluate use of King County funds to implement voluntary, science-based, variable-width riparian plantings.~~
- ~~• Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District Strategic Plan Task Force((, with the goal of)), created to consider strategies to ((improving)) improve the long-term productivity of farmland, bring more acres into production, especially food production, and ((increasing)) increase opportunities for farmers to develop the necessary infrastructure to support or increase their farm businesses in the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District. ((This task force will conduct an assessment of specific farmland resource property needs and assets in the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District and create an implementation plan for project improvements to land (e.g., drainage) and water access. It will complement other related efforts, such as King County's Local Food Initiative which is an economic development and marketing plan for food and agriculture in the region:))~~
- ~~• Regulatory Task Force((, with the goal of evaluating regulations and recommending process improvements or possibly statutory changes, as appropriate, pertaining to~~

key regulatory issues identified by the Fish, Farm and Flood agricultural stakeholders. The goal of the task force is to identify changes that will reduce compliance costs and increase predictability without diminishing the overall level of environmental protection or the level of flood protection that regulations are intended to assure. Initial areas of focus for the task force include:)), created to evaluate and recommend improvements to regulations to promote a viable agricultural economy and maintain and enhance habitat protection and healthy ecosystems.((

○ ~~Drainage regulations that make maintenance expensive or time-consuming or otherwise restrict the ability to improve drainage of farm fields.~~

○ ~~Flood regulations related to constructing farm pads, buildings and other farm improvements.~~

○ ~~Mitigation required when farmers maintain drainage ditches or build a farm pad or other structure in a wetland or a buffer of a wetland or stream.~~

~~Those recommendations are reflected in a new policy R-650a:))~~

While these task forces were developed with a specific focus on the Snoqualmie Agricultural Production District, the lessons learned have helped to inform principles that guide how the County strives toward achieving multiple benefits through projects and programmatic action implemented in other Agricultural Production Districts and all areas of unincorporated King County where agriculture, salmon habitat, and floodplains converge.

Using recommendations from the Snoqualmie Valley Fish, Farm, and Flood Advisory Committee, King County has revised the process for reviewing projects in a watershed context, which is described in revised Policy R-753. This process will apply to habitat and flood projects sponsored by the Water and Land Resources Division in all Agricultural Production Districts. Revised Policy R-753 outlines the minimum required elements of an administrative review process for habitat and floodplain restoration capital projects and programs sponsored by the King County water and land resources division where fish, farm, and flood interests intersect.

Policies in this section also reflect the importance of facilitating County-sponsored infrastructure (such as home elevations, barn elevations, and farm pads) and drainage improvement projects (including Agricultural Drainage Improvement Program or "ADAP" projects; Integrated Drainage Program projects, such as culverts, flap gates, and pumps; and projects on non-ADAP-eligible waterway projects) on privately owned farmland to support continued long-term commercial agricultural uses within Agricultural Production Districts, and the review process may also be conducted for projects sponsored by entities other than the Water and Land Resources Division.

The Snoqualmie Valley Fish, Farm, and Flood Advisory Committee process and associated planning work has been instrumental in King County and partners learning how to balance needs of agriculture, salmon recovery, and floodplain management in a collaborative manner considering watershed context in ways that are directly applicable to other Agricultural Production Districts. As a result, the original goal - of implementing targeted planning efforts in all Agricultural Production Districts - is no longer necessary. However, King County will continue to support the Snoqualmie Valley Fish, Farm, and Flood Advisory Committee until the level of progress envisioned at the formation of the committee is substantially complete, and King County will consider supporting similar collaborative efforts in other geographies when residents and partners request a localized planning effort, where appropriate.

**((R-649)) R-750 King County, through implementation of projects and programs, shall ensure sufficient land within Agricultural Production Districts**

remains available to support long-term viability of commercial agriculture and that its programmatic and project actions support the maintenance or improvement of drainage and other agricultural support infrastructure. To the maximum extent feasible, King County should tailor measures to protect threatened or endangered species to support continued operation of working farms within the Agricultural Production Districts and should strive for outcomes consistent with goals King County may establish for optimal area of productive agricultural lands within the Agricultural Production Districts.

- R-751** King County shall complete a collaborative process to:
- a. Determine minimum acreage targets for agricultural lands and for floodplain and riparian habitat project area in the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District, including consideration of climate change; and
  - b. Develop a tracking system for the amount of agricultural land used.

- R-752** ~~((Agriculture must remain the predominant use in any Agricultural Production District and a))~~ Aquatic habitat projects, ~~((or))~~ floodplain restoration projects, ~~((as well as;))~~ and ~~((King County))~~ mitigation reserves program projects shall not reduce the ability to farm in the Agricultural Production District. Therefore, ~~((until the county implements the watershed planning process described in R-650;))~~ such projects are allowed only when supported by owners of the land where the proposed project is to be sited. Criteria to be considered:
- a. For a project proposed to be sited on lands that are unsuitable for direct agricultural production purposes, such as portions of property that have not historically been farmed due to soil conditions or frequent flooding, and which cannot be returned to productivity by drainage maintenance, or
  - b. For a project proposed to be sited on lands suitable for direct agricultural production:
    - (1) there are no unsuitable lands available that meet the technical or locational needs of the proposed project, and
    - (2) the project is included in, or consistent with, an approved Water Resources Inventory Area Salmon Recovery Plan, Farm Management Plan, Flood ~~((Hazard))~~ Management Plan or other similar watershed scale plan; or the project would not reduce the baseline agricultural productivity within the Agricultural Production District.

- ~~((R-650))~~ **R-753** ~~((Aquatic habitat restoration projects, floodplain restoration projects and projects under King County's mitigation reserves program in an Agricultural Production District shall be evaluated through a collaborative watershed planning process with the goal of maintaining and improving agricultural viability, improving ecological function and habitat quality, and restoring floodplains through integrated, watershed-wide strategies. A watershed planning process shall be established for an agricultural production district because of the number of potential restoration projects and shall:~~
- a. ~~ensure that agricultural viability in the Agricultural Production District is not reduced as the result of actions taken and that agriculture remains the predominant use in the agricultural production district;~~
  - b. ~~evaluate and recommend actions at all scales across the affected watershed to maintain and improve agricultural viability, restore ecological functions and aquatic habitat and restore floodplains, including voluntary actions taken by landowners;~~



- ~~c. be a collaborative effort among affected land owners, interested stakeholders, and King County and shall be updated on a periodic basis; and~~
- ~~d. identify and recommend actions that King County should take or ensure are taken to maintain and improve agricultural viability in the Agricultural Production District and address any impacts to agriculture from aquatic habitat restoration projects, floodplain restoration projects and projects under King County's mitigation reserves program constructed in the Agricultural Production District.))~~

King County shall administer a collaborative review process considering watershed context for County-sponsored habitat or floodplain restoration projects that may result in reducing the amount of land available for farming, and for County-sponsored agricultural drainage improvement projects or other County-sponsored land-based agriculture infrastructure projects that may affect habitat or floodplain function, in Agricultural Production Districts. The review process shall be administered by the Water and Land Resources Division and strive for balance in outcomes that achieve co-equal goals of maintaining and improving suitability of land for agricultural productivity, increasing habitat quality, and restoring floodplains and ecological function. The review process should:

- a. Occur early in the planning process for projects, and at regular intervals for ongoing programs;
- b. Consider guidance from relevant plans relating to agriculture, salmon recovery, and floodplain management;
- c. Consider efforts for advancing multiple resource interests;
- d. Track on-the-ground changes in land cover relative to acreage targets for farmland and habitat restoration areas, focused on impacts to agricultural lands and fish populations;
- e. Consider input and recommendations resulting from engagement and input from external partners and subject matter experts; and
- f. Identify and address barriers to efficient implementation of the process.

The review process may also be offered for projects and programs sponsored by King County agencies aside from the Water and Land Resources Division and/or for projects and programs sponsored by external entities.

~~((R-650a)) R-754 ((The Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District is the first Agricultural Production District to undergo a watershed planning effort called for in R-650. King County shall implement the recommendations of the Snoqualmie Fish, Farm and Flood Advisory Committee. The recommendations of the task forces and other actions identified in the final Advisory Committee Report and Recommendations will form the basis for a watershed planning approach to balance fish, farm and flood interests across the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District and an agreement on protecting a defined number of acres of agricultural land. The Advisory Committee, or a successor committee, will monitor progress of the task forces and will reconvene to evaluate the watershed planning approach to balancing interests prior to the next Comprehensive Plan update. The policy issues and recommendations outlined in the Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood Advisory Committee Report and Recommendations are largely specific to the Snoqualmie Valley and are not intended to be applied broadly in other Agricultural Production Districts. Future Fish, Farm, Flood efforts focused in other Agricultural Production Districts will need to go through their own processes to identify barriers to success for all stakeholders in these geographic areas. R-649 continues to apply to the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District until the watershed planning effort outlined in the Fish, Farm and Flood recommendations is complete. A policy reflecting the outcome of this effort shall be included in the next eight-year update.)) The County shall, to the maximum extent feasible, continue to support the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District fish, farm, flood effort.~~

~~R-755 The County shall continue to document and consider the lessons learned from the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District fish, farm, flood effort to guide and refine the collaborative planning and review processes in a watershed context for projects and programs in other geographies, with the co-equal goals of balancing farm, fish, and flood interests where farms, fish habitat, and floodplains overlap, as well as strategies for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating losses of farmable land, floodplain functions, and habitat functions. The County should support planning efforts similar to the Snoqualmie Valley Fish, Farm, and Flood Advisory Committee in other geographies if and when the County and partners choose to pursue such efforts or if acute tensions among various interests arise in a particular Agricultural Production District or other area of the county.~~

~~((R-651 Maintaining the viability of farmlands is a high priority for King County. Within the Agricultural Production Districts, measures to protect threatened or endangered species shall be tailored to ensure working farms can continue to operate.~~

~~Two Agricultural Production Districts in or near urban areas, the Lower Green River Valley and Sammamish Valley, were designated in the 1985 Comprehensive Plan, and those designations have been retained. The development rights from many, but not all, of the parcels in these two districts have been purchased through the Farmland Preservation Program. The Lower Green River Agricultural Production District is completely surrounded by urban designated land and as such, functions as both prime agriculture land and urban separator.)) Each of the ((other)) Agricultural Production Districts and some Farmland Preservation Program lands outside of Agricultural Production Districts ((also)) share boundaries with cities. The challenges to agriculture from urban development include alterations to hydrology that result in flooded fields, increased traffic that interferes with farm vehicles on roads, increased lighting at night, complaints from urban neighbors about farm operations, and high land prices. The~~

benefits of being located near urban areas include access to urban markets and consumers and increased recognition and appreciation of locally produced goods.

**~~((R-652))~~ R-756** King County commits to preserve Agricultural Production District parcels in or near the Urban Growth Area because of their high production capabilities, their proximity to markets, and their value as open space. King County should work with cities adjacent to or near Agricultural Production Districts to minimize the operational and environmental impacts of urban development and public facilities and infrastructure on farming and farmland, and to promote activities, such as Farmers Markets and agriculture processing businesses, that benefit both the cities and the farms by improving access to locally grown agricultural products.

**~~((R-653))~~ R-757** The Lower Green River Agricultural Production District is a regionally designated resource that ~~((is—to))~~ **shall** remain in unincorporated King County **except as allowed in Policies R-760, R-761, and R-762.** The Lower Green River Agricultural Production District functions as an urban separator between the cities of Kent and Auburn. King County may contract with other jurisdictions to provide some local services to this area as appropriate.

~~((Pastoral vistas make agricultural land a popular destination for recreation. However, creating parks with active recreational facilities in the Agricultural Production Districts is not appropriate because the land should be prioritized for agriculture. In addition, heavy recreational use in or near the Agricultural Production Districts could result in trespass and damage to crops, animals and farm equipment.~~

**~~R-654))~~ R-758** Active recreation~~((at))~~ facilities should not be located within Agricultural Production Districts. When new parks, natural areas, or trails are planned for areas within or adjacent to Agricultural Production Districts, King County should work with farmers to minimize impacts to farmland and agricultural operations.

~~((Public road and utility projects within and through Agricultural Production Districts must be designed to prevent disruption to agriculture. Therefore, road and utility district capital facilities and plans, including water, wastewater, recycled water, and drainage, need to ensure that services are consistent with preservation of long-term agriculture. (Chapter 9, Services, Facilities and Utilities, contains policies requiring special district plans to be consistent with land use plans.)~~

**~~R-655))~~ R-759** Public services and utilities **provided by King County and other entities within and adjacent to Agricultural Production Districts shall be designed to support agriculture and minimize significant adverse impacts on agriculture and to maintain total farmland acreage and the area's historic agricultural character:**

- a. ~~((Whenever feasible, w))~~Water lines, sewer lines, and other public facilities should avoid crossing Agricultural Production Districts. Installation should be timed to minimize negative impacts on seasonal agricultural practices;
- b. Road projects planned for the Agricultural Production Districts, including additional roads or the widening of roads, should be limited to those that are needed for safety or infrastructure preservation and that benefit agricultural uses. ~~((Where possible, a))~~Arterials should be routed around the Agricultural Production Districts. Roads that cross Agricultural Production Districts should be aligned, designed, signed, and maintained to minimize negative impacts on agriculture, and to support farm traffic; ~~((and))~~

- c. In cases when King County concludes that regional public infrastructure projects cannot be located outside of, and must intrude into, Agricultural Production Districts, the County shall ensure that the infrastructure be built and located to minimize disruption of agricultural activity, and shall establish agreements with the relevant jurisdictions or agencies((-)); and
- d. If ((public services and utilities)) infrastructure projects reduce total acreage in the Agricultural Production District, mitigation shall follow the criteria established in ((p))Policy R-((656a))761.

((R-656)) **R-760** King County may allow lands to be removed from the Agricultural Production Districts only when it can be demonstrated that:

- a.1. Removal of the land will not diminish the productivity of prime agricultural soils or the effectiveness of farming within the local Agricultural Production District boundaries; and
- ((b:)) 2. The land is determined to be no longer suitable for agricultural purposes; or
- ((c:)) b. The land is needed for public services or utilities as described in ((p))Policy R-((655))759.

((R-656a)) **R-761** King County may only approve the removal of land from the Agricultural Production District if it is, concurrently with or in advance of removal of the land from the Agricultural Production District, mitigated through the replacement of agricultural land abutting the same Agricultural Production District that is, at a minimum, comparable in size, soil quality, and agricultural value. As alternative mitigation, the County may approve a combination of acquisition and restoration totaling three acres for every one acre removed as follows:

- a. A minimum of one acre ((must)) shall be added into another Agricultural Production District for every acre removed; and
- b. Up to two acres of unfarmed land in the same Agricultural Production District from which land is removed shall be restored for every acre removed.

**R-762** Replacement land required under Policy R-761 may be acquired and added to the Agricultural Production District in advance of removal as follows:

- a. The mitigation is for a public agency or utility project consistent with Policy R-759;
- b. Property proposed to be added to the Agricultural Production District is approved by the Department of Natural Resources and Parks to ensure compliance with Policy R-761;
- c. The subsequent map amendment to remove the Agricultural Production District land identifies the previously added land being used for mitigation; and
- d. The Department of Natural Resources and Parks tracks the acreage of advance additions of replacement land and subsequent removals to ensure that the requirements of Policy R-761 are met.

## 2. Sustaining Agriculture and Farming

((King County has made a significant investment in preserving farmland for agriculture and, as a result, has also preserved the open-space benefits of these lands. The county must ensure that this land continues to be farmed into the future by helping farmers maintain and operate their farms and by promoting local agricultural products through infrastructure and activities that improve access to locally grown agricultural products:))

Farmers, especially new and beginning, have limited resources to access land and financing to begin production. Furthermore, all King County farmers, regardless of size and years of farming, have a great need for information on marketing and production

strategies required to operate their farming businesses. The Local Food Initiative ~~((seeks to))~~ provides this information and assistance ~~((Under the Local Food Initiative regulatory and technical assistance will increase and be streamlined through a coordinated))~~ by coordinating economic development efforts by different ~~((c))~~ County agencies and partner organizations that serve farmers. ~~((The team will provide assistance with production, marketing, and business planning through a "one-stop shop" available on-line with a possibility of physical co-location of services if necessary.~~

**~~R-657))~~ R-763 King County shall work with ~~((and provide support to))~~ Washington State University Extension and other technical service providers for ~~((its))~~ their research and education programs that assist small-scale commercial farmers.**

**~~((R-658))~~ R-764 King County shall work with other jurisdictions and non~~((=))~~profits to expand markets for farm products by supporting ~~((Puget Sound Fresh and other))~~ programs that promote local food and connect buyers with producers.**

**~~((R-659))~~ R-765 King County should work with other jurisdictions, farm advocacy groups, and others to support ~~((Farmlink,))~~ farmer training and other programs that help new farmers get started, gain access to farmland, and develop successful marketing methods.**

~~((King County recognizes the value of Farmers Markets for their role in community-building, their contribution to farmer success by providing a direct-marketing opportunity, and for making the bounty of King County farms available to city residents.~~

**~~R-660))~~ R-766 King County should work with other jurisdictions to continue to provide support to Farmers Markets.**

**~~((R-661))~~ R-767 King County should develop and encourage the use of incentives ~~((to encourage))~~ for food production on prime farmland. These incentives could include tax credits, expedited permit review, reduced permit fees, permit exemptions for activities complying with best management practices, or similar programs.**

**R-768 The ~~((c))~~County should continue to work with community-based organizations that can assist farmers who are Black, Indigenous, or other People of Color, immigrants, ~~((and minority farmers))~~ refugees, and other communities that have traditionally experienced ~~((access))~~ issues~~((;))~~ in gaining access to farmland.**

**~~((R-661a))~~ R-769 To help make more farmland accessible to beginning, ~~((and))~~ low-income, historically underinvested, and socially disadvantaged farmers, King County should expand its leasing of agricultural land to farmers and community organizations where appropriate and should encourage private farmland owners to lease unused land to farmers.**

**~~((R-661b))~~ R-770 King County should expand representation of low-income, ~~((and))~~ historically underinvested, and socially disadvantaged farmers and community organizations within King County agricultural processes, such as the Agriculture Commission, advisory committees, task forces, and hiring.**

~~((King County recognizes the importance of adding value to and direct sales of agricultural products as a way to keep agriculture viable in an urban landscape. King~~



County's agriculture program works with farmers to encourage them to add value to their products by processing, packaging, and selling them directly to the consumer.

**R-662)) R-771** Agricultural processing, packing, and direct sales are considered agricultural activities and should be allowed at a size and scale appropriate to the zone in which they are operating. King County ~~((shall))~~ should work with local and state health departments to develop regulations supporting these activities and with local non((-))profits and academic institutions to educate farmers about safe food processing practices and compliance.

**((R-663)) R-772** King County supports the processing and packaging of farm products from crops and livestock, and ~~((will))~~ shall continue to work with farmers, ranchers, cities, neighboring counties, and other interested parties to address infrastructure and regulatory needs that promote sales to consumers, institutions, restaurants, and retail enterprises.

**((R-664)) R-773** King County supports innovative technologies to process waste from dairy and other livestock ~~((waste))~~ to reduce nutrients and to create other products such as energy and compost in areas that have Agriculture and Rural Area land use designations.

~~((King County's Agricultural Production Districts have some of the best soil and conditions for growing food in the country. There is an increasing awareness among farmers about the potential for expanding local food production compatible with a variety of sustainability goals. Concerned about multiple threats to future food production, King County farmers are working with others to promote voluntary incentives that will increase the community of those involved in the local production of food.~~

**R-665)) R-774** King County should develop incentives that support local food production and processing to increase food security; provide a healthy, affordable local food supply; and reduce energy use.

Agricultural practices modify the natural environment ~~((in order))~~ to produce food or fiber or maintain livestock for human use. Ideally, practices that maintain the productivity of the lands also protect environmental quality ~~((and))~~, respect natural processes such as flooding and channel migration, and help mitigate the impacts of climate change. Farmers, technical advisors, floodplain managers, and environmental regulators must work together to understand the relationships between production practices, environmental protection, public safety, and profitability. ~~((These practices, referred to as b))~~Best management practices((;)) are designed to prevent erosion, maintain flood conveyance and flood storage, retain riparian vegetation, avoid stream bank collapse, properly dispose of animal wastes, safely use and dispose of pesticides ~~((and))~~, prevent excessive stormwater runoff, capture and reuse methane gas, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and retain access to local food. ~~((Best management practices planned and implemented through efforts such as farm management plans can control runoff volumes and prevent pollutants from being discharged into local waterways and groundwater. These practices, such as manure bins, paddock and grazing area designs, and stream exclusion fencing, can reduce or eliminate pollutants in stormwater runoff from agricultural activities.~~

~~Climate change has the potential to affect farming in King County, with increased severity of winter flooding, higher summer temperatures, reduced availability of surface and groundwater for irrigation, increased pest risk, and changes in the types of crops suited to this area. At the same time, soil best management practices, including use of cover crops and modified tilling methods, and amendment with compost, biosolids or~~

other organic matter can help to mitigate the impacts of climate change by retaining soil moisture, sequestering carbon, and reducing other greenhouse gas emissions. Consideration and investigation of alternative water supplies, such as recycled water, can also help to mitigate the impacts of climate change and help support local and sustainable agriculture. Development of anaerobic digesters for dairy manure and other agricultural waste products can capture methane gas and convert it to usable energy. Having locally-available produce can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport.

King County's policies in this chapter to conserve farmland and encourage food production take on a greater significance when considering that climate change may result in food shortages in other parts of the country and world. The Puget Sound region may become even more valuable for food production than it already is if producing food in other parts of the world becomes more difficult.

**~~R-666)) R-775~~ King County shall provide incentives, educational programs, and other methods to encourage agricultural practices and technological improvements that maintain water quality, protect public health, protect fish and wildlife habitat, protect historic resources, maintain flood conveyance and storage, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, control noxious weeds, ((and)) prevent erosion of valuable agricultural soils, and increase soil water holding capacity while maintaining the functions needed for agricultural production.**

~~((In order to))~~ To maintain and operate their farms, farmers need assistance in maintaining farm viability in the face of increasing urbanization, soil degradation, increased flooding and water scarcity caused by climate change, and the increased impacts of upslope development. The maintenance of drainage and irrigation systems is essential for commercial agriculture to succeed in the county.

~~((R-667))~~ **King County shall continue to support agriculture with an expedited review process and reduced fees for structures necessary for farm operations.**

**~~R-668)) R-776~~ King County shall work with federal, state, local, and private agencies to improve the availability and efficiency of water for agriculture through use of tools such as: expanding the availability of recycled water to farms((:)); offering incentives for irrigation efficiency((:)); and supporting mechanisms for water rights banking and trading that will give farmers greater certainty for water rights while protecting instream flows. King County ((with)) shall encourage the maintenance and preservation of agriculture water rights for agriculture purposes. Assessments of future surface and groundwater availability for agriculture should consider projected impacts of climate change.**

**~~((R-668a)) R-777~~ King County ((with)) shall continue to support drainage improvements through its Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program and actively seek new ways to make drainage projects less expensive and easier to implement and to improve drainage systems across property lines.**

**~~((R-669)) R-778~~ King County should continue to collaborate with the Washington State University Extension, the University of Washington, and King Conservation District to:**  
**a. ~~((d))~~ Develop information on and analyze the ((likely)) current and future impacts of climate change on agriculture in King County((:));**

- b. ~~((and to d))~~ Develop mitigation, resiliency, and adaptation strategies that are appropriate for King County's soils and farm economy~~((Research should address))~~, such as soil management, use of commercial compost, water storage, irrigation, alternative crops, integrated pest management, and nutrient management~~((The information should be made available to))~~; and
- c. Share the information and strategies with farmers through technical assistance programs and farm planning.

**((R-669a)) R-779 Farmers leasing King County properties, or conducting work on ((property)) properties on which King County owns a Farmland Preservation Program easement should use ((A))agricultural ((B))best ((M))management ((P))practices, integrated pest management, and other sustainable farming methods.**

**((R-670)) R-780 King County should provide incentives for soil management practices that reduce greenhouse emissions through its ((A))agricultural ((B))best ((M))management ((P))practices ((C))cost-((S))sharing ((P))program.**

~~((Agricultural lands have historically been located in floodplains. Agriculture coexists with flood storage and seasonal inundation; however, there is a growing concern that farmers cannot protect their investments from flooding. The federal, state and local flood hazard management standards are designed to ensure there is no adverse impact to upstream or downstream property owners from activities that are allowed within the floodplain. King County recognizes that most of the agriculture in the county is located in the floodplains because that is where the prime agricultural soils are located. In recent years, King County has provided extensive technical and financial support to farmers to build farm pads and raise homes and agricultural buildings in the Snoqualmie floodplain. This industry requires special consideration because it is tied to these agricultural soils, and can occur almost nowhere else in the county.~~

**R-672)) R-781 King County should work with federal, state, and local jurisdictions to reduce flood impacts to agricultural operations. The ((c))County ((will)) shall continue to investigate the needs of agriculture before, during, and after flood events, to determine if and how losses can be reduced, and ((will)) shall use this information in designing its floodplain policies and regulations.**

The high cost of agricultural land continues to be a barrier for many farmers wishing to locate their farm businesses within King County. The steady rise in agricultural land values continues to hamper the ability of many potential and current farmers to enter or expand their operations.

**((R-673)) R-782 In addition to enhancing the Farmland Preservation Program, the ((c))County should develop more innovative solutions and incentives to keep agricultural land affordable and profitable for active farming.**

### 3. Agriculture and the Food System

King County has a year-round growing season, a strong farming tradition and local farming expertise, and proximity to major markets for local foods and food products. Many of the policies in the previous section are aimed at helping to overcome obstacles to successful farming in King County. With that direction and a focus on production of food, farmlands in King County could be even more instrumental in strengthening the food system for the benefit of all King County residents.

Agricultural lands, farming practices and activities, and farmers are part of the local and regional food system. In addition to the growing of food, the food system includes

processing, distribution, food availability, and disposal. As more people move to this region, King County recognizes the importance of planning for the regional food system to be more sustainable and resilient.

((In order to do so, King County will focus on developing a local food system that can:

- Expand opportunities for local farms and enhance the rural economy;
- Promote healthy eating to improve public health;
- Improve access to healthy, safe, and affordable food, to all county residents; especially those with low incomes;
- Reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Divert food waste from landfills.

Studies have shown that 35% of garbage is food. Efforts to prevent food waste divert edible food to hunger programs and recycle food waste into compost could reduce what goes to the landfill, reduce methane generated by landfills, provide food for hungry people and provide soil amendments.

Food and nutrition are major factors in public health. The USDA's 2010 *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* call for significant increases in daily consumption of fruit, vegetables, milk products and whole grains. In 2013, 13.4% of King County residents lacked access to enough food for an active, healthy life and 18.7% of King County children lived in food-insecure households (*Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2015*), and 73% of King County middle and high school age youth do not consume recommended levels of fruits and vegetables (*Healthy Youth Survey 2012*). Thirty-two percent of adults in King County consume less than one serving of fruits per day and 17 percent less than one serving of vegetables daily, and there are significant differences across education levels for both fruit and vegetable consumption and across race and income groups for vegetable consumption (*Communities Putting Prevention to Work, 2010 and 2012*). Efforts to increase the availability of these foods to King County residents should include encouraging an increase in food production on King County farms. Although it is not realistic for King County farms and farmers to provide the full complement of recommended foods in public health guidelines, there is the potential to increase food production for local and regional consumption, particularly in the first three categories.

**~~R-674))~~ R-783 King County should work with farmers and ranchers to better understand the constraints to increased food production in the county and develop programs that reduce barriers and create incentives to growing food crops and raising food-producing livestock.**

**~~((R-675))~~ R-784 King County ((should)) shall prioritize its programs to help build and support a sustainable, reliable, equitable, and resilient local food system. King County ((should)) shall strive to ((make)) strengthen the local food system, ((accessible)) increase accessibly to ((at)) the local food supply, and strive to make access to the local food system culturally appropriate by:**

- a. Expanding leadership and ownership of food production opportunities to low-income, historically underinvested, and socially disadvantaged farmers;**
- b. Making locally grown, healthy, and culturally relevant foods available to and reflective of King County communities and low-income, historically underinvested, and socially disadvantaged farmers; and**
- c. Supporting low-income, historically underinvested, and socially disadvantaged populations in efforts to improve equitable food access and food production goals, including alternative pathways for farmland access that meet their community's needs.**

**((R-676)) R-785** King County should consider adopting procurement policies that would encourage purchases of locally grown fresh foods.

**~~((R-677)) R-786~~** King County should ~~((promote local food production and processing to))~~ strengthen a sustainable and climate-resilient local food system and reduce the distance that food must travel from farm to table by promoting and supporting local food production and local processing.

**~~((R-677a)) R-787~~** King County should continue food waste programs for single ~~((family;)) detached residences, ((multifamily)) multiunit residences, businesses, and institutions, aimed at reducing generation, promoting donation, and encouraging curbside collection for anaerobic digestion and composting.~~

**~~((R-677b))~~** ~~King County should prioritize the economic development of the food and agriculture industries in order to build a more sustainable and resilient local food system.~~

~~Government funded food programs are increasingly relying on electronic cards for clients to purchase food. For example, food stamps have been replaced with electronic benefits transfer cards. Grocery stores can easily adopt new electronic technology to accept such cards. It is more challenging for Farmers Markets to do so as the majority of them are open-air events in parking lots without access to electricity or telephone connections. To improve accessibility of Farmers Markets for low-income shoppers, a concerted effort needs to be made to develop the ability to easily accept electronic payment. This will help make fresh food more available to low-income shoppers as well as increase the customer base for farmers.~~

**~~R-678)) R-788~~** King County should support and collaborate with ((other organizations to further the development of)) food incentive program providers, with food providers, producers, and distributors, and with community-based organizations to further develop and expand programs that increase ((the ability of shoppers to)) access to affordable foods and the use of food assistance benefits ((and the ability of farmers to accept electronic and other forms of payment)) at ((F))farmers ((M))markets and farm stands.

## **((E)) D. Mineral Resources**

King County contains many valuable mineral resources, including deposits of sand, rock, gravel, silica, clay, and metallic ores. Mineral extraction and processing ~~((these deposits))~~ is an important part of King County's economy, currently providing hundreds of jobs and producing materials used locally, regionally, and nationally. ~~((Mineral extraction also has historic significance, in that it provided the impetus for past development in many parts of King County, including Black Diamond and the Newcastle area.~~

King County is required by the Growth Management Act to designate and conserve mineral resource lands and plan appropriately to protect them. ~~In doing so t))~~The County must assure that land uses adjacent to mineral resource lands do not interfere with the continued use of mineral resource lands in their accustomed manner and in accordance with best management practices. ~~((The policies in this section explain the steps taken to designate and conserve mineral resource lands and provide direction on the comprehensive review needed before additional sites are designated for mineral resource extraction.~~



Four main steps are necessary to support and maintain local availability of mineral resources. First, mineral resource sites should be conserved through designation and zoning. Second, land use conflicts between mineral extraction, processing and related operations and adjacent land uses should be prevented or minimized through policies and assessment and mitigation of environmental impacts. Third, operational practices should protect environmental quality, fisheries and wildlife, in balance with the needs of the industry. Finally, mineral extraction areas need to be reclaimed in a timely and appropriate manner:))

The Mineral Resources Map identifies three different types of Mineral Resource Sites - ~~((D))~~designated Mineral Resource Sites, Potential Surface Mineral Resources, and Nonconforming Mineral Resource Sites and Existing Mineral Resource Sites in the Forest Production District. The sites were identified in the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan or in subsequent ~~((annual))~~ updates. Before the Mineral Resources Map is a table that contains information on each Mineral Resource Site parcel.

~~((The Designated Mineral Resources Sites on the Mineral Resources Map satisfy King County's responsibility to designate and conserve mineral resources consistent with requirements of the Growth Management Act. All Designated Mineral Resources Sites have Mineral zoning. Most of the Designated Mineral Resources Sites shown on the map contain sand and/or gravel; however, a few contain other mineral resources such as silica, rock, stone, shale, and clay. The criteria used in the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan called for designation of properties that at the time were either zoned outright for mining or those operating under an approved Unclassified Use Permit:))~~ In addition to the designated Mineral Resources Sites, the Forest Production District and Forest (F) zone preserves the opportunity for mineral extraction. Mineral extraction is a permitted or conditional use in the F zone. Because forestry does not preclude future mineral extraction, King County considers the Forest Production District ~~((as))~~ part of its strategy to conserve mineral resources.

The Mineral Resources Map also shows Potential Surface Mineral Resource Sites. These are sites where King County may allow some future surface mining to occur or where the owner or operator indicates an interest in future mineral extraction. ~~((The Potential Surface Mineral Resources Sites shown on the map do not indicate the material. Because of the geology of King County, most valuable metallic mineral resources are located in the Forest Production District, and are therefore already protected from urban development:))~~ Identification of Potential Surface Mineral Resources Sites satisfies the Growth Management Act requirements to not knowingly preclude opportunities for future mineral extraction and to inform nearby property owners of the potential for future mineral extraction use of these areas ~~((in order))~~ to prevent or minimize conflicts.

The Mineral Resources Map also shows Nonconforming Mineral Resources Sites. These are sites on which some mining operations predated King County zoning regulations without appropriate zoning or other land use approval. Mining for these sites has not been authorized through a land use designation or zoning classification. These sites are shown for informational purposes only. Mining can occur on an identified site only if mining has been approved as a nonconforming use by the Department of Local Services - Permitting Division, and mining activities have received all other necessary permit approvals. Because the sites have not undergone formal review to be designated on the Land Use Map or zoned for mining, the sites do not have long-term commercial significance. However, they can continue to serve mineral supply needs.

~~((R-679)) R-789~~ King County shall identify existing and potential mineral extraction sites on the Mineral Resources Map ~~((in order))~~ to conserve mineral resources, promote compatibility with nearby land uses, protect environmental quality, maintain and enhance mineral resource industries, and serve to notify property owners of the potential for mineral extraction activities. The County shall identify(~~:~~  
a. ~~Sites with existing Mineral zoning as Designated Mineral Resource Sites;~~  
b. ~~Sites where the landowner or operator has indicated an interest in mineral extraction, sites that as of the date of adoption of the 1994 Comprehensive Plan had potential Quarrying/Mining zoning, or sites that the County determines might support future mineral extraction as Potential Surface Mineral Resource Sites; and~~  
c. ~~Sites where mining operations predate zoning regulations but without zoning or other land use approvals as Nonconforming Mineral Resource Site sites consistent with Washington State Department of Natural Resources mineral resource mapping and in accordance with the mineral resource lands evaluation and designation criteria established in Chapter 36.70A Revised Code of Washington and applicable sections in Washington Administrative Code.~~

~~((R-680)) R-790~~ King County shall designate as Mining on the ~~((Comprehensive Plan))~~ Land Use Map those sites that had Potential Mineral (M) zoning prior to the date of adoption of the 1994 Comprehensive Plan and those sites that had Mineral zoning as of the date of the adoption of the 2000 King County Comprehensive Plan update.

A Mining designation on the Land Use Map shall not create a presumption that Mineral zoning will be approved for sites with Potential Mineral zoning. Potential Mineral zoning shall not be applied to additional sites.

~~((Mineral extraction is an intense operation that may continue for many years. Mineral extraction operations can significantly change the land being mined and have impacts on the environment and on nearby properties. Beyond direct impacts to the mine site and nearby properties, mineral extraction and processing can contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. In 2014, the County and cities updated the Countywide Planning Policies to set a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050 at the county scale. The County's 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan includes the same overarching goal:~~

~~King County requires comprehensive review, including environmental analysis, prior to approving a Land Use Map and zoning change. Site-specific environmental review will also be required for a grading permit or any other permit that is necessary for a mineral extraction operation. Therefore, a comprehensive site-specific study is required prior to any such approval:~~

~~R-681)) R-791~~ King County may designate additional sites on the ~~((Comprehensive Plan))~~ Land Use Map as Mining only following a site-specific rezone to Mineral zoning. Upon approval of a rezone to Mineral zoning, the ~~((Comprehensive Plan))~~ Land Use Map shall be amended to designate the site as Mining during the next Comprehensive Plan update. King County should approve applications for site-specific rezones to Mineral zoning and applications for permits that would authorize mineral extraction and processing only following site-specific environmental study(~~:~~) and early and continuous public notice and comment opportunities, when:

- a. The proposed site contains rock, sand, gravel, or other mineral resources;
- b. The proposed site is large enough to confine or mitigate all operational impacts;
- c. The proposal will allow operation with limited conflicts with adjacent land uses when mitigating measures are applied;
- d. The proposal has been evaluated under the State Environmental Policy Act so that the County may approve, condition, or deny applications consistent with the County's substantive State Environmental Policy Act authority, and ~~((in order))~~ to mitigate significant adverse environmental impacts~~((:))~~; and
- e. Roads or rail facilities serving or proposed to serve the site can safely and adequately handle transport of products and are in close proximity to the site.

~~((If King County denies an application for a site-specific Mineral rezone it should remove the Mining land use designation from the Land Use map and the associated Potential Surface Resource Mineral site designation from the Mineral Resources Map. If the County denies a permit that would authorize mineral extraction and/or processing on a Designated Mineral Resources Site, the County should consider new information generated during the permit review process to determine whether the site is not properly designated as mineral resource land of long-term commercial significance, the designation for the site on the Mineral Resources Map should be changed from Designated Mineral Resources Site to Potential Surface Mineral Resource Site. In addition, the Mining land use designation and the Mineral zoning classification for the site should be amended to be compatible with the surrounding properties.~~

~~R-682))~~ **R-792** King County should remove the Mining land use designation on the ~~((Comprehensive Plan))~~ Land Use Map and associated Potential Mineral zone or Mineral zoning for any sites that have been denied a rezone to Mineral.

If a grading or other permit necessary for the extraction of mineral resources is denied on a ~~((B))~~designated Mineral Resource Site, the County shall evaluate whether such mineral resource designation is appropriate. The re-evaluation process may occur as part of the annual update and information produced during the permit review process shall be used to evaluate the appropriateness of changing the existing designation. If the County determines that the site should not be designated as mineral resource land of long-term commercial significance as defined in the Growth Management Act, the County shall evaluate whether the site should remain on the Mineral Resource Map, and whether the land use designation and zoning classification should be changed, with consideration for compatibility with the surrounding properties.

~~((R-683))~~ **R-793** King County may amend the Mineral Resources Map to identify additional Potential Surface Mineral Resource Sites as part of the ~~((eight))~~ 10-year or midpoint update.

~~((R-684))~~ **R-794** The preferred adjacent land uses to sites designated as Mining on the Land Use Map are mineral extraction, industrial, open space, or forestry uses. Sites for newly proposed Mineral zones shall not be adjacent to or within Agricultural Production Districts. Agricultural lands and operations should be protected from significant impacts associated with nearby mineral extraction operations.

3736 ~~((R-685))~~ **R-795** Mineral extraction activities are ~~((permitted))~~ allowed within the  
3737 Forest Production District, consistent with ~~((p))~~Policy R-~~((620))~~718.  
3738 However, a conditional use permit shall be required for mineral  
3739 extraction activities in the Forest zone located within one-quarter mile  
3740 of established residences or for proposals seeking to use local access  
3741 streets where abutting lots are developed for residential use.  
3742

3743 ~~((R-686))~~ **R-796** ~~((In order to))~~To comprehensively assess the environmental impacts  
3744 associated with a zoning change, conditional use, or operating  
3745 approval for a mineral extraction proposal, the range of environmental  
3746 impacts, including short-term and long-term effects arising or existing  
3747 over the lifetime of the proposal, shall be assessed at the earliest  
3748 possible stage. This should include the potential for phasing of future  
3749 proposals for structures and operations related to mineral extraction,  
3750 such as asphalt and concrete batch plants.  
3751

3752 ~~((R-687))~~ **R-797** King County should prevent or minimize conflicts with mineral  
3753 extraction when planning land uses adjacent to ~~((D))~~designated Mineral  
3754 Resource Sites and Potential Surface Mineral Resource Sites. Subarea  
3755 plans or area zoning and land use studies may indicate areas where  
3756 Mining is an inappropriate land use designation. ~~((D))~~designated  
3757 Mineral Resource Sites and Potential Surface Mineral Resource Sites  
3758 and Nonconforming Mineral Resource Sites should be shown on the  
3759 Mineral Resources Map ~~((and subarea study maps in order))~~ to notify  
3760 nearby property owners and residents of existing and prospective  
3761 mineral extraction activities.  
3762

3763 ~~((R-688))~~ **R-798** The periodic review process for mineral extraction and processing  
3764 operations shall include sufficient public notice and comment  
3765 opportunities. The purpose of the periodic review process is to provide  
3766 opportunities for public review and comment on the mineral resource  
3767 facility's fulfillment of state and County regulations and  
3768 implementation of industry-standard best management practices, and  
3769 for King County to modify, add or remove conditions to address new  
3770 circumstances and/or unanticipated project-generated impacts. The  
3771 periodic review process is not intended to re-examine the  
3772 appropriateness of the mineral resource use, or to consider expansion  
3773 of operations beyond the scope of existing permitted operations since  
3774 that review would be accomplished through the County's permitting  
3775 process. The periodic review is intended to be a part of King County's  
3776 ongoing enforcement and inspections of mineral resource sites, and  
3777 not to be a part of the County's permitting process.  
3778

3779 ~~((R-689))~~ **R-799** Conditions and mitigations for significant adverse environmental  
3780 impacts associated with mineral extraction or mining operations and  
3781 their associated structures or facilities should be required, especially in  
3782 the following areas:  
3783 a. Air quality, including greenhouse gas and other emissions from  
3784 minerals extracted for energy production and from transportation  
3785 of materials to and from the site during operation and reclamation;  
3786 b. ~~((Environmentally sensitive and c))~~Critical areas, such as surface and  
3787 groundwater quality and quantity, wetlands, fisheries and wildlife  
3788 habitats, and aquatic habitats;  
3789 c. Noise levels;  
3790 d. Vibration;  
3791 e. Light and glare;  
3792 f. Vehicular access and safety;  
3793 g. Land and shoreline uses;  
3794 h. Transportation impacts, including ((F))traffic ((impacts)) and safety;  
3795 i. Visual impacts;

- j. Cultural and historic features and resources;
- k. Site security; and
- l. ((Climate change impacts from minerals extracted for energy production; and
- m.)) Others unique to specific sites and proposals.

((R-690)) **R-800** Where mineral extraction or mining are subject to state or federal regulations, King County should work with the state and federal governments to ensure that proposals are reviewed with consideration of local land use and environmental requirements, regional impacts from transport, and assessment of climate change impacts from end((-)) use of minerals and mined materials.

((R-691)) **R-801** King County should work with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to ensure that mining areas are reclaimed in a timely and appropriate manner. Reclamation of mineral extraction or mining sites in the Forest Production District should return the land to forestry. Where mineral extraction is completed in phases, reclamation also should be completed in phases as the resource is depleted. When reclamation of mineral extraction sites located outside of the Forest Production District is completed, the site should be considered for redesignation to a land use designation and zoning classification compatible with the surrounding properties.

((R-692)) **R-802** King County shall encourage the removal of existing stockpiles of previously mined material ((in-order)) to promote and achieve reclamation of land to its highest and best use.

((R-693)) **R-803** King County shall prohibit the establishment of new coal mines and the expansion of existing coal mines.

**Table 3-1. Mineral Resources Property Information for the Mineral Resources Map**

DESIGNATED MINERAL RESOURCE SITES				
Map # Section	Section- Township- Range	Site Name and/or Owner/Operator	Material*	Total Site Acreage (approx.)
1	25-21-06	Cadman S & G/Flintston S&G	SG	75
2	11-20-07 21-20-07	Plum Creek Timber Company	SG	476
3	21-22-03	Ideal Cement Co/King County	SG	39
5	27-22-07	Kangley Pit/Meridian Aggregates Co. (398 acres) and Stoneway Concrete Gravel Pit/Gary Merlino Construction	SG	608
6	28-23-06	Cedar Grove Pit/Queen City Farms	SG	315
7	33-23-06	Lake Francis Pit/Plumb Creek Timber Co	SG	143
8	33-23-06	Cedar grove Pit /ANMARCO	SG	35
9	20-23-06	Cedar Mountain Pit/ Rivera & Green	SG	57
10	20-22-06	Black River Quarry	SG	374
12	08-28-07 17-26-07	Cherry Pit/Thompson	SG	13
13	19-24-08 20-24-08	Snoqualmie/Weyerhaeuser Co. and S. Parsons et. al.	SG	665
15	06-23-06	Squak Mountain Quarry/M. Palmer	RS	16
16	22-24-07	Raging River/Cadman	RS	((46)) 20



DESIGNATED MINERAL RESOURCE SITES				
Map # Section -	Section-Township-Range	Site Name and/or Owner/Operator	Material*	Total Site Acreage (approx.)
17	33-20-07	Highway 410 Quarry/J. Laramie	RS	34
18	28-26-11 27-26-11	Meridian Aggregates	R	38
20	01-21-06 36-22-06	Reserve Silica Corporation Plum Creek Timber Co. and Silica Sand Mine	S	
23	32-24-06	State of Washington	CL	
25	32-24-06	Interpace Harris Mine/ R.Thompson and Eltra. Corp.	SG	
26	35-22-06	Meridian Minerals Co.	SG	
27	29-23-06	Pinnacle Exploration	SG	
28	29-23-06 32-23-06	ANMARCO and G. Newell	SG	
29	29-23-06	Plum Creek Timber Co	SG	
30	27-24-06	Issaquah/King Co.	SG	
31	05-23-06	King County	SG	
32	33-23-06	Lake Francis Plum Creek Timber Co	SG	
96	30-21-07	Franklin Pit/Morris	SG	158

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POTENTIAL SURFACE MINERAL RESOURCE SITES			
Map # Section -	Section-Township-Range	Site Name and/or Owner/Operator	Total Site Acreage (approx.)
35	35-22-05	T. Scarsella	11
36	07-25-06	Cadman/King Co.	24
37	33-23-06	Merlino Property/ANMARCO	32
39	20-23-06	Rivera and Green	21
40	22-26-06	T. Alberg	40
41	31-26-07	T. Alberg	160
42	08-26-07 17-26-07	R. and A. Thompson	11
43	32-23-09	R. and A. Thompson	145
44	11-21-05	B & M Investments	174
45	25-22-02	Doane Family Ltd.	60
46	08-25-06	W. Nelson	86
47	18-21-07	Palmer Coking Coal	79
48	30-21-07	Palmer Coking Coal	275
50	36-21-06	Palmer Coking Coal	116
51	06-23-06	Palmers	39
52	12-23-05	R. and R. Schroeder and Pacific Company Constructors	30
53	02-20-06	State of Washington	36
54	03-91-33	Weyerhaeuser Co.	36
74		Weyerhaeuser Co	3655
75		Weyerhaeuser Co., United States, U.S. Corps of Engineers	4214
76		Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Co.	1765
77		Weyerhaeuser Co. and State of Washington	705
78		Weyerhaeuser Co., Riley, Everett, Hamerly	1926
79		E. Seliger, Weyerhaeuser Co,	1167
80		Weyerhaeuser Co.	113
81		Metro	599

POTENTIAL SURFACE MINERAL RESOURCE SITES			
Map # Section-	Section-Township-Range	Site Name and/or Owner/Operator	Total Site Acreage (approx.)
<b>82</b>		Cadman Black Diamond/Weyerhaeuser Co.	434
<b>83</b>		Weyerhaeuser Co.	925
<b>55</b>	02-20-07 12-20-07	Weyerhaeuser Co., State of Washington, Metro	634
<b>56</b>	10-20-07	Weyerhaeuser Co.	80
<b>57</b>	15-26-07	State of Washington	320
<b>58</b>	16-21-05	State of Washington	38
<b>59</b>	17-23-07 18-23-07 19-23-07 20-23-07	State of Washington	640
<b>60</b>	26-21-06	M & K Company	18
<b>61</b>	27-24-06	State of Washington	40
<b>62</b>	30-20-08	Weyerhaeuser Co.	141
<b>63</b>	30-21-07	State of Washington and Palmer Coking Coal	60
<b>64</b>	30-21-08	State of Washington	168
<b>65</b>	34-24-06	State of Washington	32
<b>66</b>	35-24-06	State of Washington	20
<b>67</b>	36-20-06	State of Washington	79
<b>68</b>	36-20-06	State of Washington	40
<b>69</b>	36-21-06	State of Washington	152
<b>70</b>	36-21-07	State of Washington	640
<b>71</b>	36-23-06	State of Washington	115
<b>72</b>	04-21-07	Weyerhaeuser Co.	173
<b>73</b>	03-25-09 04-25-09 05-25-09 10-25-09 33-25-09 34-26-09	Weyerhaeuser Co.	3079
<b>84</b>	28-20-07 32-20-07 33-20-07	Weyerhaeuser Co.	669
<b>85</b>	04-19-07 05-19-07 32-20-07	Weyerhaeuser Co.	1572
<b>86</b>	34-25-07	L.A. Welcome	24
<b>87</b>	36-21-05	Sparling/King Co.	41
<b>88</b>	21-24-07	Raging River/King Co.	40
<b>89</b>	32-22-07	Lake Retreat/King Co	82
<b>90</b>	35-22-02	Sprowls/King Co.	40
<b>91</b>			
<b>92</b>	23-26-07	Swan Quarry/King Co.	76
<b>93</b>	31-23-07	Route 18 Fill Project/Plumb Creek Timber Co.	40

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LEGAL NONCONFORMING MINERAL RESOURCE SITES AND EXISTING MINERAL RESOURCE SITES IN THE FOREST PRODUCTION DISTRICT				
Map # Section -	Section-Township-Range	Site Name and/or Owner/Operator	Material*	Total Site Acreage (approx.)
<b>21</b>	01-19-07	Hardie/Weyerhaeuser	S	625
<b>94</b>	29-20-07	Jensen Sand & Gravel/Jensen	SG	13

**LEGAL NONCONFORMING MINERAL RESOURCE SITES AND EXISTING MINERAL RESOURCE SITES IN THE FOREST PRODUCTION DISTRICT**

Map # Section -	Section-Township-Range	Site Name and/or Owner/Operator	Material*	Total Site Acreage (approx.)
<b>95</b>	29-20-07	Corliss/Weyerhaeuser	SG	60
<b>103</b>	34-22-06	Summit/King County	SG	176
<b>104</b>	13-20-06	Enumclaw Quarry/Pierotti	RS	14
<b>110</b>	31-21-07	Hyde Pit/Palmer Coking Coal Co	SG	20
<b>113</b>	19-23-09	Cadman North Bend/Weyerhaeuser	SG	300
	20-23-09			
	29-23-09			
<b>114</b>	33-20-07	White River/Weyerhaeuser	RS	175

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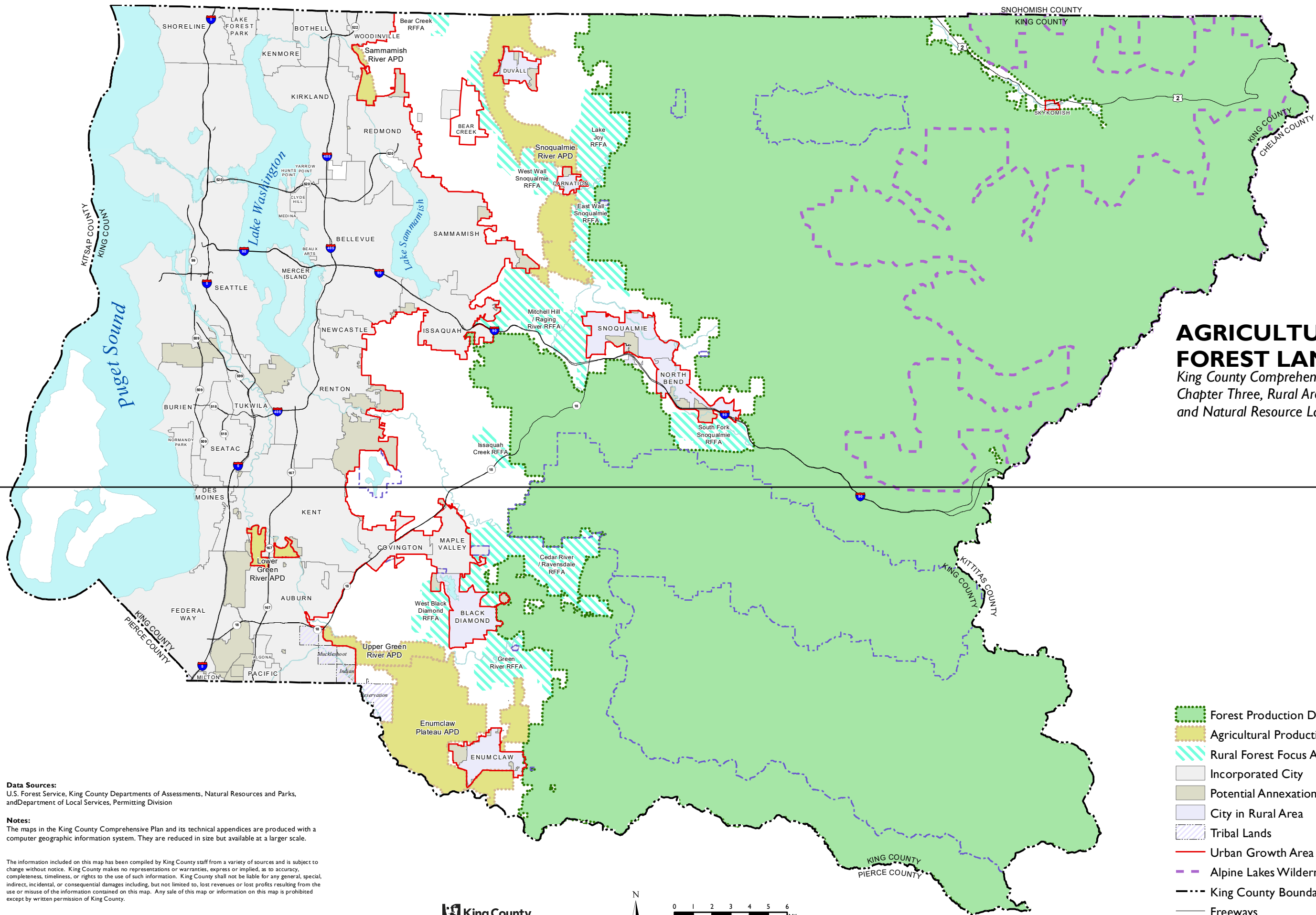
**\*KEY FOR ALL SITES**

<b>SG</b>	((=))	Sand & Gravel
<b>RS</b>	((=))	Rock & Stone
<b>R</b>	((=))	Rock
<b>ShCl</b>	((=))	Shale & Clay
<b>Cl</b>	((=))	Clay
<b>S</b>	((=))	Silica

**NOTE:**

- Each map number corresponds to one or more parcel number(s), and in some cases different owners and operators. The acreage listed represents the sum acreage of all the parcels of the site. ~~((Please refer to the technical appendix for the parcel-specific version of this table.))~~
- Designated Mineral Resource Sites: Sites with Mineral Zoning.
- Potential Surface Resource Mineral Sites: Sites identified by the landowner or operator prior to Nov.18, 1994 and sites as of Nov. 18, 1994 that had pending rezone applications for Quarrying/Mining (now Mineral) zoning or had potential Quarrying/Mining (now Mineral) zoning. Such sites may or may not be able to operate, and are subject to all federal, state and local regulations.
- Nonconforming Mineral Resource Sites and Existing Mineral Resource Sites in the Forest Production District: Sites on which mineral extraction operations pre-date King County zoning regulations, but without zoning or other land use approvals.

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# **AGRICULTURE AND FOREST LANDS 2020** *King County Comprehensive Plan, 2020 Chapter Three, Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands*

**Data Sources:**  
 U.S. Forest Service, King County Departments of Assessments, Natural Resources and Parks,  
 and Department of Local Services, Permitting Division

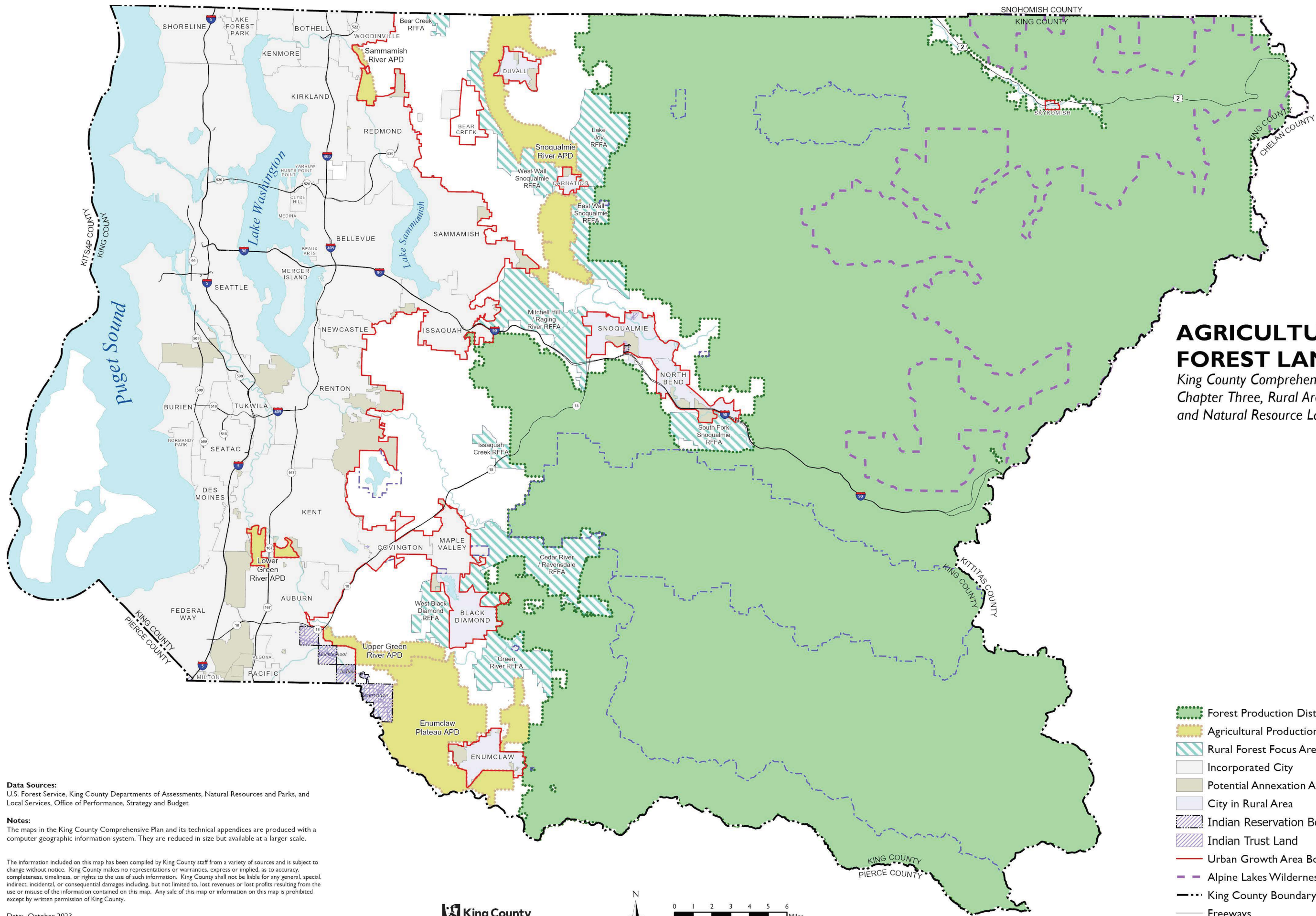
**Notes:**  
 The maps in the King County Comprehensive Plan and its technical appendices are produced with a  
 computer geographic information system. They are reduced in size but available at a larger scale.

The information included on this map has been compiled by King County staff from a variety of sources and is subject to  
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 except by written permission of King County.



- Forest Production District
- Agricultural Production District
- Rural Forest Focus Areas
- Incorporated City
- Potential Annexation Areas
- City in Rural Area
- Tribal Lands
- Urban Growth Area Boundary
- Alpine Lakes Wilderness
- King County Boundary
- Freeways
- Municipal Watershed





# AGRICULTURE AND FOREST LANDS 2024

King County Comprehensive Plan, 2024  
Chapter Three, Rural Areas  
and Natural Resource Lands

**Data Sources:**  
U.S. Forest Service, King County Departments of Assessments, Natural Resources and Parks, and Local Services, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

**Notes:**  
The maps in the King County Comprehensive Plan and its technical appendices are produced with a computer geographic information system. They are reduced in size but available at a larger scale.

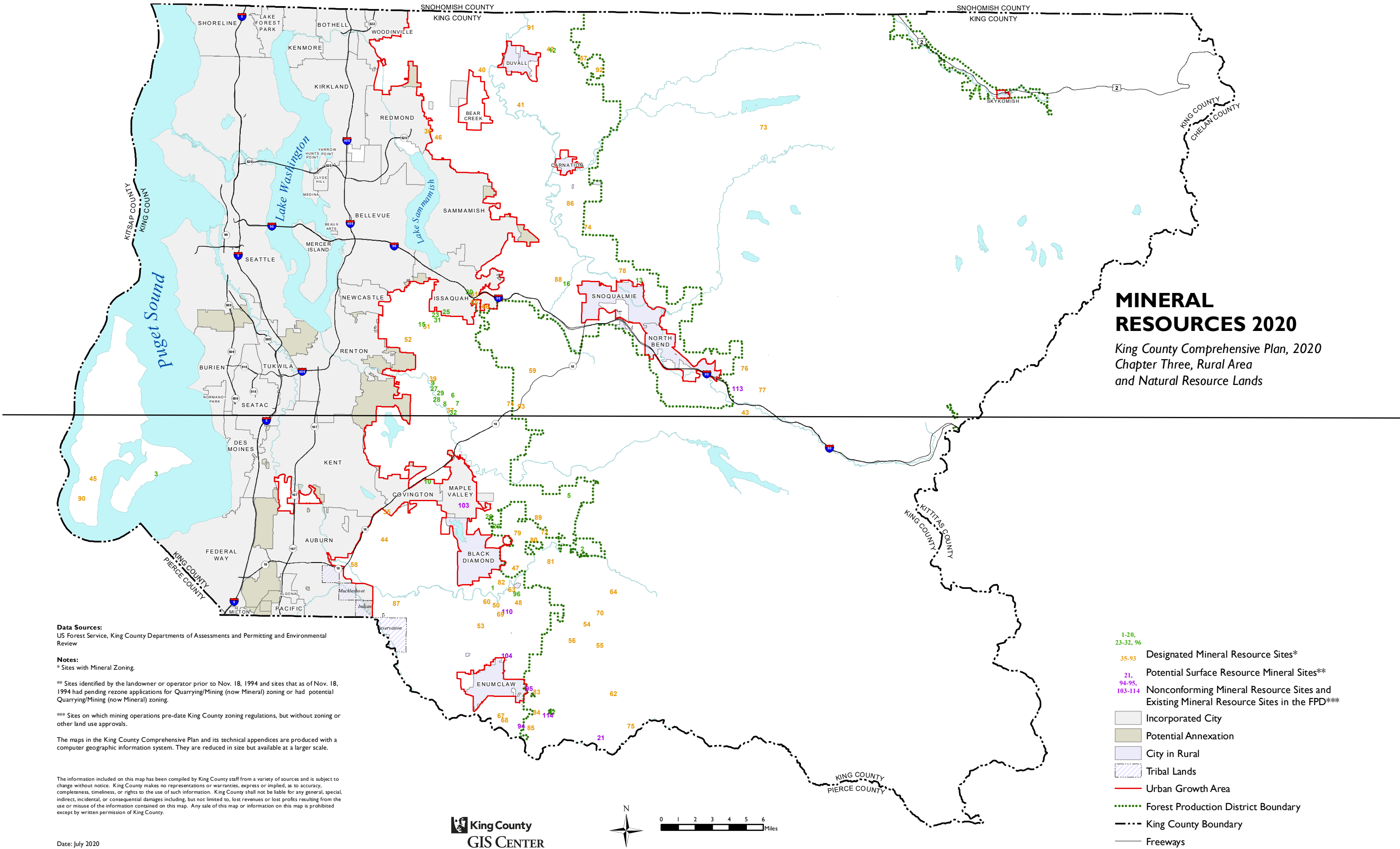
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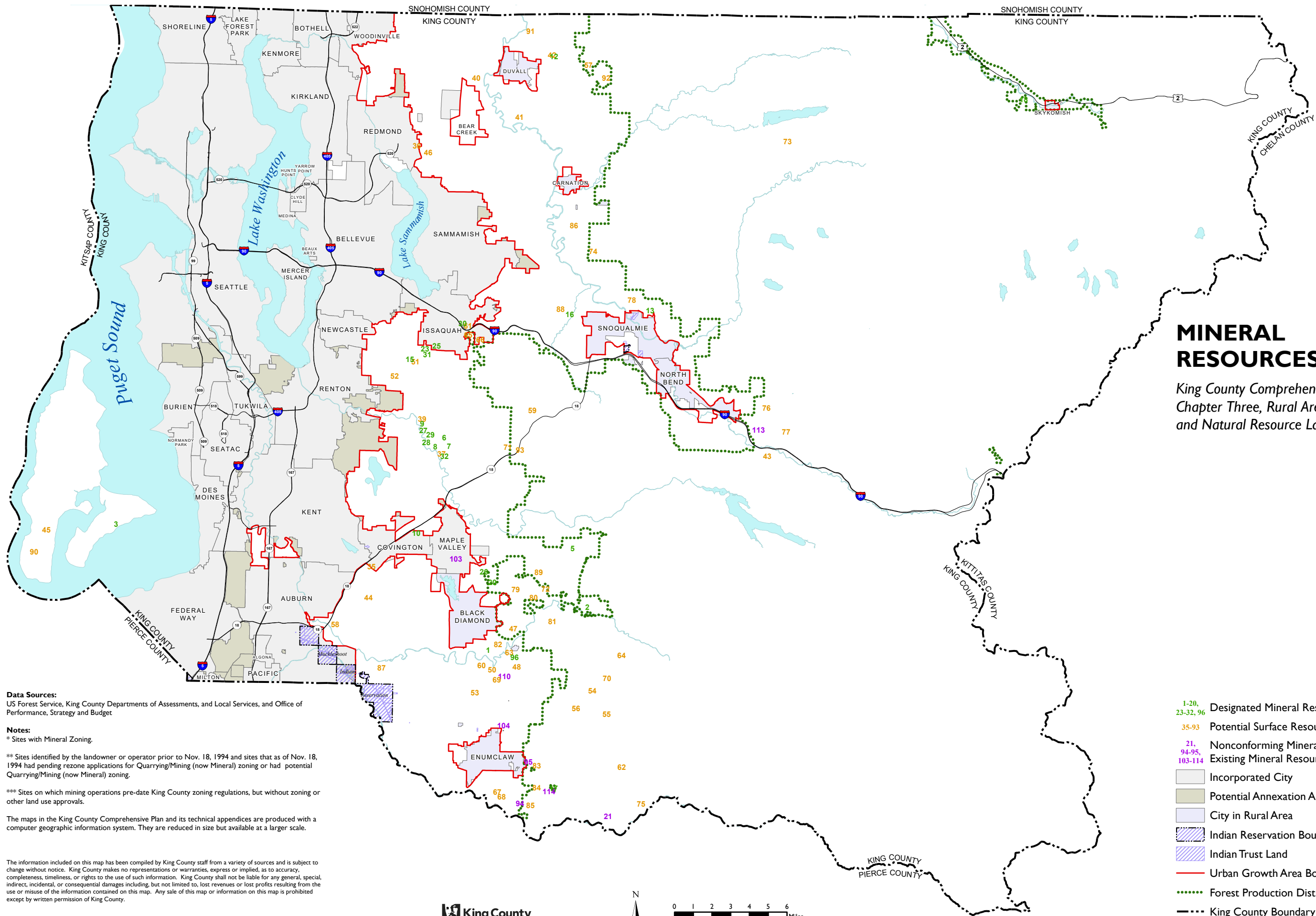
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- Forest Production District
- Agricultural Production District
- Rural Forest Focus Areas
- Incorporated City
- Potential Annexation Areas
- City in Rural Area
- Indian Reservation Boundary
- Indian Trust Land
- Urban Growth Area Boundary
- Alpine Lakes Wilderness
- King County Boundary
- Freeways
- Municipal Watershed







# MINERAL RESOURCES 2024

King County Comprehensive Plan, 2024  
Chapter Three, Rural Areas  
and Natural Resource Lands

**Data Sources:**  
US Forest Service, King County Departments of Assessments, and Local Services, and Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

**Notes:**  
\* Sites with Mineral Zoning.

\*\* Sites identified by the landowner or operator prior to Nov. 18, 1994 and sites that as of Nov. 18, 1994 had pending rezoning applications for Quarrying/Mining (now Mineral) zoning or had potential Quarrying/Mining (now Mineral) zoning.

\*\*\* Sites on which mining operations pre-date King County zoning regulations, but without zoning or other land use approvals.

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- 1-20, 23-32, 96 Designated Mineral Resource Sites\*
- 35-93 Potential Surface Resource Mineral Sites\*\*
- 21, 94-95, 103-114 Nonconforming Mineral Resource Sites and Existing Mineral Resource Sites in the FPD\*\*\*
- Incorporated City
- Potential Annexation Areas
- City in Rural Area
- Indian Reservation Boundary
- Indian Trust Land
- Urban Growth Area Boundary
- Forest Production District Boundary
- King County Boundary
- Freeways





## CHAPTER 4

# HOUSING &

# HUMAN SERVICES

NATIVE and  
DROUGHT  
TOLERANT  
PLANTS

LANDSCAPING TO  
BE COMPLETED  
BY HOMEOWNERS

LANDSCAPING TO  
BE COMPLETED  
BY HOMEOWNERS

LANDSCAPING TO  
BE COMPLETED  
BY HOMEOWNERS



1 ((



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Establishment of vibrant, thriving, healthy, and sustainable communities is a key goal of King County's Strategic Plan. Offering adequate choices and opportunities to fully address the spectrum of housing needs in all communities for all of King County's residents is an essential step toward meeting this goal. The County's Strategic Plan aligns with the Washington State Growth Management Act, VISION 2040's Multicounty Planning Policies, and the King County Countywide Planning Policies regarding establishing and implementing clear goals for affordable housing.

The Countywide Planning Policies provide a framework within which all jurisdictions are called upon to plan for a range of affordable housing choices within neighborhoods that promote health, well-being, diversity and access to opportunities for employment, recreation, social interaction and cohesion, active transportation (walking, biking and public transit) and education. The King County Comprehensive Plan strengthens this connection by promoting affordable housing for all county residents through support for adequate funding, zoning, and regional cooperation to create new and diverse housing choices in communities throughout the county:))

7

## I. Housing

### ~~((A. King County's Regional Role in Promoting Housing Choice and Opportunity~~

~~Most housing is financed by and developed in the private sector. The ability of the private sector to develop affordable housing is affected by a wide range of market forces. However, local government actions such as land use policies, development regulations and infrastructure finance also have a significant impact on housing affordability. Public funding, incentive programs and mandatory programs are essential to addressing the housing needs of historically disadvantaged communities, including lower-income county residents, older adults, people of color, children and vulnerable adults (including victims and survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation), people with developmental disabilities, people with behavioral, physical, cognitive and/or functional disabilities, people who are experiencing homelessness, and growing segments of the population such as immigrant and refugee communities:)) The ability of the private and public sector to develop housing is affected by a wide range of market forces. However, local government actions, such as land use policies, development regulations, funding, regional collaboration, community engagement, and infrastructure financing significantly impact the capacity to increase housing supply for all incomes, including affordable housing.~~

~~The policies in the housing section set a framework for individual and collective action and accountability to meet regional housing needs and local housing unit growth allocations. The policies seek to increase the supply and diversity of housing, expand housing choice, improve housing stability, reduce displacement, promote equity in housing outcomes, strengthen partnerships to meet housing goals, improve housing tools and processes, and foster a more sustainable and healthier built environment.~~

~~((Summary data regarding housing needs in King County can be found in Technical Appendix B of this Comprehensive Plan:))~~

### A. Housing Needs in King County

~~((The policies in this chapter address affordable housing development, preservation and assistance programs administered by King County, King County's regulatory role in helping to ensure that there is adequate safe and healthy affordable housing in the unincorporated areas of the County, and King County's regional role convening partners to meet the housing needs of all county residents at a variety of income levels.~~

~~This chapter calls for more residential growth by preserving existing housing stock and developing new units on vacant parcels within established neighborhoods and in areas for new development near high capacity and frequent transit. These locations can offer affordable housing that is close to jobs, transportation and services. Housing development can also provide welcome improvements to communities suffering from a lack of investment. New development in established communities may result in the loss of existing low-cost housing; thus, this plan calls for King County and its partners to work together to help preserve and rehabilitate existing affordable housing. Low-cost housing is a community resource that should be preserved.~~

~~The Countywide Planning Policies have identified the substantial need that exists for low-income rental housing and for moderately priced homes that can be purchased by income-qualified homebuyers. In the past decade, a significant number of homeowners have lost their homes due to foreclosure and have become renters again. In the short~~



term, those households may need affordable rents, while in the longer term they may again seek to own a moderately-priced home:)) The Growth Management Act requires all jurisdictions to plan for and accommodate the housing needs of residents at every income level. The King County Countywide Planning Policies establish allocations of housing need for each jurisdiction for all income levels, as well as emergency housing, emergency shelters, and permanent supportive housing. Table 1 shows the housing need for urban unincorporated King County, reflected as new units in service, by income levels, including permanent supportive housing, and emergency housing. The total number of new housing units needed in urban unincorporated King County by 2044 is 5,412. Additionally, 1,034 new emergency housing beds are needed by 2044 to meet temporary housing needs.

**Table 4-1: Projected Housing Needs by Income Level in Unincorporated King County**

Income Level	% Median Income	Net New Units Needed, 2019-2044
Extremely low	0-30% Permanent Supportive Housing	608
	0-30% Other (non-Permanent Supportive Housing)	1,157
Very low	>30-50%	571
Low	>50-80%	292
Moderate	>80-100%	366
	>100-120%	415
Above Moderate	>120%	2,003
<b>All Income Levels</b>		<b>5,412</b>

Temporary Housing Needs	Net New Beds Needed, 2019-2044
Emergency Housing/Shelter	1,034

Appendix B, Housing Needs Assessment, contains summary data and analysis regarding housing needs in King County. The findings demonstrate a substantial need for extremely low-, very low-, and low-income rental housing and low to moderately priced homes for ownership. In addition, there is a significant need for more permanent supportive housing, shelters, and tiny homes.

The findings also show that approximately 25,500 households in unincorporated King County are cost burdened. When a household spends more than 30 percent of its income on housing, they are considered cost burdened. Severe cost burden means more than 50 percent of a household's income goes toward housing costs. In unincorporated King County, Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color households are more likely to be cost burdened and severely cost burdened than White households. Senior renters (depending on the program, the age threshold for a senior could be 55, 62, or 65 years and over) with lower incomes and LGBTQIA+ households are disproportionately cost burdened. Renter-occupied households are almost twice as likely to be cost burdened than owner-occupied households. Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color and Latino/a/e households, as well as many immigrant and refugee households, are disproportionately represented both among households earning less than 80 percent of area median income as well as among cost burdened households, in part due to the legacy of structural racism and discrimination in housing

and land use policies and practices. Households earning at or below 30 percent are disproportionately impacted by housing cost burden than higher income households.

Housing disparities by race, ethnicity, income, disability status, and age also exist in homeownership. For example, in unincorporated King County, 88 percent of White households, compared to 43 percent of Black and 49 percent of Hispanic or Latino/a/e households, own their own home.

The policies in the housing section seek to reduce disparities in housing by ensuring there is adequate capacity for housing; addressing affordable housing funding, preservation, and assistance programs administered by King County; utilizing the County's regulatory role to help ensure that there is adequate safe and healthy housing in the unincorporated areas; and strengthening housing partnerships and regional collaboration to meet the housing needs of all county residents at all income levels.

**((H-125)) H-101 King County shall ((assure)) ensure that there is sufficient ((land)) zoned capacity in the unincorporated urban area((s-zoned)) to accommodate King County's ((share-of-affordable)) housing need allocations and provide a ((range)) variety of affordable, sustainable housing types, including higher-density single((family-homes)) detached residences, ((multifamily-properties)) middle housing, manufactured ((housing)) home communities, ((cottage-housing,)) accessory dwelling units, and mixed-use developments. ((King County should work with cities to increase opportunities for affordable housing development by assuring there is sufficient land capable of being developed for this range of housing types that are more likely to be affordable to low-, moderate- and middle-income households.))**

**H-102 King County shall ((work with jurisdictions, the private sector, state and federal governments, other public funders of housing, other public agencies such as the Housing Authorities, regional agencies such as the Puget Sound Regional Council, intermediary housing organizations, and the non-profit sector, to encourage)) plan for a wide range of housing types and ((to)) reduce barriers to the preservation, improvement, and development ((and-preservation)) of ((a-wide-range of)) affordable housing, at an appropriate size and scale, that:**

- a. **Provides housing choices ((for)) affordable to people of all income levels, particularly in areas with existing or planned high capacity and frequent ((public-transportation-access where it is safe and convenient to walk, bicycle, and take public transportation to work and other key destinations such as educational facilities, shopping and health care)) transit service;**
- b. **Provides housing choices and supportive services to households at or below 30 percent of area median income;**
- c. **Meets the needs of and advances equitable outcomes for ((a diverse population, especially families and individuals who have very-low to moderate incomes, older adults)) Black, Indigenous, and other ((p))People of ((c))Color ((, children and vulnerable adults (including victims and survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation), people with developmental disabilities, people with behavioral, physical, cognitive and/or functional disabilities, and people who are experiencing homelessness)); persons with special housing needs; veterans, military servicemembers, and their respective families; individuals and families experiencing homelessness; immigrants; refugees; LGBTQIA+ persons; women; families with children; and survivors of domestic violence and other kinds of gender-based violence, human trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation; and**

((c. Supports economic growth;))

d. Supports the goals of ((King County's Equity and Social Justice Initiative and Health)) housing and ((H))human ((S))services-  
((Transformation Plan goals)) related plans, including the Crisis Care Centers Levy Implementation Plan, Best Starts for Kids Implementation Plan, Initial Health through Housing Implementation Plan 2022-2028, Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy Implementation Plan, and Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Behavioral Health Sales Tax Fund Plan, or successor plans ((for an equitable and rational distribution of low-income and high-quality affordable housing, including mixed-income housing, throughout the county; and

e. Allows for the opportunity to encourage permanent safe firearm storage locations in private and public residential buildings to make safe storage an easy choice, and, fosters safety from injury and violence, through exploring housing and community design standards that are shown to increase connectivity and reduce violence)).

((1. Regional Convener))

## B. Housing Partnerships and Regional Collaboration

Just as housing needs rarely recognize jurisdictional boundaries, housing issues will not likely be solved by King County alone. For these reasons, it is important that King County's housing policies support a regional approach and collaboration among agencies to meet housing goals. In addition, nonprofits or housing authorities often provide the most affordable housing, while private sector developers create most housing units. Without collaboration, King County, the cities in King County, and the region will likely fail to meet housing goals and needs. All the partners mentioned in this chapter are vital in helping King County achieve its housing goals.

King County has a role to play in promoting ((cooperation)) regional collaboration and public((?))-private partnerships to address the full range of ((critical)) housing needs in King County and the Puget Sound region. In 2017, King County convened the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force ((in July 2017. The task force met for 18 months)) to understand the affordable housing challenges and to meet people most affected by the lack of affordable units in the county. The ((t))Task ((f))Force's ((work culminated in a)) 2018 Final Report and Recommendations, which included a Five-Year Action Plan, ((and Final Report, which was)) were adopted as ((the policy of the)) County policy by ((m)) Motion 15372. The overarching goal of the Five-Year Action Plan is to "strive to eliminate cost burden for households earning 80 percent Area Median Income and below, with a priority for serving households at or below 50 percent Area Median Income." ((The Action Plan contains seven goals to accomplish the overall goal:

1. Create and support an ongoing structure for regional collaboration;
2. Increase construction and preservation of affordable homes for households earning less than 50 percent area median income;
3. Prioritize affordability accessible within a half-mile walkshed of existing and planned frequent transit service, with a particular priority for high-capacity transit stations;
4. Preserve access to affordable homes for renters by supporting tenant protections to increase housing stability and reduce risk of homelessness;
5. Protect existing communities of color and low-income communities from displacement in gentrifying communities;

6. Promote greater housing growth and diversity to achieve a variety of housing types at a range of affordability and improve jobs/housing connections throughout King County; and

7. Better engage local communities and other partners in addressing the urgent need for and benefits of affordable housing;

The King County Department of Community and Human Services is managing the County's role in implementing the Five-Year Action Plan, in collaboration with other internal parties such as the Metro Transit Department, the Facilities Management Division, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and the Department of Local Services.))

In 2019, ((F))the King County Growth Management Planning Council created ((a new)) the Affordable Housing Committee ((to serve)) as a regional advisory body to ((with the goal of recommending)) recommend actions and ((assessing)) assess progress toward ((implementation of)) the Five-Year Action Plan. The Affordable Housing Committee, comprised of representatives of King County, the City of Seattle, the Sound Cities Association, housing authorities, and others with expertise in affordable housing, including preventing displacement, functions as a point of coordination and accountability for affordable housing efforts across King County. ((The Committee is comprised of representatives of King County, the City of Seattle, Sound Cities Association, housing authorities, and others with expertise in affordable housing, including preventing displacement.)) King County provides staff support, data, and policy analysis, and other resources for the Committee.

The 2021 Countywide Planning Policy update assigned additional responsibilities to the Affordable Housing Committee, including reviewing all jurisdictions' draft periodic comprehensive plan updates for alignment with the King County Countywide Planning Policies Housing Chapter goals and policies prior to plan adoption; providing a hub to share best practices for increasing affordable housing supply; and monitor progress towards planning for and accommodating housing needs, and making recommendations to the Growth Management Planning Council on potential actions a jurisdiction could take to address shortfalls in meeting housing needs. King County will lead the data collection and reporting process with cities.

The Countywide Planning Policies also require regional collaboration in meeting countywide housing growth targets and affordable housing needs and developing programs to provide affordable housing. The following policies require King County to collaborate with multiple partners, including cities, regional and subregional organizations such as the Puget Sound Regional Council and Growth Management Planning Council, interlocal groups such as ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) and SKHHP (South King Housing and Homelessness Partners), nonprofit organizations, private sector developers, community-based organizations, and community members.

The Committee ((is responsible for recommending amendments to)) aided in the development of the 2021 Countywide Planning Policies, including recommending amendments to regional goals, metrics, and land use policies. ((The Committee functions as a point of coordination and accountability for affordable housing efforts across King County.)) The 2021 Countywide Planning Policy update assigned additional responsibilities to the Affordable Housing Committee, including: review of all King County jurisdictions' draft periodic comprehensive plan updates for alignment with the King County Countywide Planning Policies Housing Chapter goals and policies prior to plan adoption; provide a hub to share best practices for increasing affordable housing supply; monitor progress towards planning for and accommodating housing needs; and recommend to the Growth Management Planning Council on potential actions a jurisdiction could take to address shortfalls in meeting housing needs. King County will lead the data collection and reporting process with cities.

~~((H-110))~~ **H-103** King County shall work with regional bodies, including the Puget Sound Regional Council and the Growth Management Planning Council, or their successors, and the private and non((-))profit sectors to support development of an adequate supply of housing commensurate with job growth within the county ((and its cities)). To attain this goal, King County shall work with such regional partners to:

- a. Support job and household growth targets, housing needs for people of all incomes, and policies established in the Countywide Planning Policies; and
- b. ~~((Establish performance measures to gauge how jurisdictions are accommodating growth and housing needs;~~
- c. ~~Participate in buildable lands inventories, market analyses and other studies to evaluate if sufficient land capacity is available for residential development; and~~
- d.)) Work with cities to ensure additional actions are taken throughout the county to accommodate and promote residential development when job growth causes great demand for housing and severe shortages in the availability of housing for new workers in the county.

**H-104** King County shall collaborate with the Puget Sound Regional Council and subregional organizations to advance equitable development and the implementation and monitoring of countywide affordable housing goals, policies, and programs.

**H-105** King County shall participate in regional efforts to:  
a. Conduct a housing-focused review of and provide comments on a jurisdiction's draft periodic comprehensive plan update for alignment with the King County Countywide Planning Policies Housing Chapter goals; and  
b. Report and monitor progress towards meeting countywide and jurisdictional housing growth targets and housing needs and eliminating disparities in access to housing and neighborhood choice.

**H-106** King County shall provide through the Growth Management Planning Council, or designee, the necessary, ongoing information to jurisdictions on their progress toward planning for and accommodating their housing needs using public-facing tools.

~~((H-101))~~ King County shall initiate and actively participate in regional solutions to address critical affordable housing needs in unincorporated King County and throughout the region.))

**H-107** King County shall equitably engage ((Jurisdictions)) cities, community members, community-based organizations, the private sector, people with lived experience of housing instability, and housing representatives ((should be invited)) to identify and implement solutions to further housing stability, access, and choice, and affordability goals established in the Countywide Planning Policies.

**H-108** King County shall engage historically underrepresented populations in the implementation and monitoring of countywide affordable housing goals, policies, and programs.

~~((H-101a))~~ King County should participate in regional efforts related to tenant protections throughout the region.



~~H-103 Through subarea and regional planning with jurisdictions and partners in the Puget Sound region, mandatory and incentive programs and funding initiatives for affordable housing, King County shall serve as a regional convener and local administrator in the unincorporated areas to plan for housing to meet the needs of all economic segments of the population. With respect to affordable housing, King County shall address the countywide need for housing affordable to very-low, low and moderate-income households pursuant to the countywide targets established in the most recently adopted Countywide Planning Policies.~~

## ~~D. Regional Affordable Housing Funding, Resources and Programs))~~

## C. Funding for Affordable Housing

~~((The King County Consortium is a partnership that represents unincorporated areas and most cities outside of Seattle in obtaining, administering and distributing federal, state and local funds to address housing, homelessness and community development needs. The King County Consortium prepares a five-year strategic plan, the Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan, that outlines the needs, resources available and housing and community development goals to be achieved. An Annual Action Plan details specific planned affordable housing and community development project projects.~~

~~Over the past ten years, King County has faced considerable funding challenges for developing affordable housing because of cutbacks in levels of state and federal housing funds along with local budget issues that have impacted housing and community/economic development funds.)) Housing provided by private development accounts for most new units in the county. However, the private market alone cannot provide affordable housing for all residents. As reported in the Housing Needs Assessment (Appendix B), nearly one-third of households in King County (31.5 percent) and unincorporated King County (28.5 percent) are cost burdened, and Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color households are disproportionately cost burdened. More deeply affordable units are needed in King County to reduce racially disparate housing outcomes and meet King County's housing goals.~~

~~As of 2023, the development and preservation of affordable housing has become increasingly and prohibitively expensive. In 2023 dollars, the cost of an affordable unit is estimated to be \$475,404 per unit. The Housing Funding Gap Analysis section of the Housing Needs Assessment identifies a funding gap of approximately \$450 million to meet the housing needs of unincorporated King County households at or below 80 percent of area median income through 2044. The Countywide Planning Policies call for prioritizing housing affordable to households with less than or equal to 30 percent of area median income. Addressing the needs of the lowest-income households will cause a chain reaction, freeing up more moderately priced housing units that are more affordable for households at higher income thresholds.~~

~~Meeting the County's housing needs and goals will require significant incentives, subsidies, and funding, as the private market cannot produce enough affordable housing without public intervention. King County will continue to pursue new funding sources to fund affordable housing development and operations. The policies in this section call for identifying existing and developing new funding sources, as well as establishing funding priorities.~~

((King County has been pro-active in working with local and national partners to seek out and advocate for new funding sources on the local and state levels, and to re-establish or expand federal funding levels. Despite the decreases in some state and federal resources, King County and its partners have been successful in securing new housing resources, and continue to be able to fund the development and preservation of affordable housing. As a result, residents of King County continue to have affordable housing choices and housing stability programs. Local housing funds have also leveraged significant private and non-profit investment as well as other public funding resources.

**H-152)) H-109** ((King County shall give priority in its affordable housing subsidy programs to projects that serve individuals and households at or below 80% of area median income, and/or that provide older adults, people with behavioral health, cognitive, physical or developmental disabilities, people who are experiencing homelessness and people who are at risk of homelessness and/or displacement.)) King County shall prioritize funding in its affordable housing programs and projects that:

- a. Provide low-barrier housing designed to meet the needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness;
- b. Provide accessible housing to persons with behavioral health, cognitive, physical, or developmental disabilities;
- c. Provide permanent supportive housing for households at or below 30 percent of area median income;
- d. Create homeownership opportunities for households at or below 80 percent of area median income to build generational wealth and promote housing stability;
- e. Create rental housing for households at or below 30 percent of area median income and for households at or below 80 percent of area median income to meet a range of housing needs;
- f. Are located near high-capacity or frequent transit to increase residents' access to job opportunities and services;
- g. Are in areas with communities at risk of displacement;
- h. Reflect an equitable distribution of funding;
- i. Are community-driven projects; or
- j. Reduce the time and cost of achieving the County's affordable housing goals, which may include leveraging additional public and private loans.

**((H-148)) H-110** King County shall work with community members, cities, the private sector, and ((community representatives)) service providers to establish new, countywide funding sources for affordable housing development, acquisition, rehabilitation, preservation, and ((related services)) operating costs, ((such that cities and King County contribute on an equitable basis)) focused on households at or below 30 percent of area median income.

**((H-149)) H-111** King County shall work with other jurisdictions, housing developers, and service providers throughout the state to urge federal and state governments to expand both capital and operating funding for ((low-income)) housing at or below 120 percent of area median income, including ((low-income housing for older adults, people who are experiencing homelessness and people with behavioral health, cognitive, physical and developmental disabilities)) for persons with special housing needs.

**((H-150** ~~King County should encourage and support efforts by non-profit housing developers, housing agencies, and service providers to~~

develop long-term nongovernmental funding sources, such as planned giving, endowments, and related economic development ventures.

~~H-151~~ King County shall seek opportunities to fund programs and projects where county funds are matched by additional public and private loans and investments, and/or contributions in order to increase the amount of financing available for affordable housing.

~~H-153~~ King County shall encourage the inclusion of smoke-free housing policies in projects funded through its affordable housing subsidy programs, in a manner that limits the creation of new barriers to housing.

~~H-154~~ King County shall work with partners and stakeholders to encourage improvement in healthy housing elements in existing affordable housing sustainability standards, with emphasis on healthy housing elements that reduce problems such as asthma, falls, gun-related injury and violence, and unintentional poisoning.

~~H-155~~ King County shall give particular consideration in its affordable housing and community development investments to projects that provide housing and community development solutions in the areas of the county with the most disparate outcomes in health, economic prosperity and housing conditions, and where residents may be at high risk of displacement. King County shall work to coordinate planning and community development investments to support such communities as they experience changes in their demographics, built environment, and real estate markets.

~~H-156~~ King County shall give particular consideration in its affordable housing subsidy programs to projects in areas where there is a severe shortage of affordable housing, and where there is access to job opportunities, a healthy community and active transportation.

~~H-157)) H-112~~ King County ((should expand its)) shall prioritize the use of surplus ((c))County-owned property ((and air rights over county owned property)) for affordable housing for households at or below 80 percent area median income, especially in the urban growth area where it could aid a jurisdiction in meeting its housing targets, and for crisis care centers and community development ((and its possible use for other public benefits, such as human services; and should consider conveyance of properties to public or non-profit housing developers and agencies at below-market cost for the purpose of building or providing affordable housing. Surplus county property shall be prioritized for housing development that will be consistent with King County adopted plans. This policy shall be carried out consistent with King County Charter Section 230.10.10 and other applicable laws, regulations and contract restrictions, such as grant funding requirements)).

~~((H-109)) H-113~~ King County should develop new partnerships with public and private lending institutions to find solutions that reduce ((housing financing)) homeownership costs for ((both builders and consumers)) residents.

~~H-114~~ King County should pursue creative methods within existing programs, funding sources, and state enabling legislation for property tax relief to provide direct assistance to builders and leverage funds for the construction of affordable housing.

489 ~~((H-158)) H-115 King County should support the efforts of non((-))profit developers~~  
490 ~~((and)), housing agencies, and community-based organizations ((to~~  
491 ~~increase the supply of housing for low-income households,)) through~~  
492 ~~((affordable housing planning, policy and advocacy activities and the~~  
493 ~~provision of)) technical assistance and funding for capacity-building~~  
494 ~~and pre-development work.~~

495  
496 ~~((H-160) When awarding subsidies for affordable housing developments to~~  
497 ~~non-profit developers and housing agencies, King County may give~~  
498 ~~additional weight to projects that incorporate and implement healthy~~  
499 ~~housing and sustainable development elements and universal design~~  
500 ~~features.~~

501  
502 ~~H-164 For any subsidized housing project that preserves existing structures,~~  
503 ~~King County shall ensure that usable structures are rehabilitated to an~~  
504 ~~appropriate level of safety and habitability.~~

505  
506 ~~H-165 King County shall strive to adopt funding program policies that~~  
507 ~~encourage the integration of publicly subsidized housing within mixed-~~  
508 ~~income projects, and within all communities. Such funding policies~~  
509 ~~shall support a fair distribution of publicly subsidized housing~~  
510 ~~throughout the county and provide King County and local jurisdictions~~  
511 ~~mutual support in meeting affordable housing needs. King County~~  
512 ~~shall not apply mandatory dispersion requirements that limit where~~  
513 ~~publicly subsidized housing may be located.~~

514  
515 ~~H-165a)) H-116 ((Through its funding programs,)) King County shall encourage~~  
516 ~~developers and owners of publicly ((subsidized)) funded housing units~~  
517 ~~to ((undertake activities to establish and maintain positive relationships~~  
518 ~~with neighbors)) be active community members and to market vacant~~  
519 ~~units to the local area in addition to conducting general marketing~~  
520 ~~outreach.~~

521  
522 ~~((H-166)) H-117 King County shall administer standards for publicly ((subsidized))~~  
523 ~~funded housing that ((with)):~~

- 524 a. ~~Increases the ability of ((people)) persons with physical disabilities~~  
525 ~~to have physical access to housing and mobility within housing~~  
526 ~~regardless of their residency status;~~  
527 b. ~~Allows household members to age in place through the inclusion of~~  
528 ~~universal design principles that make housing units more~~  
529 ~~accessible and usable by all persons;~~  
530 c. ~~Supports the ability of ((older adults and people with behavioral~~  
531 ~~health, physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities)) persons~~  
532 ~~with special housing needs to find housing opportunities that allow~~  
533 ~~them to live as independently as possible in the housing and~~  
534 ~~community of their choice; and~~  
535 d. ~~Increases the ability of people to have access to smoke-free~~  
536 ~~housing, while not creating barriers to housing.~~

537  
538 ~~((H-167) King County should use opportunity mapping:~~  
539 ~~a. To support the siting of community facilities and assisted publicly~~  
540 ~~subsidized affordable housing in locations where low- and~~  
541 ~~moderate-income residents and persons with behavioral health,~~  
542 ~~physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities have convenient~~  
543 ~~access to transportation; employment opportunities; amenities;~~  
544 ~~such as parks, trails, libraries and other public facilities; and~~  
545 ~~services, such as grocery stores; and~~  
546 ~~b. To promote fair housing and diverse communities that are inclusive~~  
547 ~~of residents with a range of abilities, ages, races, incomes and~~  
548 ~~other diverse characteristics of the population of King County.))~~

## D. Housing Supply and Housing for those with the Greatest Needs

To meet the County's goal of an equitable future for all, more housing of different types and price levels is needed in locations with access to jobs, transit, and services. The policies in this section encourage more multiunit and mixed-income housing choices near transit, developing middle housing to provide greater housing choice and increased affordability, and reducing the costs to build housing.

((As the Countywide Planning Policies note, residents in King County are facing an unmet need for housing that is affordable to households earning less than 80 percent of area median income. Recent data indicate that 295,000 households in King County spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing.<sup>†</sup>—The lack of affordable housing is felt in every community in the county. A regional problem requires a regional approach. As such, King County and the jurisdictions within the county have a shared responsibility to increase the supply of housing affordable to these households.

Based on the identified need for affordable housing for households who are spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing, Countywide Planning Policy H-1 has established estimates of the countywide need for housing affordable to households with moderate, low and very low incomes. The Countywide Planning Policies require King County and the jurisdictions located within King County to identify barriers to housing affordability and implement strategies to overcome them. The Countywide Planning Policies also require regional collaboration in meeting countywide housing growth targets and affordable housing needs, as well as in developing resources and programs to provide affordable housing.))

**H-118 King County should encourage a mix of housing types, sizes, tenure, and affordability levels to meet the needs of people who work in and desire to live in King County, especially near countywide and local centers.**

**H-119 King County should encourage the development of housing suitable for families with children, larger households, and multigenerational living that is affordable for households with a broad range of incomes.**

**((H-114)) H-120 King County should ((encourage development of residential communities that achieve lower prices and rents through)) pursue strategies and regulations that increase affordable housing and sustainable housing. These developments should utilize smaller-scale units ((clustered)) and higher density housing that shares common spaces, open spaces, and community facilities to increase the housing supply affordable to all incomes.**

**((H-136)) H-121 King County should provide opportunities within unincorporated urban ((growth)) areas and in Rural Towns with sewer service for the development, rehabilitation, and preservation of rental residential buildings with ((that have)) shared facilities ((, such as single-room occupancy buildings, boarding homes, micro-units buildings and clustered micro-homes to provide opportunities for lower rent housing**

((<sup>†</sup>Briefing 2015-B0143, based on data from 2015-2019 Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan (Ordinance 18070)))



options and higher density ownership options including  
condominiums, co-operative mutual housing, cottage housing)) and  
((other forms of clustered)) higher density ownership housing.

**H-122** King County should support the efforts of nonprofit developers,  
housing agencies, and community-based organizations to preserve or  
develop the supply of housing for households at or below 30 percent of  
area median income.

**H-123** King County shall prioritize community-driven development of  
permanently affordable homeownership and rental projects led by  
community-based organizations and community land trusts to increase  
supply and improve housing stability.

**H-124** King County should work with the state and other partners to remove  
barriers to providing farmworker housing and explore innovative  
approaches to meeting farmworker housing needs.

~~((H-111))~~ **H-125** King County should work with local employers to promote the  
development of affordable ((employer-assisted)) workforce housing  
opportunities located ((within commuting distance of)) near ((the))  
employment sites.

**H-126** King County should encourage the development and preservation of  
affordable family-sized and family-friendly housing to increase the  
supply of housing suitable and affordable for families with children,  
recognizing that family housing requires greater subsidies due to larger  
household size, the need for play areas for children, and separation of  
parking and access roads from play areas.

## 1. Expand Housing Options and Increased Affordability Near Transit

### ~~((B. Strengthen Housing Linkages with Transportation~~

In accordance with the Countywide Planning Policies, VISION 2040 and federal  
priorities, King County intends to)) The policies in this subsection strengthen the linkage  
of affordable housing to jobs and public transportation through transit-oriented  
development and the preservation and development of affordable housing near transit  
stations and along transit corridors ((even though few of these exist in unincorporated  
areas)). Strengthening linkages between housing and public transportation is beneficial  
to the community, economy, and environment. As housing density increases to meet  
the needs of the current and growing population, supportive infrastructure and services,  
such as public transit, needs to be utilized and adapted. The Metro Strategic Plan for  
Public Transportation 2021-2031 directs King County to strengthen this connection and  
support equitable transit-oriented communities. As the population of the Puget Sound  
region grows, King County is expected to remain the major employment center of the  
region. As job growth occurs, the workers for these jobs must be accommodated with  
adequate opportunities for housing and access to public transportation options.

((The workforce of King County includes households earning a wide variety of incomes,  
from individuals earning minimum wage at a less than full-time job to dual- or  
triple-income households earning well above the County's median income. If a balance  
of job growth, improved public transportation, and affordable housing availability is not  
achieved, workers at the lower end of the income scale face particular pressures when  
forced to live longer distances away from their jobs. This increases pressures on

transportation systems, contributes to higher energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and reduces the time workers have for family, recreation, volunteer work, or continuing education.

**H-121)) H-127 King County shall support affordable and mixed-income housing development in transit-oriented locations that is compatible with surrounding uses by:**

- a. Providing information and a process for accessing potential development sites in transit-oriented locations where King County has ownership or access to potential sites; and
- b. Promoting land use patterns that ((cohesively)) connect ((affordable and mixed-income)) housing with active transportation choices(, and
- c. ~~Developing public financing techniques that will provide an advantage for projects that will create and/or preserve affordable and mixed-income housing within transit-oriented communities and neighborhoods that promote health, well-being and opportunity, and or within a neighborhood plan for revitalization)).~~

**((H-122)) H-128 King County shall support transit-oriented development ((at)) near high-capacity or frequent transit ((supportive density and scale)) that preserves and expands affordable, sustainable, and mixed-income housing opportunities ((at locations near frequent and high-capacity transit service. King County shall engage in this work through a variety of strategies, including)) by:**

- a. Enabling development of affordable housing on suitable Metro-owned property;
- b. Using Metro's authority and influence as a transit provider; and ((the engagement of))
- c. Engaging with funding partners, transit partners, jurisdictions, private for-profit and non((-))profit development entities, communities at risk of displacement, and other transit-oriented development partners.

**((H-123 King County will evaluate and seek opportunities for equitable transit-oriented development at major transit centers and hubs when investments are likely to produce increased ridership, community benefits and affordable housing opportunities.**

**H-124)) H-129 King County shall work with partners to ((reduce)) mitigate and prevent displacement of ((very low to moderate income)) households earning up to 120 percent of area median income, including from transit((-))oriented locations, ((to the extent possible;)) and shall strive to align affordable housing investments and transit investments ((in order)) to increase the quality of life of historically ((disinvested)) underinvested communities ((as measured by the Determinants of Equity)).**

## 2. Housing Tools and Processes

With the projected population growth and increased number of family and senior households with limited income, combined with the short supply of affordable housing available today, new development must include affordable housing and a variety of housing types to meet the housing need and reduce racial disparities in housing outcomes.

Meeting King County's housing needs means adopting appropriate land use regulations to require and incentivize the development, rehabilitation, and preservation

of a variety of affordable housing, such as higher-density single detached homes, duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, townhouses, apartments, manufactured housing, cottage housing, accessory dwelling units, and mixed-use developments. In addition, a clear and consistently applied set of land use tools and processes will increase King County's housing supply. Shorter and more consistent permit processing can save applicants time and money, which means housing projects can be completed sooner and at less cost. Streamlined processes can also improve community involvement because it is easier to understand a project's review process.

**((H-129)) H-130** King County shall continue to improve development standards, planning tools, and policies to allow higher densities and flexibility of housing types in all urban residential zones(~~(, in order)~~) to increase housing supply, types, tenure, choice, access, and stability in a manner that also enriches the area's urban form and character ((best accommodate the environmental conditions on the site and the surrounding neighborhood when planning housing developments)).

~~**((H-130))** King County shall explore zoning policies and provisions that increase housing density and affordable housing opportunities within unincorporated urban growth areas near transit and near commercial areas.~~

~~**H-126)) H-131** King County shall provide opportunities for attached and detached accessory dwelling units and middle housing in urban residential areas ((and shall encourage all jurisdictions within King County to adopt provisions to allow accessory dwelling units in their communities)) to increase housing supply affordable to all incomes.~~

**((H-133)) H-132** King County shall ((encourage)) incentivize the development of new housing models that are healthy and affordable by providing opportunities ((for new models)) within unincorporated urban ((growth)) areas and near commercial areas. King County shall ((work to)) allow innovative housing projects to move forward, including affordable housing demonstration projects, community-driven development projects, affordable owner-built housing, land trusts and cooperative ownership structures for rental and ownership housing, co-housing, and other innovative developments.

**((H-127)) H-133** King County shall adopt appropriate land use regulations to require and ((encourage)) incentivize development, rehabilitation, and preservation of sustainable housing affordable to ((very-low to moderate-income housing)) households earning up to 120 percent of area median income. King County shall regularly monitor the effectiveness of creating affordable housing units as part of King County's participation in regular monitoring of housing measures with the Growth Management Planning Council.

~~**((H-128))** King County should pursue land use policies and regulations that result in lower development costs without loss of adequate public review, environmental quality or public safety and do not reduce design quality, inhibit infrastructure financing strategies, or increase maintenance costs for public facilities.~~

~~**H-144)) H-134** King County ((will)) shall ensure that mandatory and((for)) incentivized affordable housing units created through its land use policies and regulations are high quality, safe, and integrated on-site with market rate housing.~~

768 ~~((H-131)) H-135~~ King County shall seek to minimize the time necessary to process  
769 ~~((development))~~ permits for developments ~~((in unincorporated King~~  
770 ~~County))~~ that will include affordable housing ~~((and address~~  
771 ~~environmental goals and community and aesthetic concerns))~~. King  
772 County ~~((should continue to))~~ shall expedite plan and permitting  
773 reviews for affordable housing projects in coordination with  
774 mandatory, incentive, or subsidy programs, including tax abatements,  
775 exemptions, and credits.

776  
777 ~~((H-135)) H-136~~ King County shall, to the maximum extent allowed by law, exempt  
778 payment of impact fees in unincorporated areas for developments that will  
779 include affordable rental or ownership housing.

780  
781 ~~((H-107)) H-137~~ King County ~~((should))~~ shall encourage regional land use and  
782 investment strategies to stimulate ~~((mixed-use and))~~ mixed-income  
783 developments ~~((as a way))~~ to economically integrate neighborhoods,  
784 ~~((and))~~ increase housing and transportation choices throughout King  
785 County, and improve housing stability for people of all incomes.

786  
787 H-138 King County shall support integrated multi-generational communities  
788 through increased housing options, incentives, and zoning flexibility.

789  
790 H-139 King County shall encourage the development of single detached  
791 residences through the splitting of a single residential lot into two  
792 residential lots.

793  
794 H-140 King County shall continue to seek opportunities to fund anti-displacement  
795 tools and programs.

## 796 797 E. Expanded Housing and Neighborhood Choice 798 for All Residents

### 799 ((3. — Fair Housing Access

800 An important element of this Comprehensive Plan is to address equal access to housing  
801 and freedom from discrimination in housing for all residents of King County. A number  
802 of the policies in this Plan address fair housing through support and encouragement of  
803 both the successful integration of housing for low to moderate-income households into  
804 all communities and, in particular, into healthy communities with access to jobs,  
805 transportation, good schools and economic opportunities; and the successful  
806 improvement of community conditions for those communities that are currently low on  
807 the opportunity scale:

808  
809 Opportunity is a situation or condition that places individuals in a position to be more  
810 likely to excel or succeed. Opportunity mapping assesses the conditions present in  
811 neighborhoods across a region, by looking at indicators of opportunity in education,  
812 economy, transportation, housing, environment, and health, and ranks communities on  
813 a scale from low to high opportunity. High opportunity areas have the best conditions  
814 for the success of the residents living there. Opportunity mapping can also be useful in  
815 helping to identify transition areas where existing residents may be at risk for  
816 displacement. Analysis of opportunity mapping can provide valuable information about  
817 where more affordable housing needs to be located, and what needs to be remedied in  
818 areas that have very limited opportunities.

819  
820 Local, state and federal fair housing laws, including the King County Fair Housing  
821 Ordinance, have set the stage for policies in this Plan that favor community-based,

integrated housing and independent living, rather than institutional settings, for older adults and persons with behavioral, cognitive, physical and developmental disabilities. Service-enriched housing is also best integrated into community-based settings in apartments or single-family homes rehabilitated to meet the needs of the residents:))

Equitable access to housing plays a critical role in promoting social justice and reducing racial disparities in King County. King County supports policies that promote equitable access to housing for all and repair racially disparate housing outcomes. This includes policies that address housing discrimination, protect renters, promote homeownership, expand access to affordable housing, and encourage equitable development. King County partners with community organizations and other partners to work towards meeting the needs of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities; and those with special housing needs; veterans, military servicemembers, and their respective families; persons experiencing homelessness; people with disabilities; immigrants; refugees; LGBTQIA+ persons; families with children; and survivors of domestic violence, gender-based violence, human trafficking, and commercial exploitation.

The Racially Disparate Impact Analysis section of the Housing Needs Assessment details the local history of racially exclusive and discriminatory land use and housing in unincorporated King County. Historically, private property owners, lending institutions, and federal, state, and local governments implemented strategies to restrict access to housing, land, and neighborhoods to people based on their race, nation of origin, and sometimes religion. These strategies perpetuated racial segregation and wealth inequities throughout the country and in King County. Some of these policies and practices known to have been enforced or practiced in unincorporated King County include Indigenous land dispossession, the Alien Land Law, Japanese internment and incarceration, racially restrictive covenants, and discriminatory lending practices that led to disproportionate access to homeownership (redlining). While some explicitly discriminatory laws have been overturned, their legacy and effects have remained, preventing Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities from sharing the recent prosperity of King County and the Puget Sound region. The policies in this section seek to identify and remediate inequitable policies, processes, or regulations and remove barriers to equity and inclusion for these communities.

## 1. Equitable Housing Access

**((H-118)) H-141 King County shall actively promote and affirmatively further fair housing in unincorporated King County through its housing programs, and shall ~~((work with all of))~~ participate in efforts with its partners to further fair housing, ~~((in its regional role promoting housing affordability;))~~ housing and neighborhood choice, and provide access to opportunity for ~~((all))~~ communities~~((, especially those communities))~~ that bear the burdens ~~((from lack of investment and access to opportunity; and shall work with residents and stakeholders to help them understand the rights protected by federal, state, and local fair housing laws and shall help to promote equitable housing practices for protected classes through fair housing education and enforcement))~~ of systemic underinvestment and lack of access and opportunity.**

**((H-146)) H-142 King County shall prohibit restrictive covenants or other land use, permitting, or property conditions that limit the ability of persons from protected classes (as defined in the King County Fair Housing Ordinance in King County Code Chapter 12.20) to live in residences of their choice.**

**((H-119)) H-143 King County shall flexibly apply its zoning, rules, policies, practices, and services in its funding, incentive, or mandatory**



affordable housing programs(~~, when necessary~~) to afford persons with disabilities equal opportunity to use or enjoy a dwelling or to create new affordable housing opportunities for persons with disabilities.

~~((H-120))~~ **H-144** King County should work with housing industry representatives to identify and remove barriers (such as real estate marketing, finance, or insurance practices) that restrict housing choices and opportunities for ~~((: low- and moderate-income people older adults, people who are experiencing homelessness and people with behavioral, physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities))~~ households at or below 50 percent of area median income and persons with special housing needs.

~~((H-147))~~ **H-145** King County shall permit group living situations, including those where residents receive ~~((such))~~ supportive services, such as counseling, foster care, or medical supervision, within a single~~((family house))~~ detached residence, houseplex, or apartment.

~~((H-108))~~ **H-146** King County shall ~~((work with other jurisdictions to))~~ encourage the use of universal design in the development of affordable housing~~((; family-sized housing))~~ and market-rate housing to create units that are accessible to seniors.

## 2. Repairing Harm and Promoting Equitable Outcomes in Communities Most Impacted by Racially Exclusive Land Use and Housing Practices

**H-147** King County shall take intentional actions that repair harms to Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color households from past and current racially exclusive and discriminatory land use and housing practices that result in racially disparate outcomes, such as development patterns, disparate homeownership rates, affordable housing divestment in lower-income communities, and infrastructure availability, such as through:

- a. Creating opportunities for development of middle housing;
- b. Investing in rental assistance and eviction prevention programs;
- c. Implementing a community preference program to prevent displacement;
- d. Investing in equitable development projects to support community-driven priorities;
- e. Preserving manufactured home communities and affordable housing to prevent displacement;
- f. Expanding homeownership programs to increase wealth building;
- g. Supporting programs that mitigate and prevent displacement of households at or below 120 percent of area median income; and
- h. Supporting efforts by Washington State to fund down payment and closing costs assistance.

**H-148** King County shall promote equitable outcomes in communities most impacted by racially exclusive and discriminatory land use and housing practices, such as in North Highline and Skyway-West Hill, by supporting equitable access to resources, in partnership with impacted communities, such as through surplus properties, affordable housing financing, and capacity building for community-based organizations.

**H-149** King County shall support actions that increase and preserve access to affordable rental and ownership housing in communities at risk of

displacement and advance housing stability for populations who experience systemic racism or discrimination.

~~((H-105a))~~ **H-150** King County shall engage ~~((marginalized))~~ underrepresented populations ~~((in the))~~ to advance community-driven development~~((, implementation, and evaluation of county-wide affordable housing goals, policies and programs))~~.

**H-151** King County shall support development of new affordable housing units that promote culturally relevant and multi-generational housing options, through strategies such as prioritized funding, technical assistance, and flexible development regulations.

**H-152** King County shall support equitable development projects and investments in areas most directly impacted by structural racism and discrimination, in communities at a higher risk of displacement, that have low access to economic and health opportunities, or that are home to significant populations of communities experiencing disparities in life outcomes, through:

- a. Advancing home ownership opportunities as a means to economic mobility and opportunity for residents;
- b. Preventing displacement;
- c. Building upon and protecting local cultural assets that anchor communities;
- d. Supporting organizational capacity building;
- e. Promoting transportation mobility and connectivity; and
- f. Enabling equitable access for all communities.

**H-153** King County shall take actions to prevent and mitigate displacement by supporting cultural institutions and community hubs and implementing programs that help people with a connection to the local community remain in or return to their community of choice.

**H-154** King County shall support policies and programs that minimize risks of displacement, such as:

- a. Community preference and right to return policies;
- b. Property tax exemption programs;
- c. Priority hire programs;
- d. Mandatory and voluntary inclusionary housing programs;
- e. Tenant relocation assistance policies;
- f. Down payment assistance programs;
- g. Affordable rental housing policies;
- h. Community land trusts;
- i. Manufactured housing community preservation policies; and
- j. Redevelopment assistance programs.

**H-155** King County shall, as part of King County's participation in regular monitoring of housing measures with the Growth Management Planning Council, monitor progress toward the elimination of racial and other disparities in housing and neighborhood choices, identify factors that the County has control over that cause disparities, and remediate these factors.

**H-156** King County shall raise awareness of existing Property Tax Exemption programs offered by the Assessor's Office for eligible homeowners.

## F. Housing Stability

### ~~((E. Support the Housing Stability of Households in King County))~~

The rising cost of housing threatens people's ability to remain in their communities. The housing market has experienced great highs and lows that have benefitted some, creating and exacerbating hardship and inequalities for others. There are substantial disparities in housing access between White and Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color households, underscoring the ongoing effects of systemic racism in housing. Housing stability creates a foundational structure for individuals and families that contributes to every person's well-being and improvements to health, economic, and educational outcomes for communities. VISION, the Countywide Planning Policies, and the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force's Five Year Action Plan prioritize housing stability strategies.

These policies in this section support housing stability through the preservation of existing affordable units, increasing access to homeownership, assisting those with special housing needs to remain in their homes, and supporting tenant protections and eviction prevention programs. King County raises local resources for housing stability programs from the Best Starts for Kids Levy, the Crisis Cares Centers Levy, and the Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy.

#### 1. Preservation of Existing Units

~~((H-103a) King County will work collaboratively with jurisdictions and partners to identify and meet affordable housing needs, including eliminating barriers to housing. This effort should take the form of a regional affordable housing plan that summarizes existing efforts and identifies the roles and strategies of the county, jurisdictions and partners to meet affordable housing needs.~~

~~H-104)) H-157 King County shall work with ((the multiple)) partners ((outlined in this section to promote)) to support the preservation ((and expansion)) of:~~

~~a. ((a)) Affordable rental housing opportunities for households earning up to 80((%)) percent of ((the King County)) area median income; and~~

~~b. Affordable ownership housing opportunities for households earning up to 120 percent of area median income.~~

~~H-158 King County should prioritize ((P)) preservation ((is a particularly acute need)) in communities at risk of displacement or areas that may experience redevelopment due to proximity to high((-)) capacity or frequent transit ((and/or an area experiencing changing market conditions)).~~

~~((H-105) King County shall work with the multiple partners outlined in this section to promote the preservation and expansion of affordable ownership housing opportunities for households earning up to 120% of the King County median income. Preservation is a particularly acute need in areas that may experience redevelopment due to proximity to high capacity transit and/or an area experiencing changing market conditions.~~

~~H-161)) H-159 King County ((should develop and expand)) shall explore incentives and subsidy programs to preserve affordable housing~~

threatened by market forces and expiring federal subsidies. Relocation assistance and replacement housing should be funded(~~((, where feasible, to help low-income households))~~) when displacement is unavoidable.

~~((H-162))~~ H-160 King County should assist owners of rental properties serving ~~((low-and-moderate-income-residents))~~ households between 50 to 120 percent of area median income to acquire affordable financing for building health and safety improvements in exchange for long-term agreements to maintain affordable rents.

~~((H-163))~~ H-161 King County should coordinate preservation of existing affordable housing with city and ~~((c))~~County historic preservation programs and incentives~~((;))~~ and should promote preservation and restoration of significant historic features in the rehabilitation of existing buildings and sites for housing.

~~((H-117))~~ H-162 King County shall support ~~((partnership efforts and the application of innovations in manufactured home production that may allow mobile home parks to adapt and improve the quality of housing stock and to increase the density of housing stock in order to preserve housing affordability while accommodating the region's growth needs))~~ the preservation, and improve the quality and livability, of manufactured home communities to prevent displacement.

## 2. Increase Access to Homeownership

~~((H-173))~~ H-163 King County shall provide financial assistance for ~~((ownership))~~ housing rehabilitation to ~~((low-income))~~ home~~((-))~~owners at or below 80 percent of area median income, including owners of ~~((mobile/))~~manufactured homes residing in ~~((parks))~~ manufactured home communities or on their own land through individual or cooperative ownership. ~~((King County should also consider support for community-based repair programs, such as tool banks or painting programs;))~~

~~((H-174))~~ H-164 King County should work with local lenders and non~~((-))~~profit organizations providing home~~((-))~~ownership assistance to expand assistance for eligible income-qualified homebuyers, including homebuyer education and counseling, mortgage default and foreclosure counseling, culturally relevant low-cost financing and assistance with down payments and closing costs, and alternative ownership housing models such as land trusts~~((;))~~ and co-housing~~((; etc)).~~

H-165 King County should advocate for revisions to state law that facilitate and support tools, such as condominium reforms, for advancing more homeownership opportunities.

## 3. Tenant Protections, Eviction Prevention, and Homelessness

~~((H-169))~~ King County shall play a leadership role in implementing the All Home Strategic Plan to make homelessness rare, brief and one-time.

~~H-168))~~ H-166 King County ~~((should))~~ shall support ~~((flexible))~~ and implement programs and ~~((emerging strategies))~~ policies that increase housing stability and ~~((that))~~ help to prevent and reduce homelessness, such as permanent supportive housing, emergency rental assistance, short-term rental assistance, diversion assistance, eviction prevention, mortgage default and foreclosure counseling, and improvements to

emergency services referral networks, including coordinating with service providers contracting with King County and with the King County Regional Homelessness Authority to develop and implement an efficient, coordinated intake system for families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

- H-167** King County should support federal and state legislation that prohibits rental property owners from:
- a. Contracting with companies that coordinate rental housing prices and housing supply information; and
  - b. Coordinating price, supply, and other rental housing information with other rental property owners.

~~((2. Support Housing Models and Policies that Promote Healthy Communities, Housing Affordability and an End to Homelessness~~

~~**H-106** King County, in partnership with other jurisdictions, shall evaluate achievement of countywide and local goals for housing for all economic sectors of the population by analyzing housing indicators, adopted land use regulations, actions that encourage development, and the effect of market factors on housing development. The results of this evaluation shall be used to develop new or revised policies, programs, regulations, and incentives to better meet the Countywide Planning Policies' housing goals. These may include adopting appropriate land use regulations and other actions that encourage development, rehabilitation and preservation of low and moderate-income housing.~~

~~**H-112)) H-168** King County should encourage development of permanent supportive and other affordable housing through redevelopment of nonresidential buildings((, such as schools and commercial buildings,)) in locations suitable for housing to create housing stability for households at or below 80 percent of area median income and in ways that preserve significant historic features where appropriate.~~

~~**((H-171** King County should support innovative and flexible tools and programs that assist low-income renters to maintain housing stability or to gain access to permanent affordable housing and private market housing, such as revolving loan funds that cover utility and damage deposits, and rental assistance programs.~~

~~**H-172)) H-169** King County shall support:~~

- a. Rental assistance, eviction prevention, and other programs that provide ((landlord-tenant counseling, sessions and workshops, mediation in landlord-tenant disputes,)) tenants with the resources and information to successfully navigate landlord-tenant disputes; and
- b. ((f))Legislation that ((protects the rights of tenants and landlords, such as uniform protections for tenants and landlords and fair rental contracts)) increases tenants' access to safe, affordable, healthy, and stable housing.

**H-170** King County shall pursue code changes that provide housing stability for tenants, including rent stabilization, and protect investment for the rental property owner.

~~**((H-170)) H-171** King County shall work with jurisdictions and housing providers locally and across the state to urge state and federal governments to expand funding for direct assistance services, such as ((flexible)) rental~~



assistance and eviction prevention resources, diversion assistance, and emergency housing services. ~~((In addition to rental assistance, King County should support programs that help prevent homelessness and that improve prevention and emergency services referral networks, including an efficient coordinated intake system for families and individuals experiencing homelessness.~~

~~H-115))~~ H-172 King County should work with the King County Regional Homelessness Authority and other housing partners and ((jurisdictions)) cities to oppose and repeal policies, regulations, and actions that result in the criminalization of homelessness and homeless encampments.

H-173 King County should collaborate with the City of Seattle, the King County Regional Homelessness Authority, other cities, and housing partners in efforts to prevent and end homelessness and focus those efforts on providing permanent housing with supportive services, expanding safe temporary shelter, and securing necessary resources to implement these efforts.

## G. Health Equity

Healthy housing protects all residents from exposure to harmful substances and environments, provides opportunities for safe and convenient daily physical activity, reduces the risk of injury, and ensures access to healthy food and social connectivity. Housing characteristics, including location, surrounding conditions, size, indoor air quality, ambient pollution exposure, and amenity availability, significantly affect household residents' physical and mental health. Household conditions in the built environment, where people spend the most time, have a pronounced effect on health outcomes, especially for children and youth experiencing their sensitive years of physical, emotional, and mental development. An unaffordable housing market, historical racially restrictive covenants, and other patterns of systemic disinvestment have resulted in significant disparities in housing-related health outcomes. In King County, asthma, mental health challenges, and elevated blood lead levels are more prevalent in households of greater social vulnerability.

Chemicals representing the "worst in class" substances prevalent in the building industry that pose serious risks to human health and the environment are identified as red list chemicals. Red list chemicals serve many different functions in many building products. However, the use of these chemicals can cause harm to health and the environment. Hazards include cancer, reproductive toxicity, acute or chronic organ toxicity, endocrine disruption, ozone depletion, and others. Although prevalent, red list chemicals are not necessary in most instances. Safer chemical alternatives, product designs, and building designs are possible.

~~((H-139))~~ H-174 King County should ((provide opportunities for incorporation of)) incorporate the principles of healthy housing and communities ((and housing, sustainability, and greenhouse gas emissions mitigation)) into programs, plans, and policy initiatives on ((housing,)) affordable housing and community development in unincorporated areas.

H-175 King County should promote the incorporation of non-toxic and red list-free materials in the construction of affordable housing through use of the Evergreen Sustainable Development Standard, to improve the social determinants of health for residents.

**((H-113)) H-176** King County should support the development, preservation, and rehabilitation of affordable, healthy, and sustainable housing that protects residents from exposure to harmful substances and environments, ~~((including))~~ such as lead ~~((poisoning;))~~; reduces the risk of injury~~((;))~~; is well-maintained~~((;))~~; and is adaptable to all ages and abilities. King County should work on a regional level with jurisdictions to explore tools to ensure healthy housing is provided throughout the region to improve housing stability of residents.

**((H-204)) H-177** King County shall strive to apply principles that lead to thriving healthy communities in all neighborhoods of the ~~((region))~~ county. ~~((King County will support public health investments that help all residents to live in thriving communities where they have the opportunity to make healthy choices.))~~ King County shall support:

- a. Access to safe and convenient opportunities to be physically active, including access to walking, bicycling, recreation, and transit infrastructure;
- b. Access to healthy, affordable foods and the elimination of food deserts;
- c. Protection from exposure to harmful environmental agents, such as lead~~((;))~~ and infectious disease;
- d. Access to transportation infrastructure designed to prevent pedestrian, bicyclist, and motor vehicle-related injuries;
- e. ~~((Residential-n))~~ Neighborhoods free from violence and fear of violence;
- f. Protection from involuntary exposure to second~~((-))~~hand tobacco smoke and under-age access to tobacco products;
- g. Protection from disproportionate retail and promotion of products known to cause poor health outcomes, such as tobacco and cannabis, in areas where residents have higher social vulnerability and risk factors;
- h. Community amenities and design that maximizes opportunities for social connectivity and stress reduction; and

~~((h-))~~ i. A range of health services, including timely emergency response and culturally~~((-specific))~~ relevant preventive medical, behavioral, and dental care within their community.

## 1. Asthma Prevention

Approximately six percent of children and nearly nine percent of adults in King County have been diagnosed with asthma. The demographic group in which this chronic disease is most common is American Indians/Alaska Natives, with a prevalence of over 26 percent. Housing is perhaps the most critical social determinant in asthma health disparities. Water intrusion, which can stem from plumbing leaks, roof leaks, and unventilated or damp basements, may lead to mold development and attract pests. Cracks, holes in the walls, and water leaks are associated with cockroach allergen. Research has shown that household repairs to address these conditions reduce asthma symptoms and hospitalizations and improve quality of life.

**((H-116)) H-178 King County shall support and encourage smoke free policies in ((multi-family)) multiunit housing and affordable housing, where appropriate.**

**H-179 Public Health - Seattle & King County should reduce the prevalence and harm of asthma by conducting population studies, providing technical support to policy advocates, and training and deploying a Community Health Worker program.**

## 2. Safe Firearm Storage

Crime and perceived safety ((varies)) vary by geographic area in King County and is an equity and racial and social justice concern. Safe communities promote resiliency and can act as a protective factor preventing violence and other crime. In particular, ((G))gun violence, including suicide, is ((in particular)) a public health and public safety issue. Unsafe((ly stored firearms)) firearm storage ((are a risk factor for suicide or other violence in the home. In addition, unsafe storage contributes to gun theft, which)) can result in the gun finding its way into the hands of someone planning to use it for suicide, homicide, or assault. ((Over half of King County residents who own firearms (approximately 123,000 people; based on 2014 data) report that they store at least one firearm unlocked. King County's Child Death Review regularly documents cases where unsafe firearm storage resulted directly or indirectly in a child's death:)) For the most recent three years for which King County data are available (2016, 2018, and 2020), 27 percent of firearm owners with children and 44 percent of firearm owners without children kept their firearms stored unlocked. Evidence has shown that safely storing firearms - unloaded and locked - is a protective factor in preventing youth suicide. Safe storage can also limit theft((;)) and the expansion of the illegal gun market. Education of firearm owners about safe firearm storage is a key public health strategy, as is making safe firearm storage an easy choice. ((Emerging evidence also shows that community and housing design can decrease violence in communities, including firearm violence.

**H-209)) H-180 King County should work to address the public health and public safety crisis of gun violence by collecting epidemiological and other data((;)); engaging with cities, local neighborhoods, and other ((stakeholders;)) partners; and making information available that promotes safe firearm storage and fosters community safety.**

**H-181 King County shall work with jurisdictions, the private sector, state and federal governments, other funders of public housing, other public agencies, and the nonprofit sector to support public and private housing that allows for the opportunity to encourage permanent safe firearm storage locations that make safe storage an easy choice and foster safety from injury and violence, through exploring housing and community designs that are shown to increase connectivity and reduce violence.**

## 3. ((Reducing)) Eliminating Lead Exposure

Although exposures to lead have generally decreased ((as a result of)) due to regulatory interventions, lead poisoning remains a significant, but preventable, environmental ((health)) justice problem. ((Our)) The most vulnerable populations are children under ((6)) six years of age. ((The largest source of lead exposure nationwide and in King County is lead-based paint)) Lead-based paint is the largest source of lead exposure nationwide and in King County. The greatest lead-based paint risk is in housing built before 1978. The ((2010-2014)) 2017-2021 American Community Survey ((5-Year)) Public Use Microdata Sample indicates that among King County children under age six, 46 percent live in homes built before 1978. ((Estimates shows 54% of all King County housing was built prior to 1978:)) The preferred method for eliminating exposure from

lead-based paint would be to remove it from all housing; however, it is impracticable to require this of all property owners. King County assists developers, ~~((building and))~~ home~~((-))~~owners, and tenants to become aware of the lead-based paint risks, its impacts ~~((to))~~ on health, and the tools and requirements needed to reduce exposures, including the use of lead-safe work practices.

King County has regulatory or programmatic reach to address many housing-related health challenges. Most new affordable housing is developed under Washington State Evergreen Sustainable Development Standards, and substantial renovation of existing housing may require upgrades to the current building code. Indoor air quality is being improved in the limited number of homes that receive equipment and/or technical assistance from Public Health - Seattle & King County and partner programs.

The policies in this subsection are intended to work upstream of programmatic responses to help avoid and mitigate exposures and harms. They point to harm-reduction countermeasures in housing development characteristics, operations and maintenance stages, and housing demolition practices.

~~((H-210))~~ **H-182 King County ((should seek to develop strategies to decrease)) shall implement strategies to eliminate exposure to lead where children, youth, and families live, learn, and play, including:**

**a. Advocating for countywide efforts to screen all children (at 12 months and 24 months) for exposure to lead poisoning and monitoring of this data:**

**b. Working to ensure all renovation, repair, and painting work that disturbs painted surfaces in pre-1978 dwellings be performed in compliance with the requirements of the Washington Department of Commerce to reduce exposure to lead-contaminated dusts; and**

**c. Working to ensure strategies are used that minimize or eliminate the spread of lead dust during the demolition of pre-1978 residential and commercial buildings, including community education and notification.**

~~((H-211))~~ **King County shall advocate for regional efforts to screen all children (at 12 months and 24 months) for exposure to lead poisoning:**

~~H-212~~ **King County should work to ensure all renovation, repair and painting work that disturbs painted surfaces in pre-1978 dwellings be performed in compliance with the requirements of the Washington Department of Commerce to reduce exposure to lead-contaminated dusts:**

~~H-213~~ **King County should work to ensure strategies are used that minimize or eliminate the spread of lead dust during the demolition of pre-1978 residential and commercial buildings, including community education and notification:**

## ~~C. Housing and Land Use Regulation~~

~~In King County today, a substantial need exists for low-income rental housing and for moderately priced homes that can be purchased by first-time homebuyers. In the past decade, a significant number of homeowners have lost their homes due to foreclosure and have become renters again. In the short term, those households may need affordable rents, while in the longer term they may again seek to own a moderately-priced home:~~

~~While King County has seen a growth in the percentage of smaller (one- and two-person) households, there are also some large households that need affordable~~

housing with three or more bedrooms. Existing units will provide some of the affordable housing needed for low-income households in the future. However, with the projected growth in the number of low- to moderate-income households prospect of increasing numbers of family and senior households with limited income, and the short supply of lower-cost housing available today, new construction must include affordable housing. Efforts to provide sufficient land and infrastructure and reduced development costs will help make new units affordable. In addition, a combination of incentive programs and funding will help keep rents affordable and expand opportunities for first-time homebuyers.

Meeting these objectives will entail providing sufficient land for a variety of affordable housing, such as higher-density single-family homes, multifamily properties, manufactured housing, accessory dwelling units and mixed-use developments.

**H-132** — ~~King County should encourage the formation of common development codes and standards, as well as common mandatory and incentive programs for affordable housing, with cities, sewer and water districts and other permitting agencies to increase predictability and reduce development costs.~~

**H-134** — ~~Density bonuses and other incentives for the development of affordable housing by for-profit and non-profit developers shall be available within unincorporated urban areas, with a focus on commercial areas to both single-family and multifamily developments to promote development of affordable rental and/or ownership housing. Bonuses shall be periodically reviewed and updated as needed, to assure they are effective in creating affordable housing unit, especially in coordination with any mandatory inclusionary affordable housing requirements that may be adopted.~~

**H-138** — ~~Housing developments in the urban unincorporated areas, consisting of not less than 100 acres, shall provide a mix of housing types and densities, including housing that is affordable to low-, moderate-, and middle-income households. This mix should include housing opportunities for older adults, persons who are experiencing homelessness and persons with behavioral, cognitive, physical, and/or developmental disabilities.~~

**H-140** — ~~King County shall allow five-story wood frame construction to increase the availability of multifamily housing while lowering development costs and maintaining fire safety.~~

**H-141** — ~~King County shall explore the expansion of land use and financial incentives to preserve and improve existing housing in redeveloping areas through the use of programs such as transfer of development rights, tax credits and tax exemptions for new and preserved affordable housing, as well as tax abatements and restoration loans for housing designated as a historic landmark.~~

**H-143** — ~~King County development standards should promote lower-cost infill development, such as accessory dwelling units, in a manner that allows existing housing to be retained through measures such as an innovative or flexible building envelope, access and infrastructure standards.~~

**H-145** — ~~King County shall continue to require Evergreen Sustainable Development Standards, or an equivalent successor standard, and will work with partners and stakeholders to encourage the improvement in healthy housing elements of Evergreen Sustainable Development~~



~~Standards, with emphasis on healthy housing elements that reduce  
asthma:))~~

## II. ((Regional)) Health and Human Services

King County has a regional role in health and human services, working with many partners, such as the federal, state, and other local governments, service providers, non((=))profit organizations, foundations, faith communities, businesses, schools, and the criminal ((justice)) legal system, to help those most in need. King County's investments in human services are guided by ((Health and Human Services Transformation and the joint transformation initiatives<sup>2</sup> of the Department of Community and Human Services and Public Health Seattle King County; as well as policy and planning documents such as the Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan 2015-2019<sup>3</sup> and the All Home Strategic Plan 2015-2019<sup>4</sup>, the King County Youth Action Plan, Framework Policies for Human Services,)) policies in this section and the Best Starts for Kids Levy; Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Behavioral Health Sales Tax Fund; Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy; Crisis Cares Centers Levy; Initial Health through Housing Implementation Plan 2022-2028, or successor plans; Strategic Climate Action Plan; and the King County Board of Health Planning for Healthy Communities Guidelines and Recommendations,((and ultimately, the King County Strategic Plan.

The Framework Policies are contained in Chapter 2.51 of the King County Code. The purpose of the Framework Policies for Human Services is to communicate King County government's role in Human Services, the goals the county seeks to achieve and the principles that will underlie its investments. The Framework Policies are reviewed and revised as needed.

~~Health and Human Services Transformation, the Framework Policies and the Strategic Plan))~~ King County places a strong emphasis on ((prevention,)) stabilizing people and diverting them from jails, emergency rooms, and crisis services by providing residents with appropriate treatment and services ((for those with the high needs, as well as providing)). The County also provides upstream prevention ((and intervention)) services ((and opportunities that increase the stability and resiliency)) for the health of children((:)) and youth ((, and communities, and)) to reduce the need for acute care and crisis interventions later in life.

~~((King County has grappled with unsustainable costs in criminal justice and emergency medical services and is taking steps to reduce cost growth in this primary area of service responsibility. A major component of these efforts has been))~~ King County's overreliance on the criminal legal system and emergency medical responses to health and human service needs has proven fiscally unsustainable, ineffective at creating lasting change, and frequently harmful to Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color residents. Acknowledging these unacceptable costs, King County and other partners have expanded alternative approaches to prevent unnecessary engagement with law enforcement and the criminal legal system, including jail diversion programs and increased coordination with health and human services programs((, in order to prevent

((<sup>2</sup>—The initiatives of Health and Human Services Transformation include Familiar Faces, Communities of Opportunity, Accountable Communities of Health and its subcommittees, Best Starts for Kids Levy.

<sup>3</sup>—The Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan is a HUD required document that guides the investment of a significant portion of DCHS' funds for affordable housing and community/economic development, and a smaller portion of DCHS' funds to address homelessness.

<sup>4</sup>—The Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) is located in the Director's Office of DCHS, and is the regional planning entity and continuum of care for addressing homelessness in King County.))

unnecessary engagement with law enforcement and the criminal justice system. These efforts have begun to show results, and the Health and Human Services Transformation and Strategic Plan continue this emphasis)).

The King County Regional Homelessness Authority was created to coordinate funding, contracting, service delivery, and performance measurement for the regional homelessness crisis response system. After King County and the City of Seattle signed the Interlocal Agreement to establish the Regional Homelessness Authority in 2020, and with support from the Sound Cities Association, the transition of homelessness crisis response to the Regional Homelessness Authority began. The County continues to separately fund and manage investments in capital housing development and other permanent housing purposes.

## A. Health and Human Service Provision

~~((H-203))~~ **H-201** ~~((King County will apply principles that promote effectiveness, accountability and equity and social justice.))~~ King County ~~((embraces the following principles))~~ **shall promote effectiveness, accountability, equity, and racial and social justice** in its health and human service actions and investments by:

- a. ~~((King County will provide))~~ **Providing** information to the community on its health, human services, and behavioral health system planning and evaluation activities, funding processes and criteria, and on the results of its investments in a transparent, accountable, and culturally((-)) and audience-appropriate manner;
- b. ~~((King County will uphold))~~ **Upholding** federal, state, and local laws against discrimination;
- c. ~~((promote culturally competent,))~~ **Promoting culturally relevant and equitable ((and relevant)) service delivery;**
- d. ~~((and will work))~~ **Working** to end disparities in social, health, and economic status among communities and people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds;
- ~~((c.))~~ **e.** ~~((King County will work))~~ **Working** with local service providers to provide behavioral health services to ~~((low-income))~~ individuals in need, including ~~((high-quality))~~ equitable prevention, crisis diversion, mental health, substance ~~((abuse))~~ **use** disorder, and co-occurring disorder treatment services to youth, young adults, and ~~((older adults))~~ **seniors**. The ~~((c))~~County ~~((will))~~ **shall** assume primary responsibility for coordinating the provision of countywide behavioral health services ~~((including crisis services, mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, co-occurring disorder treatment, and housing support services))~~, working in partnership with ~~the state, cities, managed care organizations,~~ and local service providers;
- ~~((d.))~~ **f.** ~~((King County will encourage))~~ **Supporting** service approaches that promote recovery and ~~((resiliency))~~ **resilience** and support individuals and families to achieve their full potential to live meaningful and productive lives in the community;
- ~~((e.))~~ **g.** ~~((King County will foster))~~ **Fostering** integration of systems of care through increased information sharing and collaborative efforts across agencies and programs for the purpose of improved service delivery, coordination, and shared outcomes; and
- ~~((f.))~~ **h.** ~~((Together with its partners, King County will))~~ **Working with its partners** to assess and respond to changing human service and behavioral health needs and use data, research, innovation, analysis, and evidence-based practices to drive its investments.

**H-202** King County shall retain responsibility for implementation of mandated, through law or policy, countywide specialty systems for: behavioral health, including crisis services, mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, co-occurring disorder treatment, and housing support services; physical, emotional, and cognitive health; public health; veterans, military servicemembers, and their respective families; seniors; children, families, and youth; vulnerable adults; and people with developmental disabilities.

~~((H-201))~~ **H-203** In coordination with local jurisdictions, funding partners, and community partners, King County ~~((will seek to build and))~~ shall develop and sustain coordinated regional health and human services and behavioral health systems to provide services, support((s)), safety, and opportunity to those most in need. In carrying out its role in such systems, King County ~~((government will))~~ shall:

- a. Work with other jurisdictions and organizations to ~~((define))~~ implement a regional health and human services and behavioral health system((s)) and strengthen financing, access, and overall effectiveness of services;
- b. Collaborate with other funders to ~~((assure))~~ ensure coordination in how funds are used, and continue to explore improvements to system design, contracting, and data collection and analysis; and
- c. ~~((Retain responsibility for the development and implementation of mandated, through law or adopted County policy, countywide specialty systems for behavioral health (including mental health and substance use disorder treatment), physical, emotional and cognitive health, public health, (drug and alcohol abuse and dependency, veterans, older adults, children and youth, vulnerable adults, and people with developmental disabilities;~~
- d. ~~Define its regional role in other human service and prevention-oriented systems, including systems that address homelessness, older adults' needs, domestic violence, sexual assault, crisis diversion and re-entry, early intervention and prevention and youth and family services;~~
- e. ~~Assess and measure the health and needs of King County's residents on an ongoing basis and modify strategies to respond to changing needs, outcomes, and new research; and~~
- f.) Review the effectiveness and appropriateness of this policy framework periodically and revise if needed.

**H-204** King County shall partner with regional bodies, such as the King County Regional Homelessness Authority, that lead other human service and prevention-oriented systems, including those that address homelessness, the needs of seniors, domestic violence, gender-based violence, crisis diversion and re-entry, early intervention and prevention, youth and family services, and climate-related emergencies, such as severe weather response, for people experiencing homelessness.

~~((H-202))~~ **H-205** King County ~~((s priorities for))~~ shall prioritize human service ~~((investments will be))~~ programs and services that help people in need become more stable and ~~((resilient))~~ healthy, and that prevent or reduce the need for costly emergency medical services, crisis services, and involvement with the criminal ~~((justice))~~ legal system. King County ~~((will))~~ shall focus resources and efforts on effective intervention and prevention that improve individual and community quality of life and enhance equity and racial and social justice. King County ~~((will))~~ shall preserve the resources necessary to collaborate as a ~~((true))~~ partner in regional human service systems. These focus areas include the

following priority investment areas, which are consistent with other regional plans and initiatives:

- a. Job readiness, support for job development in business innovation districts;
- b. Affordable housing;
- c. Community and economic development activities;
- d. Strategies to ~~((make homelessness rare, brief and one-time))~~ create a homelessness response system that centers people with lived experience to focus on responding to needs and eliminating inequities to end homelessness for all; ((and))
- e. Behavioral health services (including crisis services, mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, co-occurring disorder treatment, and housing support services); and
- f. Strategies and programs to build the life, academic, and employment skills for young people to reach their full potential as they transition from childhood to adulthood.

## B. Locating and Designing Health and Human Services Facilities

It is critical to consider the role of the built environment in healing and how health and care services are provided. The built environment has the potential to transform the quality of life that people experience when they are in care. Thoughtful people- and patient-centered design has the potential to build on individual or community resiliency, mitigate prior trauma, prevent further harm, and promote healing, especially when developed in consultation with those who use the facility.

Consideration of the physical environment, both inside and outside of facilities, can support trauma-informed care by health service providers. Such design incorporates elements that support physical, psychological, and emotional safety, such as access to nature, clear wayfinding, wider hallways, open and well-lit stairways, clear sightlines, noise mitigation, flexible lighting, calming paint colors, exterior fences, reflecting and honoring culture, and warm and welcoming open spaces and communal areas.

The design elements of facilities are only one component of how a facility can contribute to an individual's health and well-being. Where a facility is located and its accessibility to the clientele it is intended to serve is another important aspect of systems planning.

~~((H-205))~~ **H-206** King County ~~((will))~~ **shall** support and implement health-related policies and programs that address the social determinants of health and the built environment by partnering with health~~((-))~~care services, community-based organizations, foundations, other regional agencies, boards, commissions, and elected officials to improve public health.

~~((H-206))~~ **H-207** King County ~~((will))~~ **shall** ~~((encourage))~~ **support** significant increases in the role and influence of residents living in communities that have disproportionately lower health outcomes by intentionally engaging ~~((people))~~ **those** who are affected by health and human services policy development, planning, and service delivery in authentic and meaningful ways~~((, especially residents living in communities that have disproportionately lower health outcomes))~~.

~~((H-207))~~ **King County recognizes that poverty, lack of affordable housing and lack of access to economic opportunity for all residents are critical public health issues. King County will take steps to address these issues through ongoing county plans, programs and funding.))**

**H-208** King County ((with)) shall, to the extent possible, ((locate)) promote the location of health and human services facilities ((where)) in areas that balance the County's shared interests in service delivery that is ((most cost)) more accessible, effective, and efficient. The equity and racial and social justice opportunities and impacts of possible locations ((with)) shall be taken into account. Locations should be easily accessible to anticipated clientele via various transportation methods including public transit(;) and make the best use of existing facilities ((and opportunities to co-locate services and be compatible with adjoining uses)) consistent with the land use element of the Comprehensive Plan.

~~((H-208a))~~ **H-209** ((When a health and human services facility is being relocated,)) King County ((consideration)) should consider, and work to minimize, the impacts on current clients when a health and human services facility is being relocated, ((such as)) which may include impacts related to accessibility, transportation options, and services available at the relocated facility.

**H-210** People-centered design elements that include principles of patient-centered, recovery-oriented, and trauma-informed care should be considered and incorporated in County-owned or funded regional health and human services facilities, behavioral health facilities, emergency housing, transitional and permanent supportive housing, and affordable housing.

**H-211** King County shall support and incentivize the provision of childcare at convenient locations, such as near transit and employment centers, to improve access and opportunity for families with children.

**H-212** King County shall support and incentivize culturally relevant childcare programming for new and existing licensed early learning and childcare facilities to increase affordability for families across all income levels, especially those located in childcare access deserts or which serve families who experience additional barriers to accessing childcare.





## CHAPTER 5

# ENVIRONMENT



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The environment in King County includes a rich and valuable array of natural resources ranging from marine and freshwater environments((r)) to ~~the~~ highly urbanized area((s)), lower-density rural area((s)), highly productive farm and forest land, ~~and~~ to nearly pristine landscapes in the foothills of the Cascades. The policies in this chapter protect that environment, ensure its effective management, ~~and~~ support its restoration where needed(~~(, and support the Strategic Plan's goal of a healthy environment)~~). King County residents depend on sound policies not only to protect public health and safety, but also to preserve quality of life for future generations. King County is committed to pursuing partnerships, cost effective strategies, and best management practices to optimize the long((-))term protection and restoration of the environment within available resources. These ~~((policies))~~ policies guide King County's environmental development regulations as well as incentives, education, and stewardship programs in unincorporated King County.

~~((One of the central tenets of the Growth Management Act, the Countywide Planning Policies, and King County's Comprehensive Plan is that new growth be focused within designated urban areas with the aim of protecting resource lands (forestry, agriculture, and mining) and reducing development pressure on the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. At the same time, t))~~The Growth Management Act requires that each city and county in Washington State identify, designate, and protect critical areas found in their local environment. Critical areas, as defined by the Growth Management Act, include wetlands, areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, frequently flooded areas, and geologic hazard areas. Achieving development goals must be integrated with protecting critical area functions and values. ~~((Individual solutions can be tailored by following the guidance of comprehensive plan policies that recognize both critical area protection and the need to reduce urban sprawl:))~~

All parts of the county – from densely developed urban areas, to farm and forest land, to the Rural Area – have a role to play and a common interest in environmental protection. Responsibility for environmental protection cannot fall on one geographic area or ~~((category of people))~~ community alone. ~~((Tools for environmental protection, for all residents whether in the Urban Area, Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands, include buying locally grown produce at a Farmers Market, taking care to avoid polluted discharges to stormwater drainage systems, riding the bus, investing in natural resource programs like those offered by the King Conservation District, complying with stormwater standards, controlling invasive plants, protecting forest cover, and ensuring development minimizes flood risk:))~~

For ~~the~~ urban ~~((residents))~~ area, environmental protection occurs through ~~((different))~~ various means, including investing in wastewater treatment and stormwater improvements, protecting greenbelts and other remnants of native habitats, adding new public open space - especially in historically underinvested communities, and ~~((living))~~ concentrating development in densely developed areas. For ~~the~~ ~~((r))~~ Rural ~~((residents))~~ Area and Natural Resource Lands, it means protecting aquifers used for drinking water, using development practices that ~~((slowly))~~ infiltrate stormwater, and ~~((using best management practices to protect))~~ protecting water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife. On farm((-))lands, forest((-))lands, and lands in the Rural Area, stewardship and technical assistance provide((s)) opportunities for supporting long-term resource use while protecting the environment.

Climate change is already having severe and wide-ranging impacts on public health, safety, and welfare; the economy; and the environment. Climate change in the Pacific Northwest is projected to continue to bring more severe weather events including extreme heat events, wildfires, storms, and droughts; decreased water supply for people and fish; and changes in habitat and species distribution.

66 ((One of the most significant environmental issues facing King County during the past  
67 decade was)) Salmon recovery continues to be one of the biggest challenges facing the  
68 Puget Sound Region, despite significant investment in habitat protection and  
69 restoration over more than twenty years since the listing of Chinook salmon and bull  
70 trout as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. ((Since 2000, the region has  
71 seen)) There has been unprecedented cooperation between Indian tribes, local  
72 governments, residents, ~~((tribes,))~~ conservation districts, non~~((=))~~profit groups, and  
73 federal and state fisheries managers to develop watershed-based Water Resource  
74 Inventory Area plans for salmon conservation. These plans form the basis for the federal  
75 recovery plan for Chinook salmon. Watershed partners are continuing to work together  
76 to implement and monitor these plans through Water Resource Inventory Area Forums.  
77 Southern Resident orca, which are dependent on Chinook salmon as a food source,  
78 were listed as endangered in 2005.

79  
80 ~~((King County has taken significant steps to increase protections for Chinook and other~~  
81 ~~salmon species and improve habitat through changes in daily operations (such as~~  
82 ~~maintenance of county roads and parks), increased open space protection, tax~~  
83 ~~incentives, updated development regulations, and construction of habitat restoration~~  
84 ~~projects. The lessons learned and relationships developed through cooperative~~  
85 ~~planning in response to the Chinook salmon and bull trout listings should help to inform~~  
86 ~~King County's response to new listings, and bolster efforts to prevent future species~~  
87 ~~listings:))~~

88  
89 Individual species protections under the Endangered Species Act continue to play an  
90 important role. At the same time, both nationally and internationally, many  
91 governments are initiating multi-species approaches aimed at conserving biodiversity.  
92 Biodiversity refers not only to plants and animals but also to their habitats and the  
93 interactions among species and habitats.

94  
95 Protection of biodiversity in all its forms and across all landscapes is critical to continued  
96 prosperity and quality of life in King County. In fisheries, forestry, and agriculture, the  
97 value of biodiversity to sustaining long-term productivity has been demonstrated in  
98 region after region. ~~((With the impending effects of climate change, maintaining~~  
99 ~~biodiversity will be critical to the resilience of resource-based activities and to many~~  
100 ~~social and ecological systems. The continued increase in King County's population and~~  
101 ~~the projected effects of climate change make conservation a difficult but urgent task:))~~  
102 The protection and restoration of biodiversity and of a full range of supporting habitats  
103 is important to King County. King County ~~((will))~~ incorporates these considerations in its  
104 operations and practices, ranging from its utility functions (such as wastewater, solid  
105 waste, and stormwater management) to its regulatory and general government  
106 practices.

107  
108 ~~((State and federal agencies are undertaking biodiversity initiatives. The Washington~~  
109 ~~Biodiversity Council was created by the Governor in 2004, in part, with the aim of~~  
110 ~~refocusing state conservation efforts from the species level to the ecosystem level. In~~  
111 ~~2009, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife released Landscape Planning for~~  
112 ~~Washington's Wildlife: Managing for Biodiversity in Developing Areas. The goal of this~~  
113 ~~document is to provide information to planners and others that can be used to minimize~~  
114 ~~the impacts of development on fish and wildlife and to conserve biodiversity.~~

115  
116 ~~The U.S. Forest Service also integrates biodiversity principles into its land management~~  
117 ~~practices. Internationally, Local Governments for Sustainability's Local Action for~~  
118 ~~Biodiversity Project convenes local governments from around the world, including King~~  
119 ~~County, to establish strategies for the conservation of urban biodiversity.~~

120  
121 ~~Climate change has the potential for severe and wide-ranging impacts on public health,~~  
122 ~~safety, and welfare; the economy; and the environment. Climate change in the Pacific~~

Northwest is projected to bring more severe weather events including heat events, winter storms and summer droughts, decreased water supplies for people and fish, and changes in habitat and species distribution. King County is a leader in taking steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to climate change.

New approaches for stormwater management known as Low Impact Development, are providing additional options for stormwater management, especially in site development. Low Impact Development Best Management Practices can mimic the natural functions of soil and forest cover in slowing and filtering stormwater runoff by infiltrating or dispersing stormwater onsite, or by capturing and reusing it. Used exclusively, or in conjunction with a comprehensive stormwater management program of structural controls and other best management practices, Low Impact Development Best Management Practices can reduce environmental impacts from stormwater runoff. Low Impact Development techniques also work in tandem with other strategies such as retaining forest cover, preserving native plants and preserving native soil.

These techniques help to meet other objectives such as retention of canopy cover, protection of riparian habitat and preservation of native soils that help protect biodiversity, improve air quality, and protect the ecological functions of the landscape and surface waters. These approaches help create a more sustainable environment and create a better quality of life for King County residents.))

Untreated stormwater runoff remains the largest source of pollution to Puget Sound. Stormwater management requirements and practices continue to evolve, with greater emphasis on low impact development and green stormwater infrastructure that can mimic the natural functions of soil and forest cover in slowing and filtering stormwater runoff by infiltrating or dispersing stormwater on-site, or by capturing and reusing it. The County continues to develop, apply, and update evidence-based tools to identify and prioritize actions to achieve the best outcomes for reducing pollution to Puget Sound.

((Environmental initiatives during the past decade have underscored the need for monitoring changes in the environment and the effectiveness of the County's efforts to protect it.)) Monitoring and performance measurement help local governments to target limited resources on existing and emerging environmental problems, determine whether actions are having their intended effect, promote accountability, and adapt approaches to environmental management. ((The Department of Natural Resources and Parks assesses environmental conditions with a variety of monitoring programs. The results are presented in the environmental indicator section of KingStat and are used to develop appropriate county responses and provide an opportunity to collaborate and partner with other organizations in making improvements.

This chapter reflects the overarching goal of the Countywide Planning Policies to protect, restore and enhance the quality of the natural environment in King County for future generations. This chapter has been updated to integrate county strategies for protection of land, air, and water; to emphasize implementation of salmon recovery plans; to reflect increased emphasis on climate change and biodiversity; and to support monitoring and adaptive management. These policies guide King County's environmental regulations and incentives, education and stewardship programs in unincorporated King County.))



# I. ((Natural Environment and Regulatory Context)) General Policy Guidance

## ((A. Integrated Approach

Environmental protection efforts need to be integrated across species, habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes. Efforts to reduce flooding or protect water quality and habitat cannot work successfully in isolation from management of land use across the larger contributing landscape. Efforts to protect one particular species or resource type could be detrimental to another if such efforts are not considered in an ecosystem context.

~~Likewise, t)~~ The tools King County uses to protect the environment—\_incentives, regulations, changes in ((c))County operations, planning, capital projects, land acquisition, education, stewardship, and monitoring—\_ ((also)) need to be integrated. For example, the regulatory buffers placed around wetlands need to consider changing conditions in the watershed around the wetland, including natural hydrological processes. These conditions are influenced by land use, stormwater runoff management, clearing and grading requirements, and protection of forest cover and open space. Incentives, education, and technical assistance programs also must work hand-in-hand so that land((-))owners can access a seamless set of programs that work together to accomplish environmental protection and restoration.

As part of the ((2004)) 10-year Comprehensive Plan update process, King County ((updated)) updates its critical areas, stormwater runoff management, and clearing and grading regulations consistent with Growth Management Act requirements to include best available science, ensure no net loss of the functions and values of critical areas, and demonstrate "special consideration" given to conservation and protection of anadromous fish species. These regulations are functionally interrelated, with the standards for protection of wetlands, aquatic areas, and wildlife areas also working in tandem with ((landscape-level)) standards for stormwater management, water quality, and clearing and grading, as well as programs for land conservation.

~~((Habitat conditions vary throughout unincorporated King County, with higher quality habitat generally found in less developed areas of the county. However, both urban and rural habitats play a critical role for various species and during different life stages. The environmental protections the county uses should consider development patterns, habitat conditions, and the roles played by different geographic and ecologic areas. A geographic and watershed-based approach to planning, stewardship, and environmental protection acknowledges that different areas of King County may have different environmental and resource values and face different levels of development pressure. Therefore, methods of protecting critical areas that respect those distinctions must continue to evolve to balance the protection of the environment with the need to reduce urban sprawl and preserve the County's quality of life.~~

~~In 2004, the county strengthened)~~ The County offers a variety of incentives ((available to)) for land((-))owners ((through its Public Benefit Rating System, a)) to promote environmental stewardship and restoration and enhancement of ecosystems. These include tax incentive programs through which landowners can receive reduced property taxes in exchange for commitments to protect open space and natural resources((- However, incentives are not just limited to tax incentives, but can include)), market-based programs for permanent land protection and regulatory flexibility ((e.g., alternatives to fixed-width buffers)) such as the Transfer of Development Rights program and fee-in-lieu compensatory mitigation program, ((streamlined permit processing, reduced permit fees;)) and free or low -cost technical assistance. ((Additionally, the King

County Strategic Plan, released in 2010 and updated in 2015 through Motion 14317, has a healthy environment goal to preserve open space and rural character while addressing climate change.))

King County ((will)) use existing and updated subarea and functional plans and Water Resource Inventory Area salmon recovery plans to ((provide guidance to)) guide programs, regulations, and incentives to protect and restore environmental quality. The County has initiated the Land Conservation Initiative, which calls for a series of accelerated actions to close gaps in equitable access to open space and to protect King County's last, most important natural lands and urban green spaces before increasing land prices and development pressure foreclose opportunities for conservation. The Land Conservation Initiative is a regional collaboration between King County, cities, businesses, farmers, environmental partners, and other key partners to achieve conservation results more quickly and cost-effectively.

**((E-105)) E-101** Environmental quality and important ecological functions shall be protected and hazards to health and property shall be minimized through development reviews and implementation of land use ~~((plans, Water Resource Inventory Area salmon recovery plans, stormwater management plans and programs, flood hazard management plans, environmental monitoring programs, and park master plans. These plans shall also encourage stewardship and restoration of critical areas as defined in the Growth Management Act, and include an adaptive management approach))~~ and environmental plans and programs.

**((E-101)) E-102** In addition to its regulatory authority, King County should use incentives to protect and restore the natural environment ~~((whenever practicable))~~. Incentives ~~((shall))~~ should be monitored and periodically reviewed to determine their effectiveness ~~((in terms of))~~ at protecting and restoring natural resources.

**((E-102)) E-103** King County should take a regional role in promoting and supporting environmental stewardship through direct education, coordinating of educational efforts, and establishing partnerships with other entities that share similar environmental concerns and stewardship opportunities.

**((E-102a)) E-104** King County ~~((will))~~ shall consider environmental justice and climate ~~((justice))~~ equity impacts and disparities in its planning, projects, and services to assess and mitigate unintended impacts on frontline communities and to ensure solutions that enhance conditions for people and the environment.

**((E-112a)) E-105** The protection of lands where development would pose hazards to health and safety, property, important ecological functions, or environmental quality shall be achieved through acquisition, enhancement, incentive programs, and appropriate regulations. The following critical areas and their buffers are particularly susceptible and shall be protected in King County:

- a. ~~((Floodways of 100-year floodplains;~~
- b. ~~Slopes with a grade of 40% or more or landslide hazards that cannot be mitigated;~~
- c. ~~Wetlands and their protective buffers;~~
- d. ~~Aquatic areas, including streams, lakes, marine shorelines and their protective buffers;~~
- e. ~~Channel migration hazard areas;~~
- f. ~~Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas;~~
- g. ~~Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas; and~~
- h. ~~Volcanic hazard areas))~~ Critical aquifer recharge areas;

- b. **Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas;**
- c. **Frequently flooded areas, regulated as flood hazard areas;**
- d. **Geologically hazardous areas; and**
- e. **Wetlands.**

**((E-417)) E-106 King County should take precautionary action informed by best available science where there is ((a-significant)) risk of damage to the environment. Precautionary action should be coupled with monitoring and adaptive management.**

King County coordinates many programs internally as well as with other agencies and governments. The cooperative development and implementation of watershed-based salmon recovery plans over the last decade has brought together local governments, federal and state agencies, residents, and interest groups. Continued collaboration at the watershed level is critical for successful implementation of these habitat focused plans. Indian ((F))tribes with treaty-reserved fishing rights and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife co-manage harvest and hatchery actions. Working closely with these co-managers is essential to ensure that watershed-based salmon recovery strategies effectively integrate habitat, harvest, and hatchery actions.

King County works closely with federal and state agencies, cities, and other counties to try to integrate and streamline compliance with federal mandates, including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Endangered Species Act. In doing so, multiple benefits can be achieved. For example, in some cases mandated monitoring for Clean Water Act compliance can provide useful information to support salmon conservation efforts.

King County also participates in ((F))the Puget Sound Partnership ((was created by the Washington State Legislature and Governor in July 2007 to achieve the recovery of the Puget Sound ecosystem by the year 2020. The Partnership's goal is)), which works to coordinate and significantly strengthen the federal, state, local, and private efforts undertaken to date to protect and restore the health of Puget Sound and its watersheds. ((Additional discussion of King County's participation in the Puget Sound Partnership is found later in this chapter:

King County also works closely with federal and state agencies, cities, and other counties to try to integrate and streamline compliance with federal mandates, including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Endangered Species Act. In doing so, multiple benefits can be achieved. For example, in some cases mandated monitoring for Clean Water Act compliance can provide useful information to support salmon conservation efforts:))

**((E-104)) E-107 Development of environmental regulations, restoration and mitigation projects, and incentive and stewardship programs should be coordinated with Indian tribes, local jurisdictions, federal and state agencies, ((tribes;)) special interest groups, and residents when conserving and restoring the natural environment consistent with Urban Growth Area, Rural Area, and ((designated)) Natural Resource Lands goals.**

**((E-422)) E-108 King County's land use and park planning((;)) and regulatory((;)) and operational functions related to environmental protection, public safety, and equity should be closely coordinated across departments and with other applicable agencies and organizations to achieve an ecosystem-based approach.**

**E-109 King County should promote the efficient provision of utilities and public services by exempting minor activities from ((its)) critical areas regulations(,;) if the agency ((has an approved)) develops a best management practices plan ((approved by King County, and the plan ensures that proposed projects that may affect habitat of listed species be carried out in a manner that protects the resource or mitigates adverse impacts)) that:**  
**a. Is based on best available science;**  
**b. Accounts for no net loss of ecological functions; and**  
**c. Ensures projects that may affect habitats of endangered, threatened, sensitive, or candidate species, or species of local importance, are carried out in a manner that protects the resource and mitigates adverse impacts.**

The State Environmental Policy Act requires King County to consider the environmental impacts of proposed actions ((that may have a significant adverse environmental impact)). Over the years, King County has adopted development regulations that address many of the impacts that are likely to occur as a result of development. In many cases, King County's regulations adequately address environmental impacts and development proposals do not require additional mitigation under the State Environmental Policy Act. However, there may be certain development proposals or unusual circumstances not contemplated by the development regulations that require further mitigation under the State Environmental Policy Act. This principle is articulated in King County Code Chapter 20.44. The presence of a species listed by the federal government as endangered or threatened ((by the federal government)) is an example of such an unusual circumstance.

~~((E-107 Regulations to prevent unmitigated significant adverse environmental impacts should be based on the importance and sensitivity of the resource:~~

~~E-108))~~ **E-110 King County may exercise its substantive authority under the State Environmental Policy Act to condition or deny proposed actions ((in order)) to mitigate associated individual or cumulative impacts such as significant habitat modification or degradation that ((may actually kill, injure or harm listed threatened or endangered species by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including)) impairs breeding, feeding, spawning, rearing, migrating, ((or)) sheltering, or other essential behavior patterns for endangered, threatened, sensitive, or candidate species, or species and habitats of local importance.**

## ~~((B. Policy and Regulatory Context~~

### ~~3. Growth Management Act and Critical Areas Protection~~

The Growth Management Act requires that each city and county in Washington State identify, designate, and protect critical areas found in their local environment. Critical areas, as defined in the Growth Management Act, include wetlands, areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, frequently flooded areas and geologically hazardous areas. This chapter establishes policies for designating and protecting critical areas in King County. King County Code Title 21A provides the regulatory framework for these policies:

The Growth Management Act also requires local governments to include the best available science in developing policies and development regulations to protect the functions and values of critical areas, and to give special consideration to the conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous (fish that spawn in freshwater and spend part of their lifecycle in salt water) fisheries:

396

397 ~~4. Shoreline Management Act~~

398 The Shoreline Management Act requires each city and county with Shorelines of the  
399 State to adopt a Shoreline Master Program that complies with state guidelines but that is  
400 tailored to the specific needs of the community. The Shoreline Management Act applies  
401 to all marine waters, streams with a mean annual flow of 20 cubic feet or more per  
402 second, and lakes that are 20 acres or more in size. The Shoreline Management Act also  
403 applies to upland areas called "shorelands" within 200 feet of these waters, as well as  
404 associated wetlands and floodplains. The program's goals are set by state law and  
405 include protecting natural resources, increasing public access to shorelines and  
406 encouraging businesses such as marinas along the waterfront.

407  
408 Under the Shoreline Management Act, the Shoreline Master Program includes both a  
409 Shoreline Master Plan and implementing shoreline land use and development  
410 regulations. The Growth Management Act requires that a local government's  
411 Comprehensive Plan, Shoreline Master Plan, and development regulations, including  
412 both shoreline regulations and critical area regulations, must be consistent with each  
413 other. The Shoreline Master Program is included in its entirety in Chapter 6,  
414 Shorelines:))

415 

## II. Climate Change

416 Climate change is one of the paramount environmental and economic challenges for  
417 this generation. Human-caused sources of greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon  
418 dioxide and methane, are causing unprecedented and severe changes in global and  
419 local climate systems. This is the consensus view of the world's leading scientists,  
420 including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the U.S. National  
421 Academy of Sciences.

422  
423 King County faces significant environmental and economic challenges stemming from  
424 climate change, including stressed and rapidly changing ecosystems, costly impacts on  
425 public and private property, and increasing public health risks related to wildfire smoke,  
426 extreme heat waves, and changes in infectious diseases. The impacts of a changing  
427 climate will be experienced differently by King County residents, influenced by factors  
428 such as income, age, health, and location. These changes can act as a threat multiplier  
429 that creates complex challenges, particularly for frontline communities affected by  
430 historical and current inequities who have limited resources to adapt.

431  
432 Effective and equitable climate action requires a significant commitment on the part of  
433 King County to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, prepare for climate change impacts,  
434 and build sustainable and resilient frontline communities.

435  
436 King County's ((2015)) Strategic Climate Action Plan, ((which was adopted)) updated  
437 every five years and approved by the King County Council ((through Motion 14449)), is  
438 King County's comprehensive legislative and policy plan for equitable climate action. ((It  
439 provides the blueprint for county decision-makers, employees, and the general public  
440 to learn about the County's climate change commitments.)) The Strategic Climate  
441 Action Plan outlines King County's priorities and commitments for climate action,  
442 integrating climate change and climate equity into all areas of County operations and in  
443 the County's work with cities, partners, communities, and residents. A subset of the  
444 policies and commitments from the Strategic Climate Action Plan are also reflected in  
445 this section of the Comprehensive Plan. ((To learn more about the Strategic Climate  
446 Action Plan: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/climate>.

447



Impacts from climate change have the potential to dramatically impact ecosystems, agriculture, economy, biodiversity, and public health and safety in myriad and interrelated ways. Impacts of a changing climate will be experienced differently by King County residents, influenced by factors such as income, age, health, and location. However, by working collaboratively to develop and implement strategies to prevent, respond to, and prepare for climate change, King County has many opportunities to address broader inequities. Sustaining quality of life and the environment requires a significant commitment on the part of King County to both reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the primary driver of human caused climate change, and preparing for climate change impacts in an ever-changing and increasingly dynamic landscape.))

**E-201 The County's Strategic Climate Action Plan should guide the planning, development, and implementation of greenhouse gas reduction goals and actions, equitable and community-driven climate solutions, and policies and actions that reduce climate change vulnerabilities and increase climate resilience.**

~~*((Climate Change Science and Impacts*~~

Human caused sources of greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide and methane, are causing unprecedented and severe changes in global and local climate systems. This is the consensus view of the world's leading scientists, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the US National Academy of Sciences.

In King County, decreasing mountain snowpack, increasing flooding, and rising sea levels are evidence that the climate system is changing. While many factors affect the climate system and natural environment, scientists have attributed many changes in significant part to recent increases in atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations. The County faces significant environmental and economic challenges stemming from climate change, including stressed and rapidly changing ecosystems, costly impacts on public and private property, and new public health risks resulting from worsening air and water quality (e.g., toxic algal blooms), additional heat related impacts, and increased exposure to infectious disease.

~~*King County Greenhouse Gas Emissions*~~

Climate change over the last century has been caused primarily from increasing greenhouse gas emissions such as methane, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide. King County is committed to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of its operations and support broader efforts to reduce countywide emissions:

~~*Government Operations*~~

King County government operations create greenhouse gas emissions.)) Major ~~((government))~~ sources of greenhouse gas emissions from King County government operations are associated with combustion of diesel and gasoline for transit buses and fleet vehicles, methane from landfills, electricity usage, fossil fuel usage in buildings and for wastewater treatment, and emissions from the production, use, and disposal of government-purchased goods and services.

((King County is making progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from county operations, with emissions from energy-related non-transit sources decreasing 14% between 2007 and 2014. During this time emissions directly associated with vehicles and transit service increased by six percent, primarily due to increased use of biodiesel and increased transit service.

~~*Countywide*~~

Within King County's geography)) At the countywide community scale, the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions are ((primarily caused by)) fossil fuel use ((gasoline and diesel) for transportation and to a lesser but significant extent to heat

buildings (natural gas and heating oil)) for building energy and transportation, followed to a lesser extent by land use, refrigerants, waste, and wastewater. In King County, overall greenhouse gas emissions increased by 11 percent from 2007 to 2019; however, per capita emissions declined by seven percent during the same time period. The most substantial drivers for an increase in emissions were population growth, higher greenhouse gas emissions from electricity, and increased aviation emissions. The largest contributors to decreasing emissions have been increased efficiency of passenger vehicles (decreased emissions per mile) and more efficient electricity use by households and commercial entities. Additional significant emissions are associated with consumption in King County, but these sources do not necessarily occur within its geographic borders. These emissions are created through the production, transport, sale, use, and disposal of ((imported)) purchased goods and services ((such as food and electronics)).

#### *((Preparing for Climate Change Impacts*

Even if all human sources of greenhouse gas emissions ceased today, global and regional temperatures would continue to increase for several decades. Therefore, King County must be proactive in preparing for local climate change impacts. For King County, this includes preparing for more frequent and severe flooding and droughts, developing recycled water sources, working with farm and forest owners to address climate change impacts, planning for effects of climate change on human health, taking steps to improve the resiliency of the natural and built environments, and ensuring that the County can continue to provide services such as transit, wastewater treatment, and flood protection.

#### *Status of King County Climate Change Efforts))*

King County ((has a long record of)) is committed to innovation, leadership, and investment in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, prioritizing climate equity, and preparing for the impacts of climate change. Consideration of climate change impacts and opportunities to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions are deeply embedded throughout the work plans and capital investments of ((c))County departments and lines of business. ((Since 2010, the investments in energy efficiency and changes in operations have reduced building energy use and costs by over \$3 million annually.

King County Metro has pioneered the use of hybrid bus technology is on track to have an all hybrid or electric bus fleet by 2018. As of 2015, the county is now producing renewable energy equivalent to 57% of its government operational energy needs. However, to make significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and ensure that the built and natural environment are resilient in the face of a changing climate, even bolder action and stronger collaboration with cities, businesses, and county residents is required:))

The following ((sections of this section highlight and)) subsections include climate-related policies, which are consistent with key ((2015)) Strategic Climate Action Plan ((policies and commitments)) goals, strategies, and priority actions.

## **((B:)) A. Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

King County is ((leading by example in)) reducing operational sources of greenhouse gas emissions through efforts such as:

- ((Green building and sustainable development practices that reduce emissions of capital facilities projects;

- ~~Purchasing and maintenance practices that reduce emissions associated with the production, use and disposal of goods and services;~~
- ~~Modifying operations of county buildings and facilities that reduce emissions and resource demand;~~
- ~~Purchasing and efficiently using alternative vehicles such as electric powered vanpools and hybrid cars and buses;~~
- ~~Improving energy efficiency and producing renewable energy sources at King County's wastewater treatment and solid waste disposal facilities; and~~
- ~~Protecting forested areas, encouraging and supporting active stewardship, and undertaking tree planting and restoration projects that enhance biological carbon sequestration))~~ Increasing the efficiency of County vehicle fleets and minimizing their greenhouse gas emissions:
- Reducing energy use in County facilities, making investments to reduce building fossil fuel use, and producing more renewable energy;
- Building, maintaining, and operating County facilities consistent with the highest green building and sustainable building practices;
- Minimizing operational resource use, maximizing reuse and recycling, and choosing products and services with low environmental and greenhouse gas impacts; and
- Managing and restoring County-owned parks, natural lands, and farmlands to maximize biological carbon storage and increase climate resilience.

King County is also supporting emissions reductions at the broader countywide scale through ~~((sustainable land use policies, transportation infrastructure, and through the provision of important services such as recycling and transit, including actions and policies))~~ efforts such as:

- ((
- ~~Land use designations and zoning that influence the pattern and density of development and the level of reliance on single occupancy vehicles;~~
  - ~~Use of voluntary tools such as Transfer of Development Rights to reduce development density on Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands;~~
  - ~~Building codes and facilities standards that can influence the types of building materials and future energy demands;~~
  - ~~Promoting the use of transit and non-motorized travel modes to decrease vehicle miles traveled; and~~
  - ~~Protecting Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands from further development through acquisition of fee title or conservation easements to redirect future growth to urban areas to reduce emissions related to transportation and new development))~~
  - Reducing passenger car trips and vehicle emissions by sustaining and increasing transit services, focusing development into urban areas and centers, supporting equitable pricing of vehicle usage, and supporting clean fuels and electric vehicles;
  - Reducing energy and fossil fuel use in the built environment and increasing the use of clean energy supplies and technologies by partnering to develop efficiency programs and supporting converting oil, natural gas, and propane-heated homes to clean sources;
  - Reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions associated with new construction, additions, retrofits, and remodels in all buildings in King County by working with partners to advance state green building code amendments, updating building codes in unincorporated King County, and improving commercial energy code;
  - Achieving a circular economy, whereby waste is minimized through prevention, reuse, recycling, and materials staying in use longer, by spurring and supporting new recycled markets, implementing a regional organics plan, prioritizing food waste reduction strategies, and making recycling improvements at County-owned transfer stations; and
  - Protecting high-value forests and farmlands, expanding the total area of forest

cover and actively farmed lands, and restoring health, vitality, and resilience of forest and farmlands by implementing the Land Conservation Initiative and Rural Forest Carbon Program, and ensuring that strategies to reduce emissions and increase carbon sequestration are included in farm and forest stewardship plans.

King County is committed to actions and solutions that reduce emissions and prevent and repair harms to frontline communities. To learn more about how the County is committed to advancing climate equity, see additional details in the "Advancing Climate Equity" subsection of this section. Many actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions result in additional benefits, such as saving energy and fuel costs, improving health, and minimizing other types of air and water pollution. For example, walkable, transit-oriented communities have been shown to have significantly below average per capita greenhouse gas emissions while at the same time saving residents money, supporting healthier lifestyles, and creating stronger communities.

In some cases, ((c))County actions are direct sources of greenhouse gas emissions(;) but, when considered at a broader scale, have a net emissions reduction benefit. For example, ((providing public transportation results in significant direct greenhouse gas emissions, primarily from combusting diesel. At the same time,)) the greenhouse gas emissions avoided by providing public transit service ((offsets these direct operational emissions by more than three times by decreasing)) - from decreased driving, providing traffic congestion relief, and supporting walkable, efficient land use - are three times greater than direct emissions from operating public transit service itself. As this example shows, there are sometimes complex considerations that need to be taken into account in making decisions about greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies.

~~((Policies related to King County efforts to reduce operational and countywide greenhouse gas emissions are presented below. Policies related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation strategies for agriculture and forestry can be found in Chapter 3: Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. Policies related to reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from transit and fleet vehicles can be found in Chapter 8: Transportation. Policies related to water supply, use of recycled water, and energy can be found in Chapter 9: Services, Facilities and Utilities. Policies related to green building and sustainable development can be found in Chapter 9: Services, Facilities and Utilities (as related to government operations) and Chapter 10: Economic Development (as related to private development).))~~

## 1. Government Operations

**~~((E-205)) E-202~~ King County shall reduce greenhouse gas emissions from ((all facets of)) its operations and actions, including but not limited to, those associated with construction and management of ((c))County-owned facilities, infrastructure development, transportation, and environmental protection programs, to achieve the emissions reductions targets set in Policy ((E-206)) E-203 and to work towards the carbon neutral goal in Policy F-((215b))416.**

**~~((E-206)) E-203~~ King County shall reduce total greenhouse gas emissions from government operations, compared to a 2007 baseline, by at least ((25%)) 50 percent by ((2020)) 2025 and ((50%)) 80 percent by 2030.**

**~~((E-206a)) E-204~~ King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks, including the Wastewater Treatment Division, Solid Waste Division, Parks and Recreation Division, and Water and Land Resources Division, shall achieve, at a minimum, net carbon neutrality ((for its operations by 2017)) on an annual basis.**

((E-206b)) E-205 King County's Wastewater Treatment Division and Solid Waste Division shall each independently achieve carbon-neutral operations by 2025.

((E-207)) E-206 King County shall ((develop and)) continue to implement an operational "social cost of carbon." The social cost of carbon should be used in life-cycle assessments and decision making related to County operations, including for purchase of vehicles, buses, and fuels, for facility construction and resource efficiency projects, and for related technology investments. King County should also ((pursue)) consider using the social cost of carbon to inform broader County planning and decision making.

~~((E-208) King County shall maximize the creation of resources from waste products from county operations such as gases produced by wastewater treatment and solid waste disposal in a manner that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and produces renewable energy.~~

E-209)) E-207 King County ((will)) shall continue to evaluate its own maintenance and operations practices, including procurement, for opportunities to reduce its own emissions or emissions produced in the manufacturing of products.

## 2. Countywide

~~((In 2014,)) King County and the 39 King County cities ((came together to develop)) have shared, countywide greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. ((In July 2014, targets were unanimously)) These targets are adopted in the Countywide Planning Policies ((by the King County Growth Management Planning Council)). The formal adoption of a shared, community-scale greenhouse gas emissions target by local governments ((is relatively unusual, and)) provides a strong foundation and guidepost for community-scale efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The shared targets are near- and long-term, ambitious and achievable, and consistent with what climate science says needs to be done ((in order)) to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. ((The adopted targets are significantly more ambitious than Washington State's greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements (Revised Code of Washington 47.01.440).~~

E-210)) E-208 King County shall ((collaborate)), independently and in collaboration with ((its)) cities(;) and other partners, ((to reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050)) adopt and implement policies and programs to achieve a target of reducing countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 50 percent by 2030, 75 percent by 2040, and 95 percent by 2050, with net-zero emissions through carbon sequestration and other strategies by that year. King County shall evaluate and update these targets over time in consideration of the latest international climate science and statewide targets aiming to limit the most severe impacts of climate change and keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius.

~~((E-212) King County will work with its cities and other partners to establish a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and measurement framework for use by all King County jurisdictions to efficiently and effectively measure progress toward countywide targets.))~~

Renewable energy technology, such as solar power, has the potential for replacing a significant share of King County's energy portfolio. Renewable energy technologies



that have the benefit of zero or very low levels of greenhouse gas emissions should be encouraged. Renewable energy production can consider other potential benefits and uses of available resources, such as avoiding waste-to-renewable-energy efforts that disincentivize waste reduction or more beneficial societal uses. The renewable energy technology industry is evolving, and no single technology is guaranteed to fit all the county's alternative energy needs. King County should provide flexibility in its policies and regulations to adapt to the changing circumstances.

**((E-213)) E-209 King County should ensure that its land use policies, development and building regulations, technical assistance programs, and incentive programs support and encourage the use of viable renewable energy, energy efficiency, and fossil fuel reduction and transition technologies that ((have)) produce zero or minimal greenhouse gas emissions, while considering equity and racial and social justice siting impacts.**

**E-210 King County shall develop and implement building and energy codes that reduce energy use and phase out fossil fuel use in the built environment within King County's jurisdiction.**

**E-211 King County shall support:**  
**a. Stronger Washington State building and energy codes and policies that reduce energy use, reduce the embodied carbon of materials, phase out fossil fuel use, and support deployment of electric vehicles and clean energy; and**  
**b. Increased state resources for local code development and implementation.**

**E-212 King County should work with other local building officials and staff, as well as community partners and the building industry, to effectively implement building and energy codes that reduce energy use and the embodied carbon of materials and phase out fossil-fuel use.**

**((F-215a)) E-213 King County should plan to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions associated with new residential and commercial buildings built in King County ((2030)) 2031.**

**E-214 King County shall develop and implement countywide community-scale built environment programs and policies that:**  
**a. Reduce energy use, increase the use of renewable energy, and phase out the use of fossil fuels, such as: energy loan, residential efficiency retrofits; and fossil fuel reduction and transition incentives and programs; and**  
**b. Prioritize access and affordability of solutions for frontline communities, especially for households at or below 80 percent of area median income, renter households, and households headed by people aged 55 years and older.**

**((E-214 King County, through its Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations, should promote healthy community designs that enable walking, bicycling, and public transit use, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions and regional air pollution:**

#### New Development

Nearly every new development results in new sources of greenhouse house gas emissions. These include emissions from construction and land development; emissions created from producing and transporting building materials, energy used in operating buildings and structures, and transportation associated with the development. Although the emissions associated with construction occur today, the emissions associated with energy and transportation will occur over the life of the

development, which may extend for 50 years or more. This means that decisions made today about development will have an effect on climate change far into the future.

~~E-215 King County shall evaluate proposed actions subject to the State Environmental Policy Act for their greenhouse gas emissions. King County may exercise its substantive authority under the State Environmental Policy Act to condition or deny proposed actions in order to mitigate associated individual or cumulative impacts to global warming. In exercising its authority under this policy, King County should consider project types that are presumed to be not significant in generating greenhouse gas emissions and do not require review for their greenhouse gas emissions. (Any standards related to consideration of greenhouse gas emissions through the State Environmental Policy Act process shall be subject to Council review and adoption by ordinance.)~~

### ~~((A))~~ 3. Assessment

King County has completed periodic inventories and assessments of greenhouse gas emissions associated with government operations, as well as emissions associated with all resident and business activity in the county, since 2000. These assessments have provided valuable data to inform actions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as to monitor progress toward meeting emissions reduction targets.

~~((E-202)) E-215 King County shall ((assess and publicly report on:~~  
~~a. Its normalized and total energy usage and total greenhouse gas emissions associated with county operations;~~  
~~b. Countywide greenhouse gas emissions associated with resident, business, and other local government activities; and~~  
~~c. Countywide greenhouse gas inventories that quantify all direct local sources of greenhouse gas emissions as well as emissions associated with local consumption));~~  
~~a. Assess and publicly report on countywide greenhouse gas emissions associated with resident, business, and local government buildings, vehicles, and solid waste at least every two years;~~  
~~b. Update its comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions inventory that quantifies all direct local sources of greenhouse gas emissions and emissions associated with local consumption at least every five years; and~~  
~~c. Develop city-specific emissions inventories and data, in partnership with cities.~~

~~((E-203)) E-216 King County shall ((collaborate to set transparent standards to account for the net energy and greenhouse gas emissions impacts of government actions such as constructing transportation infrastructure and providing services such as recycling and transit and shall)) assess and ((publically)) publicly report on ((these impacts as practicable)) the net and total energy and greenhouse gas impacts of County operations and services at least every five years, using best practice accounting standards.~~

## B. Advancing Climate Equity

King County recognizes that climate change can have disproportionate impacts on frontline communities due to existing and historical racial, social, environmental, and economic inequities. These inequities create barriers to frontline community participation in decision-making processes. Climate equity ensures just distribution of climate protection efforts and alleviates the unequal burdens created by climate change through an equitable division of accountability, benefits, and opportunities. Addressing

climate change and social inequities simultaneously requires bold action to prioritize equity, to develop solutions that benefit people and stabilize climate impacts in partnership with frontline communities, and to address climate change as a threat multiplier to other social issues, including systemic racism.

As King County transitions away from an extractive fossil fuel-based economy toward a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable one, it is critical that the County's solutions benefit frontline communities and avoid leaving people behind. This approach requires addressing the root causes of climate vulnerability, which often overlap and compound impacts. By intentionally investing in and partnering with frontline communities, the County can center and integrate community-driven climate solutions. The County is addressing climate equity by working with frontline communities to:

- Plan for and invest in long-term partnerships that build capacity in frontline communities; Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color populations; and among youth;
- Build the knowledge base of community leaders and community-based organizations regarding climate change impacts on frontline communities;
- Invest in and support green jobs pathways that advance sustainability and living-wage career opportunities for frontline communities;
- Invest in frontline communities' ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergency events and climate-related health impacts;
- Invest in strengthening local, culturally relevant food systems and food security for populations at risk of food insecurity;
- Support, align, and elevate actions and strategies advancing affordable and climate-resilient housing in frontline communities, including anti-displacement strategies;
- Support and invest in reducing energy burden, and increase access to and resources for transitioning to sustainable and energy efficient systems; and
- Prioritize community-driven mobility development and climate-resilient transit infrastructure.

**E-217      King County shall prioritize and support ongoing partnerships with frontline communities in co-development and implementation of County climate planning, policies, and programs.**

**E-218      King County shall invest in and enable culturally contextualized and linguistically appropriate climate change education that builds frontline communities' capacity to engage on climate change impacts and solutions.**

**E-219      King County shall invest in climate solutions that result in equitable outcomes that benefit frontline communities by:**

- a. Centering and funding access and pathways to living wage green jobs and careers for frontline communities, including youth and Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color populations, and identifying and promoting other environmentally beneficial jobs that create living wage career pathways into high demand fields;**
- b. Providing frontline communities with resources and support to respond to extreme weather events and public health emergencies through culturally relevant strategies and avenues;**
- c. Supporting a just food economy that increases affordability and access to healthy foods;**
- d. Addressing housing insecurities intensified by climate change through programs and resources expanding frontline community**

access to climate-resilient housing and anti-displacement strategies; and  
e. Expanding public transportation mobility access and climate-resilient infrastructure for frontline communities in greatest need of public transit.

**E-220 King County shall prioritize an affordable transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy for frontline communities, and should expand the availability to those communities of utility assistance and measures for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and fossil fuel reduction and transition.**

## C. Preparing for Climate Change Impacts

Climate change impacts are here and now((; in the last century, sea level in Seattle has risen by eight inches and average annual temperatures in the Pacific Northwest have increased 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit)). Average annual air temperature is increasing, heavy rain events are getting heavier, the region is experiencing a long-term decline in snow and ice in the Cascades and Olympic mountains, sea level is rising, and ocean chemistry is changing in ways that are harmful to local marine species like shellfish and salmon. These changes can have significant consequences. More than 30 deaths in King County were attributable to a record-setting June 2021 heat wave that saw temperatures reach 108 degrees Fahrenheit or higher in the County. While greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, impacts are projected through the end of the century or longer, even if global and local greenhouse gas emissions are drastically cut. To ensure that County residents are prepared for and able to effectively adapt to climate change impacts, ((F))the County is integrating climate change preparedness into:

- Operations and maintenance of infrastructure, programs, and natural resources;
- Provision of public services;
- Policies and regulation; and
- Partnerships with other local governments, community groups and businesses.

### 1. Overarching Climate Change Preparedness Goals

~~((E-215a King County will collaborate with local cities, residents, and other partners to prepare for the effects of climate change on the environment, human health, public safety, and the economy:))~~

**E-221 King County shall take actions that equitably reduce climate change vulnerabilities and increase the resilience of King County residents, communities, natural systems, and the built environment by:**  
**a. Integrating and accounting for climate impacts in policies, plans, practices, and procedures, and implementing climate-resilient decisions;**  
**b. Investing in and using data and other technical information to inform climate preparedness work at King County;**  
**c. Prioritizing health and equity in climate preparedness actions and activities;**  
**d. Strengthening collaborations and partnerships to address countywide climate impacts and increase regional resilience; and**  
**e. Investing in public outreach, engagement, and technical assistance related to climate preparedness.**

### 2. Integrating Climate Preparedness

More transformative changes may be needed to achieve climate-resilient outcomes.

Evaluating the effectiveness of actions over time and implementing evidence-based decisions that reduce climate impacts and increase resilience is necessary.

((E215b)) **E-222** King County ((will)) shall plan and prepare for the likely impacts of climate change on County-owned facilities, infrastructure, and natural resources, and shall develop and, as feasible, implement strategies to incorporate climate change response into the design and operations of its facilities, infrastructure, and natural resources.

((E-215bb)) **E-223** King County ((should)) shall develop and implement regulations that help mitigate and build ((resiliency)) resilience to the anticipated impacts of climate change, based on best available information. Such impacts could include sea level rise((:)); changes in rainfall patterns and flood volumes and frequencies((:)); changes in average and extreme temperatures and weather((:)); impacts to slope stability, including increasing and more intense landslides and alluvial fan hazards; and impacts to forests, including increased wildfires, droughts ((and pest-infiltrations)), disease, and insect attacks. Methods could include mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, establishing sea level rise regulations, managing existing and limiting new development in floodplains and riparian areas, and/or strengthening forests' ability to withstand impacts.

((E-219)) **E-224** King County shall integrate estimates of the magnitude and timing of climate change impacts into capital project planning, siting, design, and construction and ((also)) implement infrastructure operation and maintenance programs that consider full life-cycle costs and climate change impacts in asset management.

((E-216)) **E-225** King County shall integrate observed and projected climate change impacts, including severe weather, extreme heat, extreme cold, flooding, drought, wildfire, and landslides, into emergency management planning and programs.

((E223)) **E-226** King County shall consider projected impacts of climate change on habitat for salmon and other wildlife when developing long-range conservation plans and prioritizing habitat protection and restoration actions.

((E-224)) **E-227** To foster resilience to climate change in ecosystems and species, King County should prioritize efforts such as: the restoration of floodplains to improve the resilience of major rivers to changing flow regimes and temperatures; the protection and restoration of riparian vegetation and mature and old growth forests to reduce warming in cold water systems, of wetlands to reduce drought and flooding, and of connections between different habitats to maintain current seasonal migration; and facilitate migration opportunities for species whose ranges shift in latitude and altitude.

### 3. Building Technical Capacity

King County is committed to using best available science and technical information to inform its climate preparedness work. This includes drawing on existing climate change research and technical studies conducted by other agencies and organizations, as well as directly funding and/or conducting new studies and technical assessments. This also includes building internal staff capacity and expertise to apply current data and science to preparedness activities.

((E-204)) **E-228** King County shall collaborate with ((experts in the field of climate



change,)) the scientific community, including scientists at the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group(;) or successor groups, and with state and federal agencies and other jurisdictions, when needed, to monitor, assess, and publicly share information about the impacts of climate change in King County, including development of detailed, science-based estimates of the magnitude and timing of impacts on air temperatures and heat waves, rainfall patterns and severe weather, forest health and wildfire, public health, flooding, landslides and debris flows, channel migration, sea level rise, biodiversity (including fish and wildlife), and ocean acidification.

((Coordination with Partners))

((E-215c) ~~King County should collaborate with the scientific community, state and federal agencies, and other jurisdictions to develop detailed, science-based estimates of the magnitude and timing of climate change impacts on air temperatures and heat waves, rainfall patterns and severe weather, river flooding, sea level rise, fish and wildlife, and ocean acidification in King County.~~

E-215bbb)) E-229 King County shall assess the best available sea level rise projections ((two years)) prior to each ((eight)) 10-year update(;) and shall ((incorporate the projections into)) update relevant risk assessments and policies in the Comprehensive Plan, where appropriate.

((E-220)) E-230 King County shall periodically review and evaluate climate change impacts on natural resources that its resource programs are designed to protect, such as open space, forests, fisheries, productive farmland, and water ((quality and treatment)) resources, ((in order)) to assess and improve the efficacy of existing strategies and commitments.

#### 4. Prioritizing Health and Equity

((E-218)) E-231 King County shall ((apply its Equity Impact Review process)) use equity impact reviews to help prioritize investments in making infrastructure, natural resources, and communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

((E-225)) E-232 Through land use and transportation actions, King County should work to reduce ((air quality and)) climate change ((related)) health inequities ((and)) related to the exposure of vulnerable populations to poor air quality and extreme weather events.

((E-226)) E-233 King County shall develop and incorporate into outreach efforts public health messages related to the health implications of climate change, particularly in urban communities, and the benefits of actions(;; such as using alternative transportation options that simultaneously reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and improve public health)) that can reduce climate impacts on health.

E-234 King County should explore creation of culturally welcoming climate resilience hubs in new and existing multipurpose facilities throughout unincorporated King County to equitably enhance community resilience while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving local quality of life. King County should also partner through the King County-cities Climate Collaboration to explore opportunities to partner on climate resilience hubs throughout all King County.

5. ((Public Services)) Outreach, Engagement, and Education

**E-235** King County shall implement and support equitable outreach, engagement, and technical assistance related to reducing climate risks. This should include, but not be limited to, providing information on climate change impacts in King County, local efforts to address climate change, and actions that individuals and communities can take to reduce climate risks.

~~((E-217) King County will work with its cities and other partners to formulate and implement climate change adaptation strategies that address the impacts of climate change to public health and safety, the economy, public and private infrastructure, water resources, and habitat.~~

*County Infrastructure and Operations*

*Natural Environment*

~~E-222 King County should collaborate with climate scientists in order to increase knowledge of current and projected climate change impacts to biodiversity.~~

*Public Health*

Vulnerable populations are often defined as groups whose unique needs may not be fully integrated into planning for disaster response. These populations include, but are not limited to, those who are physically or mentally disabled, blind, deaf, hard-of-hearing, cognitively impaired, or mobility challenged. Also included in this group are those who are non-English (or not fluent) speakers, geographically or culturally isolated, medically or chemically dependent, homeless, frail elderly and children. Public Health - Seattle & King County has established a Vulnerable Population Action Team (The Community Resilience + Equity Program) to address the needs of this population.))

D. Collaboration with Others

King County recognizes that ((the)) climate change ((challenge)) is worldwide in its scope, ((and that)) with far-reaching consequences to the environment and to ((humankind's)) quality of life ((may result if this issue is not addressed effectively)). ((King)) While the County's actions are important ((contributors to addressing this issue; however, its)) contributions, the global nature ((with)) of climate change requires cooperation across local, regional, state, and international boundaries. King County can play important roles in collaborating with others ((on solutions, especially)) through community outreach, education, advocacy, monitoring, and information sharing with other ((local)) governments and universities.

~~((E-201))~~ **E-236** King County ~~((should))~~ **shall** participate in and support appropriate local, regional, and national efforts and organizations focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, advancing climate equity, and preparing for climate change impacts.

1104 ((E-227)) E-237 King County shall support((s)) comprehensive federal, regional,  
1105 and state science-based limits and a market-based price on carbon  
1106 pollution and other greenhouse gas emissions. A portion of revenue  
1107 from these policies should support local greenhouse gas emissions  
1108 reduction efforts, such as funding for transit service, energy efficiency  
1109 and fossil fuel reduction projects, and forest protection and restoration  
1110 initiatives; efforts that advance climate equity and frontline community  
1111 investments; and climate preparedness and resilience efforts.

1113 E-238 King County shall ((also)) support((s)) renewable energy standards for  
1114 electricity production and vehicle efficiency performance standards.

1116 ((E-228)) E-239 King County ((should)) shall advocate for federal, regional, and  
1117 state initiatives and grant and loan programs that support local  
1118 investments in projects and programs, such as community solar, fossil  
1119 fuel reduction, ((and)) energy efficiency retrofits to reduce greenhouse  
1120 gas emissions, climate equity, and ((prepare)) preparedness strategies  
1121 for climate change impacts.

1123 ((E-215a)) E-240 King County ((with)) shall collaborate with ((local)) cities,  
1124 residents, and other partners to prepare for and adapt to the effects of  
1125 climate change on the environment, natural resources, human health,  
1126 public safety, infrastructure, and the economy.

1128 ((E-215d)) E-241 King County ((should)) shall share information on climate  
1129 change impacts and collaborate on approaches to improving  
1130 ((resiliency of)) infrastructure resilience, disaster preparedness, and  
1131 public engagement with ((local)) cities and other partners to ((make the  
1132 best use of limited resources and)) more efficiently and effectively  
1133 engage King County residents.

1135 ((E-229)) E-242 King County shall work with ((the business community)) relevant  
1136 industry sector partners to support efforts that reduce energy and fossil  
1137 fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions, ((and to promote King County  
1138 and the Puget Sound region as a center for green manufacturing)) as  
1139 well as to promote locally recognized high growth sectors such as  
1140 green manufacturing, construction, transportation, and professional  
1141 services in King County and the Puget Sound. The ((c))County shall also  
1142 work with community groups, consumers, and the retail sector to  
1143 promote the consumption ((of green-manufactured products)) and  
1144 adoption of products and services supporting reduced energy use and  
1145 reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

## 1146 ((IV. Land and Water Resources)) III. 1147 Animals, Plants, and Habitat

### 1148 A. Conserving King County's Biodiversity

1149 It is King County's goal to conserve fish and wildlife resources in the county and to  
1150 maintain countywide biodiversity. This goal may be achieved through implementation  
1151 of several broad policy directions that form an integrated vision for the future. Each of  
1152 the pieces is necessary for the whole to be successful. The policy objectives are to: (1)  
1153 initiate multi-species, biodiversity management approaches, (2) integrate biodiversity  
1154 conservation goals and climate change planning into new and existing developments  
1155 and habitat restoration programs, (3) identify and protect fish and wildlife habitat  
1156 conservation areas, (4) connect the fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas and other

important conservation areas and protected lands through a habitat network system, (5) include working farmland and forestland within the larger conservation landscape, and (6) provide education and incentive opportunities to engage residents. ~~((Incentives can include, but are not limited to, tax incentives, regulatory flexibility (e.g., alternatives to fixed-width buffers), streamlined permit processing, reduced permit fees, and free or low-cost technical assistance.))~~ Conservation of biodiversity is necessary if benefits including important ecosystem services such as clean water, natural flood control, agricultural and timber production, climate ~~((regulation))~~ change adaptation, and pollination currently enjoyed and relied upon by residents of the county are to be available for future generations.

~~((1. — Biodiversity))~~

Because of its size, topography, and geology, the diversity of landscapes and habitats in King County is dramatic. From the Cascade Mountains to Puget Sound, alpine areas to lowland bogs, King County possesses an astonishing array of habitats and species. Approximately 220 species of breeding and non-breeding birds are usually seen on an annual basis in King County. Based on an analysis by the State of Washington, 69 species of mammals, 12 species of amphibians, and 8 species of reptiles are thought to be breeding in the county. About 50 species of native fish (and 20 species of introduced fish) are found in the freshwater streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes of King County. In the county's marine environment, over 200 species of fish, some 500 species of invertebrate animals, and eight species of marine mammals can be found. A total of 1,249 (383 introduced) species of vascular plants have been identified in the county. The diversity of geography combined with King County's history of land use has shaped the biodiversity of the past and present and will continue affecting it into the future.

King County defines biodiversity as the variety of living organisms considered at all levels, from genetic diversity through species, to higher taxonomic levels, including the variety of habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes in which the species are found. ~~((The Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy provides another working definition:))~~ Biodiversity is the full range of life in all its forms, including the habitats in which ~~((they))~~ species live, the ways species interact with each other and their environment, and the natural processes (such as flooding) that support those interactions.

The biggest threats to biodiversity in King County visible today are climate change and habitat loss and fragmentation from development~~((, invasive plant and animal species, and climate change))~~.

~~((E-401))~~ **E-301 King County shall strive to conserve the native diversity of species and habitats in the county.**

~~((E-402))~~ **E-302 In the Urban Growth Area, King County shall strive to maintain a quality environment that includes fish and wildlife habitats that support the greatest diversity of native species consistent with Growth Management Act-mandated population density objectives.**

**E-303 ~~((In areas o))~~Outside the Urban Growth Area, the ((c))County should strive to maintain, protect, and recover ecological processes, native landscapes, ecosystems, and habitats that can support viable populations of native species. This should be accomplished through coordinated conservation planning and collaborative implementation.**

**~~((E-403)) E-304~~ King County should develop a biodiversity conservation framework and conservation strategy to achieve the goals of maintaining and recovering native biodiversity. ((This framework should be coordinated with the Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy where applicable.)) King County should collaborate with other governments and private and nonprofit organizations on the creation and implementation of this strategy.**

**~~((E-404) King County should collaborate with other governments and private and non-profit organizations to establish a bioinventory, an assessment and monitoring program, and a database of species currently using King County to provide baseline and continuing information on wildlife population trends in the county.~~**

## **~~2. Climate Change and Biodiversity~~**

The effects of climate change on native biodiversity in the Pacific Northwest are likely to be serious, but as yet are largely unpredictable. In King County, some effects already are apparent as average temperatures over the last decade have increased slowly but steadily, especially in winter. For many native species, c) Climate change ((will present)) brings added stresses ((to)) for many native species and ecosystems ((and populations)), including changes in distribution and availability of food, cover, and breeding habitat. Changes in temperature can alter productivity and growth rates or cause direct mortality, particularly for salmon, and trigger invasions of non(=)native species. The range and seasonal presence of some species will shift, and ((it is likely that)) the timing of when some species are in certain habitats won't match ((with)) the availability of their food sources. Some species will go extinct locally, and new species will move into the area. Finally, changing lake and ocean temperatures may have devastating impacts on the base of food web.

The effects of climate change are ((only beginning to)) being observed and understood in the county and ((are presumed to)) will increase over time. In the face of climate change, biodiversity conservation may be of critical importance for buffering the effects of rising temperatures on regional ecosystems, damping the rates of ecological change, and reducing the potential for sudden, extreme changes in the environment.

**~~((E-405)) E-305~~ King County should evaluate a range of projected future climate scenarios based on best available science to help ensure that biodiversity conservation efforts are able to meet their objectives in a changing climate.**

### **~~((c. Ecosystem Resilience and Natural Processes))~~**

Ecosystems and habitats suitable for particular species communities are the result of various geologic, hydrologic, climatic, and biologic processes. Where habitat-forming processes are intact, ecosystems and their inhabitants are more likely to persist in the face of environmental variation and disturbances made worse by climate change, including disease, invasive species, wildfire, flooding, and drought.

~~((Further, reducing vulnerability of systems to large-scale disturbances including disease, invasive species, catastrophic fire, flooding, and drought is best accomplished by supporting resilience, which is the ability of a system to return to its former state after a disturbance. When an ecosystem is resilient, that system with its species communities is better able to bounce back following disturbance or change with ecological functions and processes still intact. In addition, current efforts such as the Washington State Department of Ecology's Watershed Characterization analysis can be used to inform decisions and direct resources for regarding land protection and restoration efforts with maximum ecological benefit.~~



**E-413)) E-306 King County's efforts to restore and maintain biodiversity should place priority on protecting and restoring ecological processes that create and sustain habitats and species diversity and support climate change resilience.**

~~((E-414) When acquiring land for habitat protection, efforts should be made to protect and restore areas of each habitat type most likely to be resistant to and enhance resilience to climate change.~~

~~E-411)) E-307 King County should ((conduct an analysis to identify areas critical for functional habitat connectivity. This assessment should be coordinated with state and federal mapping efforts as appropriate)) map habitat connectivity corridors and biodiversity areas to protect fish and wildlife populations in a changing climate. Areas identified by this analysis ((as being critical for functional habitat connectivity)) should be prioritized by King County, and in collaboration with Indian tribes, the state, cities, and other landowners, for land conservation and restoration actions and programs.~~

### ~~((3. Biodiversity Conservation Approaches~~

~~This section provides guidance for biodiversity management of the county's natural resources. The following concepts and principles are based on current approaches to conservation biology, restoration ecology, and climate science combined with input from the new Washington State Climate Change Response Strategy.~~

#### ~~a. Landscape Context))~~

~~Natural resource protection occurs within an ecological context. Environmental management should consider not only the immediate site but also the spatial and temporal context that surrounds it. In terms of spatial context, different activities will require consideration of different scales—from small sub-basins of a few square miles to watersheds and ecosystems that contain many hundreds or thousands of square miles. For example, watershed boundaries are useful ways to define ecological planning units for resource protection of aquatic systems whereas large-scale vegetation communities may be more useful for terrestrial systems.~~

~~In terms of temporal contexts, habitat conditions and populations can fluctuate over long time periods. It may take decades to see the results of habitat restoration projects and other environmental management actions on populations, and in the interim climate change and possibly major events such as flooding will also impact the trajectory of restoration actions.~~

~~There is no single scale appropriate for all planning and management of conservation activities. Management within the context of a landscape helps to ensure the actions in one area will not be undone or rendered unsustainable by conditions in the surrounding watershed or ecoregion. Conservation efforts designed to protect only one species could have an unintended, detrimental effect on others. Ecological communities consist of multiple species often that interact in the same geographical area.~~

~~((E-406)) E-308 King County's conservation efforts should be integrated across multiple landscape scales, species, and ecological communities.~~

~~((E-407)) E-309 Distribution, spatial structure, and diversity of native wildlife and plant populations should be taken into account when planning restoration activities, acquiring land, and designing, planning, and managing parks.~~

**((E-408)) E-310 King County should carry out conservation planning efforts in close collaboration with ((other)) Indian tribes, local governments, ((tribes;)) state and federal governments, land((-))owners, community groups, and other conservation planning ((stakeholders)) partners.**

~~((“Ecoregions” are land areas that contain a geographically unique set of species, communities, and environmental conditions. Washington is a highly diverse state, with portions of nine ecoregions located within its boundaries. Three ecoregions cover parts of King County: the Puget Lowland Ecoregion in the western half of the county, the North Cascades Ecoregion in the northeastern and east central portion, and the Cascades Ecoregion in the southeastern portion of the county.~~

~~Ecoregions are the largest units of biodiversity in King County, and this scale is appropriate for broader natural resources planning and management. More localized habitats and species can be identified within these ecoregions, and can inform actions at the watershed and even property-specific level. Funding for landscape evaluations of this nature is extremely limited and will typically require grant funds. The County should take advantage of opportunities that may arise to collaborate with other ecoregional planning efforts.~~

**E-409 — King County should develop a countywide landscape characterization system based on ecoregions as a key tool for assessing, protecting, and recovering biodiversity;))**

"Structural diversity" is ~~((an accepted scientific term whose))~~ the range of different physical landscapes within a habitat. What this means ((meaning)) varies depending on the ecosystem. For example, ((in)) in a forest, structural diversity means the combination of tree species, tree height classes, and legacy components (snags, logs); the more of each of these there are, the greater the forest structural diversity. Structural diversity of a river or stream means the degree of sinuosity (meaning curviness of the river and more is better) combined with both native riparian habitat and natural in-stream structure, which includes downed wood, various-sized substrate, and a combination of pools, riffles, and glides. "Landscape diversity" means the size, shape, and connectivity of different ecosystems across a large area; a mosaic of heterogeneous land cover types and vegetation types; assemblages of different ecosystems.

**((E-415)) E-311 King County should conserve areas where conditions support dynamic ecological processes that sustain important ecosystem and habitat functions and values, and promote structural and landscape diversity.**

~~((e. — Rare Ecosystems, Habitats, and Species))~~

Rare or sensitive ecosystems, habitats and species are at a greater risk of extinction than those that are widespread and abundant and therefore should be a high priority for conservation. ~~((An important secondary benefit of protecting habitat for rare, e))~~ Endemic species are those that are ((f))native to a particular geographic area and found nowhere else. If the habitat where endemic species live is damaged or lost, the species would cease to exist. ((, or k)) Keystone species are those ((a species)) that ((is)) have a disproportionately large effect on their natural environment relative to their abundance and are central to the survival of a multitude of other species((—species is that habitat for many other species is protected as well. For example, the most effective way to protect and enhance native salmonid populations is through protection of those river and stream channels, riparian corridors, lakes, wetlands, groundwater, headwaters, and watersheds that provide or impact spawning and rearing habitat, food resources, and fish passage. Protecting these resources also enhances protection of habitat for other species;)). Keystone species may have habitat-regulating functions, as is the case with sea stars, or they may have habitat-forming functions, as is the case with North American beavers.

~~((E-418))~~ **E-312** King County should assess different land types, habitats, and resources for:

**a. ((the)) Their relative scarcity and sensitivity;**

**b. ~~((of different land types, habitats and resources, the))~~ their role ((of these land types, habitats and resources)) in supporting endangered, threatened, sensitive, or candidate species, or species of local importance; and**

**c. ~~((and the level of threat to these land types, habitats, and resources in terms of habitat modifications that would likely))~~ the degree to which habitat alterations would reduce these populations ((of sensitive species)).**

~~((E-419))~~ **E-313** King County should give special consideration to protection of rare, endemic, and keystone species when identifying and prioritizing land areas for protection through acquisition, conservation easements, and incentive programs.

~~((E-420))~~ **E-314** King County should incorporate climate change projections into new species protection plans and shall revise older species protection plans when feasible or when conducting ~~((eight))~~ **10-year updates to incorporate projected impacts from climate change.**

~~((Rare ecosystems, habitats, and species are also addressed in the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas section below.))~~

## **B. Habitat**

### ~~((4:))~~ **1. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas**

Fish and wildlife habitat conservation, according to the state's definition, means land management for maintaining populations of species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution so that the habitat available is sufficient to support viable populations over the long term and isolated subpopulations are not created. This definition does not mean that all individuals of all species at all times must be maintained, but it does mean not degrading or reducing populations or habitats so that they are no longer viable over the long term. Additionally, it should be recognized that geographic distributions will shift with climate change.

~~((King County's fish and wildlife policies and regulations have been informed by current state fish and wildlife guidance, recommendations, and requirements. The Growth Management Act directs local jurisdictions to designate and protect critical areas, including Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas are designated with the intent to ensure the conservation of individual species recognized as declining or imperiled as well as protect and connect specific areas of habitat deemed important. This approach of protecting individual species and their habitat comprises one of the five major objectives described above for protecting the county's biodiversity. Because biodiversity encompasses a variety of levels, from genes to ecosystems, and occurs at multiple spatial scales, a wider approach beyond single-species management is necessary to conserve biodiversity in King County. Additionally, most fish and wildlife species are not confined to small portions of the landscape; rather, they move about for feeding, breeding, rearing young, and interacting with other members of their species to insure adequate genetic exchange and population viability.))~~

Federal laws have been enacted over the past century to protect a wide range of species. In addition to the Endangered Species Act, other federal laws include the

Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Individuals of Endangered Species Act -listed species, marine mammals, and migratory birds in King County are protected under the provisions of these laws.

~~((In order to))~~ To build a robust approach to biodiversity conservation, especially in view of a changing climate, individual species and habitat protections must be integrated with a landscape-scale approach to fostering and protecting resilient and diverse ecosystems. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas occur on both publicly and privately owned lands. Designating these areas is an important part of land use planning for appropriate development densities, the ((a))Urban ((g))Growth ((a))Area ((boundaries)) boundary, open space corridors, incentive-based land conservation and stewardship programs, and acquisition planning. The policies in this section are intended to fulfill federal and state requirements for protection of specific species and habitats while implementing landscape-based approaches to conserve native biodiversity in the long term. Protection measures designed to help maintain populations of certain species may necessarily include protecting the habitat where those species have a primary association with the protected area such as spawning or breeding, and also for rearing young, resting, roosting, feeding, foraging, and migrating.

~~((f.))~~ Integrated Land and Water Management and Planning

~~In the past, aquatic and terrestrial habitats and species have often been managed independently of each other.)~~ Effective conservation and resource management of aquatic and terrestrial systems requires coordinated planning among departments with authority over development regulations and guidelines, wastewater treatment, stormwater management, flood hazard management, groundwater protection, transportation planning and road building, water quality, natural resource management, agriculture, and fish and wildlife conservation. Effective conservation planning must include the interests of private landowners as well.

Coordinated planning and management can improve understanding of cumulative effects on terrestrial and aquatic systems, and can allow for a systems-based approach to avoiding or mitigating for adverse effects and improving habitat functions and value over time.

~~((E-421))~~ **E-315 Terrestrial and aquatic habitats should be conserved and enhanced to protect and improve conditions for fish and wildlife.**

~~((E-432))~~ **E-316 King County shall designate and protect the following areas as Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas:**

- a. **Areas with which federal- or state-listed endangered, threatened, candidate, or sensitive species have a primary association;**
- b. **Habitats of Local Importance and ~~((H))~~habitats for Species of Local Importance, including Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas;**
- c. **Wildlife habitat networks designated by the ~~((c))~~County;**
- d. **Aquatic Areas**
- e. **Commercial and recreational shellfish areas;**
- ~~((e))~~ f. **Kelp and eelgrass beds;**
- ~~((f))~~ g. **Herring, smelt, and sand lance spawning areas;**
- ~~((g))~~ h. **Riparian ~~((corridors))~~ areas; and**
- ~~((h))~~ i. **State aquatic reserves.**

~~((E-433))~~ **King County should map Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas. King County shall protect Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas through measures such as regulations, incentives, capital projects or purchase, as appropriate.**

The Washington Administrative Code guidelines suggest considering waters of the state, wetlands, salmonid habitat (which includes marine nearshore areas), and riparian ecosystems when designating fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas. All of these areas and their associated buffers are highly valuable wildlife habitat, and they serve many other functions as well. Protections for these areas are addressed more broadly in other provisions of this chapter.

## g.) 2. Habitat and Development

A key element in local wildlife conservation is the integration of wildlife and habitats into developments of all types. Wildlife protection does not have to be at odds with many types of development. Urban ((multifamily)) multiunit projects, industrial developments, new school facilities and rural open space projects all provide opportunities to enhance wildlife ((amenities)) habitat quality and connectivity. Residential developers and businesses have been able to use wildlife in marketing strategies to attract more potential homeowners, renters, and ((quality)) employees.

Techniques such as minimizing clearing during site preparation, using native plant species in required buffers, landscaping, using bridges ((and wildlife-specific crossings)) rather than culverts to cross streams, wildlife-specific crossings, and innovative site design can be used to promote wildlife presence and connectivity and minimize ((problems)) conflicts with ((nuisance)) wildlife. Other plan elements, such as open space, road system design, and housing density((;)) also have related impacts on the remaining wildlife values that must be considered.

Benefits to wildlife are enhanced ((if)) when native vegetation is retained or when screening and landscaping is composed of native vegetation. ((Retention of natural vegetation can provide wildlife and aesthetic benefits often at a lower cost than non-native or constructed options:

Standard buffers for streams and wetlands will not always adequately protect wildlife resources that utilize those sensitive areas. Areas with critical wildlife resources may need larger buffers to protect the resource.

**E-425)) E-317 King County may increase the size of riparian areas, buffers, and critical area setbacks ((F))to protect ((or improve)) adjacent wetland((s)). ((and)) aquatic area, and riparian habitat((s)), native vegetated areas that connect wetlands complexes, and species of local importance and their habitats. ((stream and wetland buffer requirements may be increased to protect King County species of Local Importance and their habitats, as appropriate:)) Whenever possible, density transfers, clustering, ((and)) buffer averaging, and other mechanisms should be ((allowed)) utilized in order to protect and/or enhance ecological functions.**

**((E-475) To improve adjacent wetlands and aquatic habitat, areas of native vegetation that connect wetland complexes should be protected. Whenever effective, incentive programs such as buffer averaging, density credit transfers, or appropriate non-regulatory mechanisms shall be used for this purpose.**

## d. Decisions in the Face of Uncertainty

Both)) Historical, current, and ((historical)) projected information on habitat conditions, including climate, and species distribution can inform ecologists and decision-makers about environmental management decisions. However, decision-makers do not always have access to complete information.



**((E-416)) E-318 King County should use a mixture of information on historical, current, and projected future conditions to provide context for managing public hazards and protecting and restoring habitat.**

**((E-423)) E-319 ((New d)) Development, erosion control projects, and critical area mitigation and restoration should((, where possible,)) incorporate native plant communities ((into the site plan)), both through the preservation of existing ((native)) plants and addition of new native plants. The introduction of nonnative and invasive species should be avoided.**

**((E-424)) E-320 King County shall steward public lands well and shall integrate fish and wildlife habitat considerations into capital improvement projects whenever feasible. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas should be protected and, where possible, enhanced as part of capital improvement projects.**

### **((b.)) 3. Habitat Connectivity**

Protecting and enhancing habitat connectivity is a critical action for maintaining ecosystem integrity and resilience, particularly in the face of climate change. However, funding for such evaluations is extremely limited. Protection of isolated blocks of habitat is critical but not enough to adequately protect wildlife in King County. Critical wildlife habitats and refuges also need to be connected across the landscape through a system of habitat corridors, or networks.

The King County Wildlife Habitat Network was designed to help reduce the effects of fragmentation by linking diverse habitats through the developed and developing landscape. The network is intended to facilitate animal dispersal by connecting isolated critical areas, segments, open space, and wooded areas on adjacent properties. The corridors tend to follow riparian areas and streams ~~((corridors))~~ across the lowlands and the upland plateau to the east and southeast of Lake Washington into the foothills. The Wildlife Habitat Network is mapped on the "Wildlife Network and Public Ownership Map."

How wide the corridors within the network should be is related to requirements of target wildlife species, length of network segment and other important characteristics within the network. Wider corridors will be required for larger species if the distance between refuges is great or if multiple uses, such as public access and trails, are desired. Because it may not be possible to protect wide corridors in the Urban Growth Area, it may not be possible to accommodate larger wildlife species in all areas. Networks will address some of the problems of habitat fragmentation for smaller species within the Urban Growth Area.

Open spaces set aside during subdivision of land should be located to make connections with larger off-site systems. This approach will also benefit other open space goals.

**((E-410)) E-321 Habitat networks for threatened, endangered and Species of Local Importance~~((, as listed in this chapter,))~~ shall be designated and mapped. Fish and wildlife habitat areas and ((H))habitat networks for other priority species ~~((in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands))~~ should be identified, designated, and mapped using ecoregion ~~((information about the county and its))~~ and resource((s and)) data. Mapping should be coordinated with state and federal ecosystem mapping efforts as appropriate.**

((As mentioned above, protecting and enhancing habitat connectivity is critical for maintaining ecosystem integrity and resilience. Functional habitat connectivity is the degree to which a given species can easily move between habitat areas. Because individual species respond to the landscape, functional connectivity depends on both the features in the landscape and how particular species respond to that landscape. Focal species are used to identify important linkages between habitat areas that will be suitable for a variety of species.

**E-412)) E-322 King County should work with Indian tribes, adjacent jurisdictions, state and federal governments, ((tribes;)) and landowners to identify and protect habitat networks at jurisdictional and property boundaries during development of land use and environmental plans((, Water Resource Inventory Area salmon recovery plans, and site development reviews to identify and protect habitat networks at jurisdictional and property boundaries)).**

#### **((5:)) 4. Conservation Incentives and Education**

King County offers landowner technical assistance for protection of fish and wildlife habitat through programs including Forest Stewardship, Noxious Weed Control, ((the GoNative web site;)) and assistance for native plant restoration and landscaping. Other organizations, including King Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Washington State University Extension, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program offer support to landowners to enhance fish and wildlife habitat. Landowners can also receive property tax reductions through the King County Public Benefit Rating System in exchange for protecting and improving habitat.

**((E-443)) E-323 King County should promote voluntary wildlife habitat enhancement projects by private individuals and businesses through educational, active stewardship, and incentive programs.**

**((E-444)) E-324 King County should partner with community associations, realtors, community groups, and other agencies to conduct targeted outreach to potential and new property owners about fish and wildlife habitat education and forestry education and incentive programs, particularly in the Rural Area(s) and Natural Resource Lands in the county.**

**((E-469)) E-325 ((A tiered system for protection of aquatic resources should be developed based on an assessment of basin conditions using Regionally Significant Resource Area and Locally Significant Resource Area designations, Water Resource Inventory Area Plans, habitat assessments completed for acquisitions plans, the Water Quality Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Loads, ongoing monitoring programs, and best available science.)) Through a coordinated approach of incentives and acquisitions, King County should prioritize, enhance, and protect a variety of ecosystems, including urban open space uplands, riparian areas, floodplains, and aquatic systems with the highest conservation value and those supporting equitable access to quality open space.**

**((c. Wildlife Habitat Network**

The King County Wildlife Habitat Network was designed to help reduce the effects of fragmentation by linking diverse habitats through the developed and developing landscape. The network is intended to facilitate animal dispersal by connecting isolated critical areas, segments, open space, and wooded areas on adjacent properties. The corridors tend to follow riparian and stream corridors across the lowlands and the upland plateau to the east and southeast of Lake Washington into the foothills. The

1651 Wildlife Habitat Network is mapped on the “Wildlife Network and Public Ownership  
1652 Map.”))

## 1653 C. Animals and Plants

1654 ((~~æ~~)) 1. Federal and State Listed Endangered, Threatened,  
1655 Sensitive Species

1656 ((~~1. — Endangered Species Act~~

1657 In March 1998, The National Marine Fisheries Service proposed to list the Puget Sound  
1658 Chinook salmon as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act. This Chinook  
1659 population was officially listed in March 1999. The listing of Chinook as threatened  
1660 triggered a requirement for consultations with the National Marine Fisheries Service on  
1661 any activity requiring a federal permit, relying on federal funds, or being sponsored by a  
1662 federal agency.

1663 Since that listing, several other aquatic species present in King County have been listed  
1664 as threatened, including two additional salmonids: bull trout in November 1999, and  
1665 steelhead in May 2007. Coho salmon are considered a Species of Concern. Puget  
1666 Sound’s southern resident Orca, which rely almost solely on Chinook salmon as a food  
1667 source, were also listed under the Endangered Species Act as endangered in  
1668 November 2005.)) Over the last twenty years, several species connected to King  
1669 County’s streams and rivers have become listed under the Endangered Species Act.  
1670 Threatened species include Chinook salmon, bull trout, and steelhead, and Southern  
1671 Resident orca are listed as endangered. The listing of Chinook salmon and Southern  
1672 Resident orca are related to one another, as Southern Resident orca rely heavily on  
1673 Chinook as a primary food source. The listings trigger requirements for consultations  
1674 with the National Marine Fisheries Service on any activity requiring a federal permit,  
1675 relying on federal funds, or being sponsored by a federal agency.

1676 The National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have also  
1677 issued rules describing regulations deemed necessary to conserve Puget Sound  
1678 Chinook and steelhead, as well as other threatened West Coast salmonids. ((These  
1679 rules, commonly referred to as “4(d) rules,” legally establish the protective measures  
1680 that are necessary to provide for conservation of a listed species. These rules also make  
1681 it a violation of the Endangered Species Act for any person, government, or other entity  
1682 to “take” a threatened species. Prohibited “take” under the Endangered Species Act  
1683 includes harm through significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually  
1684 kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including  
1685 breeding, feeding, spawning, rearing, migrating or sheltering.

1686 The 4(d) rule for Chinook and steelhead also establishes conditions or limits under  
1687 which certain categories of activities that may result in “take” may be conducted. King  
1688 County takes actions under the conditions established for two categories of activity:  
1689 routine road maintenance and habitat restoration projects funded by the State Salmon  
1690 Recovery Funding Board.))

1691 Final Endangered Species Act Recovery Plans have been developed for Puget Sound  
1692 Chinook (2007) ((and)), bull trout (((2004))2015), and Puget Sound steelhead (2019). A  
1693 final Recovery Plan for ((Orca whales)) orca was published in 2008. These plans  
1694 describe recovery goals for the species, specific measures to address the factors that  
1695 are limiting the health of the species, and timeframes and cost estimates for recovery  
1696 measures. Conservation actions identified in Water Resource Inventory Area salmon  
1697 recovery plans for King County watersheds are now being implemented subject to  
1698 available funding and are anticipated to contribute significantly to the achievement of

recovery goals for these species and their eventual removal from the Endangered Species list.

Many of the ((c))County's ((functional)) plans, programs, and development regulations assist in the ((c))County's effort to conserve and recover Endangered Species Act listed species. These include the code provisions governing zoning, critical areas, clearing and grading, landscaping, and the shoreline master program. County ((plans)) documents guiding operations and regulations include the Surface Water Design Manual, the ((f))Flood ((hazard-m))Management ((p))Plan, and ((r))Regional ((w))Wastewater ((s))Services ((p))Plan. Finally, the ((c))County's reliance on best management practices for vegetation management((r)); use of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides((,-and)); pest management((,-as well as for)); and management of agricultural and forest lands also plays a crucial role in protecting Endangered Species Act listed species.

**((E-499m)) E-326 King County ((will)) shall monitor and evaluate programs and regulations to determine their effectiveness in contributing to Endangered Species Act listed species conservation and recovery, and ((will)) shall update and enhance programs and plans as necessary. King County should amend regulations, plans, and best management practices to enhance their effectiveness in protecting and restoring ((salmonid)) habitat, using a variety of resources, including best available science as defined in Chapter 365-195 Washington Administrative Code ((365-195-905 through 365-195-925)).**

The importance of designating seasonal ranges and habitat elements where federal and state-listed endangered, threatened, and sensitive species have a primary association is that these areas, if altered, may reduce the likelihood that the species will survive over the long term. The state recommends that King County and other local jurisdictions identify and classify these areas.

**((E-434)) E-327 Habitats for species that have been identified as endangered, threatened, or sensitive by the state or federal government shall not be degraded or reduced in size and ((should)) shall be ((conserved)) preserved and protected.**

**~~((E-499p)) King County shall, in cooperation with the cities, ensure a no-net loss of housing capacity that preserves the ability to accommodate adopted growth targets, while pursuing compliance with Endangered Species Act requirements. To achieve this goal, densities shall be increased on buildable lands, consistent with H-110.~~**

## **b.) 2. Species and Habitats of Local Importance**

Federal and state listings of species as endangered or threatened often encompass relatively large geographic areas. More localized declines of species within King County may not be captured by state and federal listings. For example, local monitoring data indicate the extinction of the ((Early)) Lake Sammamish Kokanee Early run, ((likely)) possible extinction or significant decline of the ((Middle)) Lake ((Sammamish)) Washington Kokanee ((salmon)) Middle run, and a significant decline in the ((Late)) Lake Sammamish Kokanee ((salmon)) Late run(s). ((In 2000, a petition to list just the Early run was filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but by 2003 the run went extinct without any federal action to prevent that result. In 2007, a second petition was filed to list all remaining Lake Sammamish kokanee. This petition led to an official review of the population's status by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

On September 30, 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that kokanee and sockeye throughout the Pacific Northwest should be considered together in their listing

determination and therefore declined to list this unique kokanee population. However, King County believes the c) Conservation of local native kokanee salmon and its watershed habitat ((to be)) is important to the quality of life and natural heritage of the region's residents. ((Towards that end t)) The County maintains strong collaborative relationships with the Snoqualmie Tribe, the Muckleshoot Tribe, watershed cities, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks, ((the Snoqualmie Tribe,)) Trout Unlimited, Long Live the Kings, and additional governmental and non-governmental organizations, schools, watershed residents, and other key contributors. Together these partners work to: improve kokanee salmon habitat, including Lake Sammamish, tributary streams, and contributing watershed areas; conduct research((-)); educate local residents and businesses((-); and support an artificial propagation program at the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery and the Long Live the Kings hatcheries to increase the viability of the kokanee population.

King County defines Species of Local Importance as those species that are of local concern primarily because of their population status or their sensitivity to habitat manipulation. The ((c)) County takes into consideration native species named as priority species by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; anadromous salmonids; aquatic species whose populations are particularly vulnerable to changes in water quality and quantity; species whose habitat or mobility is limited (local populations of species that are immobile or have very limited habitat); and species that can be directly impacted by King County (for example, where road projects or other infrastructure development can impact habitat; where the ((c)) County may acquire, protect, or restore certain habitat types). King County Species of Local Importance are identified so that they and their habitats may be considered during land use planning and protected during project implementation and development. Habitats for Species of Local Importance are designated as a type of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area and are covered by policies and regulations designed to protect those areas. However, individual animals or plants may also be at risk of injury from development or during construction or other changes to the landscape and may require additional measures to protect them from injury. For example, freshwater mussels may be protected from an instream project by relocating individual animals so they are not injured or killed during construction. Or, a rare individual plant may require the protection of an area of land because the plant cannot be relocated.

**((E-435)) E-328 King County designates the following to be Species of Local Importance:**

- a. **Salmonids and other anadromous or freshwater fish - Kokanee salmon, Sockeye/red salmon, Chum salmon, Coho/silver salmon, Pink salmon, Chinook salmon, Coastal resident/searun cutthroat trout, Rainbow trout, steelhead trout, bull trout, Pygmy whitefish, Dolly Varden, Western river lamprey, ((and)) Pacific lamprey, and Olympic mudminnow;**
- b. **Native Freshwater Mussels - Western pearlshell mussel, Oregon ((and western)) floater, and western ridge mussel;**
- c. **Shellfish - Dungeness crab, Pandalid shrimp, ((Geoduck)) Butter clam, Littleneck clam, and ((Pacific)) Olympia oyster;**
- d. **Marine Fish - White sturgeon((-)); Pacific herring((-); Longfin smelt((-); Surfsmelt((-); Lingcod, Pacific cod, Pacific sand lance((-); Yelloweye, Brown, Copper, Bocaccio, Canary, and Quillback Rockfish; English sole((-); and Southern ((R)) rock sole;**
- e. **Birds - Marbled Murrelet; Western grebe, Caspian Tern, Pigeon Guillemot, Pelagic Cormorant, American bittern, Great blue heron, Common Loon, Western High Arctic Brant, Harlequin duck, Bufflehead, Wood duck, Hooded merganser, Barrow's goldeneye, Common goldeneye, Cinnamon teal, Tundra swan, Trumpeter swan, Surf scoter, White-winged scoter, Black scoter, Bald Eagle, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Goshawk, Osprey,**



Spotted owl, Western screech-owl, Sooty grouse, Pacific coast  
band-tailed pigeon, Belted kingfisher, (~~Hairy woodpecker;~~)  
Olive-sided flycatcher, Western meadowlark, Cassin's finch,  
Oregon Vesper Sparrow, Red-eyed Vireo, Purple Martin, Vaux's  
Swift, (~~and~~) Purple finch, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-backed  
Woodpecker, American three-toed woodpecker, Hairy  
woodpecker, Pileated woodpecker, and the following bird  
concentrations:

i. Waterfowl Concentrations (Anatidae excluding Canada Geese in  
urban areas); and

ii. Western Washington nonbreeding concentrations of plovers  
(Charadriidae), sandpipers;

f. Mammals - American marten, (~~mink, Columbian black-tailed  
deer;~~) Wolverine, Fisher, Gray wolf, Cascade red fox, Douglas  
squirrel, Northern flying squirrel, Townsend's chipmunk, Hoary  
marmot, Roosevelt (~~elk~~) (~~in their historic range~~), mountain  
goat, Pika, Townsend's big-eared bat, roosting concentrations of  
Big-brown bat, Pallid bats, and Myotis bats, Killer whale (Orca),  
Gray whale, Dall's and Harbor porpoise, Harbor seal, Stellar sea  
lions, and concentrations of California sea lions;

g. Amphibians - Red-legged frog, Larch Mountain salamander,  
Oregon spotted frog, and Western toad;

h. Reptiles - Western fence lizard and Northwestern pond turtle;

i. Rare Plants - (~~bristly sedge, Canadian St. John's-wort, clubmoss  
cassiope, Oregon goldenaster, toothed wood fern, Vancouver  
ground-cone, and white-top aster~~) Tall bugbane, Triangular-lobed  
moonwort, Western moonwort, Stalked moonwort, Harvest  
brodiaea Alaska harebell, Few-flowered sedge, Long-styled sedge,  
Clubmoss mountain-heather, Golden paintbrush, Weak thistle,  
Spleenwort-leaved goldthread, Tree clubmoss, Spotted Joe-pye  
weed, Kamchatka fritillary, Swamp gentian, Oregon goldenweed,  
Large St. Johns'-wort, Pacific peavine, Water lobelia, Northern bog  
clubmoss, One-cone clubmoss, White meconella, Branched montia,  
Old field blue toadflax, Brewer's cliffbrake, Whitebark pine,  
Choriso's bog-orchid, Columbia white-topped aster, and Flat-  
leaved bladderwort; and

j. (~~High-quality ecological communities - Douglas-fir - Pacific  
Madrone / Salal; Douglas-fir - Western Hemlock / Swordfern;  
Forested Sphagnum Bog PTN, Low Elevation Freshwater Wetland  
PTN, North Pacific Herbaceous Bald and Bluff, Red Alder Forest;  
Western Hemlock - (Western Redcedar) / Bog Labrador-tea /  
Sphagnum Spp.; Western Hemlock - (Western Redcedar) /  
Devil's-club / Swordfern; Western Hemlock - (Western Redcedar) /  
Sphagnum Spp.; Western Hemlock / Swordfern - Foamflower;  
Western Redcedar-Western Hemlock / Skunkcabbage; and Willow  
Spp. Shrubland {Provisional};~~) Other invertebrates - Blue gray  
tailydropper, Hatch's click beetle, Beller's ground beetle, Pacific  
clubtail, Western bumblebee, Johnson's hairstreak, and Valley  
silverspot.

((E-436)) E-329 King County shall protect Species of Local Importance through  
measures such as regulations, incentives, capital projects, or purchase,  
as appropriate.

Caves, cliffs, and talus (a sloping mass of rocky fragments at the base of a cliff) occupy a  
very small percent of the total land area, yet they are disproportionately important as  
wildlife habitats. The same is true for sphagnum-dominated peat bogs, Oregon white  
oak woodlands, herbaceous balds, Westside prairie, old(=) growth forest, and snag  
-rich areas, which have all declined as a result of development. Each of these habitats  
concentrates and supports a unique plant and animal community. Plant associations

adjacent to caves, cliff, and talus are important because they help stabilize light and wind patterns, and as with snag -rich areas, they provide perches for raptors. Caves, cliffs, talus, Oregon white oak woodlands, herbaceous balds, Westside prairie, and sphagnum-dominated peat bogs are fragile environments that can be easily destroyed, but cannot be easily restored.

**((E-437)) E-330 King County shall designate the following to be Habitats of Local Importance:**

- a. Caves;**
- b. Cliffs;**
- c. ~~((Talus))~~ Herbaceous balds;**
- d. Old((-))growth forest;**
- e. ~~((Sphagnum-dominated peat bogs; and))~~ Oregon white oak woodlands;**
- f. Snag-rich areas;**
- g. Sphagnum-dominated peat bogs;**
- h. Talus; and**
- i. Westside prairie.**

The federal and state governments also designate "candidate" species. In the context of the Endangered Species Act, candidate means any species being considered for listing as an endangered or a threatened species but not yet the subject of a proposed rule. Lists of federal candidate species are updated annually. Review of these lists and the supporting assessments can provide valuable information about threats to species found within King County and can help the ((e))County to be proactive in preparing for potential future listings.

**((E-438)) E-331 King County should review federal and state candidate listings for information about candidate species that are under consideration for listing as an endangered or threatened species and found in King County. King County shall protect habitat for candidate species, as listed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife or a federal agency. Information regarding candidate species should be used to inform King County's long-term wildlife conservation and planning efforts.**

**((E-439)) E-332 King County shall review fish and wildlife surveys and assessments with local application to King County and consider additional habitat protections where warranted. Habitat protection should be accomplished through incentives, cooperative planning, education, habitat acquisition, habitat restoration, or other appropriate actions based on best available science.**

**((E-440)) E-333 King County should regularly review the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's list of Priority Species and other scientific information on species of local importance, and evaluate whether any species should be added to or deleted from the lists in ((p))Policies E-((435))328 and E-((437))330. Any additions or deletions ((should)) may be made through the annual update.**

**((E-441)) E-334 Development proposals shall be assessed for the presence of King County Species of Local Importance. A comprehensive assessment should follow a standard procedure or guidelines and shall occur one time during the development review process.**

### 3. Salmon

Salmon are particularly important because of their significance to Indian tribes, local and regional character, ((tribes,)) salt and freshwater ecosystems, and recreational and

commercial fisheries. A growing number of salmon stocks within King County and other areas of Puget Sound are in a serious state of decline. Three salmonid species present within King County have been listed under the Endangered Species Act, several others have significant potential for listing, and the salmon-dependent ~~((Orca whale))~~ orca has been listed as endangered.

The protection and restoration of river and stream channels, riparian ~~((corridors))~~ areas, lakes, wetlands, headwaters and watersheds, and marine nearshore habitats that provide or impact spawning and rearing habitat, food resources, and fish passage is essential to the conservation of native fish populations. Intermittent streams also can be critical to native fish populations.

Hatcheries and other artificial propagation facilities that are properly managed to protect the abundance, productivity, genetic diversity, and spatial distribution of native salmon may contribute in the near term to both maintaining sustainable salmon stocks and harvest opportunities while habitat protection and restoration measures for salmon are implemented.

**~~((E-442)) E-335 King County should conserve and restore salmonid habitats by ensuring that land use and facility plans (transportation, water, sewer, electricity, gas) include riparian and stream habitat conservation measures developed by the ((c))County, ((cities,)) Indian tribes, cities, service providers, and state and federal agencies. Project review of development proposals within basins that contain hatcheries and other artificial propagation facilities that are managed to protect the abundance, productivity, genetic diversity, and spatial distribution of native salmon and provide harvest opportunities should consider significant adverse impacts to those facilities.~~**

## ~~((E. Watershed-Based Salmon Recovery))~~

The protection and recovery of salmonid species that are listed under the Endangered Species Act and encompassed by Indian tribal treaty rights are and will continue to be a significant priority for King County. The listing of a species under the Endangered Species Act and decline of Indian tribal treaty right protected species are cause for great concern, because wild Pacific salmon have great environmental, cultural, economic, nutritional, recreational, and symbolic importance to local communities, in particular Indian tribal communities, in the entire Puget Sound region.

It is King County's goal to ensure the recovery and maintenance of salmon populations to sustainable and harvestable levels, and to accrue the ecological, cultural, economic, and local food supply benefits that will be provided by healthy salmon stocks. King County ~~((will))~~ pursues salmon conservation strategies that sustain the region's vibrant economy. Successful restoration and maintenance of healthy salmon populations ~~((will))~~ requires time, money, and effort, and collaboration with Indian tribal, federal, state, ~~((tribal))~~ and local governments, as well as businesses, environmental groups, and residents.

~~((The increasing number and diversity of Endangered Species Act federally protected species in King County and around the Puget Sound calls for the development and implementation of species conservation actions that are embedded within a strategy that addresses natural resource management issues at the ecosystem scale. Although species are listed one at a time, managing them toward recovery and robust health that way increases the likelihood that conservation efforts will be incomplete, redundant, and more expensive.~~

More detailed policies related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality can be found in Section II of this chapter, Chapter 8: Transportation, and Chapter 9: Services, Facilities and Utilities:))

In accordance with new statutory requirements, ((as described in Chapter 9, Services, Facilities and Utilities,)) the Department of Ecology has established a Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee in all five Watershed Resource Inventory Areas located either entirely or partially within King County. King County is participating in the Ecology process of developing a flow restoration strategy for each of the Watershed Resource Inventory Areas to mitigate the consumptive use of new permit-exempt wells drilled in the next 20 years. ((The flow restoration strategies are anticipated to be recommended by 2021.)) As of 2024, Ecology has adopted streamflow restoration plans for Water Resource Inventory Area 9 (the Green/Duwamish Watershed), and Water Resource Inventory Area 10 (the White/Puyallup Watershed). The streamflow restoration committees for Water Resource Inventory Area 7 (the Snohomish/Snoqualmie/Skykomish Watershed), Water Resource Inventory Area 8 (Cedar/Sammamish Watershed), and Water Resource Inventory Area 15 (Kitsap) did not reach agreement by all members to complete their planning process. Ecology has completed these plans and forwarded them to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for technical review after which they may amend and adopt the plans. Ecology will initiate rulemaking within six months of plan adoption.

((As a means to address salmonid listings and to sustain this precious resource for generations to come, I)) Local governments in the Puget Sound region, in cooperation with ((state and)) Indian tribal governments, the state, and other ((major stakeholders)) partners, have developed long-term salmon habitat conservation strategies at the Watershed Resource Inventory Area level. The boundaries of Water Resource Inventory Areas are defined under state regulations, and generally adhere to the watershed boundaries of major river or lake systems.

King County participated as an affected jurisdiction in the development Water Resource Inventory Area plans for Water Resource Inventory Area 8 (Cedar/Sammamish Watershed), Water Resource Inventory Area 9 (the Green/Duwamish Watershed), Water Resource Inventory Area 7 (the Snohomish/Snoqualmie/Skykomish Watershed), about half of which is in King County, and Water Resource Inventory Area 10 (the White/Puyallup Watershed), a small percentage of which is in King County. Additionally, King County has acted as a service provider at the direction of multi-jurisdictional forums for the development and implementation of the salmon recovery plans for Water Resource Inventory Areas 8 and 9, and for the King County portion of Water Resource Inventory Area 7.

**((E-499)) E-336 King County shall continue to participate in the Water Resource Inventory Area salmon recovery plan implementation efforts and in other regional efforts to recover salmon and the ecosystems they depend on, such as the Puget Sound Partnership. King County's participation in planning and implementation efforts shall be guided by the following principles:**

- a. **Focus on federally listed salmonid species and declining stocks protected under Indian tribal treaty rights first, then take an ecosystem approach to habitat management and seek to address management needs for other species over time;**
- b. **Concurrently work on early actions((;)) and long-term projects and programs that will lead to improvements to, and information on, habitat conditions in King County that can enable the recovery of endangered or threatened salmonids, while maintaining the economic vitality and strength of the region;**

- c. Address both King County's growth management needs and habitat conservation needs;
- d. Use best available science as defined in Chapter 365-195 Washington Administrative Code ((365-195-905 through 365-195-925));
- e. Improve water quality, water quantity, and channel characteristics; and
- f. ~~((Coordinate with key decision-makers and stakeholders; and~~
- g. ~~)) Develop, implement, and evaluate actions within a watershed-based program of data collection and analysis that documents the level of effectiveness of specific actions and provides information for adaptation of salmon conservation and recovery strategies.~~

~~((The Water Resource Inventory Area plans recommend an array of actions including the restoration, acquisition and preservation of landscapes, municipal programmatic activities, and public outreach and education. The plans suggest that programmatic activities for salmon habitat conservation can generally be accomplished with the following three tools: regulation, incentives and education. Consequently, in addition to capital projects, local governments including King County will need to incorporate salmon recovery objectives and strategies into their normal operations, making best use of a wide range of their authorities and programs.~~

~~E-103)) E-337~~ King County should coordinate with Indian tribes, local jurisdictions, universities, federal and state agencies, ~~((tribes,))~~ special interest groups, special districts, businesses, and residents to implement, monitor, and update Water Resource Inventory Area salmon recovery plans for all areas of King County.

~~((E-499k)) E-338~~ King County should use the recommendations of approved Water Resource Inventory Area salmon recovery plans and other watershed planning efforts to inform ~~((the))~~ establishment of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas, updates to development regulations, establishment of incentive programs, and ~~((as well as))~~ operations and capital planning for its floodplain management, fish passage, surface water management, transportation, wastewater treatment, parks, and open space programs.

~~((E-499l)) E-339~~ King County should seek to support Water Resource Inventory Area salmon recovery plan goals of maintaining intact natural landscapes through:

- a. ~~((Retaining low density land use designations such as Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Area designations;~~
- b. ~~)) Promoting Current Use Taxation and other incentives;~~
- ~~((c.))~~ b. Promoting stewardship programs including development and implementation of Forest Plans~~((;))~~ and Farm Plans~~((, and Rural Stewardship Plans)); and~~
- ~~((d. Promoting the use of Low Impact Development methods; and~~
- e. ~~))~~ c. Acquiring property or conservation easements in areas of high ecological importance with unique or otherwise significant habitat values.

~~((E-499n~~ Through the Watershed Resource Inventory Area planning process, geographic areas vital to the conservation and recovery of listed salmon species are identified. King County will evaluate this information to determine appropriate short and long-term strategies, including, but not limited to: designation of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas, development regulations (special district overlays, zoning, etc.), acquisitions, facility maintenance programs, and capital improvement projects.



~~E-499o))~~ **E-340 King County may use its authority under the Growth Management Act, including its authority to designate and protect critical areas, such as fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, to preserve and protect key habitat for listed salmonid species by developing and implementing development regulations and nonregulatory programs.**

Local governments primarily have authority and influence over land use actions affecting habitat. However, protecting and restoring habitat is just one piece of the salmon recovery puzzle. Management of fish harvest, hatchery, hydropower, and water storage actions is also critical, and actions need to be coordinated with entities having authority in these areas.

~~((E499q))~~ **E-341 King County should continue to take actions that ensure its habitat restoration and protection actions are implemented as part of a watershed-based salmon conservation strategy that integrates habitat actions with actions taken by harvest and hatchery managers. Harvest and hatchery managers specifically include Indian tribes, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Appropriate venues for this coordination include watershed plan implementation groups and other local or regional salmon management entities that rely on actions by habitat, harvest, and hatchery managers to achieve specific goals and objectives.**

~~((To ensure the long-term success of salmon recovery actions, King County will need to develop and implement a program that provides for monitoring the effectiveness of recovery actions and the status and trends of priority fish populations and habitat conditions. Both types of monitoring provide valuable information to redirect and adapt salmonid recovery strategies and actions over time. Please see the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Section at the end of this chapter for policies related to this topic:))~~

In planning for climate change, it will be increasingly important to provide for habitat connectivity not only across jurisdictional boundaries, but also across a range of environmental gradients. ~~((As the “Washington State Integrated Climate Change Response Strategy” explains:))~~ Habitat connectivity is ~~((expected))~~ anticipated to allow species and ecosystems to ~~((better withstand))~~ adapt to a changing climate ~~((change))~~ by allowing ~~((them))~~ species to follow changes in climate across the landscape and maintain critical ecological processes such as dispersal and gene flow. ~~((In general, it is much costlier and more difficult to restore connectivity than to maintain existing connectivity, yet ongoing development rapidly removes this opportunity. Planning for habitat connectivity in the near term will be far more economical the sooner it is implemented:))~~

King County’s Fish Passage Restoration Program is an example of prioritizing investments in habitat restoration with a focus on restoring habitat connectivity. The program has surveyed more than 3,000 potential blockages to salmon migration up streams and prioritized 50 barrier locations where restoration of fish passage would open half of historically connected habitat blocked by County-owned barriers. The County-owned barriers occur mixed with fish passage barriers owned by other municipalities and landowners. Coordination with other barrier owners to address nearby barriers will maximize the habitat benefits of restoring fish passage in county waterways.

~~((Additional medium- and long-term strategies identified in the “Washington State Integrated Climate Change Response Strategy” that are appropriate for the County to consider when planning for connectivity include:~~

- Identifying and designating areas most suitable for core habitat and connectivity in view of a changing climate.
- Protecting and restoring areas most suitable for current core habitat, likely future core habitat, and connections between them.
- Protecting and re-establishing connectivity of rivers and their floodplains.
- Adjusting the size and boundaries of conservation areas (parks and natural areas) to accommodate anticipated shifts in habitat and species' ranges.
- Adjusting land use designations in important connectivity areas (for example, allowable density).
- Facilitating inland migration of marine shoreline habitats.

Connectivity is addressed further below, as the Wildlife Habitat Network is a designated Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area:))

**E-342 King County shall work with non-governmental organizations and regulatory agencies to accelerate removal of barriers to fish passage and shall:**

- a. Seek opportunities to accelerate permitting and project implementation;**
- b. Explore all mechanisms available to remove barriers and restore salmon access to the most and highest quality habitat as quickly as possible; and**
- c. Aggressively seek funding for projects to remove barriers.**

**((E-465)) E-343 King County should use the information from local and regional water ((supply planning processes)) comprehensive plans to enhance the county's water resource protection and planning efforts, including implementation of Water Resource Inventory Area salmon recovery plans.**

**((E-466)) E-344 ((As watershed plans are developed and implemented, zoning, regulations and incentive programs may be developed, applied and monitored so that critical habitat in King County watersheds is capable of supporting sustainable and fishable salmonid populations.)) Watershed-based plans should define how the natural functions and values of watersheds critical to salmonids are protected so that the quantity and quality of water and sediment entering the streams, lakes, wetlands and rivers can support salmonid spawning, rearing, resting, and migration.**

**((E-467 Responsibility for the costs of watershed planning and project implementation, including water quality, groundwater protection, and fisheries habitat protection, should be shared between King County and other jurisdictions within a watershed:))**

King County contains a number of wetlands, floodplains, lakes, and river and stream reaches that are important to the viability of fish and wildlife populations and are therefore considered biological, social and economic resources. Some ((resource)) areas((, including Regionally Significant Resource Areas and Locally Significant Resource Areas, were previously)) have been identified ((through basin plans and other resource inventory efforts. Additional)) as high-priority habitat areas ((have been identified)) through Water Resource Inventory Area((=)), salmon recovery plans, ((("Waterways 2000," Cedar River Legacy Program, acquisition plans)), the Land Conservation Initiative, and through the Critical Areas Ordinance basin conditions map((s)) used to establish protective buffers along wetlands and streams under the ((Critical Areas Ordinance)) King County Code. Protection and restoration of connections between rivers and their floodplains is increasingly recognized as a priority element of salmon recovery and climate resiliency efforts.

These areas contribute to the resource base of the entire Puget Sound region by virtue of exceptional species and habitat diversity and abundance when compared to basins of similar size and structure elsewhere in the region. These areas may also support rare, endangered, or sensitive species, including Endangered Species Act-listed salmonids. They also provide wetland, lake, and stream habitat that is important for wildlife and salmonid diversity and abundance within the basin.

The Puget Sound region has responded commendably to the listing of Puget Sound Chinook. In King County, more than 40 jurisdictions have joined together to cooperatively lead salmon recovery in the ((€))county's watersheds. In the ((+0)) 17 years since the plans were adopted (2006\_\_((2015))\_2022), King County has implemented ((65)) 80 priority salmon-restoration capital projects within its jurisdiction ~~((and has initiated work on an additional 33))~~ in addition to dozens of small habitat projects, such as riparian restoration on private lands. King County has identified nearly 100 additional capital projects for future implementation. ~~((tr))~~ Since 2011, ~~((NMF5))~~ the National Marine Fisheries Service has conducted ~~((a))~~ several five-year assessments of progress to implement the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan. The assessments have repeatedly concluded that good habitat projects are being implemented across Puget Sound, but that the pace of salmon recovery implementation is too slow, primarily due to insufficient funding. This is true in King County as well, though in recent years the County has developed significant additional sources of local revenue to advance restoration. ~~((The salmon recovery plans for the Snoqualmie portion of WRIA 7, WRIA 8 and WRIA 9 hit their ten year mark in 2015:))~~ King County has renewed interlocal agreements with its ~~((43))~~ 44 jurisdictional partners to continue to fund salmon recovery coordination in those watersheds ~~((for the next decade))~~ through at least 2025, with the expectation of renewal for another 10 years beyond that date.

Key conclusions and recommendations from the five-year assessments ~~((completed in 2011))~~ include:

- Habitat continues to decline, and the region needs to increase its scrutiny of the sources of habitat decline and the tools used to protect habitat sites and ecosystem process.
- Habitat protection needs improvement, and salmon recovery lead entities and regional groups should advocate for stronger regulatory programs to protect habitat.
- While extensive habitat work has taken place across King County and in the broader Puget Sound, funding has fallen well short of the need as identified in the work plans that have been developed in each watershed. Moreover, most sources only fund on-the-ground projects rather than the staffing that is needed to plan and coordinate overall recovery efforts.

((

- ~~• Adaptive Management Plans are not completed: A process should be established to recognize changes that are being made to Recovery Plan strategies as implementation proceeds:))~~

Although Water Resource Inventory Area plans are Chinook salmon-focused, they are expected to also provide the basis for recovery planning for other listed aquatic species, including ~~((Orcas))~~ orca, steelhead and bull trout.

#### ~~((5. — Puget Sound Partnership))~~

The Puget Sound Partnership ~~((was created by the Washington State Legislature and Governor in July 2007 to achieve the recovery of the Puget Sound ecosystem by the year 2020. Its goal is))~~ works to consolidate and significantly strengthen the federal, state, local, and private efforts undertaken to date to protect and restore the health of

Puget Sound and its watersheds((-The Puget Sound Partnership also)), and serves as an umbrella group for salmon recovery efforts in Puget Sound, including implementation of salmon recovery plans prepared for Chinook salmon. King County, through its land use decisions, management of stormwater and wastewater discharges, development of recycled water supplies, cooperative habitat protection and restoration projects, work in flood risk reduction, salmon recovery, support for agricultural and natural land protection, actions to address climate change, and ongoing environmental monitoring, is actively involved in the conservation and recovery of Puget Sound. ((King County has the opportunity, and responsibility, to make significant contributions to protecting and restoring Puget Sound. The Puget Sound Partnership's 2018-2020 Action Agenda for Puget Sound was revised in 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018, focusing on three Strategic Initiatives: protecting and restoring habitat, preventing pollution from stormwater, and recovering shellfish beds.

**~~E-113)) E-345~~ King County should actively participate in updating and implementing the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda, through the following Local Integrating Organizations: Puyallup-White River; South Central Action Area Caucus Group ((and)); Snohomish-Stillaguamish; and West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery ((Local Integrating Organizations, consistent with King County goals)).**

**~~((E-114)) E-346~~ King County should collaborate with other watershed forum partners to ensure that recommendations of watershed-based salmon recovery plans for King County are integrated with the Puget Sound Partnership recommendations.**

**~~E-347~~ King County should encourage integration of King County goals for regional stormwater controls and human and community health into Puget Sound Partnership recommendations.**

((The Puget Sound Partnership maintains a Strategic Science Plan and Biennial Science Work Plan which provide an overall framework for development and coordination of specific science activities necessary to support Puget Sound ecosystem protection and restoration under the Partnership's Action Agenda. The Puget Sound Partnership also organizes the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program, a collaborative effort to improve communication and data sharing among the many monitoring programs operating in Puget Sound, with the goal of assessing progress towards recovery of the health of the Sound. King County actively participates in the Ecosystem Monitoring Program.

**~~E-115)) E-348~~ King County should identify opportunities for coordinating its existing monitoring programs with monitoring and assessment work conducted through the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program, the Puget Sound Partnership's Strategic Science Plan, and the Puget Sound Partnership's Biennial Science Work Plan.**

**~~((E-706~~ King County should work with other Water Resource Inventory Area salmon recovery plan partners to establish a program (framework and methodology) for monitoring project specific and cumulative effectiveness of King County salmonid recovery actions. This program should include data collection and analysis and should provide information to guide an adaptive management approach to salmonid recovery.**

**E-707** ~~King County shall continue to coordinate with other governments, agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations and others to develop and implement regional and watershed-based Monitoring and Adaptive Management programs focused on achieving salmon recovery goals. The programs shall continue to include monitoring of salmon populations and habitat status and trends over time in order for the county and its partners in salmon recovery to be able to access the overall trajectory of salmon recovery efforts.~~

~~h. Non-Native))~~ **4. Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds**

Non(=)native species are often invasive because they did not evolve as part of the ecosystem and therefore do not have natural controls or competition. These species may be terrestrial, freshwater, or marine. Invasive species can create costly maintenance problems for both public and private landowners. ~~((Noxious and invasive weeds))~~ Invasive plant and animal species pose threats to the environmental health of all landscapes in King County, including natural, agricultural, wildlife, wetland, stream, and recreational areas. ~~((Weeds spread in a variety of ways, including the transport of seeds or plant parts by vehicles boats, shoes, clothing and animals (including pets, livestock, wildlife, birds and insects), in soil, gravel and other landscaping and building materials, down watercourses and in floods, by wind, and occasionally through deliberate introduction by people.))~~ They alter ecosystems through disrupting food chains, out-competing native species, and reducing habitat for native wildlife. Invasive species, including weeds, are widely recognized as having a significant negative impact on wildlife biodiversity. Invasive plants can also increase the risk of forest fire by acting as an accelerant for fire (when extremely flammable) and/or by acting as ladder fuels that carry a fire from ground level to the crown of trees.

~~((King County offers technical assistance with identification and removal of non-native plants through programs, including Forest Stewardship and Naturescaping. The county also partners with volunteer groups to remove invasive plants from open space and natural areas. Some non-native species are classified as “noxious” weeds. The King County Noxious Weed Control Program provides many services to county residents, including: educational materials and workshops, current information on control and eradication of noxious weeds, support to volunteer and land owner groups, and annual road-side surveys. In addition, the Noxious Weed Control Program implements the State Weed Law (Revised Code of Washington chapter 17.10) in the county which requires all landowners to eradicate Class A noxious weeds and control designated Class B and county-selected Class C noxious weeds on their properties.~~

~~6. Noxious Weeds~~

~~Left uncontrolled, n))~~ Noxious weeds can significantly impact public and private land use in the County. Left uncontrolled, noxious weeds will ultimately undermine many of the County's environmental goals and initiatives, including the Local Food Initiative, salmon habitat restoration projects, and the Land Conservation Initiative. The State Noxious Weed Control Law (Chapter 17.10 Revised Code of Washington ((17.10))) establishes all property owners' responsibility for preventing and controlling the spread of noxious weeds. Because plants grow without regard to property lines or political jurisdictions, everyone's cooperation is needed ~~((=city gardeners, government land agencies, foresters, and farmers all have a role to play)).~~ The key to successful noxious weed control is effective engagement and participation of landowners and communities in the stewardship of their lands. ~~((The law spells out these responsibilities and creates the government infrastructure needed to educate residents and implement regulatory processes.))~~

The State Weed Law applies to both private and public lands (except for Indian tribal and federal ((and tribal)) lands). King County manages approximately ~~((4,420))~~ 4,400



parcels of public land totaling over 36,000 acres. King County also owns or manages approximately 1,500 linear miles of roads and right-of-way. These lands are managed by multiple ((e))County agencies, including the King County Departments of Natural Resources, ~~((Transportation))~~ Local Services, and Executive Services. Since weed infestations can spread from property to property, on both public and private lands, it is critical that the ((e))County have a coordinated strategy for controlling noxious and invasive weeds on ((e))County-owned and managed lands.

The King Conservation District and the County offer guidance and assistance on use of native plants. These plants are more resistant to pests and able to withstand the wet winters and dry summers. They can be used for nature-scaping (low-water requirement landscapes), wildlife enhancement, erosion control, and beautification. The County also establishes a list of "climate-smart plants," which are native plant species currently, historically, or prehistorically found within the surrounding ecoregion that are predicted to maintain their abundance under climate change.

~~((E-426) Introductions of non-native, invasive plant, vertebrate, and invertebrate species should be avoided in terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environs.~~

**E-427)) E-342** King County should promote and restore native plant communities where sustainable, feasible, and appropriate to the site and surrounding ecological context and should incorporate climate change considerations into planting design, including:

- a. Management and control of nonnative invasive plants, including aquatic plants;
- b. Using environmentally safe methods to control noxious weeds;
- c. Use of locally or climate-adapted species for landscaping, restoration, rehabilitation, and erosion control on County-owned lands; and
- d. Routine maintenance of plantings to prevent invasive species and ensure survival of plantings.

~~((E-428) On county-owned lands, King County should use locally adapted native species for natural area landscaping, restoration, rehabilitation, and erosion control. Habitat restoration projects should include provisions for adequate maintenance of plantings to prevent invasion of weeds and ensure survival of native plantings.~~

**E-429)) E-350** King County should provide incentives for ((private)) landowners who are seeking to remove invasive plants and noxious weeds ~~((and replace them with native plants))~~, such as providing technical assistance or access to ~~((appropriate))~~ native or climate-smart plants.

**((E-430)) E-351** King County shall ~~((implement its strategy to))~~ minimize impacts of noxious weeds to the environment, recreation, public health, and the economy on all lands in the County. This includes preventing, monitoring and controlling infestations of state-listed noxious weeds and other non((-))native invasive weeds of concern on ((c))County-owned((-)) and managed lands.

**~~((E-430a)) E-352~~ King County shall be a good steward of public lands and protect water quality by reducing the use of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides through integrated pest and vegetation management practices. Through training and other programs, King County should actively encourage the use of environmentally safe methods of vegetation control. Herbicide use on King County-owned and leased properties shall be restricted to low-toxicity products applied by trained and licensed staff or contractors, and used only as necessary. ((King County shall be a good steward of public lands and protect water quality, by reducing the use of insecticides, herbicides and fungicides through the use of integrated pest and vegetation management practices.**

**~~E-115a)) E-353~~ King County shall ((exercise its authority under Revised Code of Washington 17.10 to)):**  
**~~((1)) a. ((establish a)) Work with the King ((c))County ((n))Noxious ((w))Weed ((c))Control ((b))Board to provide public oversight and direction of the County's Noxious Weed Control Program;~~**  
**~~((2)) b. ((i))Implement a program of activities that minimizes the impacts of noxious weeds to the environment, economy, recreation, and public health within the ((€))county;~~**  
**~~c. Adopt rules to ensure control of noxious weeds and weeds of concern as identified by the Noxious Weed Control Board; and~~**  
**~~d. Ensure close coordination between the King County Noxious Weed Control Board and King Conservation District in the control of noxious weeds.~~**

~~((Additional text and policies related to monitoring and adaptive management can be found at the end of this chapter.~~

#### ~~i. Adaptive Management~~

~~Adaptive management refers to modifying management actions based on ongoing monitoring and data analysis. To sustain native biodiversity and improve the county's efforts at conservation, it must always be advancing the understanding of the systems under its care and change its efforts accordingly.~~

**~~E-431)) E-354~~ Management activities should~~((, when feasible and practicable,))~~ be ~~((designed))~~ **implemented** in a manner that can test ~~((them))~~ **results** against management objectives and **be adjusted** as appropriate.**

~~((Additional text and policies related to monitoring and adaptive management can be found at the end of this chapter.))~~

## IV. Water

### ~~((D. Aquatic Resources))~~

King County's aquatic resources include rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, groundwater, and the marine waters of Puget Sound. These resources provide many beneficial functions, including fish and wildlife habitat; food supplies; flood risk reduction; water supply for agricultural, commercial, domestic, and industrial use; energy production; transportation; recreational opportunities; and scenic beauty.

In order to preserve and enhance aquatic resources in King County, they must be managed as an integrated system together with terrestrial resources, and not as distinct and separate elements. The hydrologic cycle (the occurrence, distribution, and

circulation of water in the environment) is the common link among aquatic resources and describes their interdependence.

Use and modification of water resources and the surrounding terrestrial environment affects how the hydrologic cycle functions and can cause unintended detrimental impacts such as flooding, low stream and river flows, reduced groundwater availability, erosion, degradation of water quality, loss of fish and wildlife habitat, and loss of archeological and traditional cultural resources that depend upon but do not damage natural resources. In order to minimize adverse impacts on the water resources of King County and ensure the continued ability to receive the beneficial uses they provide, the ~~((c))~~ County will need to promote responsible land and water resource planning and use. These beneficial uses include fish and wildlife habitat, flood risk reduction, water quality control, sediment transport, energy production, transportation; recreational opportunities, scenic beauty, and water supply for agricultural, municipal, and industrial purpose.

## ~~((1.))~~ **A. Watersheds**

A watershed is an area that drains to a common outlet or identifiable water body such as Puget Sound, a river, stream, lake, or wetland. There are six major watersheds in King County (Cedar/Lake Washington, Green/Duwamish, Puget Sound, South Fork Skykomish, Snoqualmie, and White) that, in turn, contain numerous smaller catchments and water bodies. Surface and ground waters are managed most effectively by understanding and considering potential problems and solutions for an entire watershed. Because watersheds frequently extend into several jurisdictions, effective restoration and preservation planning and implementation must be coordinated.

~~((E-464))~~ **E-401 King County shall protect and should enhance surface waters, including streams, lakes, wetlands, and the marine waters and nearshore areas of Puget Sound, on a watershed basis by analyzing water quantity and quality problems and their impacts to beneficial uses, including fish and wildlife habitat, flood risk reduction, and erosion control. Conditions of and impacts to the downstream receiving marine beaches and waters of Puget Sound shall be included in watershed management efforts.**

~~((Over the past several years King County has been working cooperatively with many of the water utilities, local governments, state agencies, tribes, and other interested parties in the region to gather data and information to support a regional water supply planning process. (For more information and specific policies related to regional water supply planning, please see Chapter 9: Services, Facilities and Utilities). This cooperative work includes assessments of current and future water demands and supplies, potential climate change impacts on water, opportunities for use of recycled water, and potential improvements to stream flows. These cooperative efforts will provide valuable information to inform not only water supply planning but also salmon recovery planning and projects.~~

~~E-468))~~ **E-402 King County's ((Shoreline Master Program;)) watershed management plans, Water Resource Inventory Area salmon recovery plans, flood ((hazard)) management plans, master drainage plans, open space acquisition plans, and critical areas regulations should apply a tiered system of protection that affords a higher standard of protection for more significant resources.**

**((E-463)) E-403 King County shall integrate watershed plans with marine and freshwater surface water, flood hazard management, stormwater, groundwater, drinking water, wastewater, and recycled water planning, as well as federal and state Clean Water Act compliance and monitoring and assessment programs, to provide efficient water resource management.**

## **((2-)) B. Wetlands**

Wetlands are valuable natural resources in King County. They include deep ponds, shallow marshes and swamps, wet meadows, and bogs. Wetlands comprise forested and scrub-shrub communities, emergent vegetation, and other lands supporting a prevalence of plants adapted to saturated soils and varying flooding regimes. Wetlands, with their highly diverse forms and diffuse distribution, can be particularly challenging to categorize and manage.

The federal and state governments also have roles in identifying and regulating certain types of wetlands and development activity. ((In order to)) To streamline and synchronize regulatory standards for wetlands, the ((c)) County relies on guidance from the Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District, and Environmental Protection Agency for wetland identification, delineation, categorization, and, where appropriate, mitigation.

~~**((E-470) King County shall use current manuals and guidance from state and federal governmental agencies and departments to identify, delineate, and categorize wetlands and to establish mitigation requirements for wetlands.**~~

~~**E-471 King County will apply the current scientifically accepted methodology for wetland mitigation based on technical criteria and field indicators. Where appropriate, King County should rely on publications and recommendations from state and federal agencies to ensure King County approved mitigation will be accepted by state and federal agencies with jurisdiction.**~~

~~Some wetlands are large and their physical boundaries as well as their functions and values extend beyond individual jurisdictional boundaries.~~

~~**E-472)) E-404 King County shall ((communicate and coordinate with other jurisdictions and tribes to)) encourage the establishment of uniform countywide wetlands policies that provide protection of both regionally and locally highly((-)) rated wetlands.**~~

Wetlands are productive biological systems, providing habitat for fish and wildlife. Wetlands also store flood waters and control runoff, thereby reducing flooding, downstream erosion, and other damage. Further, wetlands protect water quality by trapping sediments and absorbing pollutants. They allow rain and snowmelt to infiltrate into aquifers, recharging them and potentially making that water available for human use. They discharge groundwater, making it available to plants and animals. Wetlands store peak flows and discharge to streams in dry periods, thus enabling fish and riparian animal populations to survive. They may serve as outdoor classrooms for scientific study. Some are used for hiking, hunting, and fishing. These wetland functions and values need consideration from a watershed perspective. Measures to protect wetland functions and values need to be taken at both the site-specific and watershed scale. In the ((t)) Urban ((g)) Growth ((a)) Area, land use authority is often shared by multiple jurisdictions at the scale of a drainage basin. Similarly, efforts to protect and restore wetlands may be sponsored by multiple parties, including local governments.

2592 Buffers are necessary but often insufficient to adequately protect wetland values and  
2593 functions especially when wetlands are small and the adjacent watershed large.  
2594 Consequently, the location of development in addition to its size is important in  
2595 determining its impact on wetland functions and values.

2596  
2597 The functions and values of a wetland will change as the surrounding land is altered by  
2598 development and other human activities, and as local conditions are influenced by  
2599 climate change. Silviculture, agriculture, and development-related changes in forest  
2600 cover and impervious surface affect stormwater runoff patterns, flooding, water quality,  
2601 and wetland hydrology.

2602  
2603 **~~((E-473)) E-405 King County((s overall goal for the protection of wetlands is)) shall~~**  
2604 **~~protect wetlands to achieve no net loss of wetland functions and values~~**  
2605 **~~within each drainage basin. Acquisition, enhancement, regulations,~~**  
2606 **~~and incentive programs shall be used ((independently or in~~**  
2607 **~~combination with one another)) to protect and enhance wetland((s))~~**  
2608 **~~functions and values. Watershed management plans, including Water~~**  
2609 **~~Resource Inventory Area plans, should be used to coordinate and~~**  
2610 **~~inform priorities for acquisition, enhancement, regulations, and~~**  
2611 **~~incentive programs within unincorporated King County to achieve the~~**  
2612 **~~goal of no net loss of wetland functions and values within each~~**  
2613 **~~drainage basin.~~**  
2614

2615 **~~((E-474 Development adjacent to wetlands shall be sited such that wetland~~**  
2616 **~~functions and values are protected, an adequate buffer around the~~**  
2617 **~~wetlands is provided, and significant adverse impacts to wetlands are~~**  
2618 **~~prevented:))~~**  
2619

2620 The diversity of plants and animals found in wetlands generally far exceeds that found in  
2621 terrestrial habitats in the Pacific Northwest. Habitat loss and fragmentation are  
2622 considered the greatest threats to this native biodiversity. Wetlands in the Urban  
2623 Growth Area will experience the largest reduction in the distribution and number of  
2624 native animals and plants due to habitat loss and fragmentation. It is anticipated that  
2625 climate change will exacerbate the adverse effects of habitat loss and fragmentation by  
2626 further reducing existing wetland habitat and altering wetland hydroperiods thereby  
2627 increasing the inter-habitat distances and potentially restricting the dispersal and  
2628 movement of plants and wildlife between favorable wetlands and habitats.

2629  
2630 Protecting wetland biodiversity depends upon supporting the natural processes  
2631 (including hydrology, nutrient cycling, and natural disturbances) that shape wetland  
2632 habitat, protecting wetlands functions and values from the impacts of adjacent land  
2633 uses, maintaining biological linkages, and preventing fragmentation of wetland habitats.  
2634 Small wetlands strategically located between other wetlands may provide important  
2635 biological links or "stepping stones" between other, higher quality wetlands. Wetlands  
2636 adjacent to habitat networks also are especially critical to wildlife because they allow  
2637 individual animals to escape danger and populations to inter((-di))sperser and breed.  
2638 Wetlands adjacent to habitat networks should receive special consideration in planning  
2639 land use.

2640  
2641 Many wildlife species require access to both wetlands and adjacent terrestrial lands to  
2642 support them at different stages of their lives. For example, many amphibians breed in  
2643 the water and need access to terrestrial habitat for feeding and for shelter during the  
2644 winter. Fixed-width buffers alone are unlikely to adequately address these needs or  
2645 entirely protect wetlands from surrounding human activity. Adjacent and accessible  
2646 terrestrial habitat may be too small or fragmented to provide core feeding,  
2647 overwintering, and other habitat needs.



**((E-476)) E-406** King County should identify upland areas of native vegetation that connect wetlands to upland habitats and that connect upland habitats to each other. The ((c))County should seek protection of these areas through acquisition, stewardship plans, and incentive programs such as the Public Benefit Rating System and the Transfer of Development Rights Program.

**((E-477)) E-407** The unique hydrologic cycles, soil and water chemistries, and vegetation communities of bogs and fens shall be protected through the use of incentives, acquisition, best management practices, and implementation of the King County Surface Water Design Manual to control and/or treat stormwater within the wetland watershed.

**((E-478)) E-408** Public access to wetlands for traditional cultural, scientific, and recreational~~((, and traditional cultural use is desirable, providing that))~~ use should be encouraged, if:

- a. ~~((p))~~Public access trails are carefully sited~~((;))~~;
- b. ~~((sensitive habitats and species are protected;))~~ Protection is provided for critical areas; and
- c. ~~((h))~~Hydrologic continuity is maintained.

**((E-479)) E-409** Regulatory approaches for protecting wetland functions and values, including the application of wetland buffers and the siting of off-site compensatory mitigation, should consider intensity of surrounding land uses and basin conditions. King County shall continue to review and evaluate wetland research and implement changes in its wetland protection programs based on such information.

**((E-480)) E-410** Enhancement or restoration of degraded wetlands may be allowed to ~~((maintain or))~~ improve wetland functions and values, provided that all wetland functions are evaluated in a wetland management plan, and adequate monitoring, code enforcement, and evaluation is provided and assured by responsible parties. The enhancement or ~~((R))~~restoration ~~((or enhancement))~~ must result in a net improvement to the functions and values of the wetland system. Within available resources, King County should provide technical assistance to small property owners as an incentive to encourage the enhancement or restoration ~~((or enhancement))~~ of degraded wetlands.

**((E-481)) E-411** Provided all wetland functions are evaluated, impact avoidance and minimization sequencing is followed, affected ~~((significant))~~ functions are appropriately mitigated, and mitigation sites are adequately monitored, alterations to wetlands may be allowed to:

- a. Accomplish a public agency or utility development;
- b. Provide necessary crossings for utilities, stormwater tightlines and roads; or
- c. Allow constitutionally mandated "reasonable use" of the property.

When adverse impacts cannot be avoided, compensatory mitigation may be allowed. This means wetland enhancement, restoration, or creation to replace project-induced losses of wetland functions and values. The ((c))County recognizes that, especially in the Urban Growth Area, allowing alteration of low-function wetlands in exchange for compensatory mitigation that contributes to wetlands of higher functions and values within a connected wetland system may achieve greater resource protection than simply preserving the low functioning wetland.

**~~((E-482)) E-412~~ A small Category IV wetland that is less than 2,500 square feet and that is not part of a wetland complex may be altered to move functions to another wetland as part of an approved mitigation plan that is consistent with E-~~((483))413~~ and E-~~((484))414~~.**

**~~((E-483)) E-413~~ Wetland impacts ~~((should))~~ shall be avoided if possible, and minimized in all cases. Applicants shall demonstrate that impacts are unavoidable due to circumstances outside of the applicant's control, and not for the profit or convenience of development. Where impacts cannot be avoided, they should be mitigated on site if the proposed mitigation is ~~((feasible))~~ practical, ecologically appropriate, and likely to continue providing equivalent or better biological functions in perpetuity. ~~((Where on-site mitigation is not possible or appropriate,))~~ When it is demonstrated that there are not enough opportunities available for on-site mitigation, King County may approve off-site mitigation.**

**~~((E-484)) E-414~~ Mitigation projects should contribute to an existing wetland system or restore an area that was historically a wetland. Mitigation should only create new wetlands after site monitoring indicates that hydrologic conditions exist to support a new wetland. Mitigation sites should be strategically located to reduce habitat fragmentation or to restore and enhance area-specific functions within a watershed.**

**~~((E-485)) E-415~~ Land used for wetland mitigation should be preserved in perpetuity. Monitoring and maintenance in conformance with King County standards should be provided or paid for by the project proponent until the success of the site is established. Long-term stewardship should occur at mitigation sites to ensure sites continue to provide desired functions and values.**

Mitigation banks and in-lieu fee programs are forms of watershed-based compensatory mitigation, with the goal of providing greater resource protection and benefit to the public. Both approaches can allow for the consolidation of multiple, small mitigation projects into a large-scale wetland or wetland complex, resulting in economies of scale in planning, implementation, and maintenance. Depending on their location and functions, mitigation banks and projects constructed using in-lieu fee programs can result in wetlands of greater hydrologic, chemical, and biological value because of their size and ecological context and the commitment to long((=))term management. These mitigation approaches also provide applicants with a range of options for meeting their off-site mitigation obligations.

Mitigation banking allows compensatory mitigation to occur prior to the loss of existing wetlands and their functions and values, thereby reducing "temporal" losses. Mitigation banking allows a project proponent to mitigate for their impacts by contributing fees to a bank sponsor for the creation or restoration of the bank site. In-lieu fee programs, such as King County's Mitigation Reserves Program, allow an applicant to meet its off-site wetland mitigation requirements through payment of a fee to King County or another authorized agent with the capacity to design and construct, maintain, and monitor a successful mitigation project. Both types of programs enable fees to be pooled so that larger projects can be constructed to offset impacts elsewhere in a watershed.

Moreover, King County's Mitigation Reserves Program enables such projects to be constructed on lands with degraded wetlands or aquatic areas or lands with the potential to reestablish wetlands or aquatic areas that could be restored or enhanced to benefit overall watershed functions. These Mitigation Reserve lands are managed for

long term ecological protection, so that the landscape and stream basin context support a successful enhancement project. Such projects should be planned in a watershed context and may achieve multiple ecological objectives, including meeting salmon conservation and other habitat protection objectives as well as wetland enhancement needs.

**~~((E-486)) E-416~~ King County, in partnership with other governmental entities and interested parties, should encourage the development and use of wetland mitigation banks through which functioning wetlands or aquatic areas are enhanced, restored, or created prior to the impacting of existing wetlands or aquatic areas. ~~((The county shall encourage establishment of such banks by established government entities as well as by private, entrepreneurial enterprises.~~**

~~In 2008, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency jointly issued new federal rules (40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 230 and 33 Code of Federal Regulations Part 332) regarding compensatory mitigation for losses to functions and values of aquatic resources associated with unavoidable permitted impacts. These rules require implementation of mitigation in a watershed context and consideration of functional losses to resources from permitted impacts and functional gains at mitigation sites.))~~

~~King County ((revised its compensatory mitigation program in 2011 to comply with these new federal rules and is well positioned to become)) is a regional service provider for compensatory in-lieu fee mitigation - both to permittees in unincorporated King County and within cities ((when appropriate agreements are in place)). The ((revised)) County's compensatory mitigation program((, authorized by state and federal agencies in 2012;)) offers private and public project proponents the opportunity to pay a fee to King County in lieu of completing their own mitigation. These fees in turn will be used to implement mitigation projects, equitably applied among larger- and smaller-scale developments, that address watershed needs as determined through analysis of best available science.~~

~~((In approving mitigation proposals, King County should consider the ecological context of the impacted wetland, as well as the wetland impact acreage, functions, and values. Mitigation sites should be located in areas in which the project will enhance ecological conditions of the watershed and should first replace or augment the functions and values that are most important to the optimum functioning of the wetland being created, restored, or enhanced. These functions and values may differ from those lost as a result of the impacting development project. Wetland mitigation proposals should result in no net loss, and if possible, in an increase in overall wetland functions and values within the watershed in which the impacted site is located.~~

**~~E-487)) E-417~~ King County should continue to implement and encourage use of its Mitigation Reserves Program to provide a fee-based option for permit applicants to mitigate for unavoidable impacts of permitted development on wetland and aquatic area functions and values. The fee structure shall be based on the full costs of land acquisition, site selection, design, construction, and long((-))term maintenance and monitoring. Mitigation projects implemented through the Mitigation Reserves Program should occur within a watershed context.**

**~~((E-488)) E-418~~ King County should be a regional service provider of compensatory mitigation through the Mitigation Reserves Program by working with local cities, other counties, and state agencies to establish partnerships for implementation of inter((-))jurisdictional in-lieu fee mitigation.**

**E-419 When implementing in-lieu fee mitigation projects, King County should consider the ecological context of the impacted wetland, and the impacted wetland's acreage, functions, and values. In-lieu fee mitigation should result in no net loss, and if possible, in an increase in overall wetland functions and values within the watershed in which the impacted site is located.**

Through the King County Mitigation Reserves Program, ~~((restoration))~~ mitigation sites are selected ~~((and pre-purchased in advance of))~~ to offset development-related impacts. Selected sites, with wetland or aquatic area preservation, enhancement, restoration, or creation potential, will be ~~((purchased))~~ protected in perpetuity as open space and actively managed as mitigation sites ~~((and will be protected in perpetuity as open space))~~. Mitigation projects implemented through the Mitigation Reserves Program will preserve, enhance, restore, and/or create ecological functions at the site to compensate for wetland, stream, river, and/or buffer functions and values lost during unavoidable impacts associated with permitted construction of projects at other locations. Sites and projects through the Mitigation Reserves Program will occur where the projects will have sustainable long-term benefits to aquatic resources in the watershed, ensuring projects at protected sites occur in places with importance to ecological integrity of the watershed. King County's Mitigation Reserves Program ~~((has received approval from))~~ is approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ~~((the))~~ Environmental Protection Agency, ~~((and the))~~ Washington Department of Ecology, and other agencies to ~~((serve as an in-lieu fee program to mitigate))~~ provide mitigation for the impacts to wetlands and other aquatic resources ~~((subject to state and federal regulations))~~.

A large portion of western Washington farming occurs in lands that were once wetlands. Region-wide, agricultural lands have been targeted as mitigation sites because the relative cost of land is low and the likelihood of success in returning wetland functions is high. King County's Agricultural Production Districts that are located in floodplains and the poorly drained Osceola soils of the Enumclaw Plateau are no exception. Unless carefully sited and engineered, wetland mitigation projects can inadvertently raise water tables on adjacent agricultural properties. King County has joined other counties in discouraging the use of productive farmland for wetland mitigation, while working with farmers on wetland enhancement and restoration at a scale appropriate to sustaining their farms.

~~((E-489))~~ **E-420 Wetland mitigation projects should avoid impacts to and prevent loss of farmable land within Agricultural Production Districts. Creation of wetland mitigation banks ((are)) shall not be allowed in the Agricultural Production Districts when the purpose is to compensate for wetland impacts from development outside the Agricultural Production Districts.**

## ~~((5.))~~ C. Rivers, Streams, and Floodplains

There are approximately ~~((3,100))~~ 6,400 miles of rivers ~~((and))~~, streams, and creeks in King County and more than ~~((52,000))~~ 59,000 acres of floodplains along rivers, streams, and marine shorelines. The river and stream channels, the surrounding riparian (streamside) areas and upland areas, their floodplains all contribute to the functioning and integrity of rivers and streams. Many rivers and streams provide habitat that is essential for various life stages of many species of wildlife and fish, including salmonids.

Rivers, streams, and floodplains are dynamic systems. When flood waters overtop banks, floodplains temporarily store that water. Depending on the depth and flow, floods can dramatically alter river and stream courses, creating new channels, eroding banks, and depositing sediment and gravel. Flooding and erosion can also dislodge trees. These changes slow flood flows and help to support dynamic and complex

habitat for fish and wildlife. At the same time, they can create public safety issues for people living along and recreating in rivers.

In addition, public access to rivers and streams is both a requirement of the Shoreline Management Act and a goal for King County to support the regional economy and provide recreational opportunities for the community. People enjoy rivers and streams for the scenic and recreation values, including boating, floating, swimming, fish and wildlife viewing, and fishing. Management of these systems needs to consider not only habitat protection, but also public health and safety and opportunities for education and stewardship.

**((E-498a)) E-421** The existing flood storage and conveyance functions and ecological values of floodplains, wetlands, and riparian ((corridors)) areas shall be protected, and should~~((, where possible,))~~ be restored and enhanced ((or restored)) through integrated actions that provide multiple benefits, such as preservation of open space and adjacent low-density development.

**((E-499)) E-422** ~~((Rivers and streams are inherently dangerous.))~~ King County should coordinate across ((c)) County departments and with other agencies and organizations to promote public awareness of the dynamics and dangers of river and stream systems and the need for personal responsibility when living near or recreating in or on rivers and streams.

**((E-499a)) E-423** When King County places large wood in rivers and streams for habitat restoration or enhancement, it should do so in a manner that minimizes danger to the public.

Specific policies addressing management of large wood are found in the King County Flood ((Hazard)) Management Plan. In urban areas, rivers and streams in some cases also serve as stormwater drainage systems. During the winter months, stormwater runoff during storms can bring pollutants to these water bodies. During the summer months, lawn irrigation and other water uses can also carry pollutants to rivers and streams.

**((E-499b)) E-424** River and stream channels, stream outlets, headwater areas, riparian ((corridors)) areas, and areas where dynamic ecological processes are present should be preserved, protected, and enhanced for their hydraulic, hydrologic, ecologic, and aesthetic functions, including their functions in providing large wood to salmonid-bearing streams. ~~((Management of))~~ Actions taken along river and stream channels should ((consider other beneficial uses of these water bodies, including recreation)) provide multiple benefits, including resiliency to climate change. Flood risk reduction actions should benefit all communities, especially frontline communities, consistent with equity and racial and social justice goals and the policies of the King County Flood Management Plan or successor plans.

**((E-499c)) E-425** To protect or improve adjacent wetlands and aquatic habitat, the designation of buffers for aquatic areas, including rivers and streams, should take into account watershed-scale actions to mitigate the impacts of upland development on flooding, erosion, and habitat.



**((E-499d)) E-426 King County shall continue to monitor and assess river and stream flows, water and sediment quality, physical habitats, and biotic resources in rivers and streams. Assessment shall identify trends and describe impacts on human health and safety, aquatic life, and wildlife habitat.**

**((E-499e)) E-427 To maintain and restore stream health, sources of uncontrolled stormwater flows contributing to peak flows in small streams should be managed using on-site structural or non-structural flow control techniques.**

Most streams in King County originate in either mountainous terrain or on rolling glacial uplands. These streams often descend through steep, narrow ravines before reaching the floodplain. At the point where these streams leave their ravines and flow onto the floodplain, the channel gradient (slope) and confinement decrease quickly, dramatically reducing the streams' ability to carry sediment. These are areas of natural sediment deposition and channel migration. The combination of sediment deposition and repeated channel migration creates fan-shaped depositional features known as alluvial "fans."

During periods of heavy rainfall, streams often carry large sediment loads from upstream that deposit on downstream alluvial fans. Landslides, beaver dam failures and other natural disturbances can create episodes of particularly high rates of sediment production and delivery. In many stream systems, instances of heavy sediment deposition may occur episodically with years or decades of apparent stability in the intervening periods. In many instances, sediment production and tributary or stream flow rates are exacerbated by upland land use conditions and associated stormwater effects.

Alluvial fans share many of the ecological attributes and land use risks associated with channel migration hazard areas and landslide hazards, though they are unique in many respects. In a natural environment, alluvial fans often provide some of the best available spawning habitat in a tributary stream, while also providing a source of gravel for areas downstream. In some heavily altered streams, the alluvial fan may represent the only remaining areas that are suitable for spawning. Alluvial fans can also form the highest ground available in the floodplain, and have historically been used for construction of buildings (including farm buildings), roads, and other structures. Unfortunately, they are inherently unstable environments in which to build. During high flows coupled with sediment deposition, a stream may jump its bank in the area of the alluvial fan, in some cases damaging private property, disrupting agricultural activities, destroying culverts and road crossings, stranding fish, and creating risks to public safety. Protecting buildings, roads, bridges, and crops on and ~~((along)) adjacent to~~ alluvial fans often requires extensive ~~((;)) and costly~~ ongoing maintenance activities. Maintenance activities can have adverse effects on habitat, and in some circumstances may not be permissible under state regulations nor feasible as a management strategy.

~~((The Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands chapter calls for alluvial fan pilot projects to test best management practices and innovative solutions for reducing hazards to agricultural landowners and protecting and restoring habitat.~~

**E-499f)) E-428 King County should improve the management of alluvial fans ((by developing and clarifying definitions of alluvial fans;)) through mapping the locations of existing alluvial fans and areas at risk of alluvial fan hazards, and through developing appropriate management strategies such as development standards and mitigation requirements. Strategies should:**  
**a. Address potential conflicts between adjacent landowners and natural alluvial fan hazards and processes;**  
**b. Take climate change into account;**  
**c. ((p))Protect intact habitat ((and));**  
**d. ((r))Restore degraded habitat((:)); and**  
**e. ((r))Reduce threats to public safety((, and accommodate)) for existing land uses. ((Findings from Alluvial Fan Management Pilot Projects should inform management strategies for alluvial fans.))**

((An alluvial fan is a depositional landform along a watercourse where there is an abrupt decrease in gradient and a resulting area of active sediment deposition. Most alluvial fans in King County form where steep tributary streams discharge onto nearly level river floodplains. Since m))Much of the county's farmland is located ((in)) on valley floors, ((some)) and agricultural landowners frequently have properties on ((or containing)) alluvial fans ((that are significantly affected by t)). The episodic deposits of ((upslope)) sediment and debris that ((accumulate on their land)) naturally occur on alluvial fans can reduce the capacity of stream channels and wetlands, and debris flows may cover fertile farmland, disrupting agricultural operations. ((These events result in obstructed stream channels, filled wetlands, covered farmland, and disruptions in operations. Water is redirected into unexpected places. Permits, regulations, and the lack of approved management practices make it difficult to remedy the situation to regain operations and farm viability.)) Sudden shifts in the location of streams on alluvial fans can also flood agricultural buildings and farm residences. Obtaining permits allowing active management to remove the accumulated sediments and reestablish stream channels can be difficult given the regulations that apply to critical areas such as alluvial fan hazards, aquatic areas, and floodplains.

**((R-671)) E-429 King County should ((use pilot or demonstration projects and multi-agency collaboration to develop a new suite of practices that will)) provide regulatory options ((for landowners whose existing)) to protect existing residences and agricultural operations that are ((affected)) threatened by alluvial fan ((deposits)) hazards. These options should provide ((timely and cost-effective)) emergency relief from debris and ((the associated)) stream flow changes ((to the watercourse along with protection of intact)) and consider long-term multi-benefit solutions that protect and restore fish habitat ((and restoration of degraded fish habitat within these areas)).**

## **((F.)) D. Flood Hazard Management**

Floodplains are lands adjacent to lakes, rivers, and streams that are subject to periodic flooding. Floodplains naturally store flood water, contribute to groundwater recharge, protect water quality, and are valuable for recreation, agriculture, and fish and wildlife habitat. Floodplains also provide a deposition zone for sediments mobilized by rivers and streams. Wetlands are often an integral part of floodplains.

There are two primary types of flood hazards: inundation and channel migration. Inundation is defined as floodwater and debris flowing through an area that is not normally under water. Such events can cause minor to severe damage, depending on the velocity and depth of flows, the duration of the flood event, the quantity of logs and other debris carried by flows, and the amount and type of development and personal property in the floodwater's path. Floodplains are designated based on the predicted

frequency of flooding for a particular area. For example, a 100-year floodplain is a land area that has a one percent probability of experiencing flooding in any given year. Inundation hazards can come from major rivers, smaller tributary streams, local stormwater runoff, high lake levels, high groundwater levels, coastal storm surge, and tidal action.

Channel migration results from ~~((erosion wears))~~ the wearing away of a riverbank by flowing water. Ongoing erosion of one riverbank coupled with sediment deposition along the opposite bank results in the lateral movement or migration of a channel across its floodplain. When this shift is abrupt it is called channel avulsion. Channel migration can lead to flood and erosion damage to structures, farms, and critical infrastructure. At the same time, it is a natural process that forms complex fish habitat by creating braided channels and causing trees to fall into rivers. Bank stabilization actions to limit channel migration have negative impacts on channel processes and reduce salmonid habitat quality and quantity. Channel migration hazard areas are designated based on geomorphic analyses and review of historical channel migration patterns and rates, consistent with the King County Flood ((Hazard)) Management Plan and the Shoreline Management Act.

Development can reduce the floodplain's ability to store and convey floodwaters, thereby increasing the velocity and depth of floodwaters in other areas. In addition, floodplain development puts humans in harm's way and often occurs at the expense of important fish and wildlife habitat. King County has adopted the Flood ((Hazard)) Management Plan as a functional element of the King County Comprehensive Plan to detail regional policies, programs, and projects to reduce the risk to people and property from river flooding and channel migration in King County and to provide guidance for decisions related to land use and floodplain management activities.

**((E-499qq)) E-430 King County shall implement a comprehensive local floodplain management program that, consistent with the King County Flood Management Plan or successor plans: protects lives((:)); minimizes damage and disruption to infrastructure and critical facilities((:)); preserves and restores natural floodplain functions((:)); uses integrated approaches to provide multiple benefits; is resilient to climate change; supports floodplain management actions that benefit frontline communities; and ensures that new development does not put people in harm's way or cause adverse flooding impacts elsewhere((: consistent with the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan)).**

**((E-499qqq)) E-431 King County shall continue to exceed the federal minimum standards stipulated by the National Flood Insurance Program for unincorporated areas to better protect public safety, reduce the risk of flood and channel migration hazards to existing public and private property, and prevent new at-risk development.**

**((E-499r)) E-432 King County's floodplain land use and floodplain management activities shall be carried out in accordance with policies, programs, and projects detailed in the King County Flood ((Hazard)) Management Plan or successor plans.**

#### **((7. Beavers and Beaver Activity))**

Beaver ponds, created when beavers dam watercourses, provide a protective pool for a beaver lodge and environmental benefits. They help retain stormwater runoff, trap sediment and pollutants, maintain stream flow during summer, reduce downstream flooding and erosion, raise groundwater levels, and help create diverse plant and animal habitat. Beaver ponds also provide significant environmental benefits and

functions for salmon rearing habitat, floodplain connectivity, wood inputs, increased complexity of aquatic systems, and biodiversity.

Beaver dams may also cause upstream flooding of roads, utilities, and both public and private property, and create the potential for downstream risk to public safety and infrastructure should dam failure occur. If a dam is harmed or removed, the beavers will typically repair the damage quickly, because their survival depends on having the entrance to their lodge underwater.

~~((For over 150 years beavers and humans were able to coexist in King County, because beaver populations were kept in balance through trapping and human development was confined to areas without large beaver populations. However, as the urban and suburban areas of King County extended out into areas with an abundance of beaver habitat and beaver populations increased, beavers have begun to come into greater conflict with humans.~~

~~These growing conflicts were exacerbated in 2000 with the passage of Initiative Measure 713 (I-713), a law that prohibited the use of body-gripping traps with the exception of a Conibear trap in water, a padded leg-hold trap, or a non-strangling type foot snare, all of which require a special permit (see Revised Code of Washington 77.15.194). The results of these changes were that fewer beavers are being trapped and more beavers are repopulating historic habitat.~~

~~Fifteen years since I-713 went into effect, beavers continue to repopulate the water bodies of King County. Non-lethal/engineered solutions (beaver deceivers and pond levelers) help control water levels of beaver ponds and are part of the solution for co-existing with beavers. But these solutions are not always sufficient and will likely become less and less feasible in terms of maintenance capacity as beaver populations continue to expand.~~

**E-499ii) E-433 King County should support((s)) the coexistence of beavers and people in rural King County. ((King County should prepare a beaver management strategy to guide a program on issues such as where and how beavers and humans can co-exist with or without engineered solutions and where beavers should be excluded or removed.**

### 3.)) E. Lakes

There are approximately 700 lakes in King County ranging in size from less than one acre to Lake Washington's roughly 21,500 acres. These lakes provide habitat that is essential for various life stages of many species of fish and wildlife, including salmonids, as well as recreational opportunities and scenic beauty. Watershed ~~((D))~~development, shoreline alteration, and stormwater runoff into lakes can alter their functioning and lead to eutrophication (increases in nutrients), loss of ~~((shoreline))~~ habitat, and threats to human and ecosystem health. Although sewage treatment has greatly reduced pollution in urban lakes like Lake Washington, stormwater runoff polluted by oil, metals, sediments, pet waste, lawn fertilizers, and ~~((pesticides))~~ toxic chemicals can threaten ~~((human health, aquatic life, and habitat. Construction of bulkheads and docks also has the potential to impact habitat by altering shoreline vegetation and natural erosion patterns))~~ lake ecosystems and those who use them.

King County conducts water quality monitoring assessment on lakes throughout ~~((King County, in some cases supported by interlocal agreements with cities))~~ the county, including sediment quality, habitat, biotic resources, and hydrology. ~~((Some of the earliest evidence of climate change includes temperature changes in regional lakes. Changes in annual temperature cycles in King County's regional lakes, particularly Lake Sammamish, Lake Union, and Lake Washington, provide some of the most accurate~~

measures of climate change available locally.)) This monitoring supports restoration and protection of lakes in King County, as well as improves understanding of climate change, watershed development, stormwater impacts, and swimming, fishing, and drinking water uses.

King County also conducts specialized monitoring assessments for public health and safety. During the summer months, the ((c))County conducts regular monitoring at public swimming beaches and contaminate monitoring of some fish species. When monitoring indicates a public health hazard, the County works collaboratively with state agencies and local jurisdictions, and ((the)) information is provided to Public Health - Seattle & King County~~((, which can issue a temporary closure order. The Washington State Department of Health issues fish and shellfish consumption advisories to protect human health. There are consumption advisories for a number of species in Lake Washington. King County recently implemented a monitoring program to track the level of select contaminants in some fish species in Lake Washington. These data are used to evaluate the potential for both human health (through consumption) and ecological impacts)).~~ This can result in public warnings, consumption advisories, management recommendations, and a temporary closure order if necessary. King County also offers technical response assistance to harmful algal bloom incidents.

**~~((E-490)) E-434~~ Lakes ((should)) shall be protected through management of lake watersheds and shorelines. Lakes ((sensitive to nutrients shall)) should also be protected through the management of nutrients that stimulate potentially harmful algae blooms and aquatic plant growth. Where sufficient information is available, measurable standards for lake quality should be set and management plans established to meet the standards.**

**~~E-435~~ When a lake borders multiple jurisdictions, King County should coordinate with those jurisdictions on lake protection and management. Formation of lake management districts or other financing mechanisms should also be considered to provide the financial resources necessary to support actions for protection of ((sensitive)) lakes.**

**~~((E-491)) E-436~~ King County, in partnership with other governments and community groups, should monitor and assess lake water and sediment quality, physical habitat, ((and)) biotic resources, and hydrology. Assessment should identify trends and describe impacts on human and ecosystem health, aquatic life, and wildlife habitat.**

**~~E-437~~ ((The-c)) King County should collaborate with other ((affected)) jurisdictions, Public Health - Seattle & King County~~((, the State Department of Health, and the State Department of Ecology)), and state agencies to identify and address pollutant sources adversely impacting aquatic life and/or human and ecosystem health((, through local or grant funding opportunities, the county should reduce or remove these inputs)).~~**

**~~((E-492)) E-438~~ Swimming beaches on lakes should be monitored for ((bacterial)) fecal contamination and algal toxins. When data shows public health to be at risk, Public Health - Seattle & King County should take appropriate action to address public health risks.**

## **~~((6.)) E.~~ Puget Sound**

There are approximately ~~((110 miles of marine shoreline in King County, including))~~ 51 miles of marine shoreline in unincorporated areas. Shorelines provide important



functions for maintaining a healthy ecosystem and also provide essential habitat for a variety of important and listed species, including mammals, birds, fish, and invertebrates. In addition to recreational opportunities, the marine nearshore environment provides essential habitat for a variety of species including juvenile salmonids, forage fish, and several commercially important shellfish species. Kelp and eelgrass populations are particularly important for providing food and habitat, especially for juvenile life stages for a variety of key fish and invertebrate species. The intertidal area of marine beaches are the only spawning habitats for Pacific sand lance and surf smelt, which form the base for much of the food chain in Puget Sound and are highly susceptible to impacts from residential development of shoreline areas. Marine resources and shorelines, especially embayments, are susceptible to impacts from water pollution, changes in upland vegetation, alteration of natural bluff and beach erosion patterns, and alteration of nearshore substrates and aquatic vegetation.

The majority of marine waters within King County are subtidal waters, which provide important ecosystem functions and essential habitat for a variety of important species, including marine mammals, birds, salmonids and other fish, and invertebrates. Subtidal waters support geoduck, shrimp, and ~~((bottomfish))~~ commercial and Indian tribal fisheries ((as well as)), and also provide critical rearing habitats for salmonids and migratory pathways for marine mammals ((and salmonids)). Resident ~~((killer whales))~~ orca are often observed in King County subtidal waters feeding on salmonids, and Biggs' whales are often seen feeding on seals and sea lions. Adult life stages of many species, such as rockfish and Dungeness crab, use subtidal waters extensively. In addition, subtidal waters provide an important connection to Pacific Ocean waters as well as waters within other parts of Puget Sound. Subtidal habitat is susceptible to impacts from water pollution, over-utilizing of biological resources, and climate change.

King County conducts water quality monitoring in marine offshore and nearshore areas throughout King County as part of the Marine Monitoring Program. Nutrients, chlorophyll, and dissolved oxygen are measured along with other physical and chemical parameters. Biological parameters, such as ~~((chlorophyll))~~ fecal indicator bacteria and phytoplankton and zooplankton community structure are also assessed. Offshore sediment quality is assessed in various subtidal areas and nearshore sediments are assessed throughout King County. The Washington State Department of Health issues fish and shellfish consumption advisories to protect human health. There are consumption advisories for a number of species within King County marine waters. King County ~~((recently implemented))~~ maintains a monitoring program to track the level of select contaminants in some species of fish and shellfish in Elliott Bay and King County's marine waters. These data are used to evaluate the potential for both human health (through consumption) and ecological impacts.

King County's freshwater and saltwater environments are integrally linked. Water, sediments, and nutrients move from upland areas to Puget Sound. Many species, including salmon, spend critical periods of their lives in both fresh and salt water. Salmon migrating from saltwater to their spawning areas bring marine-derived nutrients back to the upland areas. ~~((Given the functional linkages between freshwater and saltwater environments, it is critical that planning and management be integrated:~~

**~~E-499g)) E-439~~ King County should collaborate with ~~((the))~~ Indian tribes, federal and state agencies, ((including)) the Puget Sound Partnership(( )), cities, ~~((tribes,))~~ other counties, and universities to monitor and assess Puget Sound marine waters, nearshore areas, and embayments. Monitoring and assessment should:**

**a. Address water and sediment quality, bioaccumulation of chemicals, physical habitat, ((and)) biotic resources, and hydrology ((Assessment should)); and**

**b. Identify trends and describe impacts on human and ecosystem health and safety, aquatic life, and wildlife habitat.**

**E-440** ~~((The c))~~ **King County should collaborate with other ((affected)) jurisdictions, Public Health ((-)) - Seattle & King County, ((the State Department of Health, and the State Department of Ecology)), and state agencies to identify and address pollutant sources adversely impacting aquatic life and/or human and ecosystem health((; through local or grant funding opportunities, the county should reduce or remove these inputs)).**

**((E-499h)) E-441** **King County should protect and enhance the natural environment in those areas recommended or adopted as Aquatic Reserves by Washington State Department of Natural Resources. This should include participation in management planning for the aquatic reserves and working with willing landowners adjacent to the reserve on restoration and acquisition projects that enhance the natural environment.**

**E-442** **King County shall support efforts of the Poverty Bay Shellfish Protection District to safeguard against threats to water quality that limit access to existing commercial shellfish harvesting areas.**

**E-443** **King County should continue to support regional programs and actions to monitor and address fecal pollution of King County lakes, streams, and beaches, such as the Pollution Identification and Control Program being run in collaboration with the King Conservation District and Public Health - Seattle & King County.**

Human waste contains high levels of nutrients and pathogens. These pollutants can enter Puget Sound marine waters from a variety of pathways including combined sewer overflow outfalls, septic systems, stormwater runoff, ships and boats, and rivers and streams. Nutrients are also present in treated wastewater effluent. Public Health - Seattle & King County is responsible for assuring that ((onsite)) on-site sewage systems in King County meet state and local regulations. In addition, Public Health - Seattle & King County is required to identify areas where marine water quality is threatened or impaired as a result of contamination from ((onsite)) on-site sewage systems, to designate these areas as Marine Recovery Areas, Public Health - Seattle & King County has developed a Marine Recovery Areas plan for Vashon-Maury Island to identify failed septic systems within the Marine Recovery Areas, and to assure that these systems are repaired and maintained.

The State Department of Health conducts shoreline surveys, which ((identifies)) identify pollution sources that may impact water quality. Marine water sampling is to determine fecal coliform bacteria levels in the marine waters. Shellfish-growing areas are classified ((determining)) according to whether ((or not)) shellfish in the area can be harvested for human consumption. Public Health - Seattle & King County, in partnership with Department of Natural Resources and Parks and King Conservation District, has implemented the Quartermaster Pollution Identification and Correction programs to address the fecal coliform discharges that ((caused the shellfish beds to be prohibited from)) limit commercial harvesting.

The Marine Recovery Areas/Pollution Identification and Correction program has successfully returned portions of Quartermaster Harbor to harvestable condition and is continuing work on Vashon-Maury Island to address fecal coliform sources such as properties that have on-site sewage systems that pre-date regulatory oversight systems or that have failing systems. In addition to Quartermaster Harbor, other ((King County)) commercial shellfish beds that are listed as threatened or concerned in King County are East Passage and Colvos Passage on Vashon, and Poverty Bay on the mainland.

Most landowners act as responsible managers of their septic systems and maintain them effectively. However, those septic systems that are not maintained can fail, and impact the environment. ((The County and the State should work with landowners by providing technical assistance and support to prevent failures, take action to correct failing systems and address the associated problems:))

**((E-499i)) E-444 King County should work with landowners, other jurisdictions, the state Department of Health, sewer districts, and the Puget Sound Partnership to proactively address failing septic systems with a priority in ((environmentally sensitive areas, including)) areas where on-site septic could pose an increased public health risk, critical areas and their buffers, and constrained shoreline environments.**

## **((4:)) G. Groundwater Resources**

Protecting groundwater is an important regional issue because groundwater provides approximately 30((%)) percent of the water used in King County and is the primary source of water in the Rural Area((s)) geography. On Vashon-Maury Island and in other sole-source aquifer areas, it is the only source of drinking water.

The natural hydrologic system can be altered by development practices and overuse of the aquifer. The result may be depletion of aquifers. Groundwater is also subject to contamination from human activity. Once a source of groundwater is contaminated it may be lost forever. The cost of protection is considerably less than the cost of remediation and replacement. Having accurate, up-to-date information on groundwater quality and quantity is essential for managing this resource. Mapping risk could be achieved for a variety of pollutants or pollutant classes by integrating groundwater protection level, distance to groundwater, soil type, pollutant mobility, and land use information into a new map layer for each pollutant. Finally, public education (particularly for individual well owners) and coordinated groundwater management efforts will help to protect this resource over the long((=))\_run.

**((E-493)) E-445 King County shall identify and map areas in unincorporated King County that are considered Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas and sole-source aquifers. The ((c))County shall periodically update this map with new information from adopted groundwater and wellhead protection studies and other relevant sources. King County should develop and maintain map layers of groundwater risk level when funding is available.**

**((E-494)) E-446 King County should protect the quality and quantity of groundwater countywide. ((by:**

- a. Implementing adopted Groundwater Management Plans;**
- b. Reviewing and implementing approved Wellhead Protection Programs in conjunction with cities, state agencies and groundwater purveyors;**
- c. Developing, with affected jurisdictions, best management practices for development and for forestry, agriculture, and mining operations based on adopted Groundwater Management Plans and Wellhead Protection Programs. The goals of these practices should be to promote aquifer recharge quality and to strive for no net reduction of recharge to groundwater quantity;**
- d. Refining regulations to protect Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas and well-head protection areas;**
- e. Educating the public about Best Management Practices to protect groundwater;**
- f. Encouraging forest retention and active forest stewardship;**

- g. ~~Incorporating into its land use and water service decisions consideration of potential impacts on groundwater quality and quantity, and the need for long-term aquifer protection;~~
- h. ~~Coordinating groundwater management efforts with cities, water districts, groundwater committees, and state and federal agencies;~~
- i. ~~Requiring the proper decommissioning of any well abandoned in the process of connecting an existing water system to a Group A water system; and~~
- j. ~~When funding is available, monitoring groundwater status and trends, especially for the groundwater protection planning areas established by King County, and evaluating the groundwater monitoring results, along with groundwater monitoring performed by public water systems, plus their annual quantities of groundwater pumped over the five year period. Findings as an indicator of environmental quality should be reported for each groundwater management area.))~~

**E-447** King County should work with partners to implement adopted Groundwater Management Plans and approved Wellhead Protection Programs, to coordinate groundwater management among jurisdictions, and to monitor groundwater status and trends.

**E-448** King County should work with partners to develop best management practices for development, for resource-based operations, and for the general public, and should work to educate the public on groundwater best management practices.

**E-449** King County should incorporate into its land use and water service decisions consideration of potential impacts on groundwater quality and quantity and the need for long-term aquifer protection and should require the proper decommissioning of any well abandoned in the process of connecting an existing water system to a Group A water system.

~~((E-495) King County should protect groundwater recharge quantity by promoting low impact development and other methods that infiltrate stormwater runoff where site conditions permit and where pollution source controls and stormwater treatment can prevent potential groundwater contamination.~~

~~((E-496))~~ **E-450** ((In making future zoning and land use decisions that are subject to environmental review,)) King County shall evaluate and monitor groundwater policies, their implementation costs, and the impacts upon the quantity and quality of groundwater at least two years prior to each 10-year Comprehensive Plan update, using best available science. The depletion or degradation of aquifers needed for potable water supplies ((should)) shall be avoided or mitigated, and the need to plan and develop feasible and equivalent replacement sources to compensate for the potential loss of water supplies ((should)) shall be considered.

~~((E-497))~~ **E-451** King County should protect groundwater in the Rural Area by:

- a. Preferring land uses that retain a high ratio of permeable to impermeable surface area, and that maintain and/or augment the natural soil's infiltration capacity and treatment capability for groundwater;
- b. Evaluating impacts on groundwater, where appropriate, during review of commercial, industrial, and residential subdivision development projects that are proposed to be located within critical aquifer recharge areas, and, where appropriate, requiring

- mitigation for anticipated groundwater impacts to domestic water supply resulting from these projects; and
- c. Requiring standards for ((maximum)) vegetation clearing ((limits)), impervious surface limits, and, where appropriate, infiltration of surface water.

Climate change has the potential to impact future groundwater availability. Warmer temperatures in the Pacific Northwest are projected to lead to greater demand for water in the summer and fall, while reduced snow pack and associated stream flows could reduce seasonal groundwater recharge. Further analysis of the potential impacts of climate change on groundwater supplies in King County is needed to understand and mitigate for potential impacts.

~~((E-498)) E-452 King County should, in partnership with water utilities, ((evaluate the likely effects of)) work to ensure that climate change impacts on ((aquifer recharge and groundwater supplies and develop a strategy to mitigate potential impacts in coordination with other climate change initiatives)) groundwater are being accounted for in water supply planning and management, such as by:~~

- a. Evaluating effects of climate change on aquifer recharge and groundwater supplies; and
- b. Developing strategies through climate change initiatives with Indian tribes, cities, water districts, groundwater committees, and state and federal agencies to mitigate impacts of climate change.

## ~~((B:))~~ H. Stormwater Quality

Rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater must be protected from the adverse impacts of development and land use change to continue functioning in a beneficial manner. Because development both increases runoff from storms and reduces streamflows in dry months by limiting infiltration, control of the rate, volume, and quality of stormwater runoff is critical. Unmitigated stormwater runoff can cause erosion, sedimentation, and flooding with resulting adverse impacts on water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, property, and human safety. In addition, stormwater runoff can carry pollutants, such as oil, heavy metals, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, ((and)) animal wastes, dust from tires, naturally occurring nutrients at problematic levels, and toxins and contaminants of emerging concern into waters. Sedimentation from soil disturbed by clearing, grading, farming and logging can reduce river or stream channel capacity, fill lakes and wetlands, and smother aquatic life and habitat.

King County stormwater management encompasses a wide range of strategies that ~~((integrate proven, traditional approaches with new and innovative concepts,))~~ include maintenance of more traditional, "gray" infrastructure such as stormwater ponds, and encourage more "green" approaches, such as low impact development practices intended to manage stormwater runoff on-site, reducing discharges of pollutants in stormwater runoff((-)) and mimicking natural hydrology.

~~((King County's stormwater management strategies include but are not limited to encouraging an approach to site development that includes clustering or smart growth, minimizes impervious surfaces, and maximizes the amount of native plants and soils; using education and social marketing to increase the public's awareness of water quality issues and encourage behaviors that support water quality; improving pollution source control by legislating product or material restrictions; improving business practices by educating business owners and operators about pollution generating activities and best management practices to mitigate them; and constructing and maintaining an stormwater infrastructure system that controls, conveys and treats stormwater runoff.~~



Together these strategies will reduce pollution and flow impacts of stormwater runoff on King County's surface and ground waters.

~~As required by the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit, King County is making low impact development the preferred and commonly used approach to site development. As a result of using the low impact development approach, an increasing number of stormwater management best management practices including, but not limited to, rain gardens, dispersion, permeable driveways and walkways, vegetated roofs, and the capture and reuse of rainwater, will be constructed on private property and will rely on private maintenance for their continuing function.~~

~~In addition to the stormwater strategies discussed above, as well as those discussed in Chapter 8: Transportation, effective stormwater management will require a basin or sub-basin approach that identifies areas that were built out under old or nonexistent stormwater design standards. Basins where deficiencies in flow control or water quality are identified would be prioritized to correct those deficiencies. These retrofits could include upgrades to existing stormwater management structures or the placement of new ones, including onsite low impact development best management practices like bioretention or rain gardens, or the replacement of impervious pavement with permeable.~~

~~Achieving the goals of contemporary stormwater management may require improvements to best management practices and encouraging or requiring the use of different products. Approaches could include using green products, implementing new land development approaches such as cluster housing, and, in some areas, the setting aside of land and its dedication to riparian habitat, and maintaining natural vegetation.~~

**E-445)) E-453 Stormwater runoff shall be managed through a variety of methods, with the goal of protecting surface water quality, in-stream flows, and aquatic habitat; promoting groundwater recharge while protecting groundwater quality; reducing the risk of flooding; protecting public safety and properties; and enhancing the viability of agricultural lands.**

**((E-446)) E-454 King County should:**

- a. ~~((e))~~ Evaluate the need for product or material restrictions because of water quality impacts;**
- b. Use a data- and science-driven approach to identify and reduce the use of contaminants of emerging concern, such as 6PPD; and**
- c. Seek changes to state regulations and permits to incentivize regional stormwater investments where they will achieve the best outcomes for pollution reduction.**

## ~~((2. — Clean Water Act))~~

The Clean Water Act requires that all states protect and restore their waters to beneficial uses. This is accomplished through the development of a permitting framework called the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit ((p))Program. Authority for administering the NPDES Program has been delegated by the Environmental Protection Agency to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), and King County holds a number of NPDES general permits for various specified activities.

~~((For instance, the County must comply with permit conditions that cover ongoing construction site activities, industrial activities, and stormwater runoff discharges from the municipal stormwater system. Since 1995, Ecology has issued a NPDES Phase I Municipal Stormwater permit to King County, authorizing stormwater discharges from the County's municipal separate stormwater sewer system.~~

The current permit, set to expire July 31, 2018, contains prescriptive requirements for discovering, controlling and monitoring pollutants in municipal stormwater, as well as stormwater control design standards for site development, public education and outreach, mapping, and operating and maintaining municipal stormwater infrastructure.

The County complies with the current Phase I municipal NPDES stormwater permit by implementing the County's stormwater management program plan that can be found at the following website:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/stormwater/pollution-discharge-permit/annual-reports.aspx>

The implementation of the County's plan is reported to Ecology by submitting an annual report. The annual report documents compliance with permit requirements over the preceding year and the stormwater management plan outlines compliance activities for the upcoming year. The most current annual report can be found here:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/stormwater/pollution-discharge-permit/annual-reports.aspx>

*Water Quality Standards and Total Maximum Daily Loads))*

When a particular water body falls short of state surface water quality standards Ecology must impose a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). A TMDL is developed to restore beneficial uses to the water body by reducing or eliminating pollutants. ((In addition to the actions found in the County's stormwater management plan, the Permit also contains requirements for the County to implement actions that address four impaired water bodies:)) The Bear-Evans watershed, Issaquah Creek, and the Puyallup/White watershed are impaired by elevated levels of fecal coliform((-and)). The Lower White River has a TMDL for elevated pH and Cottage Lake is impaired by elevated levels of total phosphorous. The actions to counteract these elevated levels of pollution include((-)) animal waste education and collection stations at municipal parks, and inventorying and inspecting commercial animal handling facilities. ((King County's Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination program also conducts field screening for pollution sources by designating high priority areas, and conducting bacteria sampling and monitoring:))

In addition to the TMDLs found in the Permit, several others have been approved within King County((-)). including for the Snoqualmie River, Little Bear Creek, Lake Fenwick, Lake Sawyer, the Duwamish River, Lower Green River, Pipers Creek, North Creek, Newaukum Creek, Puyallup River, White River, and Fauntleroy Creek. King County TMDLs under development or pending approval by the Environmental Protection Agency include Green River and Newaukum Creek, White and Puyallup Rivers, and Soos Creek. ((A list of these Water Quality Improvement Projects in King County can be found at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/TMDLsbyCounty/king.html>.

**E-110** — ~~Surface waters designated by the state as Water Quality Impaired under the Clean Water Act (water bodies included in Category 5 of the Water Quality Assessment) shall be improved through monitoring, source controls, best management practices, enforcement of existing codes, and, where applicable, implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load plans. The water quality of other water bodies shall be protected or improved through these same measures.~~

**E-111** — ~~King County shall evaluate development proposals subject to drainage review in unincorporated King County to assess whether the proposed actions are likely to cause or contribute to violations of Washington State water quality standards in receiving waters for individual~~

**pollutants of concern and identify mitigation or requirements to avoid the impacts when appropriate.**

There are certain actions that can be used to help moderate water quality. Such actions may include maintaining and increasing connections between surface waters and shallow groundwater or hyporheic flow, promoting riparian vegetation and stormwater structural retrofitting using infiltration techniques including Low Impact Development techniques, and increasing the physical complexity of river channels.

**E-112)) E-455 When environmental monitoring, testing, or reliable data indicates human activities have caused impaired water quality, such as increased water temperature, fecal contamination, low oxygen, excess nutrients, metals, or other contaminants, King County shall take actions ((which will)) that help moderate those impairments.**

~~((E-705)) King County shall fully comply with the monitoring requirements in its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits, including seeking compliance strategies that are cost-effective and useful.~~

~~E-461))~~ **E-456 King County shall use incentives, regulations, capital projects, open space acquisitions, public education and stewardship, and other programs, ((like)) such as recycled water, to manage its aquatic resources ((Puget Sound, rivers, streams, lakes, freshwater and marine wetlands and groundwater))) and to protect and enhance their multiple beneficial uses. Use of water resources for one purpose should, to the fullest extent practicable, preserve opportunities for other uses.**

~~((E-462))~~ **E-457 Development shall occur in a manner that supports continued ecological and hydrologic functioning of water resources and should not have a significant adverse impact on water quality, ((or)) water quantity, or sediment transport, and should maintain base flows, natural water level fluctuations, unpolluted groundwater recharge in Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas, and fish and wildlife habitat.**

## ~~((C.))~~ V. Upland Areas

### ~~((1.))~~ A. Forest Cover

King County recognizes the value of trees and forests in both rural and urban communities for benefits such as improving air and water quality and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Forests absorb and slowly release rainwater to streams and aquifers, filter runoff, store carbon, and provide food, shade, and cover for wildlife. In doing so, they help to prevent flooding and erosion, reduce stormwater runoff and increase infiltration, protect drinking water, ((and)) support fish and wildlife and their habitat, and provide recreational opportunities and health benefits to communities. ((Therefore, it is important that regulations protecting critical areas like wetlands take into consideration both regulations and incentive programs intended to conserve forest cover in upland areas.)) Forested headwaters in upper reaches of watersheds can be especially important for preventing flooding, improving water quality, and protecting salmon and other wildlife habitat, given the presence of large areas of with relatively low levels of development. Forests in rural King County are also relied upon for recreation and resource use, including harvest and firewood collection and cultivation of special forest products categorized as edibles, florals, and medicinals. Forest Stewardship Plans provide mechanisms for tailoring regulations and best management practices for forest management to individual properties. Completion of one of these plans can also qualify landowners for tax incentive programs and streamlined permitting. ((The

retention or restoration of forest cover and native vegetation also reduces stormwater runoff and maximizes natural infiltration processes, thus reducing the need for additional stormwater management.

**~~((E-447)) E-501~~ ((King County recognizes that conserving and restoring headwater and upland forest cover is important for preventing flooding, improving water quality, and protecting salmon and other wildlife habitat.))** The central role that forests ((cover)) play((s)) in supporting hydrologic and other ecological processes should be reflected in ((policies and programs addressing)) stormwater management, flooding, fish and wildlife, and open space policies and programs.

**~~((E-448)) E-502~~ King County's critical areas and clearing and grading regulations should provide for activities compatible with long-term forest use, including use of recreational trails, firewood collection, forest fire ((prevention)) risk reduction, forest management, and control of invasive plants.**

**~~((E-449)) E-503~~ King County shall promote retention of forest cover and significant trees using a mix of regulations, incentives, and technical assistance.**

**~~E-504~~ King County shall identify and implement recommended strategies to establish and protect corridors of forest with old growth characteristics, particularly in upper watershed areas and along major river corridors in support of habitat for salmon and other wildlife.**

## ~~((2. Soils and))~~ B. Organics and Waste

((Soils play a critical role in the natural environment. The benefits of healthy soils include: (1) keeping disease-causing organisms in check, (2) moderating stormwater runoff, (3) filtering, binding, and biodegrading pollutants, (4) recycling and storing nutrients, and (5) serving as the basis for forest and agricultural fertility. More recently, the carbon storage properties of soils have been recognized as a major climate-moderating influence. The properties of a healthy soil are similar to those of a sponge, faucet and filter. They soak up and store water, naturally regulate the flow of water, and bind and degrade pollutants. The presence of millions of macro and microorganisms in soil creates a vibrant soil culture where organic material is consumed and air and water are retained. Nutrients are made available to plants to allow healthy root growth and oxygen generation.

It is common for healthy native soils to be removed during land development. Even when soils are not removed, development and other human activity often cause soil compaction, removal and erosion of healthy, native soils. Fewer organisms are present in disturbed soils. The resulting decrease in organic matter inhibits the soil's ability to hold water, which increases stormwater runoff. In addition, plants cannot thrive in disturbed soils because of the lack of nutrients. This, in turn, causes people to use more chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and water to induce plant growth. The combination of increased stormwater runoff and increased fertilizer and pesticide use results in greater water pollution downstream.

Increasing the organic content in disturbed soils can help restore their environmental function. Composted organic materials that might be used include yard debris, food and wood wastes, soiled paper, biochar, biosolids and/or livestock wastes, but not others, such as fly ash from industrial smokestacks. Benefits of incorporating composted organic materials in soils include: improving stream habitat, supporting healthier plants, reducing stormwater runoff, and closing the recycling loop for organic materials. The transformation of degraded soils to enhance their ability to uptake and

store carbon may be the one of the most effective actions that can be taken to mitigate the near-term effects of climate change:

It is preferable to leave native soil and vegetation in place as much as possible so that it can continue to function as a natural sponge and filter, minimizing erosion and stormwater runoff. Where soil is disturbed or removed, soil function can be improved by providing soil with adequate depth and organic matter content:

**~~E-450 Site development practices should minimize soil disturbance and maximize retention of native vegetation and soils. Where soil disturbance is unavoidable, native soils should be stockpiled on site and reused on site in accordance with best management practices to the maximum extent practicable.~~**

**~~E-451 King County shall require the use of organic matter to restore disturbed soils on site developments.~~**

Salmon play an important role in sustaining the productivity of soils in riparian and floodplain areas. Salmon mature in saltwater environments and then spawn and die in their original spawning streams. In doing so, salmon transport nutrients back to watersheds that eventually become available to vegetation:

**~~E-452 The role of salmon in transferring nutrients and maintaining the productivity of riparian and floodplain soils should be incorporated in the development of salmon and soil conservation plans.))~~**

Organics comprise a large portion of the waste generated by King County residences, businesses, and farms. Management of ((F))this organic waste stream requires significant solid waste, farm management, and wastewater treatment resources. Many of these "waste materials" (yard debris, food and wood waste, soiled paper, biosolids, and agricultural livestock wastes), can be minimized, recycled, and reused to provide numerous uses that are beneficial to the environment and the economy.

~~((King County has a long history of resource conservation and waste recycling. Programs have successfully captured organic materials for beneficial use such as yard debris and biosolids applications to farms, forests and composting. However, large volumes of organic waste continue to be disposed of in the landfill. Significant volumes of livestock waste generated in the suburbs, Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands are inadequately managed, which can adversely impact water quality and fish habitat:~~

~~Although efforts are underway to increase the amount of organic materials that are recycled, the region still lacks the capacity to process all of these materials. Along with its efforts to promote beneficial use of these products, King County is working with organic material processors and others to try and increase the processing capacity in the region.)) The Re+ program focuses on actions to minimize King County's environmental footprint, create more green jobs, divert waste from the landfill, and ensure everyone in King County has equitable access to efficient waste services.~~

**~~((E-453)) E-505 King County should implement programs to improve availability and markets for organic materials for soils that have been disturbed by new and existing developments.~~**

**~~((E-454 King County shall regard the region's organic waste materials as resources which should be reused as much as possible, and minimize the disposal of such materials:~~**

**~~E-455)) E-506 King County shall work with regional ((stakeholders)) partners to ensure a viable and safe organics recycling infrastructure that allows for~~**



yard, food, wood, biosolids, manure and other organic wastes to be turned into resources benefiting climate change, soil health, water quality, and maximizing landfill diversion, consistent with the County's zero waste of resources goals.

~~((King County seeks to divert as much material as possible from disposal to reduce overall costs of solid waste management, conserve resources, protect the environment, and strengthen the county's economy (see Chapter 9: Services, Facilities and Utilities, F-266). In many cases, organic materials can be recycled into a beneficial, highly valued resource helping to meet these diversion goals. Beneficial uses of organic materials include, but are not limited to, the following: soil amendment, mulch, erosion control, and even energy production.~~

~~King County recognizes that in most cases, the best management method for yard debris and livestock wastes is to compost it on the property where it is generated. Examples of residential onsite yard debris management techniques include grasscycling (leaving the grass on the lawn when it is cut) and backyard composting.~~

**E-507** King County shall promote, encourage, and require, where appropriate, the beneficial use and reuse of organic materials in soils and minimize their disposal, including but not limited to their use in the following activities: agriculture and silviculture; road, park, and other public project development; site development and new construction; restoration and remediation of disturbed soils; nursery and sod production; and landscaping. For these purposes, organic materials do not include fly ash.

~~((E-457))~~ **E-508** King County agencies shall use and promote compost ~~((recycled organic products, such as compost;))~~ whenever feasible ~~((and promote the application of organic material))~~ to compensate for historical losses of organic content in soil caused by human actions, including development, landscaping, agricultural practices, and resource extraction. Where use of compost is not feasible, agencies shall consider use of other recycled organic products, such as biosolids.

~~((E-458))~~ **E-509** King County ~~((will))~~ shall seek to enhance soil quality~~((;))~~ and protect water quality and biodiversity across the landscape by developing policies, programs, and incentives that support the goal of no net loss of organic material.

Biosolids are the nutrient-rich organic product from the wastewater treatment process which can be recycled as a soil amendment. At King County's wastewater treatment plant, solids are removed from the wastewater and treated in large digesters where the organic solids are stabilized, reducing the volume by half. After digestion, a portion of water is removed, leaving the semisolid material ready for recycling.

The Biosolids Management Program's mission is to safely and sustainably return carbon and nutrients to the land through the use of biosolids. The Biosolids Management Program pursues environmental stewardship through diverse public-private partnerships. One hundred percent of county biosolids are beneficially used through the forestry and agriculture programs. ~~((A portion of the County's biosolids are composted as a Class A product.~~

~~E-459))~~ **E-510** King County supports and should explore ways to beneficially use biosolids locally, whenever feasible.

On-farm composting as a method of managing livestock waste and other organic waste materials is ~~((becoming))~~ an important waste management strategy for farmers. Benefits of on-farm composting include:

- Additional revenue from the sale of compost;
- Reduced costs for water, fertilizers and pesticides, due to reduced water usage and reduced reliance on fertilizers and pesticides;
- Reduced impacts to surface waters; and
- Increased crop yields.

~~((King County's Livestock Management Ordinance, adopted in December 1993, sets manure management standards in order to minimize impacts to water quality by preventing farm wastes from contaminating the region's watersheds. The Livestock Management Ordinance)) Regulations for managing livestock encourage((s)) farmers to implement farm plans in collaboration with the King Conservation District to protect and enhance natural resources, including water quality. The King Conservation District provides technical assistance and education to agricultural landowners on how to implement best management practices, which include manure storage facilities and pasture renovation, as well as stream and wetland buffer fencing ((and clean water diversion)). The resulting farm plans can include provisions for ((onsite)) on-site and ((offsite)) off-site management of livestock wastes and strategies to integrate processing livestock wastes with other organic waste materials. These strategies should be consistent with the King County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, including but not limited to on-farm composting and land application of processed yard debris. Farm plans that address livestock waste management further compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act and other federal and state mandates regarding water quality.~~

~~((E-460))~~ **E-511 King County shall promote livestock waste management that keeps waste out of stormwater runoff and from infiltration to groundwater, and enhances soil health by methods such as combining livestock waste with other plant and animal waste material for incorporation into crop soils.**

## ~~((G. Hazardous Waste))~~

Throughout King County, businesses use and generate hazardous materials as part of their normal operations. There are numerous rules and requirements for the proper management of these materials and requirements can vary slightly by jurisdiction. Often the businesses will learn of these requirements after they have found out that they are not in compliance. To help mitigate the potential harmful effects to human health and the environment and to minimize the economic impacts to businesses that may generate hazardous chemicals, King County provides education and technical assistance to businesses on requirements for proper management and disposal of hazardous chemicals, as well as information on less toxic alternatives.

Contacting businesses with information on proper hazardous waste disposal as early as possible in the business development phase can help to prevent improper disposal of hazardous waste and associated risks to public safety and the environment. Taking a preventative approach can also help to avoid costly code violations.

~~((E-499t))~~ **E-512 King County should review permits for new businesses ((permit and change of use applications for businesses)) that propose to use hazardous chemicals or generate hazardous waste as part of their operations. The ((c))County should offer to provide technical assistance**

related to hazardous waste disposal requirements((, spill response,))  
and non-toxic alternatives.

## VI. Geologically Hazardous Areas

King County is located at a tectonically active convergent plate margin, which is characterized by dynamic geologic processes including active mountain building, abundant seismic activity, and volcanism. In addition, the relatively recent glacial history has resulted in the creation of numerous steep and unstable hillsides throughout the county, many of which are prone to naturally occurring landslides. Snow avalanches are also a common occurrence in the Cascade Mountains in ((E))eastern King County. The hazardous impacts from these processes can be worsened with climate change, and increases in extreme wet weather increase risks from geologic hazards.

Often, ((times)) the result of these naturally occurring events can be beneficial to the environment((;)) by providing gravel and woody debris in streams and rivers((;)) and continuing the process of natural regeneration. Salmon need gravel for spawning and in-stream debris for cover and to provide shade and regulate temperature. While the relatively flat Puget Lowlands made it historically ideal for development and agriculture, the natural processes of erosion and deposition will continue. King County must balance the positive benefits of these natural occurrences with any adverse impacts that pose a threat to public health and safety. The ((e))County must also strike a balance between allowing naturally occurring landslides and erosion, and the need to prevent the unnatural acceleration of landslides and erosion due to development activities.

Coal mines have created additional areas of subsidence and instability in addition to those ((which)) that occur naturally. When human activity occurs in areas subject to such active geologic processes, the potential consequences to life, property, and environmental integrity can be enormous. If geologic processes are recognized and appropriately addressed in the course of development activities, adverse consequences can be substantially reduced if not completely eliminated.

### A. Erosion Hazard Areas

Virtually any area in King County can experience soil erosion if subjected to inappropriate grading and construction practices. The ((US)) United States Department of Agriculture's ((Soil)) Natural Resources Conservation Service has identified certain soil types in King County as being especially subject to erosion((;)) if disturbed. These Erosion Hazard Areas may not be well suited to high-density developments and intensive land uses because of the sensitivity of these soils to disturbance.

~~((E-501)) Grading and construction activities shall implement erosion control best management practices and other development controls as necessary to reduce sediment and pollution discharge from construction sites to minimal levels.~~

~~E-502))~~ **E-601** Land uses ((permitted)) allowed in Erosion Hazard Areas shall minimize soil disturbance and should maximize retention and replacement of native vegetative cover.

~~((E-503))~~ **E-602** Slopes with a grade of 40((%)) percent or more shall not be developed unless the risks and adverse impacts associated with such development can be reduced to a non-significant level.  
~~((No disturbance zones shall be designated where basin plans identify the need to prevent erosion damages in areas that are extremely~~

~~sensitive to erosion impacts. Properly designed stormwater tightlines  
may be allowed within designated no-disturbance zones.~~

~~Vegetation is an important component of the natural environment. This general term  
refers to all plant life growing at, below or above the soil surface. It includes trees,  
shrubs, herbs, grasses and aquatic plants. Vegetation, especially forests, provides many  
significant ecological functions. Vegetation absorbs, filters and slows surface water flow.  
This is particularly important over aquifer recharge areas. Native vegetation also  
provides wildlife habitat to which native species are well adapted. Forests are key  
components in atmospheric cycles; they absorb carbon dioxide, produce oxygen and  
filter particulate matter. Additionally, they absorb noise and are aesthetically pleasing.~~

~~Noxious weeds are nonnative invasive plants that pose a threat to health and safety,  
agriculture, wildlife, wetlands and recreational areas. They tend to spread in areas that  
have been disturbed by urban development and agriculture and are difficult to  
eradicate once they become established. Without natural predators, some noxious  
weeds can displace native plant communities, reducing plant diversity. Invasive plants  
also decrease the quality of wildlife habitats, reduce visual quality, and increase  
maintenance and production costs for natural resource managers and farmers.~~

~~**E-504 — King County should protect native plant communities by encouraging  
management and control of nonnative invasive plants, including  
aquatic plants. Environmentally sound methods of vegetation control  
should be used to control noxious weeds.**~~

~~**E-506 — The use of native plants should be encouraged in landscaping  
requirements and erosion control projects, and in the restoration of  
stream banks, lakes, shorelines, and wetlands.**~~

~~**E-507 — In response to watershed-based salmon conservation Water Resource  
Inventory Area plans and as part of King County's continued basin  
planning and stewardship programs, King County may adopt  
vegetation retention goals for specific drainage basins. These goals  
should be consistent with R-334, as applicable. The county should  
adopt incentives and regulations to attain these goals, and the county  
should monitor their effectiveness.))**~~

## **B. Landslide Hazard Areas**

~~Certain hillsides in King County are either naturally unstable or susceptible to instability  
when disturbed. These hillsides contain slopes greater than 15((%)) percent, are  
underlain by impermeable soils, and are subject to seepage. They also include areas  
that have experienced landslides in the past.~~

~~Many of the largest and most active landslides in King County are associated with the  
steep slopes adjacent to river corridors or along marine shorelines where glacial strata  
are eroded and steepened. Areas undergoing rapid undercutting due to stream bank  
erosion, wave action, or human alteration of stormwater discharge are potentially  
unstable and such areas may be prone to damaging landslides.~~

~~Construction in areas susceptible to landslides is expensive and difficult. Landslides on  
such slopes following development can result in enormous public and private costs and  
severe threats to human health and safety. Such landslides can also cause severe  
natural resource damage.~~

~~((Partly in response to the 2014 State Route 530 Landslide,)) King County has  
undertaken an effort to refine ((our)) its knowledge of landslide hazard areas using  
updated mapping methods. King County ((initiated a project in 2014 to map and~~

characterize)) has mapped and characterized landslide hazard areas using the best available Light Detection And Ranging imagery and recent geologic mapping to identify potential areas at risk of ~~((landsliding))~~ landslide. Known and potential landslide hazard areas can be indicated by the known presence of shallow landslides, deep-seated slumps, debris fans and flows, rockfalls, avalanches, unstable and over-steepened slopes along river and stream channels, long runout presence or potential. ~~((The results of this work will be))~~ This mapping is used to inform future planning, outreach, and regulatory decisions.

~~((E-507a))~~ **E-603** King County should ~~((work with))~~ partner with jurisdictions to ~~((maintain a))~~ periodically review and update the ~~((map and))~~ inventory and map of known and potential landslide hazards ~~((areas in unincorporated King County that is based upon the best available information))~~ using best available science and current data. ~~((This information will be used to inform future planning and guide development regulations.~~

~~E-507b))~~ **E-604** King County ~~((should))~~ shall make landslide hazards information readily available to the public ~~((in order))~~ to improve the general understanding of landslides and their associated hazards. This may include making information available on a public website and providing outreach and assistance to current and prospective property owners and developers.

~~((E-508))~~ **E-605** Landslide hazard areas shall not be developed unless the risks and adverse impacts associated with such development are eliminated or minimized so that they are at a non-significant level. Development proposed in areas affected by landslide hazards shall be adequately reviewed and mitigated as needed to eliminate or minimize risk to the development as well as to ensure the development does not increase landslide or erosion hazards that would adversely impact adjacent properties or natural resources.

~~((E-508a))~~ **E-606** King County shall consider landslide hazards and related flooding hazards in the context of hazard communication, operational preparedness, and emergency response.

## ~~((C. Seismic Hazard Areas~~

~~King County is an earthquake-prone region subject to ground shaking, seismically induced landslide and liquefaction of soil. Areas with low-density soils are likely to experience greater damage from earthquakes.~~

~~E-509~~ ~~In areas with severe seismic hazards, special building design and construction measures should be used to minimize the risk of structural damage, fire and injury to occupants and to prevent post-seismic collapse.~~

## ~~D.))~~ **C. Volcanic Hazard Areas**

King County is located in a region characterized by active volcanism. The volcanic hazard that poses the greatest risk to safety and wellbeing of county residents would be from a lahar (volcanic mudflow) originating on ~~((Mt.))~~ Mount Rainier and flowing down the White River valley (possibly overflowing into the lower Green River Valley). Ongoing investigations by the ~~((U.S.))~~ United States Geological Survey continue to clarify the nature of this hazard. Current information provides the basis for taking steps to mitigate that risk.



~~((E-510))~~ **E-607** King County should work with the ((U.S.)) United States Geological Survey to identify lahar hazard areas and shall work with local governments to assess the risk to county residents from lahars and to implement appropriate emergency planning and implement appropriate development standards.

## ~~((E.))~~ D. Coal Mine Hazard Areas

King County has a long and varied history of underground and surface coal mining. Some coal mining was conducted by large, well-capitalized mining companies that used methods such as detailed underground and surface mapping and protection of surface improvements. Other mines were small operations or re-mining operations that sought to maximize coal extraction with less regard for surface impacts or mapping. Some intensively developed areas of King County are located over abandoned underground coal workings, including Talbot Hill and the north Benson Hill of Renton, the Spring Glen area around Cascade Vista, East Fairwood, Black Diamond, southwest Issaquah, and the Newcastle/Coal Creek area.

The greatest dangers to people, wildlife, and surface facilities typically exist around mine portals, timber chutes, air shafts, and workings which have collapsed to the surface. Other areas were deep mined by "room and pillar" mining techniques in which "pillars" of coal were left to provide support for the mining of adjacent "rooms." Once abandoned, pillars would collapse and rooms of mined-out coal would fill with collapsed roof material, coal debris, and water. Regional downwarping of these areas was generally not observable and usually happened in the early years following mining of a section. Deep-mined areas with a high ratio of overburden/cover-to-void usually present no hazards for surface development. However, areas with low overburden/cover-to-void ratio present higher risks and may require more advanced investigations and construction techniques for development. Mine portals, timber chutes, airshafts, and workings which have collapsed to the surface require the greatest need for detailed engineering studies to ensure that these sites are safe for new, productive use.

~~((E-511))~~ **E-608** King County ((will)) shall encourage efforts by public and private property owners and the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement to return lands to their highest productive use by safely minimizing or eliminating coal mine hazards.

~~((E-512))~~ **E-609** King County shall require all development proposals potentially subject to coal mine hazards to assess the mine-related hazards, including risks to structures, improvements, occupants, and public health and safety.

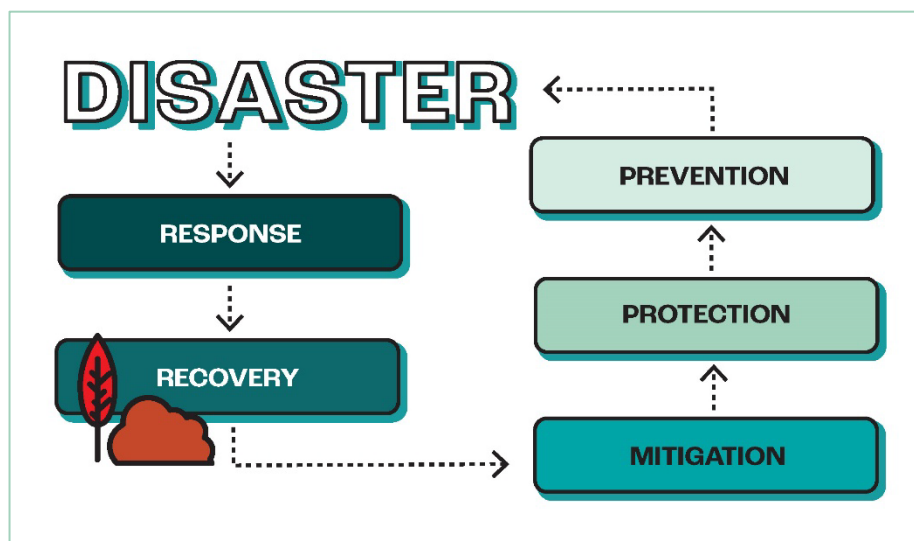
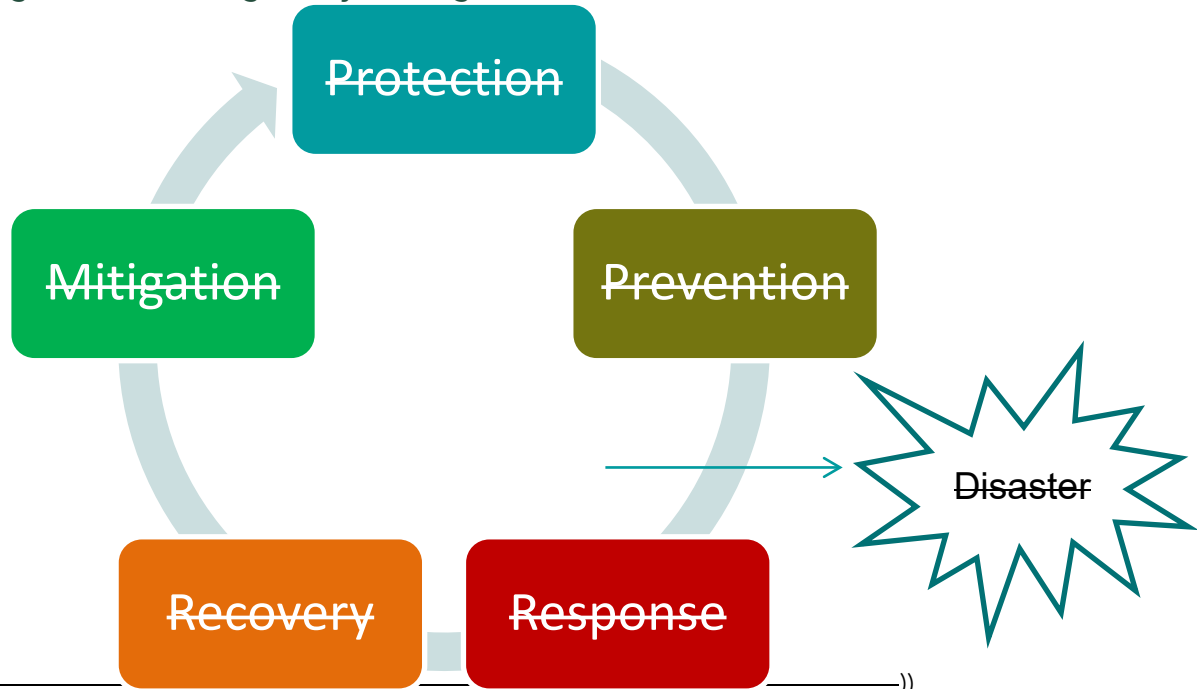
~~((E-513))~~ **E-610** King County shall allow development within coal mine hazard areas if the proposal includes appropriate mitigation for identified, mine-related hazards using best available engineering practices and if the development is in compliance with all other local, state, and federal requirements.

~~((E-514))~~ ~~King County shall require all landowners proposing new development in coal mine hazard areas to document the potential hazard on the title of the parcel or parcels being developed. This notice may include reference to any available technical studies or detailed hazard delineations.))~~

## VII. Planning for Disasters

King County has an active emergency planning program (that goes beyond the land use and supporting services planning that occurs through the Comprehensive Plan.) based on the five phases of emergency management (protection, prevention, response, recovery, and mitigation). (This work takes into account mitigation of hazard impacts prior to disasters, as well as the rebuilding of communities following a disaster. The following diagram illustrates the facets of planning for disasters:

**Figure: Resilient King County Planning Model**



King County is susceptible to multiple hazards including earthquakes, flooding, and landslides. (Based on the five phases of emergency management (depicted above);

t))The process of mitigation allows the ((c))County to build more resilient communities by assessing vulnerabilities((;)) and ((taking)) take sustained action to permanently eliminate or reduce risk to future disasters. These actions can inform land use planning, such as in in ((the C))critical ((A))areas ((Ordinance)) regulations.

When a disaster does occur, the process of recovery allows the ((e))County to review the Comprehensive Plan and its core principles, develop a recovery strategy by engaging the community, and rebuild the community in a way that sustains physical, emotional, social, and economic ((well-being)) wellbeing.

~~((E-601))~~ **E-701 King County shall ((incorporate into)) consider high-priority strategies and actions identified in the King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan or successor plans in its land use and transportation planning, economic development efforts, and natural resource management ((the most promising actions)), to reduce impacts from natural hazards((;)) such as earthquake, flooding, and landslides ((risk)).**

## VIII. Air Quality

### A. Overview

~~((Clean air, free of pollutants, is essential for the day-to-day quality of life and long-term health of county residents. King County has shown critical leadership in forging solutions to air pollution and will continue to do so well into the future.))~~

King County works ((for clean air)) to ensure clean and healthy air in partnership with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, which ((has)) serves as the lead air quality regulatory and monitoring ((responsibilities)) agency for the region in accordance with the Clean Air Act. ~~((Underlying drivers of the Clean Air Act include protecting public health, reducing property damage, and generally protecting the environment. Because air quality impacts water quality, a better understanding is needed regarding the input of pollutants via air transport from both local and distant sources.~~

)The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is the lead agency responsible for monitoring and regulating ((six-"))criteria air pollutants~~((“ using standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency. The six “criteria” air pollutants are:~~

- ~~• Fine particulate matter (dust, soot, smoke);~~
- ~~• Ground-level ozone (smog);~~
- ~~• Carbon monoxide (gas primarily from vehicle exhaust);~~
- ~~• Sulfur dioxide (gas primarily from industrial processes like smelters, paper mills, and power plants);~~
- ~~• Oxides of nitrogen; and~~
- ~~• Lead.)) (fine particulate matter, ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxide, oxides of nitrogen, and lead).~~

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency also focuses on reducing harmful air toxics that come ((primarily)) from wood smoke and diesel burning~~((, as well as))~~ and greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane from landfills. ~~((The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is also responsible for regulating))~~ They also regulate air pollution emissions ((of air pollution)), such as asbestos and gasoline vapors, from businesses. King County coordinates with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency on regional air quality data and on related community plans and projects.

Efforts to address climate change and improve air quality are strongly linked. For example, conversion from conventional to ~~((hybrid))~~ electric buses and fleet vehicles ~~((not only helps to))~~ reduces greenhouse gas emissions~~((, but also reduces))~~ and emissions of fine particulate~~((s))~~ matter that can be harmful to public health. Similarly, in indoor settings, conversion from gas to electric stoves and furnaces reduces indoor and outdoor pollution. Additionally, a likely impact of climate change on air quality is an increase in fine particulate matter from more wildfires and wildfire smoke episodes that can impact regional air quality and increase ground-level ozone because higher temperatures enhance the conversion of precursors into ground-level ozone. Ozone and fine particulate matter can exacerbate health conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and heart disease, and generally reduce respiratory system functioning. Because of these linkages, there is significant overlap ~~((with))~~ between this section and the climate change section of this chapter. ~~((Section II, subpart B of this chapter relates to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These strategies usually concurrently reduce other types of air pollution. Section II, subpart C of this chapter describes the linkages between climate change and health impacts, including policies related to minimizing health inequities among vulnerable populations more negatively impacted by climate change and air pollution:))~~

## B. Ozone, Fine Particulate and Toxics

Reducing criteria pollutants ~~((will))~~ continue to be a primary focus for King County. The ozone strategy identified by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency for the central Puget Sound region focuses on reducing volatile organic compounds, which are precursors to ozone formation. Emission of volatile organic compounds results mostly from vehicles, as well as to a significant degree from household chemicals and paint evaporation.

In addition to ozone, fine particulate~~((s))~~ matter (dust, soot, and smoke) also represent a serious health threat. Health studies have shown a significant association between exposure to fine ~~((particles))~~ particulate matter and premature death from heart or lung disease. Fine ~~((particles))~~ particulate matter can aggravate heart and lung diseases and have been linked to effects such as: cardiovascular symptoms; cardiac arrhythmias; heart attacks; respiratory symptoms; asthma attacks; and bronchitis. These effects can result in increased hospital admissions, emergency room visits, absences from school or work, and restricted activity days. Individuals that may be particularly sensitive to fine ~~((particles))~~ particulate matter exposure include people with heart or lung disease, ~~((older adults))~~ people aged 45 years and older, and children. Diesel emissions are one of the county's largest sources of fine particulate matter emissions. ~~((King County's participation in the ultra-low sulfur diesel program, known as "Diesel Solutions," has made tremendous strides in cleaning up King County Metro's fine particulate emissions:))~~ Indoor burning and outdoor burning are a major source of fine particulate~~((s))~~ matter, especially during winter months.

Contributions of fine particulate matter from wildfire smoke are also a growing concern. Climate change is contributing to an increase in the frequency of large wildfires in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia. As a result, King County is seeing more days in summer with degraded air quality. For example, in 2020, King County experienced 14 days of air quality identified as "unhealthy for sensitive groups" to "hazardous," due to smoke from fires near Portland, Oregon. In 2022, King County experienced more than 30 days with "moderate" to "very unhealthy" air quality due to smoke from the Bolt Creek fire near Skykomish. Public Health has partnered with community-based organizations to develop outreach materials on wildfire smoke hazards, to distribute box fans and air filters for indoor air filtration, and to set up HEPA air filtration units for homeless service providers, small businesses, childcare providers, and schools.

~~((As a large county with a mix of urban, Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands uses,))~~  
King County will continue to face risks from air ~~((toxics))~~ pollution that can be toxic to

people, pets, and wildlife. Examples of ~~((air toxics))~~ toxins that may be present in air pollution include benzene, formaldehyde, mercury, and dioxins. The air quality impact of ~~((toxics))~~ these toxins cannot be evaluated in isolation. Their greatest health risk comes from their combined effect. ~~((National air toxics assessment data indicate that air toxics risks in the Puget Sound region are in the top five percent in the nation.))~~ The Environmental Protection Agency and its regulatory partners at the state and local level identify steps to reduce toxic air pollutants and provide important health protections~~(:))~~ by reducing toxic emissions from industrial sources; reducing emissions from vehicles and engines through stringent emission standards and cleaner burning gasoline; and addressing indoor air pollution through voluntary programs.

Local air monitoring data done by the Washington State Department of Ecology indicates that diesel exhaust and wood smoke are key contributors to ~~((toxics))~~ air pollution toxins.

~~((In 2002, King County Metro became the first transit agency in the United States to test articulated hybrid-diesel electric buses. King County Metro currently owns 214 articulated hybrid buses, the largest such fleet in the nation. A National Renewable Energy Laboratory study found articulated hybrids provide a 30% reduction in greenhouse gases and are 40% more reliable than diesel fueled articulated buses.))~~ The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has adopted increasingly stringent air pollution standards for heavy-duty vehicles, which has significantly reduced air pollution. In 2020, Metro retired the last of its diesel-only fleet vehicles; the entire bus fleet is now either diesel electric hybrid or zero-emission. Metro has continued its efforts to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and has committed to transitioning to a fully zero emission bus fleet by 2035. As of 2023, Metro operates a fleet of more than 1,300 buses, comprised of approximately 1,145 diesel-electric hybrids, 174 zero emission trolleys, and 45 zero emission battery electric buses.

~~((Wood smoke is a leading contributor to air toxics. King County will examine proposals to curtail the impacts of woodstove burning and land-clearing practices in rural parts of the county.))~~

The focus of King County air quality improvement efforts is to engage in projects and changed practices ~~((to))~~ that reduce county emissions, reduce the impacts of poor air quality on health (particularly for frontline communities), and promote policies that incorporate consideration of air quality impacts. Motorized vehicle and other fuel burning engine-related emissions are the primary source of ozone, fine particulate matter, ~~((toxics))~~ toxins, and greenhouse gas emissions in King County and therefore should be a primary focus for emissions reduction.

~~((E-301))~~ **E-801** King County should support initiatives that reduce air pollution emissions due to indoor and outdoor wood burning consistent with the actions of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency to control this source of ((public health threat)) health impacts.

~~((E-302))~~ **E-802** King County ~~((will))~~ shall continue to actively develop partnerships with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, local jurisdictions, the state, and public, private, and ~~((not-for-profit))~~ nonprofit groups to promote programs, ~~((and))~~ policies, and code changes that reduce emissions and health impacts of ozone, wildfire smoke, fine particulates, toxics, and greenhouse gases, particularly for those populations already experiencing health disparities linked to air quality.



**E-803 King County shall encourage the use of methods to improve indoor air quality and reduce smoke infiltration into indoor environments during wildfire smoke events, particularly for populations already experiencing health disparities, such as air filtration technologies and other mechanisms that reduce the level of wildfire smoke that can make its way into indoor environments.**

((More detailed policies related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality can be found in Section II of this chapter, Chapter 8: Transportation, and Chapter 9: Services, Facilities and Utilities.

## ~~VII.))~~ IX. Monitoring and Adaptive Management

((King County's environment is constantly changing in response to land and water management actions that are within its control, as well as climate cycles and geologic processes that are beyond human control. The county makes significant investments in projects, programs, and policy implementation to help ensure that its environment supports a range of ecological, cultural and economic values that are fundamental to the region's quality of life.

King County's policies, regulations, and actions to protect and restore the environment need to be assessed on an ongoing basis to ensure that they are having the intended effect, and that they are responding to changing conditions. Efforts to protect the environment will also need to reflect improvements in knowledge about the natural environment and how human activity impacts ecological systems, and uncertainties about ecological and biological processes.))

Assessing the effectiveness of specific and cumulative actions requires data collected within rigorous monitoring programs. Monitoring provides essential information to track: (1) changes in the natural and built environment, (2) implementation of planned and required actions (like construction of wetland mitigation projects), and (3) effectiveness of environmental protection actions. Monitoring information ((can support)) is essential to supporting a formal ((A)) adaptive ((M)) management program to modify policies, goals, and management decisions as necessary, and inform regulatory change.

Adaptive management can be used to help ((insure)) ensure that projects, programs, and policies are moving the ((c)) County toward its environmental goals over time. Adaptive ((M)) management is defined as the process of making hypotheses of management outcomes, collecting data relevant to those hypotheses, and then using monitoring data to inform changes to policies and actions to better achieve intended goals. Adaptive management concepts are often applied in programs intended to address complex natural resource management problems, for example in Water Resource Inventory Area plans for salmon recovery or in Habitat Conservation Plans to comply with the Endangered Species Act. The Washington Administrative Code calls for local governments to use monitoring and adaptive management to address uncertainties in best available science for protecting critical areas like wetlands.

King County conducts a diverse array of monitoring activities, ((ranging from project-specific)) including monitoring of Capital Improvement Projects and legally required monitoring of municipal wastewater and stormwater discharges in compliance with ((National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)) NPDES permit requirements((; to)). Effectiveness monitoring is used to evaluate projects and programs to improve

project designs and ecosystem management activities. Ambient monitoring is performed watershed -wide ~~((ambient monitoring of)), encompassing~~ groundwater, rivers, streams, lakes, and marine waters of Puget Sound to the extent that funding allows. For example, King County maintains a continuous water quality monitoring program for freshwater streams, rivers, lakes, and marine waters. This long-term monitoring program informs the County's understanding of changes in water quality over time ~~((including those caused by climate change, and contributes to))~~ allowing for the identification of emerging pollution issues and sources of water pollution. ~~((The monitoring program also allows the quantification of water quality and aquatic habitat improvements.))~~ The status and trends information provided by long-term monitoring programs allows for better understanding of how systems are responding to pressures like climate change and human impacts. The data collected by these programs additionally provides the necessary baseline information for many scientific studies conducted in King County wetlands, lakes, streams, and marine waters by ~~((c))~~ County scientists, as well as scientists at universities and state and federal agencies.

Financial resources for environmental protection programs, including monitoring, are limited~~((Because baseline monitoring does not result in an actual project "on the ground," and often is not mandated, it may))~~ and generally do not compete well with other priorities for limited funding. However, investments in monitoring will provide essential information for evaluating the effectiveness of current actions and guiding future policy decisions, priorities, and investments. To make the most efficient use of limited resources, it is critical that the ~~((c))~~ County look for opportunities to coordinate its data collection and dissemination efforts so that they can meet as many information needs as possible. The ~~((c))~~ County should also partner with entities conducting monitoring, including other governments and universities.

~~((When data are collected, it is important that its usefulness is maximized. "Metadata" is background information on data, and is necessary to facilitate the understanding, use, storage, sharing, and management of data. For example, metadata can describe how a particular data set was collected, provide definitions for types of data, and describe the reliability of the data.~~

**~~E-701)) E-901~~ King County should conduct a comprehensive and coordinated program of environmental monitoring and assessment to track long-term changes in climate ~~((e.g.,))~~ such as precipitation~~((;))~~ and temperature), water quality and quantity, toxics in fish and shellfish, land use, land cover and aquatic and terrestrial habitat, natural resource conditions, and biological resources as well as the effectiveness of policies, programs, regulations, capital improvement projects, and stormwater treatment facility design. This monitoring program should be coordinated with Indian tribes, other jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, ~~((tribes,))~~ and universities to ensure the most efficient and effective use of monitoring data.**

**~~((E-702)) E-902~~ King County should seek to develop and maintain a publicly accessible~~((;))~~ geo-spatial database on environmental conditions to inform policy decisions, support technical collaboration, and inform the public. ~~((All King County monitoring data should be supported by metadata.~~**

**E-703)) E-903** King County should establish a decision-support system suitable for adaptive management that uses data from its environmental monitoring programs.

## ~~((A. Performance Measurement, Performance Management and KingStat~~

~~Like adaptive management in realm of science, performance management includes collecting data, analyzing data to inform decision-making, and making programmatic course corrections based on this analysis:))~~

King County reports to the public both community-level conditions and agency performance measures. Monitoring data referenced in this chapter serves as a core element of helping elected officials and the public stay informed about the state of the environment and the effectiveness of agency programs.

~~((The executive's KingStat program is using environmental monitoring data to assess environmental conditions, develop appropriate county responses, and provide an opportunity to collaborate and partner with other organizations in making improvements. With respect to environmental conditions, data used in KingStat includes marine water, freshwater, terrestrial habitat, fish and wildlife, atmosphere, and resource consumption.~~

**E-704)) E-904** King County should continue to collect data on key natural resource management and environmental parameters for use in ~~((KingStat, King County's Strategic Plan implementation goals and objectives, and other))~~ environmental ~~((benchmarking))~~ monitoring programs. Findings should be reported to the public, partner agencies, and decision-makers. The information collected should be used to inform decisions about policies, work program priorities and resource allocation.

## ~~((B. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Compliance~~

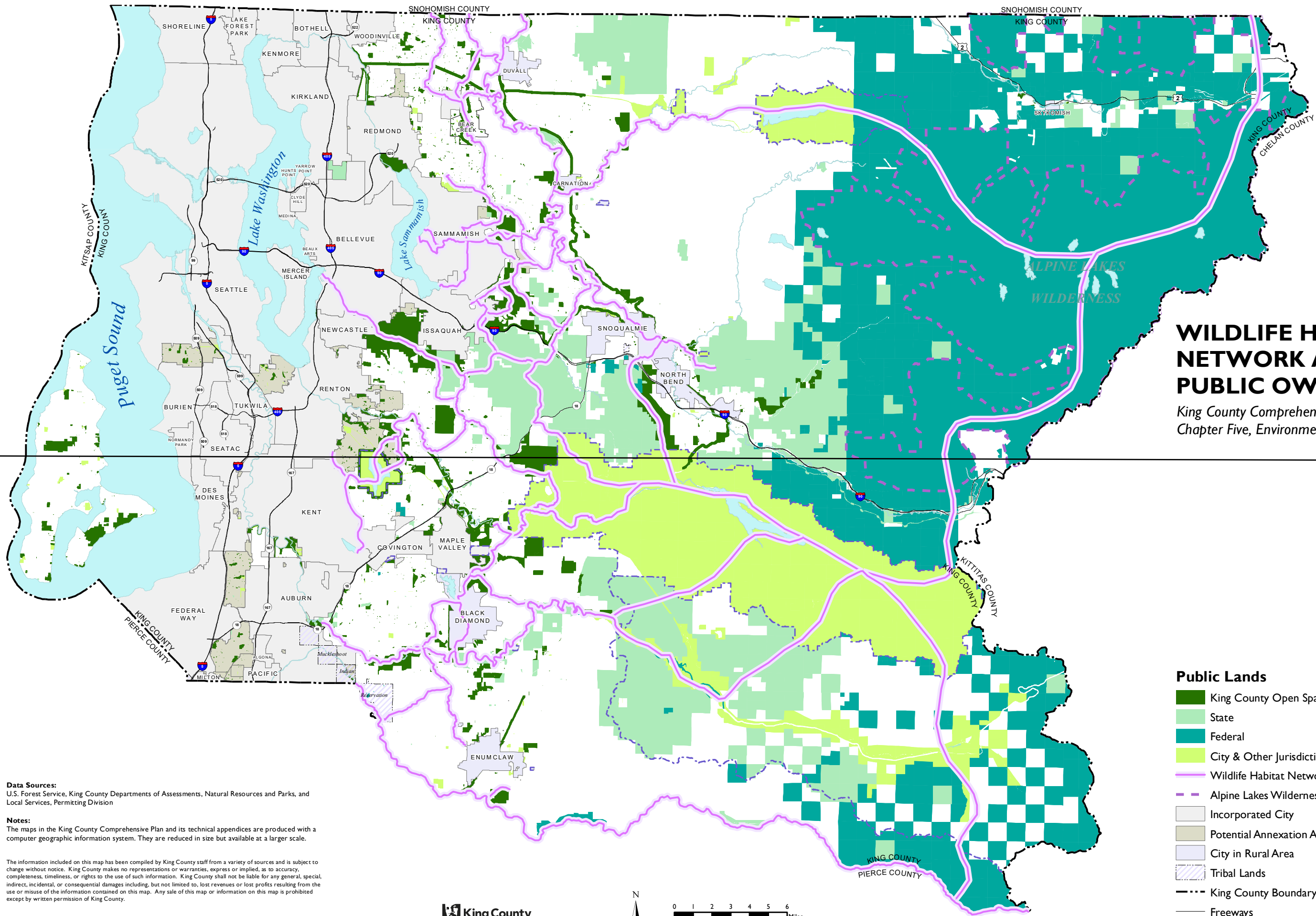
~~King County operates under a number of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits, including a general Phase I Municipal Stormwater permit, and a number of general Industrial and Sand and Gravel Stormwater permits for Transit, Solid Waste and Roads facilities. There are individual wastewater permits for wastewater treatment plants and a solid waste management facility. King County also is issued construction stormwater permits for capital projects involving land disturbance. Complying with these permits is a high priority for King County as part of its strategy for protecting ground and surface water quality.~~

## ~~C. Water Resource Inventory Areas Salmon Recovery Plan Implementation~~

## ~~D. Effectiveness of Critical Areas Regulations~~

~~Under the Growth Management Act, all counties and cities are required to periodically review their comprehensive plans and development regulations, including critical area regulations, for consistency with the Growth Management Act. Growth Management Act also requires local governments to include best available science in the development of land use policies and regulations to protect the functions and values of~~

4413 critical areas. Washington State Department of Commerce procedural criteria for  
4414 adoption of comprehensive plans and development regulations provide direction on  
4415 how local governments should include best available science in their critical area  
4416 regulations (Washington Administrative Code 365-195). The procedural criteria call for  
4417 the use of a precautionary approach, in which development and land use activities are  
4418 strictly limited until the uncertainty is sufficiently resolved, where the science is  
4419 uncertain.  
4420  
4421 Coupled with this precautionary approach should be an adaptive management  
4422 program that allows for changes to regulations as new information comes in to address  
4423 uncertainties. The adaptive management program is dependent upon a monitoring  
4424 program that is designed to obtain the information needed to determine the  
4425 effectiveness of regulations:))



# WILDLIFE HABITAT NETWORK AND PUBLIC OWNERSHIP 2020

King County Comprehensive Plan, 2020  
Chapter Five, Environment

**Data Sources:**  
U.S. Forest Service, King County Departments of Assessments, Natural Resources and Parks, and Local Services, Permitting Division

**Notes:**  
The maps in the King County Comprehensive Plan and its technical appendices are produced with a computer geographic information system. They are reduced in size but available at a larger scale.

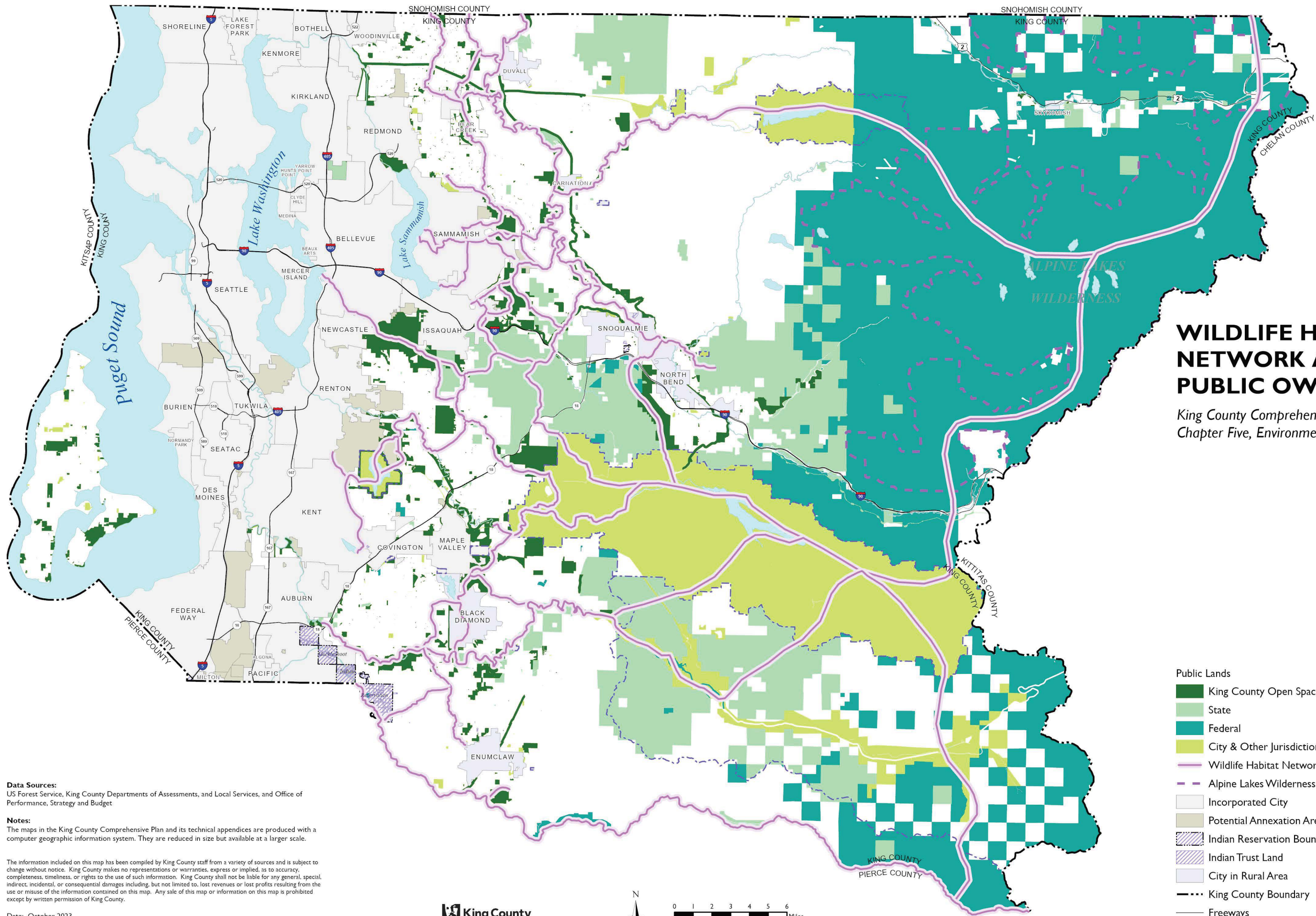
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## Public Lands

- King County Open Space System
- State
- Federal
- City & Other Jurisdiction
- Wildlife Habitat Network
- Alpine Lakes Wilderness
- Incorporated City
- Potential Annexation Areas
- City in Rural Area
- Tribal Lands
- King County Boundary
- Freeways
- Municipal Watershed





# WILDLIFE HABITAT NETWORK AND PUBLIC OWNERSHIP 2024

King County Comprehensive Plan, 2024  
Chapter Five, Environment

**Data Sources:**  
US Forest Service, King County Departments of Assessments, and Local Services, and Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

**Notes:**  
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Date: October 2023  
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- Public Lands
- King County Open Space System
  - State
  - Federal
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- Wildlife Habitat Network
- Alpine Lakes Wilderness
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- Potential Annexation Areas
- Indian Reservation Boundary
- Indian Trust Land
- City in Rural Area
- King County Boundary
- Freeways
- Municipal Watershed

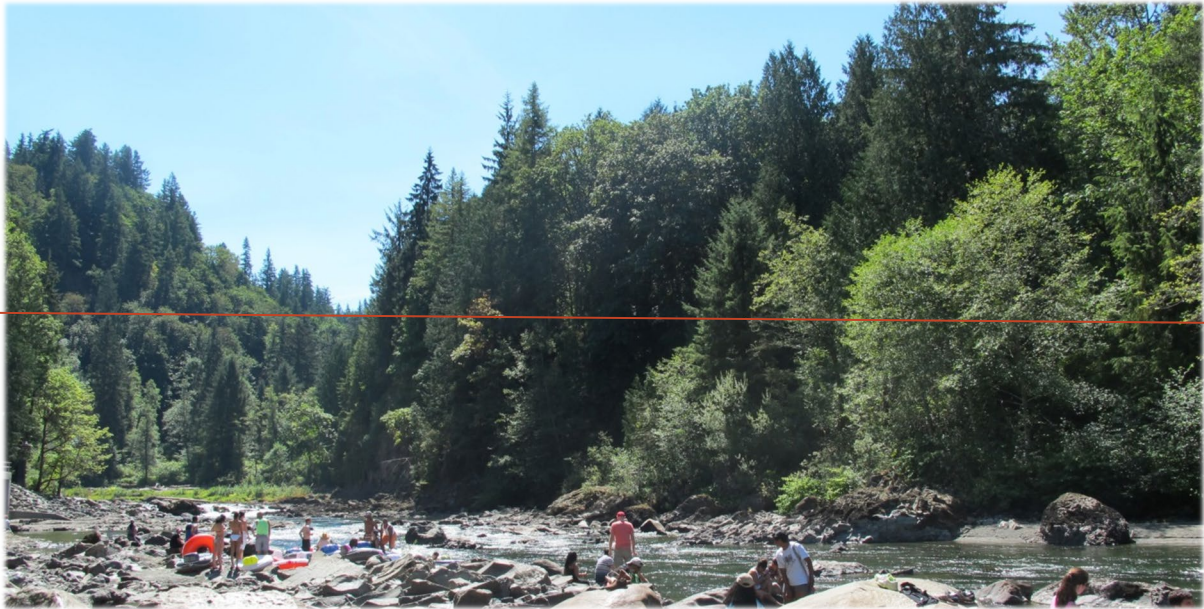




## CHAPTER 6

# SHORELINES





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## I. Introduction

### A. Recitals

King County adopts the following recitals, which are based on the Shoreline Management Act legislative findings in Revised Code of Washington 90.58.020. These recitals represent King County's belief and agreement that a coordinated approach to utilizing, managing, and protecting the shoreline resource is necessary and essential. ((These recitals apply to the shoreline jurisdiction.))

1. Shorelines are some of the most valuable and fragile of King County's natural resources. There is appropriate concern throughout the county relating to the utilization, protection, restoration, and preservation of the shoreline jurisdiction.
2. Ever increasing pressures of additional use are being placed on the shoreline jurisdiction, which in turn necessitates increased coordination in its management and development.
3. Much of the shoreline jurisdiction and the uplands adjacent thereto are in private ownership. Unrestricted construction on the privately owned or publicly owned shorelines is not in the best public interest; and therefore, coordinated planning is necessary ((in order)) to protect the public interest associated with the shoreline jurisdiction while recognizing and protecting private property rights consistent with the public interest.
4. There is a clear and urgent demand for a planned, rational, and concerted effort, jointly performed by federal, state, and local governments, to prevent the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of King County's shoreline jurisdiction.
5. It is the intent of King County to provide for the management of the shoreline jurisdiction by planning for and fostering all reasonable and appropriate uses.

This program is designed to ~~((insure))~~ ensure the development in a manner that, while allowing for limited reduction of rights of the public in the navigable waters, will promote and enhance the public interest.

6. King County shoreline policies are intended to protect against adverse effects to the public health, the land and its vegetation and wildlife, and the waters of the state and their aquatic life, while protecting generally public rights of navigation and corollary rights incidental thereto.
7. In the implementation of this chapter, the public's opportunity to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of natural shorelines shall be preserved to the greatest extent feasible consistent with the overall best interest of the state, the county, and the people generally. To this end uses shall be preferred which are consistent with control of pollution and prevention of damage to the natural environment or are unique to or dependent upon use of the state's shoreline.
8. Alterations of the natural condition of the shoreline jurisdiction, in those limited instances when authorized, shall be given priority for single ~~((family))~~ detached residences and their appurtenant structures~~((;))~~; ports~~((;))~~; shoreline recreational uses, including but not limited to, parks, marinas, piers, and other improvements facilitating public access to shorelines~~((;))~~; industrial and commercial developments that are particularly dependent on their location on or use of the shoreline jurisdiction~~((;))~~; and other development that will provide an opportunity for substantial numbers of the people to enjoy the shorelines.
9. Shorelines and shorelands in King County shall be appropriately designated and these classifications shall be revised when circumstances warrant, regardless of whether the change in circumstances occurs through man-made causes or natural causes. Any areas resulting from alterations of the natural condition of the shorelines and shorelands no longer meeting the definition of "shorelines of the state" shall not be subject to the provisions of King County Shoreline Master Program.
10. Permitted uses in the shorelines zone shall be designed and conducted in a manner to minimize, insofar as practical, any resultant damage to the ecology and environment of the shoreline jurisdiction and any interference with the public's use of the water.

## B. ~~((King County and))~~ King County Shorelines

### 1. Geography

King County covers 2,130 square miles and extends from Puget Sound in the west to 8,000-foot Mt. Daniel at the Cascade crest in the east. King County's shoreline jurisdiction includes saltwater coastline, river floodplains, and extensive lakes and streams.

### ~~((2. —King County's shoreline jurisdiction))~~

King County's diverse shorelines fringe or flow into Puget Sound. Puget Sound and surrounding lowland lakes and river valleys are relatively young in geologic terms. Puget Sound is a glacially~~((=))~~carved, deep fjord between the Cascade and Olympic mountains.

Puget Sound is King County's link to the Pacific Ocean via two connections: the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Strait of Georgia. Water, people, and a diverse array of fish and wildlife travel freely between the ocean and King County via Puget Sound and these Straits.

Puget Sound is a large estuary complex created by the freshwater it receives from streams, rivers and springs, and tidal exchange introduced through the two Straits. It is one of the more prominent and productive estuaries in the world. In 1988, it was identified as an Estuary of National Significance by the United States government. Within Puget Sound are numerous small to large estuaries. The largest estuary in King County is the Green-Duwamish, although it is now a small remnant of its pre-development state.

Puget Sound consists of five basins. King County's portion of Puget Sound lies within the Central Basin and includes Vashon-Maury Island. The Central ((or Main)) Basin extends from Admiralty Inlet to Tacoma Narrows. It is the largest and deepest of the basins. The major drainages to the Central Basin, including the Cedar River/Lake Washington watershed (including Lake Sammamish and the Sammamish River), the Green-Duwamish watershed, and the Puyallup River/White River watershed, drain a total area of about 2,700 square miles and contribute slightly less than 20((%)) percent of Puget Sound's freshwater input. The Snohomish watershed (including the Snoqualmie River Basin that lies mostly in King County) outlet into Puget Sound lies in Everett.

Shorelines of the State in King County, as defined by the Shoreline Management Act, include the total of all shorelines and shorelines of statewide significance. Shorelines include shorelands, which are defined as those lands extending landward for 200 feet from the ordinary high water mark, floodways and contiguous floodplain areas landward 200 feet from such floodways, and all associated wetlands and river deltas. King County currently includes the 100-year floodplain in its shoreline jurisdiction. Shoreline jurisdiction under the Shoreline Management Act does not include Indian tribal reservation lands or lands held in trust by the federal government for ((the)) Indian tribes.

Table S-1 below shows the number of shoreline miles managed under King County's Shoreline Master Program.

**Table S-1. Miles of shoreline under King County's jurisdiction**

Lake	River/Stream	Marine
((234)) 229	((1,696)) 1,690	51

((Puget Sound is located in a region that has great overlap between valuable natural resources and a burgeoning human population. The productivity, diversity and value of the resources are greatly affected by the extent and density of the population. Due to proximity to transportation routes and abundant food and water resources, most of the region's human development since the mid-1800s, when settlers of European descent started to explore and develop the region, has occurred along Puget Sound's shorelines, large lakes and rivers.



## ~~C. Washington State's Shoreline Management Act~~

### ~~1. Overview of)) 2. Washington State Shoreline Management Act~~

~~((Washington's Shoreline Management Act was passed by the Legislature in 1971 and adopted by the public in a 1972 referendum. The goal of the Shoreline Management Act is "to prevent the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state's shorelines."))~~

The Shoreline Management Act establishes a broad policy giving preference to uses that:

- Protect the quality of water and the natural environment,
- Depend on proximity to the shoreline ("water-dependent uses"), and
- Preserve and enhance public access or increase recreational opportunities for the public along shorelines.

The Shoreline Management Act establishes a balance of authority between local and state government. Cities and counties are the primary regulators but the state, through the Department of Ecology, has authority to review local shoreline master programs and shoreline permit decisions.

Under the Shoreline Management Act, ~~((each city and c))~~ the County adopts a Shoreline Master Program that is based on the Department of Ecology's Shoreline Master Program rules or guidelines, but tailored to the specific needs of the community. ~~((More than 200 cities and all 39 counties have Shoreline Master Programs. Local Shoreline Master Programs combine both plans and regulations. The plans are a comprehensive vision of how shoreline areas will be used and developed over time. Regulations are the standards that shoreline projects and uses must meet.~~

~~The Department of Ecology provides technical assistance to local governments undertaking Master Program amendments. Master Programs and Master Program amendments are only effective after approval from the Department of Ecology. In reviewing Master Programs, the Department of Ecology is limited to a decision on whether or not the Program is consistent with the policy and provisions of the Shoreline Management Act and the Department of Ecology's guidelines.))~~

Local governments may modify Master Programs to reflect changing local circumstances, new information, or improved shoreline management approaches. ~~((All changes to Master Programs require public involvement and approval from the Department of Ecology. At a minimum, local governments must hold public hearings.~~

~~In 2003, the Department of Ecology adopted revised state guidelines. Cities and counties with Shoreline Master Programs are required to update their Shoreline Master Programs to bring them into compliance with these new state guidelines.~~

### ~~2. History of shoreline management in King County~~

~~King County adopted its original Shoreline Master Program through two ordinances adopted by the King County Council and approved by the King County Executive, John Spellman, on May 2, 1978. Ordinance 3692 adopted the Shoreline Master Plan, which established the goals, objectives, and policies of the King County Shoreline Master Program. Ordinance 3688 adopted the development regulations that implemented the~~

Shoreline Master Plan. By a letter dated June 30, 1978, the Department of Ecology stated that it had approved King County's Shoreline Master Program.

The 1978 Shoreline Master Plan addressed the required elements of the shoreline guidelines originally adopted by the Department of Ecology in 1972. The 1978 Plan established goals, objectives, and policies for eight different shoreline elements. For each of the four shoreline environments, it also established general policies.

The 1978 Plan stated that:

"Each environment represents a particular emphasis in the type of uses and the extent of development that should occur within it. The system is designed to encourage uses in each Environment which enhance the character of the Environment while at the same time requiring reasonable standards and restrictions on development so that the character of the Environment is not destroyed."

Finally, the 1978 Shoreline Master Program included general policies for a variety of different shoreline use activities, including agriculture, mining, recreation, and residential development. Associated shoreline regulations establish the designation criteria, the allowed uses, and development standards for the four shoreline environments recognized by the 1972 state guidelines.

In 1990, the King County Council adopted regulations governing environmentally sensitive areas, some of which include areas also within shoreline jurisdiction. (Ordinance 9614) King County updated its critical areas regulations effective January 1, 2005. (Ordinances 15032, 15033, and 15034) King County's Critical Areas Regulations and its Shoreline Master Program both provide that the regulations that are most protective of the environment apply in the case of a conflict.

### ~~3. Shoreline jurisdiction under the Shoreline Management Act~~

## ~~D.)) C.~~ King County's Shoreline Master Program

The Shoreline Master Program adopted by King County provides a legal framework for decision-making on land use and other activities that complies with the Shoreline Management Act. This section describes the elements of the Shoreline Master Program, with the details being further ~~((developed))~~ described throughout this chapter.

### 1. Components of the Shoreline Master Program

The King County Shoreline Master Program consists of this chapter and the implementing shoreline management regulations.

This chapter describes King County's shoreline goals and policies. It addresses the shoreline jurisdiction, overall shoreline policy goals, shoreline element policies, Shoreline Master Program relationship to other laws, shoreline environment designations, environmental protection, shoreline use and modification, and administrative policies.

The terms "Shoreline Master Program," "Shoreline Program" and "Program" are all used throughout this chapter to describe King County's shoreline policies (this chapter) and shoreline management regulations in their entirety.

The following documents provide supporting information for these goals and policies:

**King County Shoreline Protection and Restoration Plan (September 2010):** The Shoreline Protection and Restoration Plan summarizes the methods and results of King County's shoreline analysis with respect to restoration planning, the elements and applicability of the restoration plan, and the ways in which shoreline restoration is expected to occur over time.

**King County Shoreline Public Access Plan (September 2010):** The Shoreline Public Access Plan includes an inventory of existing formal and informal shoreline public access opportunities in the unincorporated area, and identifies gaps in public access opportunities. The Shoreline Public Access Plan describes King County's priorities for providing new public access to major shorelines in the unincorporated area.

**King County Shoreline Cumulative Impacts Assessment (September 2010):** The Shoreline Cumulative Impacts Assessment provides a mechanism for examining the potential success of ~~((c))~~ County policies and regulations in meeting the goal of no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.

**King County Shoreline Inventory and Characterization (May 2007):** The Shoreline Inventory and Characterization includes the data and analytic methods used to develop King County's shoreline inventory and shoreline characterization (including evaluation of existing physical and shoreline ecological processes and functions, public access and recreation, land use and economic development, public facilities and utilities, and archaeological and historic resources). In addition, the Shoreline Inventory and Characterization includes methodologies for cumulative impact analysis associated with shoreline management and comprehensive shoreline restoration planning. ~~((Specific data can be found at: http://www.kingcounty.gov/shorelines.))~~

**King County Shoreline Map Folio ~~((and List))~~ (September 2010):** The Shoreline Map Folio includes all maps produced and referenced as part of the Shoreline Master Program, with the exception of those maps included in this chapter.

**King County Shoreline List (December 2020):** The King County Shoreline List includes all streams and lakes within the shoreline jurisdiction. ~~((All geographic information can be found at: http://www.kingcounty.gov/shorelines))~~

## 2. ~~((p))~~ Shoreline Policies

The Shoreline Master Program contains specific policies relating to a wide variety of shoreline uses and issues.

Shoreline policies establish broad shoreline management directives. They are statements of intent by King County that direct or authorize a course of action or specify criteria for regulatory or non-regulatory action. The policies serve as the basis for regulations that govern use and development along the shoreline.

King County's shoreline policies must:

1. Be consistent with the Shoreline Management Act;
2. Address the Master Program elements of Revised Code of Washington 90.58.100;
3. Include policies for environmental designations as described in Washington Administrative Code 173-26-211;
4. Be designed and implemented in a manner consistent with all relevant constitutional and other legal limitations on regulation of private property; and

5. Be consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan ~~((and functional plans adopted as components of the Comprehensive Plan))~~.

Shoreline policies provide a comprehensive foundation for the Shoreline Master Program regulations, which are more specific standards that are used to evaluate shoreline development proposals. King County must evaluate permit applications in light of the shoreline policies and may approve a permit only after determining that the development conforms to the policies in the Shoreline Master ~~((Plan))~~ Program.

In addition, shoreline policies assist in prioritizing King County's spending on facilities and services within shorelines of the state. Finally, the shoreline policies provide direction for regional issues such as resource management, environmental protection, transportation, inter-governmental coordination, and regional planning.

### 3. Shoreline Environments

The Shoreline Management Act requires that shoreline ~~((management))~~ programs classify shoreline areas into specific environment designations. ~~((The Department of Ecology's guidelines recommend six different environment designations, but does not require that local programs adopt this particular scheme. King County's 1978 Shoreline Master Program adopted the four environment designations recommended by the Department of Ecology at that time: Urban, Rural, Conservancy, and Natural. In this update King County is adopting eight environment designations in total, based on the recommendations from the Department of Ecology:))~~ These environment designations are ~~((:))~~ listed below and further discussed in the "Shoreline Environment Designations" section of this chapter.

- High Intensity Shoreline Environment
- Residential Shoreline Environment
- Rural Shoreline Environment
- Conservancy Shoreline Environment
- Resource Shoreline Environment
- Forestry Shoreline Environment
- Natural Shoreline Environment
- Aquatic Environment

~~**((High Intensity Shoreline Environment:**~~ Applied to areas that provide high-intensity water-oriented commercial, transportation, and industrial uses.

~~**Residential Shoreline Environment:**~~ Applied to accommodate residential uses at urban densities, while allowing for non-residential uses that are consistent with the protection of the shoreline jurisdiction.

~~**Rural Shoreline Environment:**~~ Applied to accommodate rural residential shoreline development, while allowing for rural non-residential uses that are consistent with the protection of the shoreline.

~~**Conservancy Shoreline Environment:**~~ Applied to protect and conserve the shoreline for ecological, public safety, and recreation, purposes. Includes areas with important shoreline ecological processes and functions, valuable historic and cultural features, flood and geological hazards and recreational opportunities. Residential areas can also be designated as conservancy shorelines.

**Resource Shoreline Environment:** Applied to allow for mining and agriculture land uses, except for shorelines that are relatively intact or that have minimally degraded shoreline processes and functions:

**Forestry Shoreline Environment:** Applied in areas to allow for forest production and protect municipal water supplies:

**Natural Shoreline Environment:** Applied to shorelines that are relatively intact or have minimally degraded shoreline processes and functions that are intolerant of human use:

**Aquatic Shoreline Environment:** Applied to the areas waterward of the ordinary high water mark:

#### 4 Shoreline program elements

The Shoreline Management Act identifies eight “program elements” that must be addressed and included in local shoreline master programs:

**Economic development element** that considers the location and design of industries, industrial projects of statewide significance, transportation facilities, port facilities, tourist facilities, commerce, and other developments that are particularly dependent on shorelines of the state:

**Public access element** that considers public access to publicly owned land along shorelines of the state:

**Recreational element** that identifies recreational opportunities along shorelines, such as parks, tidelands, beaches, and recreational areas, and that pursues acquisition through implementation of the King County Shoreline Master Program:

**Circulation element** that consists of the general location and extent of existing and proposed major thoroughfares, transportation routes, terminals, and other public utilities and facilities:

**Land use element** that considers the general distribution and location, as well as the extent of use on the shorelines and adjacent areas for housing, business, industry, transportation, agriculture, natural resources, recreation, education, public buildings and grounds, and other categories of public and private use of the land:

**Conservation element** that addresses the preservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, scenic vistas, aesthetics, and vital estuarine areas for fish and wildlife:

**Historic, cultural, scientific and educational element** that prevents the destruction of or damage to any site having historic, cultural, scientific, or educational value as identified by the appropriate authorities, including affected Tribes, and the state office of archaeology and historic preservation:

**Flood hazard element** that considers the prevention and minimization of flood damages:



#### 5.)) 4. Shoreline Modifications and Uses

((The Shoreline Management Act requires that local Shoreline Master Programs distinguish between shoreline modifications and shoreline uses:))

The Shoreline Management Act makes a distinction between a shoreline use and a shoreline modification. A shoreline use is an activity that is allowed within the shoreline((s)) jurisdiction. In most cases, ((in order)) to engage in an activity, the shoreline must be modified. Shoreline modifications often involve construction of a physical element, such as a dike, breakwater, dredged basin, or fill, as well as other actions such as clearing, grading, application of chemicals, or significant vegetation removal. This means that shoreline modifications are often undertaken in support of or in preparation for an activity along shorelines.

**Shoreline modifications** are generally related to construction of a physical element, such as a dike, breakwater, dredged basin, or fill, but can include other actions such as clearing, grading, or application of chemicals. A shoreline modification is usually undertaken in support of or in preparation for a shoreline use.

**Shoreline uses** are classified as "water-dependent," "water-related," "water-enjoyment," or "water-oriented."

**A water-dependent use** is a use or portion of a use that cannot exist in a location that is not adjacent to the water and that is dependent on the water by reason of the intrinsic nature of its operations.

**A water-related use** is a use or portion of a use that is not intrinsically dependent on a waterfront location but whose economic viability is dependent upon a waterfront location because:

- (a) The use has a functional requirement for a waterfront location such as the arrival or shipment of materials by water or the need for large quantities of water; or
- (b) The use provides a necessary service supportive of the water-dependent uses and the proximity of the use to its customers makes its services less expensive or more convenient.

**A water-enjoyment use** is a recreational use or other use that facilitates public access to the shoreline as a primary characteristic of the use; or a use that provides for recreational use or aesthetic enjoyment of the shoreline for a substantial number of people as a general characteristic of the use and which, through location, design, and operation, ensures the public's ability to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of the shoreline. In order to qualify as a water-enjoyment use, the use must be open to the general public and the shoreline-oriented space within the project must be devoted to the specific aspects of the use that fosters shoreline enjoyment.

**A water-oriented use** is a use that is water-dependent, water-related, water-enjoyment, or a combination of such uses.

## II. Shoreline Jurisdiction

### A. King County's Responsibility to Regulate Shorelines

#### ~~((1. King County assumes primary responsibility for shoreline planning and regulation~~

~~King County has primary responsibility for shoreline management planning and for the administration of shoreline regulations within its jurisdiction.~~

#### ~~**S-101 King County has primary responsibility within its boundaries for planning required by the Shoreline Management Act and for administering its shoreline regulatory program.**~~

~~King County recognizes that its Shoreline Master Program is subject to review and approval by the Washington State Department of Ecology and that the Shoreline Master Program must be consistent with the policies and provisions of the Shoreline Management Act (Revised Code of Washington 90.58).~~

#### ~~2. King County's Shoreline Master Program is intended to be consistent with the Shoreline Management Act & Guidelines~~

~~King County's Shoreline Master Program is intended to be consistent with the required elements of the Department of Ecology's guidelines for implementing the Shoreline Management Act that are found in Chapters 173-26 and 173-27 of the Washington Administrative Code. King County's Shoreline Master Program shall be interpreted consistently with the Shoreline Management Act. In the event of a conflict between Shoreline Management Act and King County's Shoreline Master Program, the Shoreline Master Program should be interpreted to give meaning and effect to the Shoreline Management Act.~~

#### ~~**S-102)) S-101 King County's Shoreline Master Program ((is to be)) shall be interpreted consistently with the policies and requirements of the Shoreline Management Act (Chapter 90.58 Revised Code of Washington ((90.58))) and the shoreline guidelines found in Chapters 173-26 and 173-27 of the Washington Administrative Code.**~~

#### ~~**((S-103 King County's Shoreline Master Program is to be interpreted consistently with the required elements of the shoreline guidelines found in Chapters 173-26 and 173-27 of the Washington Administrative Code.**~~

#### ~~3. King County's Shoreline Master Program is to be liberally construed~~

~~The Shoreline Management Act explicitly provides that it is exempt from the rule of strict construction and must be liberally construed to give full effect to the Act's objectives and purposes. By adopting a liberal standard of construction, the state Legislature demonstrated the importance it attached to protecting the shoreline and accomplishing the goals and policies of the Shoreline Management Act. Consistent with this mandate, and because King County believes that accomplishing the goals and objectives of the Shoreline Management Act within the county is of primary importance, the Shoreline Master Program is to be liberally construed to accomplish its objectives and purpose.~~

~~S-104 King County's Shoreline Master Program is exempted from the rules of strict construction and shall be construed liberally to give full effect to its objectives and purpose.))~~

## B. King County's Shoreline Jurisdiction

~~((1. Shoreline jurisdiction extends over all "shorelines" and "shorelines of statewide significance" within unincorporated King County))~~

The Shoreline Management Act applies to all "shorelines of the state," ~~((:" Shorelines of the state" are defined to))~~ which include "shorelines" and "shorelines of statewide significance." ~~((It is important to understand the distinction between the terms "shorelines" and "shorelines of statewide significance." Both))~~ These terms are used throughout the Shoreline Management Act and define the scope of King County's shoreline jurisdiction. The distinction is important because the Shoreline Management Act imposes greater and more specific obligations when dealing with shorelines of statewide significance.

a. **"Shorelines of the state"** are defined in the Shoreline Management Act as follows:  
"Shorelines of the state" are the total of all "shorelines" and "shorelines of statewide significance" within the state.

b. **"Shorelines"** ~~((Shorelines))~~ are defined in the Shoreline Management Act as follows:  
"Shorelines" means all of the water areas of the state, including reservoirs, and their associated shorelands, together with the lands underlying them; except (i) shorelines of statewide significance; (ii) shorelines on segments of streams upstream of a point where the mean annual flow is 20 cubic feet per second or less and the wetlands associated with such upstream segments; and (iii) shorelines on lakes less than 20 acres in size and wetlands associated with such small lakes.

~~((b.))~~ c. **"Shorelines of statewide significance,"** ~~((Shorelines of statewide significance,))~~  
as specifically defined in the Shoreline Management Act, include:

- Those areas of Puget Sound between the ordinary high water mark and the line of extreme low tides;
- Lakes, whether natural, artificial or a combination thereof, with a surface acreage of 1,000 acres or more measured at the ordinary high water mark; and
- Natural rivers or segments thereof downstream of a point where the mean annual flow is measured at 1,000 cubic feet per second or more.

In unincorporated King County, the water bodies that qualify as shorelines of statewide significance include:

- The marine waters around Vashon-Maury Island
- Northeast Lake Washington (north of Kirkland) and southwest Lake Washington (west of Renton)
- Lake Sammamish at Marymoor State Park and Lake Sammamish State Park
- Mud Mountain Reservoir and White River from river mile 15.5 to river mile 46 (excluding the Muckleshoot Indian Reservation between river mile 8.9

and river mile 15.5)

- Green River from its confluence with the Duwamish River to river mile 95
- Duwamish River from river mile 3.5 to river mile 5
- Chester Morse Lake (Reservoir)
- Tolt Reservoir
- Mainstem Snoqualmie River to river mile 43 and Middle Fork Snoqualmie River to river mile 39
- South Fork Skykomish River to river mile 30

Associated shorelands that are adjacent to shorelines of statewide significance are included within the shoreline of statewide significance jurisdiction.

**((c:)) d. "Shorelands"** ~~((Shorelines includes "associated shorelands" which))~~ are defined in the Shoreline Management Act as follows:

"Shorelands" or "shoreland areas" means those lands extending landward for two hundred feet in all directions as measured on a horizontal plane from the ordinary high water mark; floodways and contiguous floodplain areas landward 200 feet from such floodways; and all wetlands and river deltas associated with the streams, lakes, and tidal waters which are subject to the provisions of [Chapter 90.58 RCW].

**((d:)) e. Shoreline jurisdiction**

~~((King County's shoreline jurisdiction consists of the combination of shorelines, shorelines of statewide significance, and shorelands:~~

**~~S-105)) S-102~~ King County's shoreline jurisdiction extends over ~~((all)) the shorelines of the state((, as that term is defined in the Shoreline Management Act,)) and 100-year floodplain of the shorelines of the state in unincorporated King County. This includes ((jurisdiction over)) shorelines, shorelines of statewide significance, ((and)) shorelands, floodways, and the adjacent land extending 200 feet landward from the floodway.~~**

~~**((e. — Options to extend geographic jurisdiction over shorelines and shorelines of statewide significance**~~

~~The Shoreline Management Act gives King County two options concerning the scope of its shoreline jurisdiction:~~

~~The first option allows the county to include 100-year floodplains:~~

~~Any county or city may determine that portion of a one-hundred-year flood plain to be included in its master program as long as such portion includes, as a minimum, the floodway and the adjacent land extending landward two hundred feet therefrom. (Revised Code of Washington 90.58.030(2)(d)(i))~~

~~In its original Shoreline Master Program adopted in 1977, King County included the 100-year floodplain. The continued regulation of the 100-year floodplain is necessary to comply with certain federal requirements under the National Flood Insurance Program. Therefore, King County continues to extend its shoreline jurisdiction to cover 100-year floodplains:~~

**~~S-106~~ King County includes within its shoreline jurisdiction the 100-year floodplains of shorelines of the state.**

~~The second option allows the extension of shoreline jurisdiction to include land necessary for buffers for critical areas that extend beyond the 200 foot shoreland jurisdiction:~~

~~Any city or county may also include in its master program land necessary for buffers for critical areas, as defined in chapter 36.70A RCW, that occur within shorelines of the state, provided that forest practices regulated under chapter 76.09 RCW, except conversions to nonforest land use, on lands subject to the provisions of this subsection (2)(d)(ii) are not subject to additional regulations under Chapter 90.58 RCW. (Revised Code of Washington 90.58.030(2)(d)(ii))~~

~~King County is not exercising its option to extend its shoreline jurisdiction to include lands for buffers for critical areas:~~

**~~S-107)) S-103~~ Where critical areas are located within the shorelines of the state in ((the)) unincorporated King County ((shorelands)), the shoreline jurisdiction shall not include the critical area buffers that extend outside of the shoreline jurisdiction boundary.**

~~((2. Jurisdictional map))~~

Applying these definitions within King County has involved an extensive survey of the shoreline jurisdiction, which is discussed in detail in the King County Shorelines Inventory and Characterization (May 2007). The Shorelines of the State map at the end of this chapter generally shows the ((complete)) scope of King County's shorelines and shorelines of statewide significance.

### III. Shoreline Policy Goals

#### A. Introduction to Shoreline ((g))Goals

King County's shoreline has a long history of settlement because of the abundant natural resources, availability of water, and usefulness as transportation routes. The shoreline also draws people to enjoy the aesthetic and recreational value that marine beaches, lakes, and rivers provide. The shoreline supports some of the region's most important industries, such as shipping, fishing, and tourism.

Because of the unique and irreplaceable value of the shorelines of the state, King County recognizes that it is in the public interest to protect shoreline ecological processes and functions, while allowing reasonable and necessary use of shorelines to support the regional economy and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

The high demand for shoreline use over time has degraded shoreline ecological processes and functions in many areas. Many segments of King County's shoreline jurisdiction are devoid of native vegetation, the banks are hardened with additions of rock and other materials, sediment movement is no longer driven by natural forces, and valuable fish and wildlife habitat is gone or impaired to a significant extent. Unaltered shorelines are increasingly rare. It has become critical to restore and enhance degraded shorelines.



A vast majority of the shoreline jurisdiction, particularly in the lower parts of the regional watersheds and along the marine shorelines, is in private ownership, giving the residents of King County an important role in protecting unique and irreplaceable shoreline values. The challenge for King County is to manage these lands in a manner that protects, restores, and enhances King County's shoreline jurisdiction, while respecting private property rights and protecting the public interest.

~~((King County has established a set of general policy goals that provide overarching guidance for discretionary decision-making, support shoreline regulations, and define the vision that King County has for the use, protection, restoration and enhancement of the shorelines of the state. These policy goals reflect the wide range of Shoreline Management Act mandates, while at the same time preserving the maximum possible flexibility for King County to address the unique shoreline conditions within its jurisdiction.))~~

## B. Statement of Applicability

~~((The Shoreline Management Act includes a requirement that development proposals must obtain a shoreline substantial development permit. However, the Shoreline Management Act includes a number of exemptions from this requirement. For example, proposals to construct a single family residence or to construct a bulkhead to protect a single family residence are exempt from the requirement to obtain a substantial development permit. Activities that do not require a shoreline substantial development permit can, individually and cumulatively, adversely impact adjacent properties and natural resources. King County has both the authority and the responsibility to enforce Shoreline Master Program regulations on all uses and development in the shoreline jurisdiction. In order to ensure that permit-exempt activities comply with the Shoreline Management Act and the County's Shoreline Master Program, King County generally requires applicants with exempt projects to apply for a shoreline exemption.~~

~~Because there has been confusion in the past regarding the scope of the Shoreline Management Act, Ecology requires that all Master Programs contain the following policy statement:))~~

**S-201 All proposed uses and development occurring within King County's shoreline jurisdiction ((must)) shall conform to the Shoreline Management Act and to King County's Shoreline Master Program.**

**S-202 King County should require applicants with exempt projects to apply for a shoreline exemption.**

**((5-904)) S-203 Nothing in the King County Shoreline Master Program nor in any action taken under the Shoreline Master Program shall be construed to affect any Indian tribal treaty right to which the United States is a party.**

## C. Shoreline Preferred Uses

~~((The Shoreline Management Act establishes mandatory preferences for uses that are unique to or dependent upon a shoreline location. These preferred uses apply to the entire shoreline jurisdiction, both the shorelines and shorelines of statewide significance. The Shoreline Management Act preferred uses are recognized in the following policies:~~

**S-202)) S-204** In establishing and implementing shoreline policies and development regulations, King County shall give preference to uses that are unique to or dependent upon a shoreline location.

**((S-203)) S-205** King County, when determining allowable uses and resolving use conflicts in the shoreline jurisdiction, shall apply the following preferences and priorities in the order listed below:

- a. Reserve appropriate areas for protecting and restoring shoreline ecological processes and functions to control pollution and prevent damage to the natural environment and to public health.
- b. Reserve shoreline areas for water-dependent and associated water-related uses. Harbor areas, established pursuant to Article XV of the State Constitution, and other areas that have reasonable commercial navigational accessibility and necessary support facilities, such as transportation and utilities, should be reserved for water-dependent and water-related uses that are associated with commercial navigation, unless adequate shoreline is reserved for future water-dependent and water-related uses and unless protection of the existing natural resource values of such areas preclude such uses. Shoreline mixed-use developments may be allowed if they include and support water-dependent uses and address specific conditions that affect water-dependent uses.
- c. Reserve shoreline areas for other water-related and water-enjoyment uses that are compatible with ecological protection and restoration objectives.
- d. Locate single ((family)) detached residential uses where they are appropriate and can be developed without significant impact to shoreline ecological processes and functions or displacement of water-dependent uses.
- e. Limit nonwater-oriented uses to those locations that are inappropriate for higher priority uses or locations where the nonwater-oriented uses demonstrably contribute to the objectives of the Shoreline Management Act.

**((S-204)) S-206** In particular circumstances, the preferred use policies, the local economic and land use conditions, and the policies and regulations that ((assure)) ensure protection of shoreline resources may result in a determination that other uses may be considered as necessary or appropriate. These other uses may be accommodated, provided that the preferred uses are reasonably provided for throughout the shoreline jurisdiction.

## D. General Policy Goals

~~((The Shoreline Management Act policies of protecting shoreline ecological processes and functions, fostering reasonable use, and maintaining the public right of navigation and corollary uses result in certain mandatory policy goals for the shoreline jurisdiction.~~

~~These policies apply to both shorelines and shorelines of statewide significance. The policies are not ranked in a specific order. King County reserves the right to balance these general policies based on the unique circumstances, location and physical condition of the shoreline.~~

- S-205)) S-207** The following policy goals shall apply to all of the shoreline jurisdiction. The goals are not ranked in importance and have been assigned a ((number)) letter for identification purposes only.
- a. The use of the shoreline jurisdiction for those economically productive uses that are particularly dependent on shoreline location or use.
  - b. The use of the shoreline jurisdiction for public access and recreation.
  - c. Protection and restoration of the ecological processes and functions of shoreline natural resources.
  - d. Protection of the public right of navigation and corollary uses of waters of the state.
  - e. The protection and restoration of buildings and sites having historic, cultural, and educational value.
  - f. Planning for public facilities and utilities correlated with other shorelines uses.
  - g. Prevention and minimization of flood damage.
  - h. Recognizing and protecting private property rights.
  - i. Preferential accommodation of single ((family)) detached residential uses.
  - j. Coordination of shoreline management with other relevant local, state, and federal agencies and programs.

## E. Shorelines of Statewide Significance Policy Goals

((The Shoreline Management Act identifies certain shorelines as "shorelines of statewide significance" and raises their status by setting use priorities and by calling for a higher level of effort in implementing the Shoreline Master Program. The state legislature has declared that the interest of all people shall be paramount in the management of shorelines of statewide significance:

- S-206)) S-208** The interests of all people shall be paramount in the management of shorelines of statewide significance within King County.

The ((t))Legislature has established policy goals that govern shorelines of statewide significance. Significantly, these policy goals are ranked in order of preference, ((t.e.,)) meaning the first goal must be given priority over all subsequent goals.

The following policy recognizes and accepts the policy goals as directed by the Shoreline Management Act for shorelines of statewide significance:

- ((S-207)) S-209** In developing and implementing its Shoreline Master Program for shorelines of statewide significance, King County shall give preference, in the following order of preference, to uses that:
- a. Recognize and protect the statewide interest over local interest;
  - b. Preserve the natural character of the shoreline;
  - c. Result in long-term over short-term benefit;
  - d. Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline;
  - e. Increase public access to publicly owned areas of the shorelines;
  - f. Increase recreational opportunities for the public in the shoreline; and
  - g. Provide for any other element as defined in Revised Code of Washington 90.58.100.

**((5-208)) S-210** In developing and implementing policies relating to shorelines of statewide significance, King County shall provide for optimum implementation of policies that satisfy the statewide interest.

## ~~((F. State-Owned Shoreline Policy Goals~~

~~The state also owns property within King County. The Shoreline Management Act requires that certain policies be adopted with regard to shoreline land owned by the state. This is distinct from shorelines of statewide significance, which may or may not be in state ownership. Because state-owned shoreline is often adapted to providing recreational activities for the public, King County has given special consideration to these factors in developing the Shoreline Master Program.~~

## ~~G.)) E. Balancing Policy Goals~~

~~((The policy goals for the management of the shoreline jurisdiction have the potential for conflict. King County shorelines are considered among the most valuable and fragile of King County's natural resources. These shorelines are valuable for economically productive industrial and commercial uses, recreation, navigation, residential amenity, scientific research, and education. They are fragile because shorelines depend upon a balance between physical, biological, and chemical systems that may be significantly altered by both natural forces (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, storms, droughts, floods) and human activities (industrial, commercial, residential, recreation, navigational). Unbridled use of the shorelines ultimately could destroy their utility and value for human use.~~

**~~S-210)) S-211~~** The policy goals of King County's Shoreline Master Program relate both to the use and protection of the extremely valuable and vulnerable shoreline resources of the state.

**~~((5-211)) S-212~~** King County shall accommodate in the shoreline jurisdiction all reasonable and appropriate uses consistent with protecting against adverse effects to the public health, the land and its vegetation and wildlife, and the waters of the state, and consistent with public rights of navigation.

**~~((5-212)) S-213 ((The policy of achieving))~~** Development regulations shall provide both shoreline use and protection ~~((is reflected in the provision that))~~ by requiring permitted uses in the shoreline jurisdiction ~~((shall))~~ to be designed and conducted in a manner to avoid or minimize, in so far as practical, any resultant damage to the ecology and environment of the shoreline area and the public's use of the water.

**~~((5-213)) S-214~~** King County shall balance shoreline use and shoreline protection when meeting the policy goals of the Shoreline Management Act.

**~~((5-209)) S-215~~** King County should encourage and help facilitate the use of state-owned shorelines for public recreational activities, where appropriate.

## ~~((H. Multiple Approaches to Accomplishing Policy Goals~~

~~The policy goals in the Shoreline Master Program may be achieved through a variety of methods that go beyond simply regulating development within the shoreline~~

jurisdiction. There are a wide range of non-regulatory tools available that provide incentives for property owners to work cooperatively with King County to achieve these policy goals. In addition, King County works closely with other public and non-profit groups to achieve mutually beneficial objectives.

- ~~S-214))~~ **S-216** The King County Shoreline Master Program policies may be achieved by a number of different means, both regulatory and non-regulatory. These include, but are not limited to:
- a. Regulations controlling development within the shoreline jurisdiction;
  - b. Acquisition of land and easements by purchase, lease, or gift, either alone or in concert with other local governments;
  - c. Accepting grants, contributions, and appropriations from any public or private agency or individuals;
  - d. Public facility and park planning;
  - e. Watershed planning;
  - f. Voluntary salmon recovery projects; and
  - g. Incentive programs, such as the transfer of development rights or the public benefit rating system.

## IV. Shoreline Element Policy Goals

### ~~((A. Need for shoreline elements~~

The Shoreline Management Act requires local master programs to include a number of elements that range from use of shorelines for economic benefit and accommodating necessary infrastructure to protecting both cultural and natural resources. These elements are addressed separately throughout this chapter and are based on the following overarching King County Shoreline Master Program element policy goals:

### ~~B.))~~ A. Economic Development Element

~~((King County's economy is the largest and most significant in the Puget Sound Region and in Washington State. With almost half of the state's nonagricultural jobs and almost 83,900 businesses, it is essential that the King County accommodate the industries and infrastructure to support a healthy and vibrant economy. Most of the county's industry and infrastructure lies within the incorporated cities and is not subject to the King County Shoreline Master Program. However, there are some portions of the shoreline jurisdiction in unincorporated King County that provide for economic development of the region.))~~ The Economic Development Element considers the location and design of industries, industrial projects of statewide significance, transportation facilities, port facilities, tourist facilities, commerce, and other developments that are particularly dependent on shorelines of the state.

- S-301** King County should plan for the location and design of industries, transportation facilities, port facilities, tourist facilities, commerce, and other developments that are particularly dependent on their location on or use of the shorelines of the state.

### ~~((C.))~~ B. Public Access Element

~~((King County believes the shoreline should be accessible to the general public to enjoy and use within the limitations of private property rights and ecological considerations. Since a significant amount of shoreline property is in private ownership, the~~



responsibility to maintain and provide public access falls primarily on public projects. Not all sites are appropriate for use by the public and must be evaluated carefully to ensure that public access can be safely provided without harm. Provisions should also be retained and sought to provide opportunities for the public to enjoy views of the water and shoreline.))

The Public Access Element considers public access to publicly owned land along shorelines of the state. The King County Shoreline Public Access Plan (July 2009) provides details on the analysis of existing shoreline public access in King County, identified public access gaps and opportunities, and the resulting shoreline Public Access policies.

**S-302 King County shall:**

- a. **Support the public interest with regard to rights to access waters held in public trust by the state, while protecting private property rights and public safety, as well as considering impacts on shoreline ecological processes and functions.**
- b. **Protect the rights of navigation and the space necessary for water-dependent uses.**
- c. **To the greatest extent feasible and consistent with the overall best interest of the state and the people generally, protect the public's opportunity to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of shorelines of the state, including views of the water.**
- e. **Regulate the design, construction, and operation of permitted uses in the shorelines of the state to minimize, insofar as practical, interference with the public's use of the water.**

((When planning shoreline public access, King County should try to achieve an integrated system that can supplement, and be coordinated with, multimodal transportation planning. King County has identified areas of potential public access that will be assessed in more detail through shoreline permits and public projects. The King County Shoreline Public Access Plan (July 2009) provides details on the analysis of existing shoreline public access in King County, identified public access gaps and opportunities, and the resulting shoreline Public Access Plan.))

**S-303 The King County Shoreline Master Program should increase the amount and diversity of public access to the shoreline jurisdiction in areas identified within a shoreline public access gap. New public access should minimize impacts to shoreline ecological processes and functions, preserve natural shoreline character as much as possible, protect private property rights, and consider public safety.**

**S-304 Public agencies, including local governments, port districts, state agencies, and public utility districts, should include public access in their development proposals if public access is compatible with the activity and can be provided safely. An assessment of the impact of public access on the shoreline and constructed features should also be conducted.**

**S-305 King County shall require public access to shorelines of the state for land division of five or more lots, tracts, or parcels and ((water-enjoyment, water-related, and -dependent)) for new non-residential uses ((and for subdivisions of land into more than four parcels)) unless:**

- a. **The development proposal is not compatible with public access;**
- b. **There is a safety or security concern;**
- c. **Inclusion of public access will have an environmental impact that cannot be mitigated; or**

d. There are legal limitations on allowing public access.

**S-306** King County shall adopt development regulations that establish maximum building height limits, setbacks, and view corridors to minimize the impact to existing views from public property or a substantial number of residences. Where providing direct public access or allowing for water dependent shoreline uses conflicts with maintaining existing views, the direct public access or water dependent shoreline uses shall have priority.

## ~~((D))~~ C. Recreational Element

Shorelines provide many opportunities for recreation, such as boating, swimming, beach combing, hiking, and nature viewing. Since much of the shoreline jurisdiction is in private ownership, using public lands for recreation will become increasingly important. Opportunities should be sought through public projects to protect and enhance recreational opportunities. The Recreational Element identifies recreational opportunities along shorelines, such as parks, tidelands, beaches, and recreational areas, and pursues acquisition through implementation of the King County Shoreline Master Program.

**S-307** King County should protect and, when possible, expand recreational opportunities, including but not limited to parks, beaches, tidelands, swimming beaches, and boat launches.

**S-308** King County should evaluate opportunities to acquire shoreline property for purposes of public recreation from willing sellers of private property.

## ~~((E))~~ D. Circulation Element

~~((Circulation and transportation planning is conducted at many levels in King County. The overarching transportation planning agency in the Puget Sound region is the Puget Sound Regional Council, an association of cities, towns, counties, ports, and state agencies that serves as a forum for developing policies and making decisions about growth and transportation issues in the Puget Sound region. At the local level, cities and counties approve local circulation patterns for their individual jurisdictions. King County should consider the policy goals in this Shoreline Master Program when participating in regional and local transportation planning discussions.))~~ The Circulation Element consists of the general location and extent of existing and proposed major thoroughfares, transportation routes, terminals, and other public utilities and facilities.

**S-309** The King County Shoreline Master Program should guide the ~~((c))~~ County's transportation plans and projects within the shoreline jurisdiction.

## ~~((F))~~ E. Land Use Element

~~((Land use in King County is established through implementation of the Washington State Growth Management Act. To implement the Growth Management Act, King County relies primarily on the King County Comprehensive Plan and functional plans that are adopted as part of this Comprehensive Plan for facilities and services. This Comprehensive Plan establishes an Urban Growth Area and designates land use and zoning for the unincorporated portions of King County. It also delineates and protects Agricultural Production Districts, Forest Production Districts and mineral resource sites.))~~ The Land Use Element considers the general distribution and location, as well as the

extent of use on the shorelines and adjacent areas for housing, business, industry, transportation, agriculture, natural resources, recreation, education, public buildings and grounds, and other categories of public and private use of the land.

**S-310 The King County Comprehensive Plan should consider the policy goals of the King County Shoreline Master Program when designating land use and zoning on shorelines of the state and adjacent lands.**

## ~~((G))~~ E. Conservation Element

The Shoreline Management Act requires local master programs to include a conservation element for the preservation of natural resources, including critical areas, scenic vistas, aesthetics, and vital freshwater, saltwater and estuarine areas for fish and wildlife. The Conservation Element addresses the preservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, scenic vistas, aesthetics, and vital estuarine areas for fish and wildlife.

### ~~((1.))~~ Critical areas

~~King County's critical areas ordinance is based on best available science and protects coal mine hazard areas; erosion hazard areas; flood hazard areas; seismic hazard areas; landslide hazard areas; volcanic hazard areas; steep slope hazard areas; critical aquifer recharge areas; wetlands; aquatic areas (including lakes, rivers and streams and marine areas); and wildlife habitat conservation areas. The Growth Management Act requires that a Shoreline Master Program provide a level of protection for critical areas located within shorelines that assures no net loss of shoreline ecological functions necessary to sustain shoreline natural resources. Policy S-403 adopts this requirement.)~~

Past development of the shorelines has degraded the habitat for many species by activities such as armoring banks against wave action and the erosive force of water flowing downstream; removal of vegetation; straightening channels; installing in-stream structures for flood control, hydroelectricity, and water supply; and allowing stormwater runoff that degrades water quality. ~~((Degraded shorelines should be restored and shorelines that are in good condition should be preserved.))~~

**S-311 King County shall protect shoreline critical areas and, where possible, should restore degraded habitat and critical area functions and values.**

### ~~((2.))~~ Scenic vistas

The natural topography of King County provides numerous scenic vistas of the shoreline. King County should ensure that development occurring both within and outside the shorelines of the state avoids impacts on scenic vistas and protects view corridors while balancing other policy goals of this ~~((plan))~~ program.

**S-312 King County should consider and, when possible, require protection of scenic vistas of the shoreline jurisdiction when reviewing public and private development proposals.**

### ~~((3.))~~ Aesthetics

Natural shorelines are visually aesthetic in their natural state. When these shorelines are altered through development, the aesthetic value of the shoreline should be preserved as much as possible. In areas where shorelines have already been developed with little consideration of the aesthetics, restoration should return the shoreline to an aesthetically~~((=))~~ pleasing environment.

**S-313** King County should ensure that public and private development proposals protect and restore the aesthetic quality of shorelines in the project design.

## **((H)) G. Historic, Cultural, Scientific, and Educational Element**

The ((H))Historic, ((C))Cultural, ((S))Scientific, and ((E))Educational ((E))Element provides for protection and restoration of historic resources. Historic resources include historic building, sites, objects, districts and landscapes, prehistoric and historic archaeological resources, and traditional cultural places.

**S-314** Historic resources in the shoreline jurisdiction should be protected to prevent the destruction of, or damage to, any site having archaeological, historic, cultural, or scientific value through coordination and consultation with the appropriate Indian tribal, local, state, and federal authorities(~~(, including affected tribes)~~).

- a. ~~((Sites should be protected in collaboration with appropriate tribal, state, federal, and other local governments:))~~ Cooperation among public and private parties ~~((is to))~~ should be encouraged in the identification, protection, and management of cultural resources.
- b. Where appropriate, access to such sites should be made available to parties of interest. Access to such sites ~~((must))~~ shall be designed and managed in a manner that gives maximum protection to the resource.
- c. Opportunities for education related to archaeological, historical, and cultural features should be provided where appropriate and incorporated into public and private programs and development.

**S-315** King County should work with Indian tribal, state, federal, and local governments to maintain an inventory of all known historic resources. King County shall protect these inventories from public disclosure to the extent permitted or required under applicable federal and state law. As appropriate, such sites should be preserved and restored for study, education, and public enjoyment to the maximum possible extent.

**S-316** Provisions for historic resource preservation, restoration, and education should be incorporated with open space or recreation areas in site development plans whenever compatible and possible.

**S-317** Cooperation among ~~((involved private and public))~~ parties should be encouraged to ~~((achieve these))~~ protect historic, cultural, scientific, and educational ~~((objectives))~~ resources.

**S-318** Private and public owners of historic resources should be encouraged to provide public access and educational opportunities at levels consistent with long term protection of both historic values and shoreline ecological processes and functions. Site-specific conditions may require public site access to be restricted at times, but educational means should be provided whenever possible.

- S-319** Historic resource development should be planned and carried out so as to prevent impacts to the resource. Impacts to neighboring properties and other shoreline uses should be limited to temporary or reasonable levels.
- S-320** Owners of historic resources are encouraged to make ((substantial development)) plans known well in advance of application so that appropriate agencies, such as Indian tribes, the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, ((Tribes)) and others, may have ample time to assess the site and make arrangements to preserve historic, cultural, scientific, and educational values as applicable.
- S-321** If development is proposed adjacent to an historic resource, the proposed development should be designed and operated so as to be compatible with continued protection of the historic, cultural, or archaeological resource.

## V. Shoreline ((Plan)) Master Program Relationship To ((Other Laws)) County Regulations

### ~~((A. Washington's Growth Management Act~~

~~The Growth Management Act, passed by the Washington State Legislature in 1990 and 1991, seeks to further protect the quality of life in Washington State. The Growth Management Act requires that the state's most populous and fastest growing counties and their cities prepare comprehensive land use plans that anticipate growth for a 20-year horizon. Smaller communities and those communities that are experiencing a slow rate of growth may choose to plan under the Growth Management Act, but are not required to do so. Comprehensive Plans adopted in accordance with the Growth Management Act must manage growth so that development is directed to designated urban areas and away from the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. The Growth Management Act also requires local governments to designate and protect critical areas and to identify and protect natural resource lands, which include commercially significant forestry, agriculture, and mining areas. In 1997, the Washington State Legislature amended both the Growth Management Act and the Shoreline Management Act in an effort to achieve consistency between the two statutes. Among the amendments to the Growth Management Act was a provision that makes the policies and goals of the Shoreline Management Act also policies and goals of the Growth Management Act. See Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.480.~~

~~**S-401** The King County Shoreline Master Program must be consistent with the Washington State Growth Management Act.~~

### ~~B. King County Countywide Planning Policies~~

~~King County, along with the City of Seattle, City of Bellevue, and suburban cities established the Growth Management Planning Council to prepare a coordinated policy framework for future development in King County. In July 1992, the Growth Management Planning Council adopted Phase 1 of the Countywide Planning Policies. Phase 2 was adopted in 1994. The King County Countywide Planning Policies have~~



been ratified by a majority of the jurisdictions in King County and therefore apply to all jurisdictions. The Countywide Planning Policies address critical areas, land use patterns, transportation, community character and open space, affordable housing, development and provision of urban services, siting of public capital facilities, economic development, and regional financing and governance.

**~~S-402~~ The King County Shoreline Master Program must be consistent with and coordinated with the King County Countywide Planning Policies.**

## ~~€.))~~ A. Critical Areas Regulations

Critical areas located within shorelines are regulated under the Shoreline Management Act and implemented through local Shoreline Master Programs. ~~((The Growth Management Act requires that shoreline master programs provide a level of protection for shoreline critical areas that assures no net loss of shoreline ecological functions necessary to sustain shoreline natural resources.~~

**~~S-403)) S-401~~ The King County Shoreline Master Program ~~((and implementing regulations))~~ shall provide a level of protection for critical areas in the shoreline jurisdiction that ~~((assures))~~ **ensures** no net loss of shoreline ecological functions necessary to sustain shoreline natural resources.**

~~((The Shoreline Management Act provides options for assuring consistency with the Growth Management Act protection of critical areas. These options range from including the Growth Management Act critical areas regulations in the Shoreline Master Program to preparing a discrete set of shoreline regulations.~~

**~~S-404)) S-402~~ The King County Shoreline Master Program includes by reference portions of the King County critical areas regulations into the Shoreline Master Program to meet the requirements of Revised Code of Washington 90.58.090~~((3))~~ and 90.58.090~~((4))~~.**

## ~~((D.))~~ B. Zoning, Clearing and Grading, and Stormwater Regulations

King County has adopted a wide array of development regulations that protect various aspects of the environment and implement other King County policies. These regulations generally include King County's surface water management regulations, clearing and grading regulations, and zoning. In the shoreline jurisdiction, the Shoreline Master Program may impose additional requirements. Shoreline ~~((development))~~ management regulations must:

1. Be sufficient in scope and detail to ensure implementation of the Shoreline Management Act ~~((statewide))~~ shoreline ~~((management))~~ policies, this chapter, and the King County Comprehensive Plan and functional plans ~~((adopted to implement the Comprehensive Plan));~~
2. Include regulations that apply to the environmental designations classified under Washington Administrative Code 173-26-211;
3. Include general regulations, specific use regulations that address issues of concern in regard to specific uses, and modification regulations;
4. Include clearing and grading and stormwater regulations that protect the ecological processes and functions of the shorelines; and
5. Design and implement regulations and mitigation standards in a manner consistent with all relevant constitutional and other legal limitations on the regulation of private property. ~~((Revised Code of Washington 90.58.100))~~

However, to the extent that it can, consistent with requirements of the Shoreline Management Act, King County will rely on its existing regulations to meet the requirements of the Shoreline Management Act.

**~~S-405)) S-403~~ To the maximum extent practical, King County's Shoreline Master Program shall rely on King County's existing regulations, including critical areas regulations, surface water management regulations, clearing and grading regulations, and zoning ((in-order)) to comply with the Shoreline Management Act and the Department of Ecology's guidelines.**

## ~~((E.)) C.~~ Flood ~~((Hazard))~~ Management Plan

The King County Flood ~~((Hazard))~~ Management Plan directs floodplain management within King County. This Plan was developed in coordination with incorporated cities within King County as directed by Revised Code of Washington 86.12.210 and is binding on each jurisdiction located within King County. The goals of the King County Flood ~~((Hazard))~~ Management Plan are:

- ~~((1. To reduce the risks from flood and channel migration hazards.~~
- ~~2. To avoid or minimize the environmental impacts of flood hazard management.~~
- ~~3. To reduce the long-term costs of flood hazard management.))~~
  1. To reduce risks from flooding and channel migration and support resilient, viable communities and economies.
  2. To achieve multi-benefit flood risk reduction outcomes that preserve, restore, and enhance the natural functions of flood-prone areas; improve floodwater storage and conveyance; contribute to habitat restoration; honor tribal sovereign rights, including treaty-reserved fishing, hunting, and gathering rights; and meet other needs identified by local communities.
  3. To implement flood risk reduction solutions that are comprehensive, community-based, and climate-resilient, and that reduce long-term costs of flood risk reduction.

Flood hazard regulations are implemented within unincorporated King County. Each jurisdiction within King County is required under the Flood ~~((Hazard))~~ Management Plan to adopt flood hazard management regulations that meet the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program.

~~((In 2007, the King County Council approved the formation of a countywide Flood Control Zone District under the authority in Revised Code of Washington 86.15.025. The overarching countywide strategies and objectives include:~~

- ~~1. Improving levee protection through major commercial, industrial and residential areas;~~
- ~~2. Improving flood water conveyance and capacity;~~
- ~~3. Reducing hazards by removing flood, erosion, and landslide prone residential structures;~~
- ~~4. Providing safe access to homes and businesses by protecting key transportation routes;~~
- ~~5. Minimizing creation of new risks to public safety from development pressure.~~

~~The King County Flood Control Zone District is governed by a District Board of Supervisors that consists of the members of the King County Council. An advisory committee advises the board of supervisors of the Flood Control Zone District on regional flood protection issues by providing recommendations to the board of supervisors on the district's work program and budget, including capital improvement~~

program projects. King County will rely on the Flood Hazard Management Plan and the Flood Control Zone District to meet the general shoreline master program provisions for flood hazard reduction in Washington Administrative Code 173-26-221(3).

**~~S-406~~) S-404 The King County Shoreline Master Program ((with)) shall rely on the policies and programs established in the King County Flood ((Hazard)) Management Plan and flood hazard regulations to meet the requirements of the Shoreline Management Act and the Department of Ecology's guidelines for flood hazard reduction.**

## VI. Shoreline Environment Designations

### A. Introduction ~~((to shoreline environment designations))~~

Shoreline management addresses a wide range of physical conditions and development settings.)) The Shoreline Master Program classifies shoreline reaches into defined environment designations, based on the existing use pattern, the current biological and physical character of the shoreline, and the goals and aspirations of the community. King County prescribes environmental protection measures, allowable use provisions, and development standards for each shoreline environment designation.

King County has established eight shoreline environment designations:

- ~~((A:))~~ High Intensity Shoreline Environment
- ~~((B:))~~ Residential Shoreline Environment
- ~~((C:))~~ Rural Shoreline Environment
- ~~((D:))~~ Conservancy Shoreline Environment
- ~~((E:))~~ Resource Shoreline Environment
- ~~((F:))~~ Forestry Shoreline Environment
- ~~((G:))~~ Natural Shoreline Environment
- ~~((H:))~~ Aquatic Environment

This section sets forth the purpose, criteria, and management policies for each shoreline environment designation. The Shoreline Environment Designation map((s)) at the end of this chapter show how the environment designations apply to shoreline reaches within the shoreline jurisdiction in unincorporated King County. ~~((Shoreline areas that meet the jurisdictional criteria, but that are not mapped or designated, are assigned a Conservancy designation until the Shoreline Master Program is amended to assign a shoreline environment to that shoreline reach.))~~

**S-501 Shoreline areas that are not mapped or designated shall be assigned a Conservancy Shoreline Environment until the Shoreline Master Program is amended to assign a shoreline environment designation to that shoreline reach.**

### 1. Shoreline Environment Designation Criteria

~~((King County has a long history of comprehensive planning and basin planning. Beginning in the 1980s, basin plans were developed throughout the county and helped identify fragile aquatic resources. Relying on these plans, King County has assigned zoning that is appropriate given the nature of the resources that need protection. As a result, fragile resources generally have zoning classifications that permit only low intensity development. King County's zoning regulations limit high intensity~~

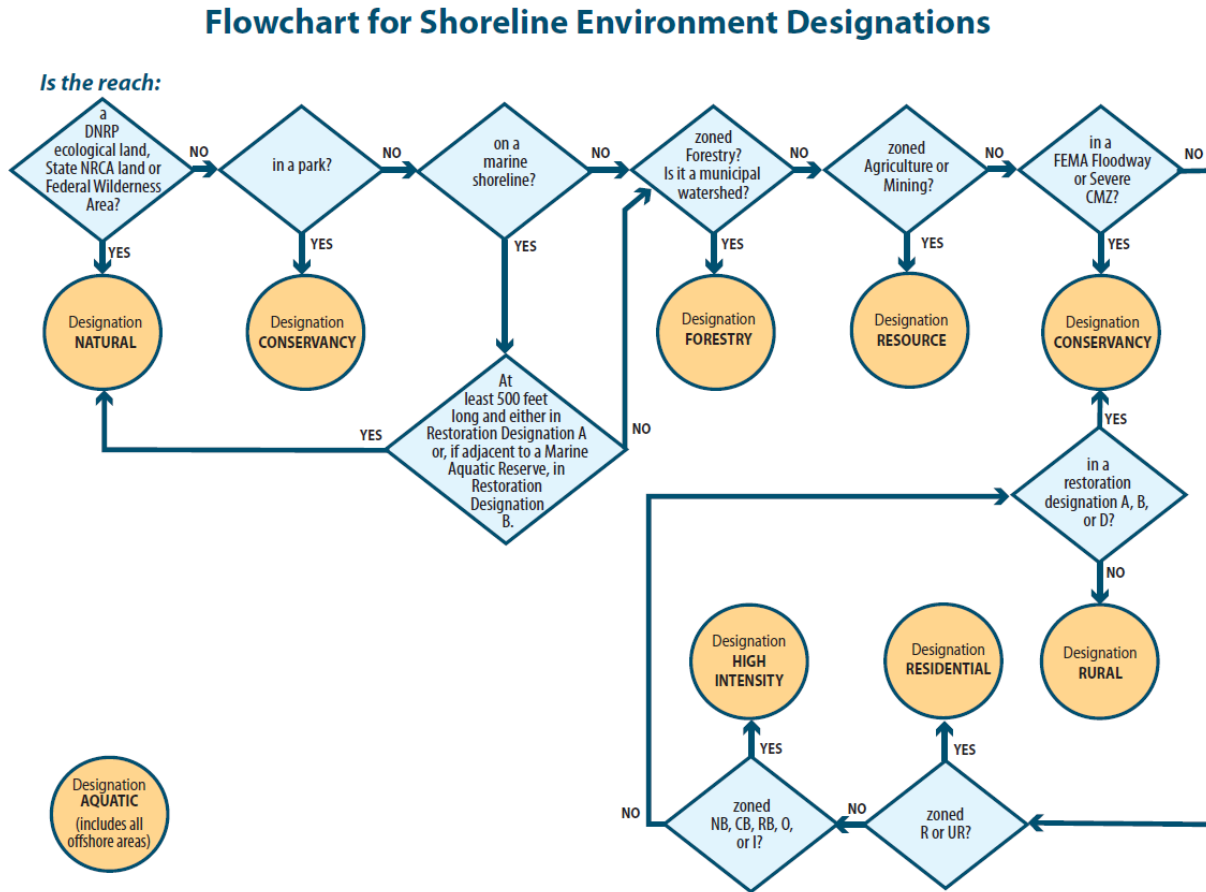
development to urban areas designated under the Countywide Planning Policies and the King County Comprehensive Plan.

King County recognizes, however, that zoning by itself is insufficient to determine the shoreline environment designations. Other factors are also important in assuring)) To ensure that the shoreline environment designations help King County achieve the goals of the Shoreline Management Act((- These factors include,)) the following factors are considered for a given shoreline:

- Existing development patterns together with zoning, the King County Comprehensive Plan land use designations and other officially adopted plans;
- Existing shoreline ecological processes and functions and the degree of human alteration;
- Whether the reach has a restoration priority that demonstrates it has both basin conditions and existing shoreline condition that support extra efforts to maintain shoreline ecological processes and functions and the length of such reaches;
- Indian tribal, ((F))federal, state, county, ((tribal)) and municipal watershed ownership status;
- The goals of King County residents for their shorelines as set forth in this chapter;
- Pursuant to Revised Code of Washington 90.58.100(((4))), for state-owned shorelines the public demand for wilderness beaches and other recreational activities and for ecological study areas; and
- Other state policies in the Shoreline Management Act and the Department of Ecology's guidelines (Revised Code of Washington 90.58.020 and Chapter 173-26 Washington Administrative Code ((173-26)), respectively).

Figure S-1 depicts the decision((-)making process that is used to determine the appropriate shoreline environment designation for a given shoreline.

**Figure S-1: Pathway of decisions in applying criteria to produce shoreline environment designations.**



The shoreline environment designations take into account several elements. Areas currently meeting the criteria for high levels of protection are given greater levels of protection. The determination of whether an area deserves a greater level of protection is based either on its current ownership and condition, ((e.g.)) such as publicly owned natural areas or wilderness areas, or on its restoration rating. The restoration rating is discussed in more detail below. Zoning is also an important criterion. King County has for years implemented zoning as a means to protect more sensitive areas from intense development. Shoreline environment designations also take into account whether a reach is located within a floodway and severe channel migration hazard area and gives greater protection to these areas due to their importance in maintaining shoreline ecological processes and functions and because of public health and safety concerns.

The restoration rating (see King County Shoreline Protection and Restoration Plan (July 2009)) is included in the shoreline environment designation as a way to incorporate more strongly the current degree of alteration along the shoreline, the biological importance of the reach in a watershed context, and the restoration priorities associated with the combination of the two analyses. The restoration ((designations)) ratings are largely concerned with whether it is most appropriate to implement measures to protect or conserve a site, restore it to a previous condition, or undertake projects to enhance its current condition or to create new features with shoreline ecological processes and functions. These ratings also provide guidance on areas where it is important to protect existing shoreline ecological processes and functions.



Restoration ratings combine the reach characterization based on the results from an alterations analysis with the context of basin analyses (See Table S-2). The reach or drift cell characterization is an assessment of the extent to which ecosystem structure, processes, and, ultimately, functions for a reach or drift cell are affected by anthropogenic factors. Scores resulting from this assessment are indicative of the degree to which shoreline ecological processes have been altered and impaired. The reach characterizations are found in King County Shoreline Inventory and Characterization: Methodology and Results (May 2007). The basin analysis is based on the Basin Condition Map ((adopted by the King County Council)) in King County Code 21A.24.065.

**Table S-2. Restoration ((scores)) ratings and associated actions.**

Restoration Score	Basin Condition	Reach Condition	Actions
A	High	High	Conserve, Preserve
B	High	Moderate	Conserve, Preserve, Restore, Enhance
C	High	Low	Restore, Enhance
D	Moderate	High	Conserve, Enhance, Restore, Preserve
E	Moderate	Moderate	Conserve, Enhance, Restore
F	Moderate	Low	Enhance, Restore
G	Low	High	Enhance, Conserve
H	Low	Moderate	Enhance, Create
I	Low	Low	Enhance, Create

Each ((designation)) rating has specific restoration goals associated with it, based on the conditions observed on-site and in the basin. Depending on condition, as indicated by the degree of alteration, reaches and drift cells were placed into one of nine categories of preferred actions. These range from preservation and conservation under the highest conditions (high basin and reach conditions, ((i.e.,)) meaning the least altered from natural) to enhancement and creation under the poorest condition (low basin and reach conditions, the most altered from natural).

The various actions are defined as follows:

**Preserve** - To protect intact processes, often through acquiring lands or easements to exclude activities that may negatively affect the environment.

**Conserve** - To maintain biodiversity by protecting or increasing the natural potential of landscapes to support multiple native species. Typically, this is accomplished through financial incentives for landowners intended to offset any economic loss resulting from managing the land for conservation.

**Restore** - To transform degraded conditions to a close approximation of historical conditions. Restoration generally involves more intense and extensive modification and manipulation of site conditions than would occur with enhancement projects. Example actions include levee breaching, removal, or setback.

**Enhance** - To improve a targeted ecological attribute and/or process. Example actions may include culvert replacement, riparian plantings and fencing, invasive species removal, and streambank stabilization.

**Create** - To construct or place habitat features where they did not previously

exist ((in order)) to foster development of a functioning ecosystem. Examples include tidal channel excavation and the placement of dredge material intended to create marsh or other habitat. Creation represents the most experimental approach and, therefore, may have a lower degree of success, particularly when landscape-scale ecological processes are not sufficient to support the created habitat type.

The marine shoreline((, which in unincorporated King County occurs only)) around Vashon-Maury Island(;) is treated a little differently than freshwater shorelines in the designation strategy. This is in recognition of both the differing character of marine shorelines, which are subject to tidal influences, wakes from large commercial vessels, and some variation in the ecological processes affecting them, as well as the creation of the Maury Island Environmental Aquatic Reserve along Maury Island and Quartermaster Harbor shorelines by the Washington state Department of Natural Resources. More protection by shoreline designation was afforded to marine shorelines with active feeder bluffs and little alteration to processes. As a result, in these areas, areas with a restoration rating of A or B were designated natural in recognition of the importance of conserving existing shoreline ecological functions and processes in this area.

## B. High Intensity Shoreline Environment

### 1. Purpose

((The purpose of the High Intensity Shoreline Environment is to provide for high intensity water-oriented commercial and industrial uses.))

**S-502 The purpose of the High Intensity Shoreline Environment is to provide for high intensity water-oriented commercial and industrial uses.**

### 2. High Intensity Shoreline Environment Designation Criteria

~~((S-501))~~ **S-503** A shoreline may be designated High Intensity Shoreline Environment if the shoreland is characterized by high intensity development or uses or is zoned Neighborhood Business (NB), Commercial Business (CB), Regional Business (RB), Office (O), or Industrial (I), and:

- a. The shoreland does not contain limitations on urban uses, such as geological hazards or flood hazards; and
- b. The shoreline does not provide important shoreline ecological processes and functions that would be significantly compromised by high intensity residential, commercial, or industrial use.

### 3. High Intensity Shoreline Environment Management Policies((:))

~~((S-502))~~ **S-504** In the High Intensity Shoreline Environment, King County shall give priority to non-residential land uses that are water-dependent or water-related.

((5-503)) **S-505** King County shall discourage non((-))water-oriented, non-residential land uses in the High Intensity Shoreline Environment. Shoreline mixed-use developments that include and support water dependent uses may be allowed. King County should allow non((-))water-oriented land uses in the High Intensity Shoreline Environment only in limited situations and only if they do not conflict with or limit opportunities for water-dependent uses or are located on sites where there is no direct access to the shoreline.

((5-504)) **S-506** Prior to allowing expansion of a high intensity non((-))water-oriented use in the shoreline environment, King County shall determine that there is no feasible alternative for locating the expansion outside of the shoreline jurisdiction.

((5-505)) **S-507** King County should require visual or physical public shoreline access to be provided ((whenever feasible)) in the High Intensity Shoreline Environment.

((5-506)) **S-508** King County shall protect the aesthetic character of the shoreline in the High Intensity Shoreline Environment through development regulations, including sign controls, development siting criteria, screening requirements and architectural standards, landscaping requirements, and maintenance of natural vegetation.

((5-507)) **S-509** King County shall require that the scale and intensity of new uses and development within the High Intensity Shoreline Environment is compatible with, and protects or enhances, the existing character of the area.

## C. Residential Shoreline Environment

### 1. Purpose

((The purpose of the Residential Shoreline Environment is to accommodate residential and commercial uses on a scale appropriate with urban residential zones.))

**S-510** The purpose of the Residential Shoreline Environment is to accommodate residential and commercial uses on a scale appropriate with urban residential zones.

### 2. Residential Shoreline Environment Designation Criteria

((5-508)) **S-511** A shoreline may be designated Residential Shoreline Environment if the shoreland is characterized by urban levels of residential development or uses or is zoned Urban Residential (R) or Urban Reserve (UR) and:

- a. The shoreland does not contain limitations on urban uses, such as geological hazards or flood hazards; and
- b. The shoreline does not provide important shoreline ecological processes and functions that would be significantly compromised by urban levels of residential development.

### 3. Residential Shoreline Environment Management Policies((:))

((5-509)) **S-512** King County shall require that the scale and intensity of new uses and development within the Residential Shoreline Environment is

compatible with((;)) and protects or enhances the existing character of the area.

((5-510)) **S-513** King County should encourage ((public or private)) outdoor recreation facilities that are compatible with the character of the area in the Residential Shoreline Environment. Water-dependent and water-enjoyment recreation facilities that provide opportunities for people to access and enjoy the shoreline are preferred uses in the Residential Shoreline Environment.

((5-511)) **S-514** King County should discourage non((-))water-oriented commercial uses in the Residential Shoreline Environment. A non((-))water-oriented commercial use may be allowed as part of a shoreline mixed-use development or if the non((-))water-oriented use provides a substantial benefit with respect to the goals and policies of this Program, such as providing public access or restoring degraded shorelines.

## D. Rural Shoreline Environment

### 1. Purpose

((The purpose of the Rural Shoreline Environment is to accommodate land uses normally associated with rural levels of development while providing appropriate public access and recreational uses to the maximum extent practicable.))

**S-515** The purpose of the Rural Shoreline Environment is to accommodate land uses normally associated with rural levels of development while providing appropriate public access and recreational uses to the maximum extent feasible.

### 2. Rural Shoreline Environment Designation Criteria

((5-512)) **S-516** A shoreline may be designated Rural Shoreline if the shoreland is characterized by rural levels of development or if the shoreland is zoned Rural Area (RA-2.5, RA-5, RA-10, and RA-20) and:

- The shoreland does not contain limitations on rural residential uses, such as geological hazards or flood hazards; and
- The shoreline does not provide important shoreline ecological processes and functions that would be significantly compromised by rural levels of residential development.

### 3. Rural Shoreline Environment Management Policies((;))

((5-513)) **S-517** King County should limit uses in the Rural Shoreline Environment to those rural development activities and associated services that sustain the shoreline's physical and biological resources and that protect options for restoration to the maximum extent ((practicable)) feasible given the nature of rural development.

((5-514)) **S-518** King County ((should)) shall require that ((multi-family and multi-lot)) residential land division and recreational developments in the Rural Shoreline Environment provide public access and joint use for community recreational facilities, where appropriate.

## **E. Conservancy Shoreline Environment**

### **1. Purpose**

((The purpose of the Conservancy Shoreline Environment is to conserve areas that are a high priority for restoration, include valuable historic properties or provide recreational opportunities:))

**S-519** The purpose of the Conservancy Shoreline Environment is to conserve areas that are a high priority for restoration, include valuable historic properties, or provide recreational opportunities.

### **2. Conservancy Shoreline Environment Designation Criteria**

((5-515)) **S-520** A shoreline may be designated Conservancy Shoreline Environment if it is in an area where important shoreline ecological processes have not been substantially degraded by human activities, where important shoreline ecological processes would be degraded by development or present a public health or safety risk, or where the shoreline is in public ownership and is managed for public access or recreation. Areas that may be included in Conservancy Shoreline are:

- a. Shoreline reaches primarily within an identified FEMA floodway or severe channel migration hazard zone;
- b. Lake shorelines or river shorelines with a restoration ((plan)) rating of A, B, or D;
- c. Marine shorelines with a restoration ((plan)) rating of A, B, or D; and
- d. Shorelines in public ownership and managed for public access or recreation.

### **3. Conservancy Shoreline Environment Management Policies((:))**

((5-516)) **S-521** King County should limit uses in the Conservancy Shoreline Environment to those that sustain the shoreline area's physical and biological resources or to uses of a nonpermanent nature that do not substantially degrade the rural or natural character of the shoreline area or disturb historic and cultural resources. King County should discourage non-residential uses in the Conservancy Shoreline Environment except as follows:

- a. King County should allow aquaculture, forestry, and agriculture in the Conservancy Shoreline Environment; and
- b. King County should allow water-dependent and water-enjoyment recreation facilities as preferred uses if significant adverse impacts to the shoreline are mitigated.

((5-517)) **S-522** King County shall require that new uses or development in the Conservancy Shoreline Environment preserve the existing character of the shoreline consistent with the purpose of the environment, including:

- a. Limiting the total effective impervious surface in the shoreline jurisdiction to no more than ((ten)) 10 percent ((in-order)) to maintain the existing hydrologic character of the site; and



- b. Allowing more effective impervious surface coverage on lots legally created prior to the date of adoption of this update to King County's Shoreline Master Program. In these cases, effective impervious surface coverage shall be limited to the maximum extent ((practicable)) feasible.

## F. Resource Shoreline Environment

### 1. Purpose

((The purpose of the Resource Shoreline Environment is to allow for mining and agricultural uses on lands that have been designated under the Growth Management Act as agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance or mineral resource lands where those lands do not provide significant shoreline ecological processes and functions:))

**S-523 The purpose of the Resource Shoreline Environment is to allow for mining and agricultural uses on lands that have been designated under the Growth Management Act as agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance or mineral resource lands where those lands do not provide significant shoreline ecological processes and functions.**

### 2. Resource Shoreline Environment Designation Criteria

**((S-510)) S-524 A shoreline may be designated Resource Shoreline Environment if the shoreland is zoned Agriculture or Mineral and the shoreline is not designated Natural Shoreline Environment under Policy S-525.**

### 3. Resource Shoreline Environment Management Policies((:))

**((S-519)) S-525 King County should limit uses in the Resource Shoreline Environment to agricultural and mining activities.**

**((S-520)) S-526 King County shall adopt development standards for the Resource Shoreline Environment to preserve the existing character of the shoreline consistent with the purpose of the environment.**

## G. Forestry Shoreline Environment

### 1. Purpose

((The purpose of the Forestry Shoreline Environment is to allow for forestry uses in the Forest Production District and to protect municipal watersheds.))

**S-527 The purpose of the Forestry Shoreline Environment is to allow for forestry uses in the Forest Production District and to protect municipal watersheds.**

### 2. Forestry Shoreline Environment Designation Criteria

**((S-524)) S-528 A shoreline may be designated Forestry Shoreline Environment if the shoreland is within the Forest Production District and the shoreline is not designated as a Natural Shoreline or a Conservancy Shoreline Environment.**

### 3. Forestry Shoreline Environment Management Policies((:))

**((S-522)) S-529 King County shall require forest practices in the Forestry Shoreline Environment to comply with standards that provide protection for shoreline ecological processes and functions equal to or greater than the forest practice rules adopted by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources ((and in effect on January 1, 2007)).**

**((S-523)) S-530 King County shall allow activities related to the direct management and delivery of municipal domestic water supplies in the Forestry Shoreline Environment only when consistent with municipal domestic water supply best management practices.**

**((S-524)) S-531 King County shall allow agricultural and aquaculture uses within the Forestry Shoreline Environment if the use is subject to appropriate limitations or conditions to ensure that the use does not expand or alter practices in a manner inconsistent with the purpose of the designation.**

## H. Natural Shoreline Environment

### 1. Purpose

((The purpose of the Natural Shoreline Environment is to protect those shoreline areas that are relatively free of human influence and are of high ecological quality. This designation allows only very low intensity uses in order to maintain the existing high levels of ecological process and function.))

**S-532 The purpose of the Natural Shoreline Environment is to protect those shoreline areas that are relatively free of human influence and are of high ecological quality. This designation allows only very low intensity uses to maintain the existing high levels of ecological process and function.**

### 2. Natural Shoreline Environment Designation Criteria

**((S-525)) S-533 A shoreline may be designated Natural Shoreline Environment if the shoreline is:**

- a. Of high ecological quality and is performing an important, irreplaceable ecological process or function that would be damaged by human activity;

- b. Unable to support new development or uses without significant adverse impacts to shoreline ecological processes and functions or risk to human safety;
- c. A federally designated wilderness area or in an area managed by the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks as natural lands; or
- d. A marine shoreline reach that extends at least five hundred feet along the ordinary high water mark and either has a restoration plan rating of A or has a restoration plan rating of B and is located adjacent to the Maury Island Marine Aquatic Reserve.

### 3. Natural Shoreline Environment Management Policies((:))

~~((5-526))~~ **S-534** King County shall not allow new shoreline armoring in the Natural Shoreline Environment.

~~((5-527))~~ **S-535** King County shall ~~((not allow))~~ prohibit the following new uses in the Natural Shoreline Environment:

- a. Commercial uses;
- b. Industrial uses;
- c. Nonwater-oriented recreation uses that require shoreline modification ~~((in order))~~ to provide shoreline access;
- d. Mining and associated facilities, such as docks, piers, and loading facilities; and
- e. Transportation facilities, utility corridors, and parking areas that can be located outside of the Natural Shoreline Environment.

~~((5-528))~~ **S-536** King County may allow single ~~((family))~~ detached residential development in the Natural Shoreline Environment as a shoreline conditional use if the scale and intensity of the use is limited to protect shoreline ecological processes and functions and is consistent with the purpose of the environment. King County shall require new subdivisions and short~~((-))~~ subdivisions in the Natural Shoreline Environment to locate new structures and impervious surfaces outside of the shoreline jurisdiction to the maximum extent ~~((practicable))~~ feasible.

~~((5-529))~~ **S-537** King County shall allow scientific, historical, cultural, and educational research uses in the Natural Shoreline Environment if no significant ecological impact on the area will result.

~~((5-530))~~ **S-538** Except for removal of noxious weeds or invasive vegetation as provided for in Policy S-~~((645))635~~, King County shall not allow vegetation removal in the Natural Shoreline Environment that will reduce the capability of vegetation to perform normal ecological processes and functions.

~~((5-531))~~ **S-539** King County shall allow agricultural and aquaculture uses of a very low intensity nature within the Natural Shoreline Environment if the use is subject to appropriate limitations or conditions to ensure that the use does not expand or alter practices in a manner inconsistent with the purpose of the designation.

~~((5-532))~~ **S-540** King County shall allow passive and low~~((-))~~ impact recreational activities in the Natural Shoreline Environment. New passive and low impact recreation activities shall use designs that avoid or minimize impacts to shoreline processes and functions. Maintenance of trails and

campsites shall minimize disturbance, and restoration of impacted areas is encouraged.

((5-533)) **S-541** King County should use tax incentives, easements, and buyouts to protect shorelines in the Natural Shoreline Environment with important fish and wildlife habitat at risk from moderate to high intensity development.

## I. Aquatic Environment

### 1. Purpose

((The purpose of the Aquatic Environment is to protect, restore, and manage the unique characteristics and resources of the areas waterward of the ordinary high water mark.))

**S-542** The purpose of the Aquatic Environment is to protect, restore, and manage the unique characteristics and resources of the areas waterward of the ordinary high water mark.

### 2. Aquatic ((Shoreline)) Environment Designation Criteria

((5-534)) **S-543** A shoreline shall be designated Aquatic if it is waterward of the ordinary high water mark ((of the shoreline)).

### 3. Aquatic ((Shoreline)) Environment Management Policies((:))

((5-535)) **S-544** King County shall allow new in-water and over-water structures in the Aquatic ((Shoreline)) Environment only for water-dependent uses, public access, or ecological restoration.

((5-536)) **S-545** King County shall limit the size of new over-water structures in the Aquatic ((Shoreline)) Environment to the minimum necessary to support the structure's intended use.

((5-537)) **S-546** King County shall encourage multiple uses of over-water facilities in the Aquatic ((Shoreline)) Environment ((in order)) to reduce the impacts of shoreline development and increase the effective use of water resources.

((5-538)) **S-547** King County shall require all developments and uses on navigable waters or their beds in the Aquatic ((Shoreline)) Environment to be located and designed to minimize interference with surface navigation, to consider impacts to public views, and to allow for the safe, unobstructed passage of fish and wildlife and materials necessary to create or sustain their habitat, particularly those species dependent on migration.

((5-539)) **S-548** King County shall not allow uses in the Aquatic ((Shoreline)) Environment that adversely impact the ecological processes and functions of critical saltwater and freshwater habitats, except when necessary to achieve the objectives of Revised Code of Washington 90.58.020, and then only when the adverse impacts are mitigated according to the sequence described in Washington Administrative Code 173-26-201(((2)(e))) as necessary to ((assure)) ensure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.

((S-540)) S-549 King County shall consider the guidance in the Maury Island  
Aquatic Reserve Management Plan in making decisions about  
permitted uses in the shoreline jurisdiction.

## VII. Environment Protection Policies

### A. General Environmental Protection Policy Goals

((The Department of Ecology's guidelines recognize that shoreline ecological processes and functions may be impaired not only by shoreline developments that are required to obtain shoreline substantial development permits, but also by past actions, unregulated activities, and developments that are exempt from the shoreline substantial development permit requirements. The loss or degradation of shoreline ecological processes and functions from any of these activities can significantly impact shoreline natural resources and may also adversely impact human health and safety.))

The concept of ecological processes and functions recognizes that any ecological system is composed of a wide variety of interacting physical, chemical, and biological processes. These processes are interdependent in varying degrees and at different scales, and that result in the landscape, habitats and species as they exist at any time. Ecological functions are the work performed or roles played individually or collectively within ecosystems by these processes.

Nearly all shoreline areas, even substantially developed or degraded areas, retain important ecological processes and functions that contribute to the survival and successful reproduction of plants and animals. For example, an intensely developed harbor area may also have an important function as a fish migration corridor and feeding area critical to species survival. In addition, ecosystems are interconnected and many species may depend on the functioning of multiple systems for critical resources. As examples, anadromous fish depend upon the viability of freshwater, marine, and terrestrial shoreline ecosystems, and many wildlife species associated with shorelines depend on the functioning of both terrestrial and aquatic environments. Therefore, the policies for protecting and restoring ecological processes and functions should apply to the maximum extent practical to all shoreline areas, not just those that remain relatively unaltered.

#### 1. Cumulative Impacts and "No Net Loss" of Ecological Processes and Functions

The Shoreline Management Act requires that King County's Shoreline Master Program achieve no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions from new uses or development, and that it address the cumulative impacts on shoreline ecology that would result from future shoreline development. ((The Shoreline Management Act also requires local governments to plan for restoration of shoreline ecological processes and functions where they have been impaired, thus working towards actual improvement in shoreline ecological processes and functions.)) The following policies ensure that King County will address cumulative impacts of existing and proposed shoreline development and work towards improving shoreline ecological processes and functions.



~~((S-608))~~ **S-601** The ~~((King County))~~ Shoreline Master Program shall consider the cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable future development to ensure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.

~~((S-604))~~ **S-602** King County shall ensure that new uses, development, and redevelopment within the shoreline jurisdiction do not cause a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.

~~((S-609))~~ **S-603** The Shoreline Master Program is intended to fairly allocate the burden of addressing cumulative impacts. King County should adopt policies and regulations that are designed to avoid the need for individualized cumulative impacts analysis for commonly occurring and planned development.

~~((S-602))~~ King County should protect shorelines and conduct restoration in areas that have been previously degraded.

~~S-603))~~ **S-604** King County shall require shoreline uses and modifications to be designed and managed to prevent degradation of water quality and alteration of natural hydrographic conditions to the maximum extent practical.

~~((S-604))~~ King County's Shoreline Master Program shall include regulations and mitigation standards to ensure that permitted and exempt developments in the aggregate will not cause a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.))

**S-605** ~~((King County's))~~ The Shoreline Master Program ~~((goals and policies will))~~ shall promote restoration of impaired shoreline ecological processes and functions. Policies and programs and non-regulatory actions that contribute to restoration goals ~~((will))~~ shall be identified. King County should consider the direct and indirect effects of regulatory or non-regulatory programs of other local, state, and federal governments, as well as any restoration effects that may result from shoreline ~~((development))~~ management regulations and mitigation standards.

~~((S-606))~~ The King County Shoreline Master Program identifies restoration opportunities and planning elements that together should improve the overall condition of habitat and resources within the shoreline jurisdiction.

~~S-607)~~ King County should provide options for property-specific technical assistance and tailored applications of shoreline management regulations through Rural Stewardship Plans for single family residential uses in the upland areas of the Rural, Conservancy and Natural Shoreline Environments. Rural Stewardship Plans must be consistent with the goals of the Shoreline Management Act and King County Shoreline Protection and Restoration Plan, and ensure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.

~~S-611))~~ **S-606** When updating the Shoreline Master Program, King County should analyze proposed policies and regulations to determine whether they will cause cumulative adverse impacts to the shoreline and consider how such impacts may be avoided. The evaluation of cumulative impacts should consider:

- a. Current condition of the shorelines and associated natural processes;
- b. Reasonably foreseeable future development and shoreline uses;
- c. An appropriate evaluation of the effect on shoreline ecological processes and functions caused by unregulated activities, development exempt from permitting, and effects such as the incremental impact of residential bulkheads, residential piers, or runoff from newly developed properties; and
- d. Beneficial effects of any established regulatory programs under other local, state, and federal laws.

~~((S-612))~~ **S-607** King County should use the shoreline permitting or shoreline conditional use permitting processes for development proposals that may have impacts that cannot be anticipated or uncommon impacts that have not been considered or identified at time of adoption of the ~~((King County))~~ Shoreline Master Program to ensure that all impacts are addressed and that there is no net loss of shoreline ecological function ~~((of the shoreline))~~ after mitigation.

~~((S-613))~~ **S-608** King County shall consider and address cumulative impacts of shoreline development on shoreline ecological processes and functions and on shoreline uses given priority under Chapter 90.58 Revised Code of Washington ~~((Chapter 90.58))~~.

~~((S-616))~~ **S-609** King County shall apply mitigation measures in the following sequence of steps listed in order of highest priority to lowest priority ((in evaluating the impacts of development and redevelopment on critical areas within the shoreline jurisdiction)):

- a. Avoid the impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;
- b. Minimize impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation by using appropriate technology or by taking affirmative steps to avoid or reduce impacts;
- c. Rectify impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;
- d. Reduce or eliminate the impacts over time by preservation and maintenance operations;
- e. Compensate for impacts by replacing, enhancing, or providing substitute resources or environments; and
- f. Monitor the impact and the compensation projects and taking appropriate corrective measures.

## 2. Ongoing Evaluation, Review of Cumulative Impacts, and Duty to Update

~~((King County will periodically review the Shoreline Master Program and make amendments that it determines are necessary to reflect changing local circumstances, new information and improved data, and to meet the requirements of Revised Code of Washington 90.58.080 and applicable guidelines. King County will also monitor actions taken to implement the Shoreline Master Program and the shoreline conditions to inform updates of Shoreline Master Program provisions and improve shoreline management over time.~~

~~S-614)) S-610~~ King County shall periodically review and amend its Shoreline Master Program using a process that inventories and ensures meaningful understanding of current and potential ecological processes and functions provided by affected shorelines.

## B. Shoreline Critical Areas

### 1. Standard for protection under the Shoreline Management Act

The Growth Management Act requires King County to protect the functions and values of critical areas, which are defined as wetlands, critical aquifer recharge areas, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas. Critical areas located within the shoreline jurisdiction are protected under the Shoreline Master Program rather than the Growth Management Act. The Shoreline Master Program provides a level of protection for critical areas to ~~((assure))~~ ensure no net loss of shoreline ecological functions. In addition, the Shoreline Management Act requires King County to give optimum protection of shorelines of ~~((state-wide))~~ statewide significance. The King County Comprehensive Plan ~~((and functional plans adopted as elements of the King County Comprehensive Plan))~~ also guides the protection of critical areas within the shoreline jurisdiction.

### 2. Use of scientific and technical information

The Shoreline Management Act requires local governments to use scientific and technical information when establishing protection measures for critical areas. To achieve this requirement, King County has, to the extent feasible:

1. Used a systematic interdisciplinary approach that ensures the integrated use of the natural and social sciences and the environmental design arts;
2. Consulted with and obtained the comments of any federal, state, regional, or local agency having any special expertise with respect to environmental impacts;
3. Considered all plans, studies, surveys, inventories, and systems of classification made or being made by federal, state, regional, or local agencies, by private individuals, or by organizations dealing with King County shorelines;
4. Used all available information regarding hydrology, geography, topography, ecology, economics, and other pertinent data; and
5. Employed, when possible, all appropriate, modern scientific data processing and computer techniques to store, index, analyze, and manage the information gathered.

King County has reviewed and synthesized a wide range of scientific information resulting in regulatory standards based on the best available science for the protection of critical areas. In addition, King County considered ~~((state,))~~ Indian tribal, state, and federal programs to provide a full spectrum of planning and regulatory measures to guide critical areas protection in shorelines.

~~((S-615)) S-611~~ In considering development regulations to protect shoreline ecological processes and functions, King County shall consider the scientific and technical information contained in functional plans, ~~((adopted to implement the Comprehensive Plan, adopted))~~ watershed plans, ~~((King County))~~ critical areas regulations, and ~~((state,))~~ Indian tribal, state, and federal programs.

~~((In order to ensure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions resulting from development proposed in shoreline critical areas, the King County Shoreline~~

Master Program requires that development proposals analyze the environmental impacts of the proposal and consider measures to avoid, if possible, and then mitigate for the adverse environmental impacts:))

### 3. Wetlands

((When determining allowed uses within wetlands and their buffers in shorelines of the state, consideration should be given to those uses that would result in no net loss of wetland area and wetland function. Consideration should be given to specific uses that are likely to positively impact the physical, chemical, and biological processes that create and sustain wetlands:

**~~S-617)) S-612~~ King County wetland regulations shall address the following uses to achieve, at a minimum, no net loss of wetland area and functions:**

- a. Removal, excavation, grading, or dredging of soil, sand, gravel, minerals, organic matter, or material of any kind;
- b. Dumping, discharging, or filling with any material, including discharges of stormwater and domestic, commercial, or industrial wastewater;
- c. Draining, flooding, or disturbing of the open water level, duration of inundation, or groundwater table;
- d. Driving of pilings;
- e. Placing of obstructions;
- f. Construction, reconstruction, demolition, or expansion of any structure;
- g. Significant vegetation removal, except for non-conversion forest practices regulated under Chapter 76.09 Revised Code of Washington ((chapter 76.09));
- h. Other uses or development that results in a significant ecological impact to the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of wetlands; and
- i. Activities reducing the functions of buffers.

((Wetlands shall be categorized based on rarity, irreplaceability, or sensitivity to disturbance, as well as the functions the wetland provides. The Shoreline Management Act provides the option of using specified wetland rating systems or developing a regionally specific system, provided the system is scientifically based and provides a method to distinguish wetland quality and function. King County adopted the Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington for use in categorizing wetlands under the Growth Management Act critical areas development standards:

**~~S-618)) S-613~~ King County shall categorize wetlands within shorelines of the state as provided for in Chapter 5((:)), Environment((, of the King County Comprehensive Plan)).**

((The King County Shoreline Master Program provisions that would allow limited alterations to wetlands shall be consistent with the policy of no net loss of wetland area and functions, wetland rating, and scientific and technical information:

**~~S-619)) S-614~~ King County should allow alterations to wetlands only if there is no net loss of wetland functions and values and the alteration is consistent with the critical areas regulations.**

((The King County Shoreline Master Program requires buffers be delineated and protected around wetlands. The size of the wetland buffer is based on the classification of the wetland and its characteristics and whether the wetland is located within or

outside of the Urban Growth Area. Mitigation measures have been established to obtain a reduced buffer width in return for added measures to address light, noise, toxic runoff, change in water regime, pets and human disturbance, dust, and degraded buffer condition. Other modifications to buffer widths are allowed through buffer averaging. Circumstances, such as the presence of threatened or endangered species or proximity to steep slopes, may authorize increased buffer widths.

**S-620)) S-615 King County shall delineate buffers around wetlands to protect and maintain wetland functions. Buffer widths shall be based on wetland category, ecological function, characteristics and setting, potential impacts with adjacent land use, and other relevant factors.**

((The King County Shoreline Master Program requires that mitigation measures achieve equivalent or greater wetland functions including, but not limited to, habitat complexity, connectivity and other biological functions, and seasonal hydrological dynamics. Preferential consideration is given to measures that replace the impacted functions directly and in the immediate vicinity of the impact.

**S-621 In determining appropriate mitigation measures applicable to shoreline development, the mitigation sequencing requirements described in Washington Administrative Code 173-26-201(((2)(e))) require that lower priority measures shall be applied only where higher priority measures are determined to be infeasible or inapplicable.**

King County may authorize alternative compensatory mitigation within the watershed that addresses limiting factors or identified critical needs for shoreline resource conservation based on watershed or comprehensive resource management plans applicable to the area of impact. Authorization of compensatory mitigation measures may require appropriate safeguards, terms, or conditions as necessary to ensure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.

**S-622)) S-616 King County may allow compensatory mitigation only after a mitigation sequence is applied (((see)) consistent with Policy S-((616)))609 and higher priority means of mitigation are determined to be infeasible.**

- a. **Compensatory mitigation replacement ratios or other mitigation provisions shall consider:**
  1. **The risk of failure of the compensatory mitigation action;**
  2. **The length of time the compensatory mitigation action will take to replace adequately the impacted wetland functions and values; and**
  3. **The gain or loss of the type, quality, and quantity of the ecological functions of the compensation.**
- b. **Performance standards shall be established to evaluate the success of compensatory mitigation.**
- c. **Long-term monitoring shall be required to determine if performance standards are met.**
- d. **Long-term protection and management shall be required for compensatory mitigation sites.**

#### 4. Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

King County has classified and mapped critical aquifer recharge areas according to the vulnerability of the aquifer. Vulnerability is the combined effect of hydrogeological susceptibility to contamination and the contamination loading potential. High vulnerability is indicated by land uses that contribute contamination that may degrade groundwater and by hydrogeologic conditions that facilitate degradation. Low



vulnerability is indicated by land uses that do not contribute contaminants that will degrade groundwater and by hydrogeologic conditions that do not facilitate degradation. ~~((Critical aquifer recharge areas are required to be protected under the Growth Management Act as a critical area.~~

~~S-623))~~ **S-617 The King County Shoreline Master Program shall protect critical aquifer recharge areas consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan and critical areas regulations.**

## **5. Geologically Hazardous Areas**

Geologically hazardous areas include areas susceptible to erosion, sliding, earthquake, or other geological processes and events. They pose a threat to the health and safety of residents when incompatible commercial, residential, or industrial development is sited in areas of significant hazard. Some geological hazards can be reduced or mitigated by engineering, design, or modified construction or mining practices, so that risks to health and safety are acceptable. When technology cannot reduce risks to acceptable levels, building in geologically hazardous areas is best avoided. Under the King County Shoreline Master Program, geologically hazardous areas include:

- ~~• ((1:)) Alluvial fan hazard areas;~~
- ~~• Channel migration zones;~~
- ~~• Erosion hazard areas;~~
- ~~• ((2:)) Landslide hazard areas;~~
- ~~• ((3:)) Seismic hazard areas;~~
- ~~• ((4:)) Coal mine hazard areas;~~
- ~~• ((5:)) Volcanic hazard areas;~~
- ~~• Tsunami hazard area; and~~
- ~~• ((6:)) Steep slope hazard areas.~~

The following policies to protect health and safety and also to reduce the loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions apply to geological hazardous areas located within the shoreline jurisdiction.

~~((S-624) Development regulations for geologically hazardous areas shall meet the minimum requirements in Washington Administrative Code 365-190-120.~~

~~S-625))~~ **S-618 King County shall prohibit development and new lot creation in geologically hazardous areas if it would result in increased risk of injury to people or property damage, consistent with King County Code ((c))Chapter 21A.24.**

~~((S-626) King County shall prohibit new development that requires structural stabilization in geologically hazardous areas. Stabilization will be allowed in these areas only if the stabilization is necessary to protect existing allowed uses, there is no alternative location available, and no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions will result. Stabilization measures shall conform to Washington Administrative Code 173-26-231.~~

~~S-627) King County may allow stabilization structures or measures in geologically hazardous areas to protect existing primary residential structures, if there are no alternatives, including relocation or reconstruction of the residential structure, the stabilization is in conformance with Washington Administrative Code 173-26-231, and no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions will result.))~~

## 6. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

~~((King County is required by the Growth Management Act to protect fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas as critical area. The Washington State Department of Commerce adopted guidelines to assist local governments in designating critical areas, including fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas. The Department of Commerce guidelines are designed to define and protect areas necessary to maintain species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution, at least in part so that isolated subpopulations are not created.))~~ The Department of Commerce identifies the following areas as being suitable for fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas:

1. Areas with which endangered, threatened, and sensitive species have a primary association; ~~((areas critical for habitat connectivity;))~~
2. Habitats and species of local importance;
3. Commercial and recreational shellfish areas;
4. Kelp and eelgrass beds; herring, smelt and sand lance spawning areas;
5. Naturally occurring ponds under twenty acres and their submerged aquatic beds that provide fish or wildlife habitat;
6. Waters of the state;
7. Lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers planted with game fish by an Indian tribal or other governmental ~~((or Tribal))~~ entity; or
8. State natural area preserves and natural resource conservation areas.

The King County Comprehensive Plan and its development regulations protect the functions and values of fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas through its provisions governing aquatic areas and wildlife habitat conservation areas.

The Department of Ecology's guidelines divide fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas into critical saltwater and critical freshwater habitats.

### ~~((a.))~~ Critical saltwater habitat

Critical saltwater habitats include all kelp beds, eelgrass beds, spawning and holding areas for forage fish, such as herring, smelt and sand lance; subsistence, commercial and recreational shellfish beds; mudflats, spits, intertidal habitats with vascular plants~~((;))~~; and areas with which priority species have a primary association. Critical saltwater habitats include both the shorelines and the adjacent submerged areas.

~~((5-628))~~ **S-619 King County shall provide a high level of protection to critical saltwater habitats due to the important ecological functions they provide.**

~~((5-629))~~ **S-620 Protection and restoration of critical saltwater habitats should integrate management of shorelands as well as submerged areas.**

Comprehensive planning for the protection and restoration of critical saltwater habitat should include state resource agencies, local and regional government entities including, but not limited to, affected Indian tribes, the Port of Seattle, and Sound Transit~~((, and affected tribes))~~. To reverse the impacts from development on critical saltwater habitats, the King County Shoreline Master Program should look for opportunities to restore critical saltwater shorelines and protect them from further degradation. All resources should be reviewed and considered.

((S-630)) **S-621** As part of its management planning for critical saltwater habitats, King County should include an evaluation of current data and trends regarding:

- a. Available inventory and collection of necessary data regarding physical characteristics of the habitat, including upland conditions, and any information on species population trends;
- b. Terrestrial and aquatic vegetation;
- c. The level of human activity in such areas, including the presence of roads and level of recreational types. Passive or active recreation may be appropriate for certain areas and habitats;
- d. Restoration potential;
- e. Tributaries and small streams flowing into marine waters;
- f. Dock and bulkhead construction, including an inventory of bulkheads serving no protective purpose;
- g. Conditions and ecological function in the near-shore area;
- h. Uses surrounding the critical saltwater habitat areas that may negatively impact those areas, including permanent or occasional upland, beach, or over-water uses;
- i. Potential Indian tribal uses of critical saltwater habitats to ensure that these uses are protected and restored when possible; and
- j. An analysis of what data gaps exist and a strategy for gaining this information.

Because of the need for a higher level of protection for critical saltwater habitat, allowed uses should be carefully limited and only allowed to meet other policy goals of the Shoreline Management Act.

((S-631)) **S-622** Docks, bulkheads, bridges, fill, floats, jetties, utility crossings, and other human-made structures shall not intrude into or over critical saltwater habitats except when all of the conditions below are met:

- a. The public's need for such an action or structure is clearly demonstrated, and the proposal is consistent with protection of the public trust, as embodied in Revised Code of Washington 90.58.020;
- b. Avoidance of impacts to critical saltwater habitats by an alternative alignment or location is not feasible or would result in unreasonable and disproportionate cost to accomplish the same general purpose;
- c. The project, including any required mitigation, will result in no net loss of ecological functions associated with critical saltwater habitat; and
- d. The project is consistent with ((state and)) Indian ((T)) tribal and state interests in resource protection and species recovery.

((S-632)) **S-623** Public or private noncommercial docks for public, individual residential, or community use may be authorized provided that:

- a. Avoidance of impacts to critical saltwater habitats by an alternative alignment or location is not feasible; and
- b. The project, including any required mitigation, will result in no net loss of ecological functions associated with critical saltwater habitat.

((b:)) *Critical freshwater habitat*

Critical freshwater habitats are as equally important ((to)) as saltwater areas ((as)) for fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas along shorelines of the state. Critical freshwater habitats include streams and rivers, with their associated channel migration zones, floodplains, wetlands, and lakes. Shorelines along these freshwater habitats often have been highly developed and are currently adversely impacted by improper stormwater,

sewer, or industrial outfalls; unmanaged clearing and grading; and stormwater runoff from buildings and parking lots. Some impacts include altered quality and quantity of stormwater runoff, as well as destruction or alteration of vegetation. Potential impacts from vegetation changes can include increased water temperatures and altered hydrographic conditions. All of these changes create inhospitable conditions in water bodies for priority species and, in addition, make them more susceptible to problems stemming from catastrophic flooding, droughts, landslides, and channel changes.

Some freshwater habitats, particularly rivers and floodplains, often are considered as hazardous areas that can threaten life and property during catastrophic events, such as flooding. Development can exacerbate such conditions.

As with critical saltwater habitats, comprehensive planning for the protection and restoration of critical freshwater habitat should include affected Indian tribes, state resource agencies, and local and regional government entities including, but not limited to the Port of Seattle(~~(;)~~) and Sound Transit(~~(, and affected tribes)~~). To reverse the impacts from development on critical freshwater habitats, the King County Shoreline Master Program should look for opportunities to restore critical freshwater shorelines and protect them from further degradation. All resources should be reviewed and considered.

~~((5-633))~~ **S-624** King County shall provide a high level of protection to critical freshwater habitats due to the important ecological functions they provide.

~~((5-634))~~ **S-625** King County should establish priorities for protection and restoration, where appropriate, along unincorporated river corridors and lake shorelines.

~~((5-635))~~ **S-626** King County ~~((should))~~ shall regulate uses and development as necessary within and along stream channels, associated channel migration zones, wetlands, lake shorelines, ~~((and))~~ floodplains, and other critical areas within the shoreline jurisdiction, to ~~((assure))~~ ensure that no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions results from new development near freshwaters of the state, including associated hyporheic zones.

~~((5-636))~~ **S-627** King County shall protect ecological functions associated with critical freshwater habitat as necessary to ~~((assure))~~ ensure no net loss from shoreline activities and associated changes.

~~((5-637))~~ **S-628** King County should facilitate authorization of appropriate restoration projects.

## C. Frequently Flooded Areas and Channel Migration Hazard Areas

The King County ~~((2013))~~ Flood ~~((Hazard))~~ Management Plan (Flood Plan) ~~((was))~~ is adopted as a functional plan of the King County Comprehensive Plan. The Flood Plan outlines the policies, programs, and projects that King County uses to reduce the risk from flooding and channel migration. The ~~((King County 2013))~~ Flood ~~((Hazard))~~ Management Plan was reviewed for consistency with the Shoreline Management Act and determined to be consistent with it. King County maps Channel Migration Hazard

Areas and applies critical areas regulations to ~~((assure))~~ ensure that channel migration can be accommodated.

**~~((5-638)) S-629~~ The policies contained within the King County Flood ((Hazard)) Management Plan, or ((its)) successor plan, constitute the policies for the protection of frequently flooded areas and channel migration within shorelines. Provisions implementing these policies are included in the critical areas regulations.**

**~~((5-639)) S-630~~ King County shall continue mapping channel migration zones on all of its rivers and streams within shoreline jurisdiction where channel migration zones have not already been mapped.**

## **D. Shoreline Vegetation Conservation**

A major intent of vegetation conservation is to protect and restore the ecological processes and functions performed by stands of vegetation along shorelines. Vegetation conservation can also be undertaken to protect human safety and property, to increase the stability of river banks and coastal bluffs, to reduce the need for structural shoreline stabilization measures, to improve the visual and aesthetic qualities of the shoreline, to protect particular plant and animal species and their habitats, and to enhance shoreline uses.

In King County, aquatic environments, as well as their associated upland and wetland vegetated areas, provide significant habitat for a wide variety of fish and wildlife species. Healthy environments for aquatic species are inseparably linked with the ecological integrity of the surrounding terrestrial ecosystems. For example, nearly continuous stretches of mature forest characterize the natural riparian conditions of the Pacific Northwest. Riparian areas along marine shorelines provide the same or similar functions as their freshwater counterparts. The most commonly recognized functions of the shoreline vegetation include, but are not limited to:

- Providing shade necessary to maintain cool water temperatures required by salmonids, spawning forage fish, and other aquatic biota.
- Providing external organic inputs critical for some aquatic life.
- Providing food for various insects and other benthic macro invertebrates, which are in turn food sources for fish, birds, and other wildlife.
- Stabilizing banks, minimizing erosion, and reducing the occurrence of landslides. The roots of trees and other riparian vegetation provide the bulk of this function.
- Reducing fine sediment input into the aquatic environment through stormwater retention and vegetative filtering.
- Filtering and vegetative uptake of nutrients and pollutants from groundwater and storm runoff.
- Providing a source of large woody debris for introduction into the aquatic system. Large woody debris is a primary structural component in streams that functions as a hydraulic roughness element to moderate flows and store sediment. Large woody debris also serves a pool-forming function, providing critical salmonid rearing and refuge habitat. Abundant large woody debris increases aquatic diversity and stabilizes systems.
- Regulating microclimates in the lake and stream-riparian and intertidal corridors.
- Providing critical wildlife habitat, including migration corridors and feeding, watering, rearing, and refuge areas.



The length, width, and species composition of a shoreline vegetation community all contribute substantively to aquatic ecological functions. Likewise, the biological communities of the aquatic environment are essential to ecological functions of the adjacent upland vegetation. The ability of vegetated areas to provide critical ecological functions diminishes as the length and width of the vegetated area along shorelines is reduced. When shoreline vegetation is removed, there is a greater risk that important ecological functions will not be provided.

Sustaining different ecological functions requires varying widths, compositions, and densities of vegetation. The importance of the different functions, in turn, varies with the type of shoreline setting. For example, in forested shoreline settings, periodic introduction of fallen trees, especially conifers, into the stream channel is an important attribute that is critical to natural stream channel maintenance.

Vegetation conservation includes activities to protect and restore vegetation that contributes to the ecological functions of shoreline areas along or near marine and freshwater shorelines.<sup>((†))</sup> Vegetation conservation provisions generally include ~~((the))~~ prohibiting or limiting plant clearing and earth grading, restoring vegetation, and controlling invasive weeds and nonnative species. Vegetation conservation does not include those activities covered under the Washington State Forest Practices Act, except for conversion to other uses and those other forest practice activities over which local governments have authority.

**~~((5-640)) S-631~~ King County shall adopt ((planning)) provisions to address vegetation conservation and restoration ((and regulatory provisions to address conservation of vegetation, as necessary;)) to ((assure)) ensure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions, to avoid adverse impacts to soil hydrology, and to reduce the hazard of slope failures or accelerated erosion.**

**~~((5-641)) S-632~~ Vegetation conservation provisions apply to all shoreline uses and developments, regardless of whether ((or-not)) the use or development requires a shoreline ((substantial development)) permit.**

**~~((5-642)) S-633~~ Vegetation conservation standards shall not apply retroactively to existing uses and structures, such as existing agricultural practices.**

**~~((5-643)) S-634~~ King County should identify which ecological processes and functions are important to the local aquatic and terrestrial ecology, and then conserve sufficient vegetation to maintain these functions. Vegetation conservation areas are not necessarily intended to be closed to use and development, but should provide for management of vegetation in a manner adequate to assure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.**

**~~((5-644)) King County should adopt development regulations for vegetated areas along streams, which once supported or could in the future support mature trees, that include buffers of sufficient width to facilitate the growth of mature trees and periodic recruitment of woody vegetation into the water body to support vegetation-related shoreline functions:~~**

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~~((†-Vegetation conservation does not include those activities covered under the Washington State Forest Practices Act, except for conversion to other uses and those other forest practice activities over which local governments have authority.))~~

~~S-645))~~ **S-635** King County should adopt mechanisms to implement the vegetation conservation policies of this chapter. These mechanisms may include setback or buffer requirements, riparian widths sufficient to support the growth of mature trees and recruitment of woody vegetation, clearing and grading standards, regulatory incentives, environment designation standards, or other provisions. Selective pruning of trees for safety and view protection may be allowed. Removal of noxious weeds and invasive vegetation should be allowed as long as appropriate best management practices are followed.

## E. Water Quality, Stormwater, and Non-Point Pollution

The Shoreline Master Program must protect against adverse impacts to the public health, to the land with its vegetation and wildlife, and to the waters of the state and their aquatic life. The intent of water quality, stormwater, and non-point pollution policies is to provide shoreline protection by preventing adverse impacts to shoreline ecological processes and functions, aquatic habitats, and water dependent uses such as aquaculture and fishing.

~~((S-646) Shoreline Master Program water quality, stormwater, and non-point pollution policies apply to all development and uses in the shoreline jurisdiction that affect water quality.~~

~~S-647))~~ **S-636** King County should work to prevent impacts to water quality and stormwater quantity that would result in a net loss of shoreline ecological functions, degraded aesthetic qualities, loss of recreational opportunities, or reduction in water-dependent uses, such as aquaculture and fishing.

~~((S-648))~~ **S-637** King County should ensure mutual consistency between shoreline management provisions and other regulations that address water quality and stormwater quantity, including Public Health—Seattle & King County standards, the King County Surface Water Design Manual, and King County surface water management regulations. The regulations that are most protective of ecological functions shall apply.

~~((S-649))~~ **S-638** The Shoreline Master Program shall include provisions to implement the water quality, stormwater, and non-point pollution policies in this chapter.

## F. Preparing for Climate Change

~~((As discussed in Chapter 5 of the King County Comprehensive Plan, c))~~ Climate change ~~((has the potential for))~~ will have significant impacts on shorelines and shoreline habitats. Sea ~~((=))~~ level rise and storm surges may place at risk infrastructure, habitat restoration projects, and other development, including residential development. King County has adopted a Sea Level Rise Risk Area and associated code requirements for properties located in areas adjoining the current coastal high hazard area on Vashon-Maury Island. The Risk Area recognizes that coastal flooding will expand inland with sea level rise, affecting areas that may not experience flooding today.

**S-639** New development and ~~((maintenance or replacement of))~~ improvements to existing development should take into account the ((potential for harm that may)) impacts that can result from sea((-)) level rise.

((5-650)) **S-640** King County shall ensure that new projects for and major maintenance or replacement of utilities, roads, and other public infrastructure consider the impacts of sea((-))\_level rise in the location, design, and operation of the projects.

((5-651)) **S-641** Habitat protection and restoration projects in the shoreline jurisdiction shall consider implications of sea((-))\_level rise and other climate change impacts to promote resiliency of habitats and species.

## VIII. Shoreline Use ((And—Shoreline Modification))

### ((A. Shoreline Use versus Shoreline Modification

#### ((B:)) A. General Shoreline Uses

##### ((1. Generally

~~Land uses in King County are based on federal, state, and county policies and regulations.))~~ The baseline permitted uses are established in zoning regulations. Land uses that would be allowed in zoning may be further limited by the King County Shoreline Master Program and shoreline management regulations.

~~((5-701) King County shall give preference to uses in the shoreline that are consistent with the control of pollution and prevention of damage to the natural environment or are unique to or dependent upon the shoreline.~~

**S-702)) S-701** Development within the shoreline jurisdiction shall protect the public's health, safety, and welfare, as well as the land, including its vegetation and wildlife, and protect property rights, while implementing the policies of the Shoreline Management Act.

**((5-703)) S-702** Where there is a conflict between the uses permitted in the ((land use zone)) zoning code and the Shoreline Master Program for a site, the Shoreline Master Program shall control and preference shall be given first to water-dependent uses, then to water-related uses, and finally to water-enjoyment uses.

~~((5-704) Shoreline Master Program development regulations shall ensure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.~~

**S-705)) S-703** King County shall adopt use policies and development regulations to achieve consistency among and between shorelands and adjacent lands as required by Revised Code of Washington 90.58.340.

#### ((2:)) B. Shoreline Conditional Uses

~~((For the purposes of the King County Shoreline Master Program, a))~~ A shoreline conditional use may be appropriate ((in order)) to:

1. Effectively address unanticipated uses that are not classified in the Shoreline Master Program;
2. Address cumulative impacts; or
3. Provide the opportunity to require specially tailored environmental analysis or design criteria for types of use or development that may otherwise be inconsistent with a specific designation within the Shoreline Master Program or with the Shoreline Management Act policies.

**~~((5-706)) S-704~~ The following types of uses and development should require a shoreline conditional use permit:**

- ~~((1-)) a.~~ Uses and development that may significantly impair or alter the public's use of the waters of the state;**
- ~~((2-)) b.~~ Uses and development which, by their intrinsic nature, may have a significant impact on shoreline ecological processes and functions depending on location, design, and site conditions; and**
- ~~((3-)) c.~~ Development in critical saltwater habitats.**

**~~((3-)) C.~~ Agriculture**

The Shoreline Management Act defines agricultural activities as:

"agricultural uses and practices including, but not limited to: Producing, breeding, or increasing agricultural products; rotating and changing agricultural crops; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie fallow in which it is plowed and tilled but left unseeded; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie dormant as a result of adverse agricultural market conditions; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie dormant because the land is enrolled in a local, state, or federal conservation program, or the land is subject to a conservation easement; conducting agricultural operations; maintaining, repairing, and replacing agricultural equipment; maintaining, repairing, and replacing agricultural facilities, provided that the replacement facility is no closer to the shoreline than the original facility; and maintaining agricultural lands under production or cultivation".

The Shoreline Management Act prohibits shoreline master programs from requiring modification to or limiting existing agricultural activities on agricultural lands in the shoreline jurisdiction. This limitation does not apply to new agricultural activities.

The Shoreline Master Program encourages agricultural uses that are compatible with the shoreline designation in which they are proposed.

**~~((5-707)) S-705~~ The King County Shoreline Master Program shall not require modification of or limit existing agricultural activities in the shoreline jurisdiction. Existing agricultural activities in the shoreline jurisdiction shall be governed by existing provisions of the King County Comprehensive Plan and the King County Code.**

**~~((5-708)) New agricultural activities in the shoreline jurisdiction shall comply with the critical areas regulations incorporated into the shoreline master program as they apply to agricultural activities.~~**

~~As required by the Growth Management Act, King County has designated agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance. These lands have been included in Agricultural Production Districts under the King County Comprehensive Plan. Land uses meeting the definition of "agricultural activities" also occur outside the designated~~

~~Agricultural Production Districts. The King County Shoreline Master Program encourages agricultural uses, but they must be compatible with the shoreline designation in which they are proposed. In addition, under the rare circumstances when land is removed from the Agricultural Production Districts, any development occurring on that land must be consistent with the shoreline designation where it is located.~~

~~S-709))~~ **S-706** New agricultural activities within the shoreline jurisdiction and outside the Agricultural Production Districts shall be consistent with the shoreline designation where the land is located.

~~((S-710))~~ **S-707** New agricultural activities within the shoreline jurisdiction and outside the Agricultural Production Districts shall be located and designed to ensure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions and shall not result in an adverse impact on other shoreline resources and ecological values.

~~((S-711))~~ **S-708** Development and uses on land removed from the Agricultural Production Districts shall be consistent with the shoreline designation where the land is located.

## ~~((4.))~~ D. Forestry

In general, the Department of Ecology's guidelines require local shoreline master programs to rely on the Forest Practices Act and the rules implementing that Act and the Forest and Fish Report as adequate management of commercial forest uses within the shoreline jurisdiction. When a property owner chooses to convert commercial timber land to a use other than timber production, the regulations for commercial forestry no longer apply. Shorelines of statewide significance require a higher level of protection.

~~((S-712))~~ **S-709** If land is being converted to a non-forest use through Class IV-General forest practice, the provisions of the King County Shoreline ~~((Management))~~ Program that apply to development activities govern~~((s))~~ the proposed land use.

~~((S-713))~~ **S-710** Within shorelines of statewide significance, selective commercial timber cutting shall be used for timber harvest within two hundred feet abutting landward of the ordinary high water mark so that no more than thirty percent of the merchantable trees may be harvested in any ~~((ten-))~~ 10-year period of time. Through a shoreline conditional use permit, King County may approve:

- a. Other timber harvesting methods in those limited instances where the topography, soil conditions, or silviculture practices necessary for regeneration render selective logging ecologically detrimental; and
- b. Clear cutting of timber that is solely incidental to the preparation of land for other uses authorized by the King County Shoreline Master Program.



**((5-714)) S-711 For forest practice conversions and other Class IV-General forest practices, where there is a likelihood of conversion to nonforest uses, King County shall ensure that there is no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions and that there are no significant adverse impacts to other shoreline uses, resources, and values such as navigation, recreation, and public access.**

## **((5-)) E. Surface Drilling for Oil and Gas**

The Shoreline Management Act prohibits surface drilling in the waters of Puget Sound north to the Canadian ~~((boundary))~~ border and the Strait of Juan de Fuca seaward from the ordinary high water mark and on all lands within one thousand feet landward from that line.

**((5-715)) S-712 Surface drilling for oil or gas shall be prohibited in Puget Sound seaward from the ordinary high water mark and on all lands within one thousand feet landward from the ordinary high water mark on Puget Sound.**

## **((6-)) E. Aquaculture**

### **((a-)) 1. General Aquaculture**

Aquaculture is the culture or farming of fish, shellfish, or other aquatic plants and animals. Aquaculture does not include the harvest of wild geoduck associated with the state managed wildstock geoduck fishery. ~~((Aquaculture is dependent on the use of the water area and, when consistent with goals for aesthetics, public access, control of pollution and prevention of damage to the environment should be allowed so long as it does not result in a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.))~~ The visual and aesthetic impacts of aquaculture should not overwhelm adjacent land uses.

**((5-716)) S-713 Aquaculture is a water-dependent use and should be an allowed use of the shoreline when consistent with control of pollution and avoidance of adverse impacts to the environment and preservation of habitat for native species, ~~((t))~~ consistent with Washington Administrative Code 173-26-241~~((3)(b)))~~.**

**((5-716a)) S-714 King County shall prohibit nonnative marine finfish aquaculture.**

2599 ((5-717)) S-715 Potential locations for aquaculture activities are relatively restricted  
2600 because of specific requirements related to water quality, temperature,  
2601 oxygen content, currents, adjacent land use, wind protection,  
2602 commercial navigation, and salinity. The technology associated with  
2603 some forms of aquaculture is still experimental and in formative states.  
2604 Therefore, when implementing development regulations related to  
2605 aquaculture, King County should provide flexibility in its development  
2606 regulations governing the siting of aquaculture facilities, where  
2607 appropriate. Those regulations shall require avoidance of adverse  
2608 impacts to existing uses((;)) to the maximum extent practical, and no  
2609 net loss in shoreline ecological functions and processes. If King County  
2610 determines that certain types of aquaculture involve a significant risk of  
2611 net loss in shoreline ecological functions or cumulative adverse effects  
2612 on the environment or native species and their habitats, the County  
2613 may prohibit or condition such uses in its development regulations.  
2614

2615 ((5-718)) S-716 Aquaculture activities shall be designed, located, and operated in a  
2616 manner that supports long-term beneficial use of the shoreline and  
2617 protects and maintains shoreline ecological processes and functions.  
2618 Aquaculture permits shall not be approved where it would result in net  
2619 loss of shoreline ecological functions; net loss of habitat for native  
2620 species including eelgrass, kelp, and other macroalgae; adverse  
2621 impacts to other habitat conservation areas; or interference with  
2622 navigation or other water-dependent uses.  
2623

2624 ((5-719)) S-717 Aquaculture facilities shall be designed, operated, and located so  
2625 as not to spread disease to native aquatic life, establish new nonnative  
2626 species that cause significant ecological impacts, or substantially  
2627 impact the aesthetic qualities and public access of the shoreline.  
2628

2629 ((5-720)) S-718 Preference should be given to those forms of aquaculture that  
2630 involve lesser environmental and visual impacts and lesser impacts to  
2631 native plant and animal species. In general, projects that require no  
2632 structures, submerged structures, or intertidal structures are preferred  
2633 over those that involve substantial floating structures. Projects that  
2634 involve little or no substrate modification are preferred over those that  
2635 involve substantial modification, recognizing that in some  
2636 circumstances that the importation of sand or pea gravel on rocky or  
2637 cobble substrates may result in more diverse habitat. Projects that  
2638 involve little or no supplemental food sources, pesticides, herbicides,  
2639 or antibiotic application are preferred over those that involve such  
2640 practices.  
2641

2642 ((5-721)) S-719 Aquaculture shall not be permitted if it involves significant risk of  
2643 cumulative adverse effects on water quality, sediment quality, benthic  
2644 and pelagic organisms, or wild fish populations through potential  
2645 contribution of antibiotic resistant bacteria, ((or)) escapement of  
2646 non((-))native species, or other adverse effects on native species or  
2647 threatened or endangered species and their habitats.  
2648

2649 ((5-722)) S-720 King County shall consider the potential beneficial impacts and the  
2650 potential adverse impacts of new aquaculture development on the  
2651 physical environment; on other existing and approved land and water  
2652 uses, including navigation; and on the aesthetic qualities of a project  
2653 area.  
2654

**((5-723)) S-721** Legally established aquaculture uses, including authorized experimental projects, should be protected from incompatible uses that may seek to locate nearby. King County may deny uses or developments that have a high probability of damaging or destroying a legally established existing aquaculture.

**((5-724)) S-722** King County should review and make permit decisions on restoration projects associated with aquaculture in a timely manner.

**((5-725)) S-723** Experimental aquaculture projects in water bodies should be limited in scale and should be approved for a limited period of time. Experimental aquaculture means an aquaculture activity that uses methods or technologies that are unprecedented or unproven in the State of Washington.

**((5-726)) S-724** King County should actively seek substantive comment regarding potential adverse impacts of any shoreline permit application for aquaculture from all appropriate Indian tribal, ~~((F))federal, ((S))state,~~ and local agencies~~((; the Muckleshoot Tribe, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the Tulalip Tribes and other tribes with treaty fishing rights;)),~~ and the general public. Comments of nearby residents or property owners directly affected by an aquaculture proposal should be considered and evaluated, especially in regard to use compatibility and aesthetics.

**((5-727)) S-725** The rights of treaty Indian tribes to aquatic resources within their usual and accustomed areas should be addressed through the permit review process. Direct and early coordination between the applicant or proponent and the relevant tribes should be encouraged.

**((5-727a)) S-726** King County should ensure proper management of upland uses in the shoreline jurisdiction to avoid degradation of water quality of existing shellfish areas, including adoption of additional protections from impacts of geoduck aquaculture.

## **((b-)) 2. Net Pens**

One specific type of aquaculture is a net pen, which is a type of large cage used to farm finfish in open water. These net pens allow for the exchange of water between the farm and the surrounding environment. ~~((In 2017, a large commercial net pen near Cypress Island collapsed and released hundreds of thousands of nonnative salmon into King County's shorelines of statewide significance.~~

~~Following this incident, King County reviewed its net pens regulations in 2018 for potential impacts on native species and found that c))Commercial salmon net pen aquaculture operations generally have adverse environmental and ecological impacts that do not appear to meet the ((SMA)) Shoreline Management Act standard of 'no net loss of ecological function.'~~ These adverse impacts include increased disease transmission, increased water quality impacts, competition for food and habitat, predation on local native salmon, and genetic introgression.

King County's native salmon runs are among the Puget Sound region's most precious and irreplaceable natural resources. King County, ~~((area))~~ Indian tribes, the state, the region, and the federal government have collectively invested hundreds of millions of dollars over many years to help protect and restore native salmon species. ~~((The impacts of net pens to native salmon outlined above would threaten years of work and millions of dollars in investments:))~~

The environmental and ecological risks associated with commercial salmon net pens may also apply to other finfish net pens, including net pens for noncommercial native salmon and commercial native finfish. ~~((, but there is a lack of current information regarding these risks. The Department of Ecology's Shoreline Master Program Handbook lists only three references to guide local jurisdictions in how to regulate net pens, all of which predate the Endangered Species Act listings of Southern Resident Puget Sound Orcas, Puget Sound Chinook salmon, and Puget Sound steelhead as threatened. The Department of Ecology acknowledges in the handbook that interim net pen guidelines from the 1980s are out of date and caution should be used if relying on them.~~

~~In response to the Cypress Island incident, the Washington State Legislature adopted Engrossed House Bill 2957 prohibiting new or expanded leases for nonnative marine finfish aquaculture. House Bill 2957 also directed state agencies to continue updating guidance and informational resources for planning and permitting marine net pen aquaculture. State agencies were further directed to seek advice and assistance from the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, national centers for coastal ocean science, and to invite consultation with universities and federally recognized Indian tribes. The applicable state agencies must report to the legislature in late 2019.~~

**~~S-272b)) S-727~~ King County shall prohibit new commercial salmon net pen aquaculture operations to avoid adverse impacts on native salmon runs.**

**~~((S-272c)) S-728~~ King County shall support Indian tribal treaty fishing rights, including operation of noncommercial native salmon net pens for temporary rearing and brood stock recovery programs.**

**~~((S-727d)) S-729~~ King County shall review and condition the siting of net pens to ensure they apply all necessary environmental and ecological protections and meet the standard of no adverse impacts and no net loss of ecological function.**

**~~((S-727e)) S-730~~ King County shall revisit its policies and regulations associated with net pens, including the prohibition on commercial native salmon net pens, during the next statutory-required periodic review of this program. At that time, additional research and guidance from the state is expected to be available.**

## **~~((7.))~~ G. Boating Facilities**

Boating facilities provide ~~((the boating public))~~ recreational opportunities on waters of the state, ~~((, but should be sited carefully to assure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions and to maintain the aesthetic quality of the shoreline. For purposes of the King County Shoreline Master Program, "b))~~ Boating facilities" do not include docks serving four or fewer single ~~((family residences))~~ detached residences.

- ((5-728)) **S-731** Boating facilities shall be located only at sites with suitable environmental conditions, shoreline configuration, access, and neighboring uses, and:
- Meet health, safety, and welfare requirements;
  - Mitigate aesthetic impacts;
  - Provide public access in new marinas, unless there is a safety or security concern;
  - Prevent the impacts to shoreline resources from boaters living on their vessels;
  - Restrict vessels ((should be restricted)) from extended mooring on waters of the state unless authorization is obtained from the Washington Department of Natural Resources and impacts to navigation and public access are mitigated;
  - ((Assure)) **Ensure** no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions or other significant adverse impacts; and
  - Protect the rights of navigation.

## ((8:)) **H. Commercial Development**

Some commercial uses within the shoreline jurisdiction may be required to incorporate appropriate design and operational elements to qualify as water-related or water-enjoyment. Public access and ecological restoration are considered appropriate mitigation for the impact to shorelines unless it is determined public access is infeasible or inappropriate. Most commercial land in unincorporated King County is located outside the shoreline jurisdiction.

- ((5-729)) **S-732** King County shall require all commercial development on public land to provide public access, unless the use is incompatible with public access or there are public safety concerns.

- ((5-730)) **S-733** King County shall permit non((-))water-oriented commercial uses in the shoreline jurisdiction only if:
- The non((-))water-oriented commercial use is limited to the minimum size necessary for the use;
  - The use provides a significant public benefit with respect to the Shoreline Management Act's objectives such as providing public access and ecological restoration; and
  - The use is part of a mixed-use project that includes water-dependent uses(;) or navigability is severely limited at the proposed site.

- ((5-731)) **S-734** King County may allow nonwater-oriented commercial development in the shoreline jurisdiction if the site is physically separated from the shoreline by another property or public right-of-way.

- ((5-732)) **S-735** King County shall allow over-water nonwater-dependent commercial uses only in existing structures or if the use is auxiliary to and necessary to support a water-dependent use. The area of any over-water structure shall be limited to the maximum extent practical.



**((S-795)) S-736** King County may allow water-related and water-enjoyment uses as part of a shoreline mixed-use development on over-water structures where they are clearly auxiliary to and in support of water-dependent uses, provided the minimum size requirement needed to meet the water-dependent use is not violated.

**((S-733)) S-737** King County shall prohibit commercial development that will have significant adverse impact to other shoreline uses, resources, and values, such as navigation, recreation, and public access. King County shall require mitigation for all commercial development in the shoreline jurisdiction to ensure that it does not cause a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.

## **((9.)) I. Industrial Development**

~~((The King County Shoreline Master Program establishes a hierarchy for industrial development within the shoreline jurisdiction. Most industrial land in King County is located within cities rather than within unincorporated King County.~~

**S-734)) S-738** In the shoreline jurisdiction, King County shall give preference to industrial uses in the following order: first, water-dependent industrial uses; second, water-related industrial uses; and third, non((-))water-oriented industrial uses.

**((S-735)) S-739** ~~((To mitigate for the impacts of industrial development within the shoreline jurisdiction,))~~ King County ~~((should))~~ shall require ecological restoration and public access~~((, unless it determines that public access is infeasible or inappropriate))~~ for industrial development, where appropriate.

**((S-736)) S-740** King County shall require industrial uses located on public land in the shoreline jurisdiction to provide public access, unless the use is incompatible with public access or there are public safety concerns.

**((S-737)) S-741** King County should encourage ~~((t))~~ industrial development and redevelopment to be located where environmental cleanup and restoration of the shoreline can be incorporated.

**((S-738)) S-742** King County shall permit new nonwater-oriented industrial development in the shoreline jurisdiction only if:

- The use is part of a mixed-use project that includes water-dependent uses or navigability is severely limited; and
- The use provides a significant public benefit with respect to the Shoreline Management Act's objectives, such as providing public access and ecological restoration.

**((S-739)) S-743** King County may allow nonwater-oriented industrial uses in the shoreline jurisdiction if the site is physically separated from the shoreline by another property or public right-of-way.

## **((10.)) J. In-Water Structures**

"In-water structure" means a structure placed by humans within a stream, river, or lake waterward of the ordinary high((-))water mark that either causes or has the potential to

cause water impoundment or the diversion, obstruction, or modification of water flow. In-water structures may include those for hydroelectric generation, irrigation, water supply, flood control, transportation, utility service transmission, fish collection weir, or other purposes.

~~((S-740))~~ **S-744** In-water structures shall provide for the protection and preservation of shoreline ecological processes and functions, and cultural resources, including, but not limited to, fish and fish passage, wildlife and water resources, shoreline critical areas, hydro((-)) geological processes, and natural scenic vistas.

~~((S-741))~~ **S-745** The location and planning of in-water structures shall give due consideration to the full range of public interests and shoreline ecological processes and functions, with special emphasis on protecting and restoring habitat for threatened or endangered species.

## ~~((11.))~~ **K.** Mining

King County has identified and designated land that is appropriate for the removal of sand, gravel, soil, minerals, and other extractable resources. ~~((In King County, gravel removal was a common method of flood control in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, m))~~ Mining within shorelines can have significant impacts, particularly to habitat for threatened and endangered aquatic and riparian species.

~~((S-742))~~ **S-746** Mining may be allowed within the shoreline jurisdiction if it is:

- Consistent with the environment designation policies of the King County Shoreline Master Program and provisions of the Shoreline Management Act; and**
- Located within mineral resource lands designated by the King County Comprehensive Plan.**

~~((S-743))~~ **S-747** New mining and associated activities shall be designed and conducted to comply with the regulations of the environment designation where the activity occurs and the provisions applicable to critical areas where relevant. Accordingly, meeting the standard of no net loss of ecological function shall include avoidance and mitigation of adverse impacts during the course of mining and reclamation. It is appropriate, however, to determine whether there will be no net loss of ecological function based on evaluation of final reclamation required for the site. Preference shall be given to mining proposals that result in the restoration, creation, or enhancement of habitat for threatened or endangered species.

~~((S-744))~~ **S-748** The King County Shoreline Master Program provisions and permit requirements for mining should be ~~((coordinated))~~ **consistent** with the requirements of **Chapter 78.44** Revised Code of Washington ~~((Chapter 78.44))~~.

~~((S-745))~~ **S-749** The proposed subsequent use of mined property shall be consistent with the provisions of the shoreline environment designation in which the property is located.

~~((S-746))~~ **S-750** King County shall permit mining within the active channel of a river only as follows:

- a. Removal of specified quantities of sand and gravel or other materials at specific locations will not adversely affect the natural processes of gravel transportation for the river system as a whole;
- b. The mining and any associated permitted activities will not have significant adverse impacts to habitat for threatened or endangered species nor cause a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions;
- c. The determinations required by items ((1)) a. and ((2)) b. of this policy shall be consistent with Revised Code of Washington 90.58.100((1)) and Washington Administrative Code 173-26-201((2)(a)). Such evaluation of impacts should be appropriately integrated with relevant environmental review requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act and the Department of Ecology guidelines;
- d. In considering renewal, extension, or reauthorization of gravel bar and other in-channel mining operations in locations where they have previously been conducted, King County shall require compliance with this policy if no such review has previously been conducted. Where there has been prior review, King County shall review the previous determinations ((in order)) to ensure that current site conditions comply with the Program; and
- e. These requirements do not apply to dredging of authorized navigation channels when conducted in accordance with Washington Administrative Code 173-26-231((3)(f)).

((5-747)) **S-751** King County shall require a shoreline conditional use permit for mining activity within a severe channel migration hazard zone located within the shoreline jurisdiction.

## ((12.)) L. Recreational Development

Recreational development includes uses and activities designed to allow public enjoyment and use of the water and shoreline((King County recreational planning provides for)), including parks, trails, open space, and opportunities for both active and passive recreational use ((in King County)).

((5-748)) **S-752** Recreational development is allowed in the shoreline jurisdiction and ((must)) shall be consistent with the shoreline environment designation in which the property is located.

((5-749)) **S-753** King County shall plan to provide public recreational uses on ((c)) County-owned shoreline, consistent with the goals of this chapter.

## ((13.)) M. Residential Development

The Shoreline Management Act recognizes single ((family)) detached residential development as a priority use within shorelines of the state. The term "residential development" also includes attached and ((multifamily)) multiunit dwellings ((units)) as well as subdivision of shoreline land into new residential lots. In King County, single detached ((dwelling units)) residences are the most common shoreline development. Residential development is often fairly high density to maximize water frontage. Care must be taken to assure that shoreline residential development and the related impacts from shoreline armoring, stormwater runoff, on-site sewage disposal systems,

introduction of pollutants, and vegetation modification and removal do not result in significant damage to the shoreline.

**((S-750)) S-754 Single ((family)) detached residential development is a priority use in the shoreline jurisdiction in King County.**

**((S-751)) S-755 King County shall require a conditional use permit for construction or expansion of a single((family residence)) detached residence that is located within an aquatic area buffer in the Forestry or Natural Shoreline Environments.**

**~~((S-752)) Shoreline residential development, including accessory structures and uses, should be sufficiently set back from steep slopes and shorelines vulnerable to erosion so that structural improvements, including bluff walls and other stabilization structures, are not required to protect these structures and uses.~~**

**S-753)) S-756 New over-water residences((, including floating homes,)) are not a preferred use and shall be prohibited in the shoreline jurisdiction. Existing communities of ((floating or)) over-water homes should be reasonably accommodated to allow improvements associated with life-safety matters and to ensure protection of private property rights. King County shall limit the expansion of existing ((floating homes, including over-water and underwater footprint, and)) over-water communities to the minimum necessary to ensure consistency with constitutional and other legal limitations that protect private property.**

**((S-754)) S-757 King County should require ((multifamily)) multiunit residential development and subdivisions within the shoreline jurisdiction creating more than four lots to provide public access.**

**((S-755)) S-758 King County shall require subdivisions and short subdivisions to:**

- a. Be designed, configured, and developed in a manner that ensures no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions at full build-out of all lots;**
- b. Prevent the need for new shoreline stabilization or flood risk reduction measures that would cause significant impacts to other properties or public improvements, a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions, or interfere with channel migration; and**
- c. Implement the provisions and policies for shoreline designations and the general policy goals of this chapter.**

## **((14.)) N. Transportation and Parking**

Providing for transportation and parking is necessary to support water-dependent uses, to support the regional economy, and for access to privately owned property. ~~((However, transportation facilities should be located and designed to have the least impact on the ecological processes and functions of the shoreline.))~~ Transportation planning in shorelines should ~~((not be focused totally on automobiles, but should))~~ consider a wide range of options, including vehicles, buses, light rail, commuter rail, bicycle, equestrian, and pedestrian facilities. Transportation planning can be a tool for ~~((finding opportunities to provide))~~ providing public access to the shorelines.

**((S-756)) S-759 King County shall require transportation and parking plans and projects located in the shoreline jurisdiction to be consistent with the**

public access policies in this chapter and environmental protection provisions.

~~((S-757))~~ **S-760** Where appropriate, circulation system planning in the shoreline jurisdiction shall include systems for pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation and ~~((combining))~~ **combine** transportation uses to minimize the footprint of transportation facilities. Circulation planning and projects should support existing and proposed shoreline uses that are consistent with the King County Shoreline Master Program.

~~((S-758))~~ **S-761** Transportation and parking facilities located in the shoreline jurisdiction shall be planned, located, and designed to have the least possible adverse impact on unique or fragile shoreline features, not result in a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions, or adversely impact existing or planned water-dependent uses. Where other options are available and feasible, new transportation facilities or transportation facility expansions should not be constructed within the shoreline jurisdiction.

~~((S-759))~~ **S-762** Parking facilities in the shoreline jurisdiction are not a preferred use. King County shall allow parking facilities in the shoreline jurisdiction only when necessary to support an authorized use and when an alternatives analysis shows there are no feasible alternatives outside of the ~~((200-foot))~~ shoreline jurisdiction. Parking facilities in the shoreline jurisdiction shall use ~~((L))~~low ~~((I))~~impact ~~((D))~~designs, such as porous concrete and vegetated swales, and be planned, located, and designed to minimize the environmental and visual impacts.

## ~~((15.))~~ **Q. Utilities**

Utilities include services and facilities that produce, convey, store, or process power, gas, water, sewage, stormwater, communications, oil, or waste. Utilities that are classified as on-site utilities serving only one primary use are considered “accessory utilities” and are considered part of the primary use.

~~((S-760))~~ **S-763** Utility facilities shall be designed and located to ~~((assure))~~ **ensure** no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions, preserve the natural landscape, and minimize conflicts with present and planned land and shoreline uses, while meeting the needs of future populations in areas planned to accommodate growth.

~~((S-761))~~ **S-764** King County shall allow modification of existing utility facilities and the location of new water-oriented portions of utility facilities in the shoreline jurisdiction provided that ~~((a))~~ mitigation sequenc~~((e))~~ing is applied ~~((see policy S-616))~~ **consistent with Policy S-609** and there is no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions. To the maximum extent practical, those parts of utility production and processing facilities that are not water-oriented, such as power plants and sewage treatment plants, shall be located outside of the shoreline jurisdiction.



~~((5-762)) S-765~~ Transmission facilities for the conveyance of services, such as power lines, cables, and pipelines, shall be located outside of the shoreline jurisdiction wherever feasible. ~~((Transmission facilities located within the shoreline jurisdiction shall assure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.))~~

~~((5-763)) S-766~~ Utilities should be located in existing developed rights-of-way and corridors to the maximum extent practical.

~~((5-764)) S-767~~ Unless no other feasible alternative location exists, King County should discourage:

- a. Locating pipelines and cables in water, on tidelands, or roughly parallel to the shoreline; and
- b. The development of facilities that may require periodic maintenance that disrupts shoreline ecological processes and functions.

~~((King County shall ensure that any utility facilities that are allowed do not result in a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions or significant adverse impacts to other shoreline resources and values.))~~

## IX. Shoreline Modifications

### A. General Policies Governing Shoreline Modifications

A shoreline modification is construction of a physical element, such as a dike, breakwater, dredged basin, or fill, as well as other actions such as clearing, grading, application of chemicals, or significant vegetation removal to support or prepare for a shoreline use. ~~((These activities should be directly related to a legal shoreline use and should not be conducted for other purposes.))~~

~~S-765)) S-801~~ King County should allow structural shoreline modifications only when necessary to support or protect a legally established structure or a legally existing shoreline use that is in danger of loss or substantial damage, or when a modification is necessary for reconfiguration of the shoreline for mitigation or enhancement purposes.

~~((S-766)) S-802 ((In order to))~~To reduce the adverse effects of shoreline modifications, King County should limit the number and extent of shoreline modifications ~~((in number and extent to the maximum extent practicable)).~~

~~((S-767)) S-803~~ King County shall only allow shoreline modifications that are appropriate to the specific type of shoreline and environmental conditions for which they are proposed.

~~((S-768)) S-804~~ King County shall ensure that shoreline modifications individually and cumulatively do not result in a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions. ~~((In order to))~~To achieve this goal, King County shall give preference to those types of shoreline modifications that have a lesser impact on the shoreline and by requiring mitigation of identified impacts resulting from shoreline modifications.

3120 ((S-769)) **S-805** Where applicable, King County shall develop regulations and  
3121 impose conditions based on scientific and technical information and a  
3122 comprehensive analysis of shoreline conditions for drift cells for marine  
3123 waters or reaches for lakes and river and stream systems.

3124  
3125 ((S-770)) **S-806** King County should plan for the enhancement of impaired  
3126 shoreline ecological processes and functions where feasible and  
3127 appropriate, while accommodating permitted uses. To the maximum  
3128 extent practical, King County should incorporate appropriate measures  
3129 to protect shoreline ecological processes and functions from the  
3130 impacts of shoreline modifications.

## 3131 ((2:)) **B. Shoreline Stabilization**

3132 Shorelines are impacted by wind and wave action, currents, tides, and flood waters,  
3133 resulting in erosion of banks and shifts in channels. These ((impacts)) are natural  
3134 processes that support shoreline ecological processes and functions, but they also  
3135 impact human use of shorelines.

3136  
3137 These natural processes are likely to be affected by climate change. Lowland rivers may  
3138 see higher flows in the autumn and winter and mid-elevation rivers may see higher  
3139 winter flows. In both cases, these changes could lead to more frequent flooding. The  
3140 marine shorelines around Vashon-Maury Island and the Duwamish Estuary may also see  
3141 effects due to sea(=)level rise. Increased sea elevations will make development and  
3142 infrastructure in low-lying areas more susceptible to flooding due to high tides and  
3143 storms. Waves will encroach further onto low-lying beaches and cause greater beach  
3144 erosion, threatening or damaging low-lying structures. At the same time steep slopes  
3145 may receive increased moisture due to predicted changes in precipitation patterns,  
3146 potentially resulting in an increase in landslides that may cause property destruction  
3147 and threaten human safety.

3148  
3149 Humans have long desired to "control" these natural processes by constructing  
3150 shoreline stabilization structures. The negative ((side)) impacts of structural solutions  
3151 includes the high cost of construction, long-term cost of maintenance and repair, the  
3152 false sense of security for humans relying on these structures, and the high impact to the  
3153 shoreline environment. These negative impacts are likely to increase as the effects of  
3154 climate change become more apparent. These impacts include:

- 3155 1. Beach starvation where sediment is prevented from supplying the beach,  
3156 thus impeding a dynamic process.
- 3157 2. Habitat degradation, particularly through removal of shoreline vegetation.
- 3158 3. Sediment impoundment where the sources of sediment are lost and  
3159 longshore transport is diminished, resulting in lowering of down-drift  
3160 beaches, narrowing of the high tide beach, and the coarsening of beach  
3161 sediment.
- 3162 4. Exacerbation of erosion as wave energy is reflected back from hard  
3163 surfaces onto the beach, increasing erosion.
- 3164 5. Groundwater impacts that can lead to a rise of the water table on the  
3165 landward side of an erosion control structure, which results in increased  
3166 pore pressures in the beach material and accelerated erosion of sand-sized  
3167 material from the beach.
- 3168 6. Hydraulic impacts where wave energy is reflected back onto the beach,  
3169 resulting in scour lowering the beach elevation, or coarsening the beach,  
3170 resulting in failure of the structure.

7. Loss of shoreline vegetation and the loss of erosion control that the vegetation provided, as well as loss of the habitat function provided by vegetation.
8. Loss of large woody debris, which plays an important role in biological diversity and habitat as well as stabilizing the shoreline.
9. Restriction of channel movement and creation of side channels, impacting recruitment of large woody debris and gravel for spawning.

As alternatives to constructing a hard-surfaced structural facility, nonstructural methods that have lesser impacts on shoreline ecological processes and functions are available. These nonstructural methods may also allow for adaptation to the effects of climate change. For example, if buildings are constructed further away from the existing water edge, beyond the range of sea(=)\_level rise, shoreline protection would be unnecessary. For most projects, a range of options is available. These include "soft" measures, such as revegetation to stabilize banks, which provide a variety of other ecological processes and functions, and "hard" measures, such as bulkheads, which often detract from or provide only limited ecological function. Shoreline stabilization options include, but are not limited to:

1. Vegetation enhancement;
2. Upland drainage control;
3. Biotechnical measures;
4. Beach enhancement;
5. Anchor trees;
6. Gravel placement;
7. Rock revetments;
8. Gabions;
9. Concrete groins;
10. Retaining walls and bluff walls;
11. Bulkheads; and
12. Seawalls.

~~((5-774))~~ **S-807** King County shall require shoreline stabilization to be consistent with Washington Administrative Code 173-26-221(((5))) for vegetation retention and ((Washington Administrative Code 173-26-221(2) for)) protection of critical areas.

~~((5-772))~~ **S-808** King County shall adopt standards to first avoid and then mitigate the impact to shoreline ecological processes and functions when alteration of the shoreline is allowed for the construction of single detached ~~((dwelling units))~~ residences and accessory structures. These standards shall address the design and type of protective measures and devices that are allowed.

~~((When structural shoreline stabilization is proposed to protect existing development, the following measures apply:~~

~~**S-773** King County may allow construction of new or replaced structural shoreline stabilization and flood control works to protect an existing structure if King County determines there is a documented need,~~

including a geotechnical analysis that the structure is in danger from shoreline erosion caused by tidal action, currents or waves.

When new development occurs within the shoreline jurisdiction, the following measures apply:

**S-774)) S-809** King County shall ((require)):

- a. Require new shoreline development, including subdivisions and short subdivisions, to be located and designed to avoid the need for future structural slope or shoreline stabilization ((to the maximum extent practicable)):
- b. Require new development to be set back from steep or eroding slopes so that structural slopes or shoreline stabilization is not needed for the life of the development; and
- c. Not allow new development that requires shoreline stabilization that will cause significant impacts to adjacent or down-current properties and shoreline areas.

~~((S-775) King County shall require that lots in new subdivisions and short subdivisions to be created so that shoreline stabilization will not be necessary in order for reasonable development to occur, using geotechnical analysis of the site and shoreline characteristics.~~

~~S-776 King County shall require new development on steep slopes or bluffs to be set back sufficiently to ensure that shoreline stabilization is unlikely to be necessary during the life of the structure, as demonstrated by a geotechnical analysis.~~

~~S-777 King County shall not allow new development that requires shoreline stabilization that will cause significant adverse impacts to adjacent or down-current properties and shoreline areas.~~

~~S-778 King County should notify all prospective developers of new development along Vashon-Maury Island that their development may be impacted by sea-level rise and should encourage all such new development to be set back a sufficient distance to avoid the need for shoreline protection during the expected life of the development.~~

~~New "hard" structural stabilization measures should be used as a last resort after exploring and evaluating other soft measures:))~~

**S-810** New or enlarged structural shoreline stabilization to protect an existing primary structure shall be allowed only when:

- a. The structure is at imminent risk from shoreline erosion caused by tidal action, currents, or waves;
- b. No lower-impact alternative exists, including relocation or reconstruction of the structure;
- c. On-site drainage has been directed away from the shoreline edge; and
- d. There is no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.

~~((S-779)) S-811 ((King County shall require the use of soft methods of shoreline stabilization to the maximum extent practicable.)) King County shall allow new ((hard)) structural stabilization measures ((only)) for new nonwater-dependent development, as follows:~~

- a. ~~((To protect existing dependent development and structures, including single-family residences), if:~~

- 4.) The erosion is not the result of upland conditions, such as the loss of vegetation and drainage;
- ((2-)) b. Nonstructural measures, such as locating the development further from the shoreline, planting vegetation, or installing on-site drainage improvements, are not feasible or not sufficient;
- ((3-)) c. The need to protect primary structures from imminent risk of damage due to erosion is demonstrated through a geotechnical report submitted by a qualified specialist. The damage must be caused by natural processes, such as tidal action, currents, and waves; and
- ((4-)) d. Mitigation is provided such that the ((erosion control structure)) shoreline stabilization will not result in a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.

**S-812**

- ~~((b. To protect water-dependent development if))~~ King County shall allow new structural shoreline stabilization for water-dependent development, as follows:
- ((1-)) a. The erosion is not the result of upland conditions, such as the loss of vegetation and drainage;
- ((2-)) b. Nonstructural measures, planting vegetation, or installing on-site drainage improvements are not feasible or not sufficient;
- ((3-)) c. The need to protect primary structures from damage due to erosion is demonstrated through a geotechnical report submitted by a qualified specialist; and
- ((4-)) d. The ((erosion control structure)) shoreline stabilization will not result in a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.

**S-813**

- King County shall allow new structural stabilization ((c. F)) to protect shoreline restoration projects or hazardous substance remediation projects pursuant to Chapter 70A.305 Revised Code of Washington ((Chapter 70.105D if)) as follows:
- ((1-)) a. Nonstructural measures, planting vegetation, or installing on-site drainage improvements are not feasible or not sufficient; and
- ((2-)) b. The ((erosion control structure)) shoreline stabilization will not result in a net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.

~~((The King County shoreline jurisdiction includes a large number of shoreline stabilization structures, many of which were constructed years ago with little or no consideration of the impact on shoreline ecological processes and functions.~~

~~S-780))~~ **S-814**

- An existing shoreline stabilization structure may be replaced with a ((similar structure if)) method that is similar or less impactful, as follows:
- a. The replacement is designed, located, sized, and constructed to ensure no net loss of ecological functions;
- b. The replacement does not encroach waterward of the ordinary high water mark or the existing shoreline stabilization structure and is moved as far landward of the ordinary high water mark as possible;
- c. The existing shoreline stabilization structure is removed;
- d. The replacement does not increase the size of the existing stabilization structure; and
- e. The existing shoreline stabilization can no longer adequately serve its purpose and there is a demonstrated need to protect principal uses or structures from erosion caused by currents, tidal action, or waves.



~~((5-781) King County shall require replaced shoreline protection structures to be designed, located, sized, and constructed to assure no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.~~

**S-782)) S-815** Replacement walls or bulkheads to protect a residence shall not encroach waterward as measured at an elevation of two-feet above the current ordinary ((high-water)) high water mark, unless:

- The residence was occupied prior to January 1, 1972;
- There are overriding safety or environmental concerns; and
- The replacement ((structure)) shall abut the existing shoreline stabilization structure and be located on the landward side of the existing structure.

~~((5-783)) S-816~~ If a net loss of ecological processes and functions associated with critical saltwater habitats will result from leaving an existing shoreline protection structure that is proposed for replacement, King County shall require the structure to be removed as part of the replacement measure.

~~((5-784)) S-817~~ King County shall ((encourage)) require the use of soft shoreline stabilization measures that use placement or growth of natural materials that closely resemble natural scales and configurations, or other soft stabilization measures where appropriate, and that provide restoration of shoreline ecological processes and functions waterward of the ordinary ((high-water)) high water mark.

~~((5-785)) S-818~~ King County should encourage replaced structural shoreline stabilization located on Vashon-Maury Island to be relocated outside of the coastal high hazard area (also known as the coastal 100-year floodplain) whenever possible.

~~((King County should make decisions on shoreline stabilization measures based on technical studies and reports that objectively analyze the current conditions and the impact of the proposed stabilization measure. A geotechnical report addressing geologic and habitat conditions developed by a qualified geologist or geotechnical engineer and habitat specialist should be a requirement of a development proposal application that includes shoreline stabilization as part of the development.~~

**S-786** ~~When shoreline stabilization is proposed, King County shall require a geotechnical report to address the need to prevent potential damage to a primary structure. The report shall estimate time frames and rates of erosion and the urgency associated with the specific situation. King County should not allow hard armoring solutions, unless a geotechnical report confirms that there is a significant possibility that the structure will be damaged within three years as a result of shoreline erosion in the absence of such hard armoring measures, or where waiting until the need is immediate would foreclose the opportunity to use measures that avoid impacts on shoreline ecological processes and functions. If the geotechnical report confirms a need to prevent potential damage to a primary structure, but the need is not as immediate as the three years, the report may still be used to justify more immediate authorization to protect against erosion using soft measures.~~

~~The construction of shoreline stabilization measures results in impacts to the ecological processes and functions of the shoreline. The following measures should be considered to mitigate the impacts of shoreline stabilization projects:~~

**S-788)) S-819** If structural shoreline stabilization measures are demonstrated to be necessary, King County shall:

((1-)) **a.** Limit the size of stabilization measures to the minimum necessary;

((2-)) **b.** Require the use of measures designed to ((assure)) **ensure** no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions;

**c.** Ensure the shoreline stabilization method is the least ecologically impactful, technically feasible option; and

((3-)) **d.** Require the use of soft approaches, unless they are demonstrated not to be sufficient to protect primary structures, dwellings, and businesses.

**((5-789)) S-820** King County shall ensure that publicly financed or subsidized shoreline erosion control measures do not restrict appropriate public access to the shoreline, except where such access is determined to be infeasible because of incompatible uses, safety, security, or harm to shoreline ecological processes and functions. Where feasible, King County shall require ecological restoration and public access improvements to be incorporated into the project.

**((5-790)) S-821** King County shall discourage new development and redevelopment on feeder bluffs. Where a legal building lot exists and the landowner has no option to locate new development or redevelopment away from feeder bluffs and other areas that affect beach sediment-producing areas, King County shall require that they avoid, to the maximum extent ((practicable)) **feasible**, and then minimize the adverse impacts to sediment conveyance systems from erosion control measures.

**((5-791)) S-822** King County should prioritize feeder bluffs as areas for protection using acquisition, easement, transfer of development rights, and other programs that eliminate or reduce development threats.

((Erosion is the breakdown of soil, mud, rock, and other particles by the agents of wind, water, or ice or by living organisms. These materials are moved downward or down-slope in response to gravity. Upland conditions may contribute to this on-going natural physical process and may impact the ability of people to use the shoreline.))

Mass wasting is the geomorphic process by which soil, mud, rock, and other particles move downslope under the force of gravity. Types of mass wasting include creep, slides, flows, topples, and falls, each with its own characteristic features. Mass wasting may occur at a very slow rate, particularly in areas that are very dry or those areas that receive sufficient rainfall such that vegetation has stabilized the surface. ((It may also occur at very high speed, such as in rock slides or landslides, with disastrous consequences. The desire to protect shoreline development from these impacts leads to proposals for shoreline stabilization.))

**S-792)) S-823** The impacts of erosion and mass wasting should be mitigated through protection of geological hazardous areas.

## **((3-)) C. Piers and Docks**

Piers and docks are some of the most commonly requested modifications to the shorelines. Because they extend over the water, piers and docks can have a significant impact on the shoreline ecological processes and functions. Careful consideration should be given to the construction of new piers and docks, and how they are constructed ((in order)) to minimize their impacts.

**~~((5-798)) S-824~~ King County shall require piers and docks~~((including those accessory to single-family residences;))~~ to be designed and constructed to avoid and then minimize and mitigate the impacts to shoreline ecological processes and functions. King County shall ~~((require piers and docks to be constructed of non-toxic materials. Where toxic materials, such as treated wood, are proposed, the proponent must show that no non-toxic alternative exists))~~ prohibit the use of creosote or pentachlorophenol pilings.**

**~~((5-793)) S-825~~ King County shall allow new piers and docks only for water-dependent uses, single detached residences, or for public access.**

**a. For single detached residences, the pier or dock shall be considered a water-dependent use ~~((t))~~if it is designed and intended as a facility for access to watercraft~~((a dock associated with a single-family residence is considered a water-dependent use))~~. As an alternative to individual private moorage for residential development: mooring buoys are preferred over floats or docks and shared moorage facilities are preferred over single use moorage, where feasible or where water use conflicts exist or are predictable.**

**b. For all other development, piers or docks shall only be allowed when the applicant demonstrates that a specific need exists to support the intended water-dependent use.**

**~~((5-794)) S-826~~ King County shall require piers and docks ~~((construction))~~ to be limited to the minimum size necessary to meet the needs of the proposed water-dependent use.**

**~~((5-796))~~ King County shall allow new pier or dock construction, excluding docks accessory to single-family residences, only when the applicant has demonstrated that a specific need exists to support the intended water-dependent uses.**

**~~S-610)) S-827~~ King County shall prefer and provide special permitting considerations for docks and piers that are shared among multiple landowners.**

**~~((5-797)) S-828~~ If new piers or docks are allowed, King County shall require new residential development of two or more dwelling units, subdivisions, and short subdivisions to provide joint use or community dock facilities, when feasible, rather than individual docks for each dwelling unit or lot. King County shall allow only one pier or dock associated with a residential development on a parcel.**

## **~~((4:))~~ D. Fill**

**~~((Fill means the addition of soil, sand, rock, gravel, sediment, earth retaining structures, or other material to an area waterward of the ordinary high water mark, in wetlands, or on shorelands in a manner that raises the elevation or creates dry land.))~~ Fill is not permitted within the 100-year floodplain without providing compensatory flood storage to prevent a rise in the base flood, which is a flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, often referred to as the "100-year flood." Fill can impact shoreline ecological processes and functions, including channel migration.**

**((5-799)) S-829** King County shall require fill to be located, designed, and constructed to protect shoreline ecological processes and functions and ecosystem-wide processes, including channel migration and side channels.

**((5-800)) S-830** King County shall allow fill waterward of the ordinary ~~((high-water))~~ high water mark only when necessary to support:

- ((1-)) a.** Water-dependent use;
- ((2-)) b.** Public access;
- ((3-)) c.** Cleanup and disposal of contaminated sediments as part of an interagency environmental clean-up plan;
- ((4-)) d.** Disposal of dredged material considered suitable under, and conducted in accordance with, the dredged material management program of the Washington Department of Natural Resources;
- ((5-)) e.** Expansion or alteration of transportation facilities of statewide significance currently located on the shoreline and then only upon a demonstration that alternatives to fill are not feasible;
- ~~((or))~~
- ((6-)) f.** Mitigation actions, environmental restoration, beach nourishment, enhancement projects; or
- ((7-)) g.** Flood risk reduction projects implemented consistent with the goals, policies, and objectives of the King County Flood ~~((Hazard))~~ Management Plan where no reasonable alternative exists.

**((5-801)) S-831** King County shall require a shoreline conditional use permit for fill waterward of the ordinary ~~((high-water))~~ high water mark for any use, except for projects for ecological restoration or for the maintenance, repair, or replacement of flood protection facilities.

## **((5-)) E.** Breakwaters, Jetties, Groins, and Weirs

Breakwaters, jetties, groins, and weirs are all structural elements that are constructed to absorb or deflect wave action or to control excess sediment. A breakwater is an off-shore structure, either floating or not, which may or may not be connected to the shore and is designed to absorb and reflect back into the water body the energy of the waves. A jetty is an artificial barrier used to change the natural littoral drift to protect inlet entrances from clogging by transported sediment. A groin is a barrier-type structure extending from the backshore into the water across the beach, which is constructed to interrupt sediment movement along the shore. A weir is a small dam in a stream or river to control the flow of water. ~~((Although each of these structural elements may sometimes be appropriate, they should be allowed only under limited circumstances:))~~

**S-802)) S-832** King County shall allow breakwaters, jetties, and weirs located waterward of the ordinary ~~((high-water))~~ high water mark only where necessary to support water-dependent uses, public access, shoreline stabilization, or other specific public purpose.

**((5-803)) S-833** Groins are prohibited except as a component of a publicly~~((-))~~sponsored project to protect or restore shoreline ecological processes and functions.

**((5-804)) S-834** King County shall require a shoreline conditional use permit for the construction of breakwaters, jetties, groins, weirs, and similar structures, except for those structures installed to protect or restore

shoreline ecological processes and functions, such as woody debris  
installed in streams.

~~((5-805))~~ **S-835** Breakwaters, jetties, groins, and weirs shall be designed to protect  
critical areas and shall provide for mitigation according to the sequence  
in policy S-616 and defined in Washington Administrative Code  
173-26-201((2)(e)).

## ~~((6.))~~ **E. Beach and Dunes Management**

~~((Washington's beaches and their associated dunes lie along the Pacific Ocean coast  
between Point Grenville and Cape Disappointment and, as shorelines of statewide  
significance, are mandated to be managed from a statewide perspective by the  
Shoreline Management Act.))~~ There are no beaches ~~((and))~~ with associated dunes in  
King County.

## ~~((7.))~~ **G. Dredging and Dredge Material Disposal**

Dredging is the removal, displacement, or disposal of unconsolidated earth material  
such as sand, silt, gravel, or other submerged materials, from the bottom of water  
bodies, ditches, or natural wetlands. Long-term maintenance and support activities are  
also considered dredging. Dredging can cause significant ecological damage, which  
cannot always be avoided. ~~((Mitigation measures should be required to assure no net  
loss of shoreline ecological processes and functions.))~~

King County has a channel monitoring program for King County rivers, which can be  
used to inform decisions on dredging activities. ~~((While only certain reaches of these  
rivers have been surveyed, King County recognizes the need to continue and enhance  
the channel monitoring program. In addition, King County should avoid  
d))~~ Development of shorelines that would require new or maintenance dredging should  
be avoided.

~~((5-806))~~ **S-836** King County shall require that new development should be sited  
and designed to avoid, to the maximum extent practical, and then to  
minimize, the need for new or maintenance dredging.

~~((5-807))~~ **S-837** King County shall allow dredging for the purpose of establishing,  
expanding, or relocating or reconfiguring navigation channels and  
basins when necessary to ~~((assure))~~ ensure safe and efficient  
accommodation of existing navigational uses. Significant adverse  
ecological impacts shall be minimized and mitigation shall be provided  
to ensure that there is no net loss of shoreline ecological processes and  
functions. Maintenance dredging of established navigation channels  
and basins should be restricted to maintaining previously dredged or  
existing authorized location, depth, and width.

~~((5-808))~~ **S-838** King County shall not allow dredging waterward of the ordinary  
~~((high-water))~~ high water mark for the primary purpose of obtaining fill  
material, except ~~((when the material is necessary))~~ for the restoration of  
shoreline ecological processes and functions. ~~((When allowed, the site  
where t))~~ The fill ~~((is to))~~ shall be placed ~~((shall be located))~~ waterward  
of the ordinary ~~((high-water))~~ high water mark. The project must be  
either associated with a habitat restoration project under the Model  
Toxics Control Act or the Comprehensive Environmental Response,  
Compensation, and Liability Act, or, if approved through a shoreline



conditional use permit, any other significant habitat enhancement project.

~~((5-809))~~ **S-839** King County shall ~~((not))~~ only allow disposal of dredge material on shorelands, ~~((and))~~ in side channels within a river's channel migration zone, ~~((King County shall not allow disposal of dredge material))~~ and in wetlands located ~~((within the shoreline jurisdiction. In the limited instances where it is allowed, such disposal shall require))~~ through a shoreline conditional use permit.

~~((5-810))~~ **S-840** King County shall require dredging to be conducted consistent with ~~((Policy RCM-3 of))~~ the ~~((2006))~~ King County Flood ~~((Hazard))~~ Management Plan or successor plans.

## ~~((8.))~~ H. Shoreline Habitat and Natural Systems Enhancement Projects

Shoreline habitat and natural systems enhancement projects should be supported and coordinated with other planning processes, such as salmon conservation plans and the ~~((2006))~~ King County Flood ~~((Hazard))~~ Management Plan or successor plans.

~~((5-811))~~ **S-841** King County should allow for habitat and natural systems enhancement projects that include, but are not limited to:

- a. Modification of vegetation;
- b. Removal of nonnative or invasive plants;
- c. Shoreline stabilization using soft or non-structural techniques; and
- d. Dredging, and filling, provided that the primary purpose of such actions is clearly restoration of the natural character and shoreline ecological processes and functions of the shoreline.

~~((5-812))~~ **S-842** Habitat and natural systems enhancement projects should ~~((assure))~~ ensure that the projects address legitimate restoration needs and priorities.

## ~~((IX.Primary and Administrative))~~ X. Nuisance Abatement Policies

### ~~((A. Reservation of Right to Appeal Department of Ecology Decisions~~

By law, King County's Shoreline Master Program must be approved by the Department of Ecology, which has the power to reject or modify part or all of King County's Shoreline Master Program elements.

#### ~~1. Reservation of right to submit alternate proposal to Ecology~~

If the Department of Ecology recommends a change to some or all of the elements in King County's Shoreline Master Program, King County reserves the right to submit an alternate proposal for approval.

~~**S-901** If the Department of Ecology recommends changes to any elements of the King County Shoreline Master Program, King County reserves the~~

right to submit an alternate proposal to the Department for its review  
and approval.

~~2. Appeal of Ecology's decision to reject or modify King County  
Shoreline Master Program.~~

If the Department of Ecology rejects or modifies part or all of the elements of in King  
County's Shoreline Master Program, King County reserves the right to appeal this  
decision, in whole or part, to the Growth Management Hearings Board and the courts:

~~**S-902 If the Department of Ecology rejects part or all of King County's  
Shoreline Master Program, or if the Department of Ecology  
recommends changes that are unacceptable to King County, King  
County reserves the right to appeal the Department's decision to the  
Shoreline Management Hearings Board.**~~

~~B. Posting Notice of Effective Date of King  
County's Shoreline Master Program and  
Shoreline Regulations~~

The King County Shoreline Master Program and any amendments to the Shoreline  
Master Program take effect only after approval by the Washington State Department of  
Ecology:

~~**S-903 Upon receipt of the letter from the Department of Ecology approving  
the King County Shoreline Master Program or any amendments to the  
Shoreline Master Program, King County will promptly post on its  
website a notice that the Department of Ecology has taken final action  
and approved the Shoreline Master Program or SMP amendments. The  
notice will indicate the effective date.**~~

~~C. Treaty Rights Not Affected by Shoreline Master  
Program~~

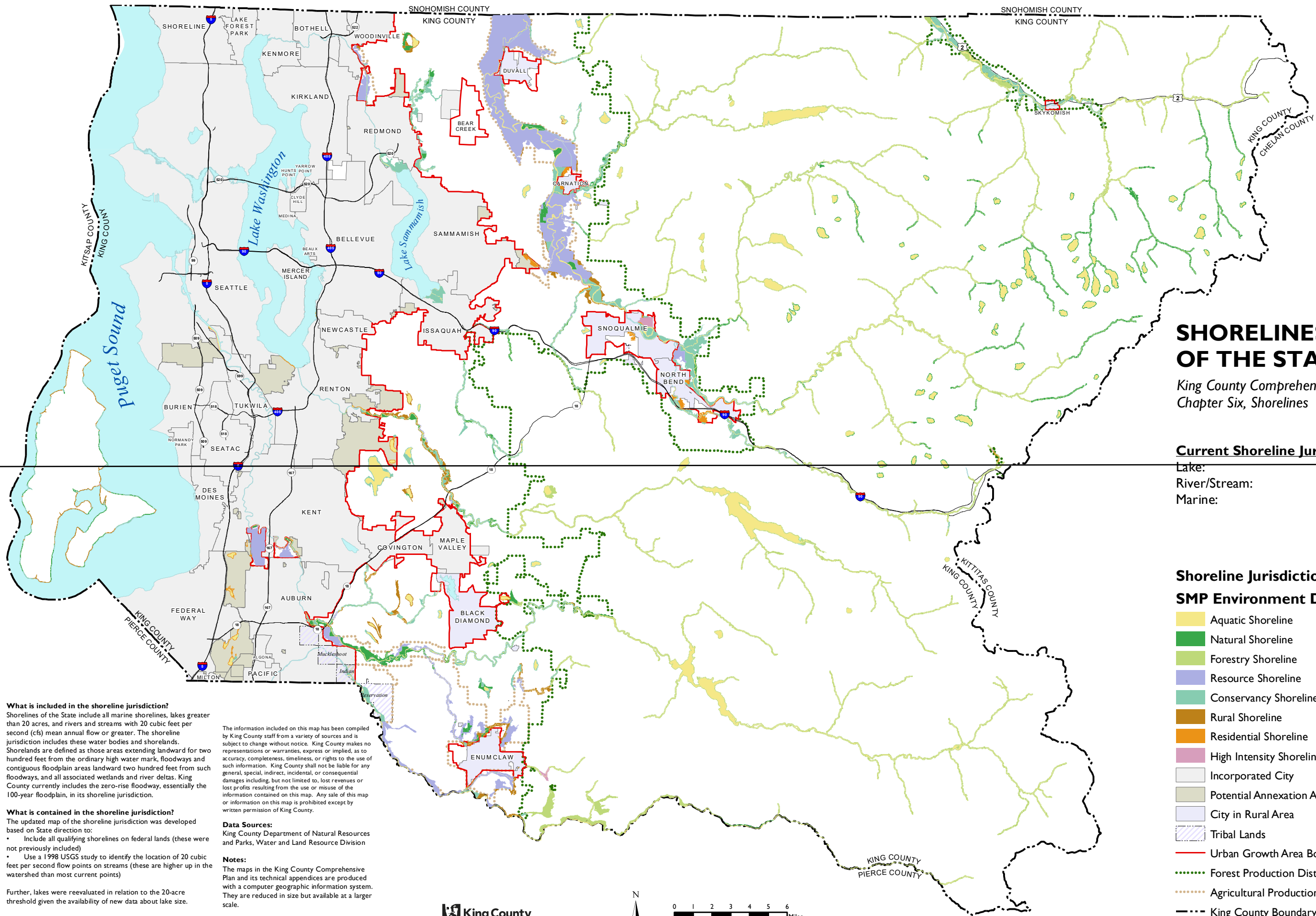
King County has sought the input of and consulted with tribes located in and adjacent  
to King County when developing the Shoreline Master Program. However, the  
Shoreline Master Plan and associated shoreline regulations shall not be construed to  
affect any treaty rights established between the United States and the individual tribes:

~~D. Power to Abate Nuisance Retained by King  
County and the State of Washington~~

Adoption of the Shoreline Master Program is a requirement of the Shoreline  
Management Act. King County's compliance with this state law should not be construed  
in any way to limit or modify all other powers possessed by King County.

~~**S-905)) S-901 Nothing in the King County Shoreline Master Program shall be  
construed to limit the power of King County or the State of Washington  
to abate nuisances within the shoreline jurisdiction.**~~

3695 ~~((5-906))~~ **S-902** King County specifically reserves all rights, power, and authority  
3696 granted to it by law. Nothing in the King County Shoreline Master  
3697 Program shall be construed in any way to limit any power or authority  
3698 possessed by King County.



# SHORELINES OF THE STATE 2020

King County Comprehensive Plan, 2020  
Chapter Six, Shorelines

Current Shoreline Jurisdiction Miles	
Lake:	220
River/Stream:	1,696
Marine:	51

- Shoreline Jurisdiction**
- SMP Environment Designations**
- Aquatic Shoreline
  - Natural Shoreline
  - Forestry Shoreline
  - Resource Shoreline
  - Conservancy Shoreline
  - Rural Shoreline
  - Residential Shoreline
  - High Intensity Shoreline
  - Incorporated City
  - Potential Annexation Areas
  - City in Rural Area
  - Tribal Lands
  - Urban Growth Area Boundary
  - Forest Production District Boundary
  - Agricultural Production District Boundary
  - King County Boundary
  - Freeways

**What is included in the shoreline jurisdiction?**  
Shorelines of the State include all marine shorelines, lakes greater than 20 acres, and rivers and streams with 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) mean annual flow or greater. The shoreline jurisdiction includes these water bodies and shorelands. Shorelands are defined as those areas extending landward for two hundred feet from the ordinary high water mark, floodways and contiguous floodplain areas landward two hundred feet from such floodways, and all associated wetlands and river deltas. King County currently includes the zero-rise floodway, essentially the 100-year floodplain, in its shoreline jurisdiction.

**What is contained in the shoreline jurisdiction?**  
The updated map of the shoreline jurisdiction was developed based on State direction to:

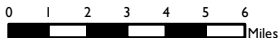
- Include all qualifying shorelines on federal lands (these were not previously included)
- Use a 1998 USGS study to identify the location of 20 cubic feet per second flow points on streams (these are higher up in the watershed than most current points)

Further, lakes were reevaluated in relation to the 20-acre threshold given the availability of new data about lake size.

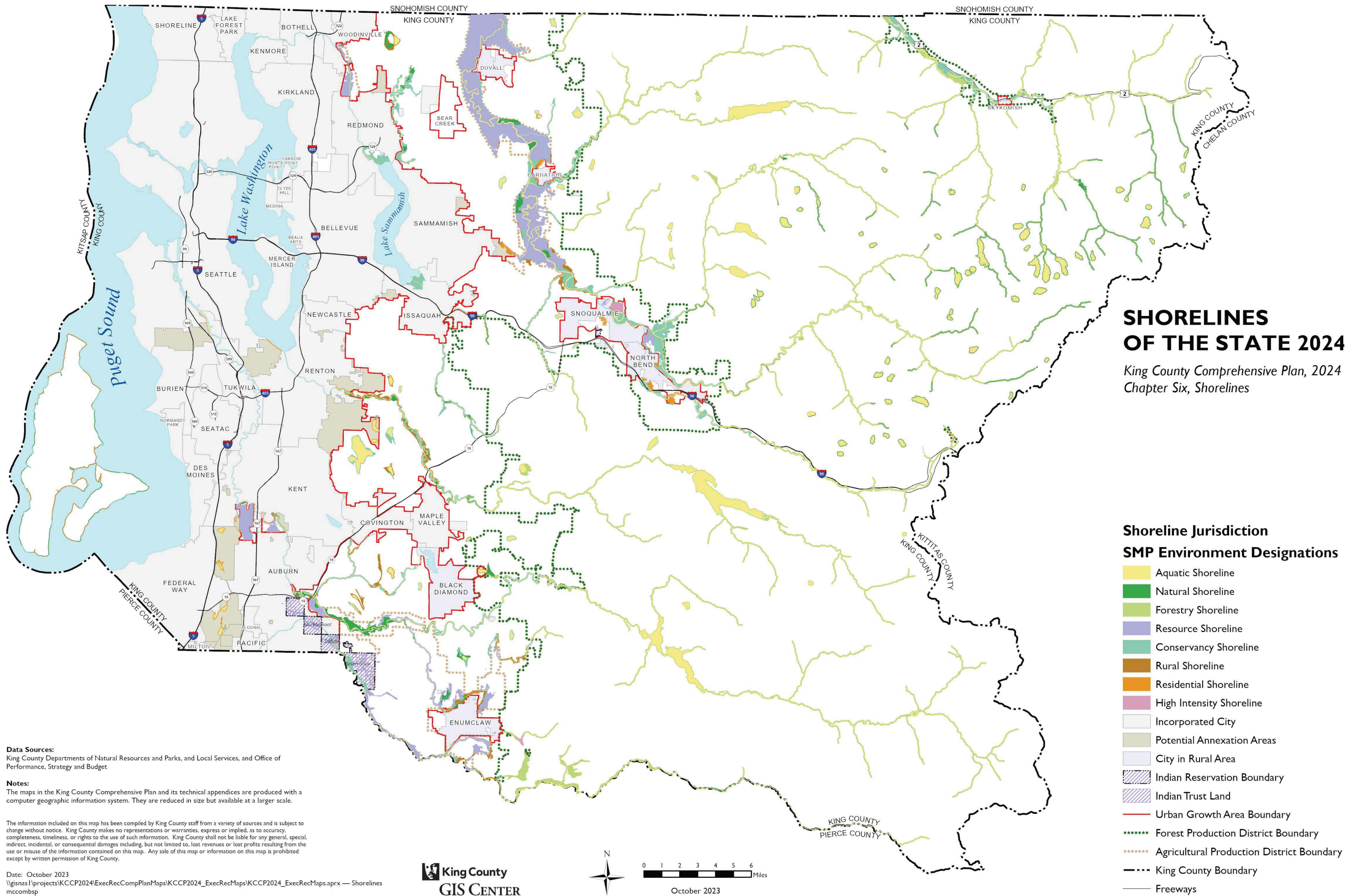
The information included on this map has been compiled by King County staff from a variety of sources and is subject to change without notice. King County makes no representations or warranties, express or implied, as to accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or rights to the use of such information. King County shall not be liable for any general, special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages including, but not limited to, lost revenues or lost profits resulting from the use or misuse of the information contained on this map. Any sale of this map or information on this map is prohibited except by written permission of King County.

**Data Sources:**  
King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Water and Land Resource Division

**Notes:**  
The maps in the King County Comprehensive Plan and its technical appendices are produced with a computer geographic information system. They are reduced in size but available at a larger scale.











## CHAPTER 7

**PARKS,**

**OPEN SPACE, &**

**CULTURAL**

**RESOURCES**



1 ((



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3

4

The quality of life in King County is directly linked to the quality of the region's environment, with its diverse landscapes reaching from Puget Sound to the Cascade Mountains; scenic beauty and the variety of cultural and recreational opportunities that enriches lives. These vital natural and cultural resources contribute to the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of county residents and are integral to attracting employment and business activity:

5

6

The policies in this chapter focus on the county's role as a regional leader in acquiring and protecting its system of county-owned parks, forests, natural areas, trails and other open spaces. In addition to protecting these natural resources, the county promotes a high quality of life by supporting cultural opportunities such as music, theater, ethnic heritage museums, literary activities, public art collections, urban historic districts, and rural landmarks:))

## I. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

~~((The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to identify open space corridors within and between Urban Growth Areas, including lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection of critical areas.))~~ The ((c))County's designation of open space includes those lands that are part of the King County open space system as well as state parks and natural resource conservation areas and federal wilderness areas in unincorporated King County. ~~((See the Land Use Map is located at the end of Chapter 1, Regional Growth Management Planning. The Growth Management Act states that counties are the providers of regional services and local rural services, while cities are the appropriate providers of local urban services. As the regional government,))~~ King County manages a regional open space system of parks, regional trails, natural or ecological areas, and working resource lands, which includes ~~((While the cities are the managers of local parks, trails and open space lands in the Urban Growth Area, King County will continue to be the provider of))~~ local parks, trails, and open space lands in the ~~((Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands))~~ unincorporated areas in addition to regional facilities.

~~((Population growth and associated development continue to transform the county's landscape as forested and open lands have been converted to urban uses resulting in the fragmentation of wildlife corridors and riparian habitat, as well as the depletion of working resource lands and open vistas. The policies in this section provide guidance for the open space system of lands the county owns and manages to protect and restore the health of natural systems, provide recreational opportunities, shape community character, and help sustain agriculture and forestry economics.))~~ Additional benefits ~~((of the open space and regional trails systems))~~ beyond recreation include providing transportation alternatives, ~~((as well as))~~ health benefits from physical activity, and access to the outdoors for those who have mobility disabilities. Large, forested parks and natural areas help maintain air quality~~((;))~~ and water quality and quantity, and help mitigate the effects of climate change. Parks and green spaces also provide stress relief, rest, and relaxation and contribute to improved mental health and ~~((well-being))~~ wellbeing. The policies also reinforce the ((c))County's focus on linking components of the open space system with an emphasis on completing the regional trails system, connecting riparian habitat, and reducing forestland fragmentation.

Regional recreation and multiuse parks serve a countywide population and provide high-quality, developed facilities that support multiple events, large group gatherings, and special events. Passive parks serve less formal, organized, or intense activities. Local ~~((rural))~~ park sites provide for active and passive recreation close to home. The Regional Trails ~~((System))~~ network forms the foundation for King County and other agencies' shared-use path networks that reach broadly throughout the ((c))County, linking cities, other counties, and the state, and offering extensive recreation opportunities. In addition to serving recreational users, ~~((F))the Regional Trails ((System is also an essential part of King County's multimodal transportation system, providing))~~ network also provides interconnected ~~((nonmotorized travel))~~ active transportation options that are important for getting King County residents from place to place. Local trails provide circulation within local communities and access to the larger ~~((r))~~Regional ~~((t))~~Trails ~~((system))~~ network.

Natural areas and working forest sites can provide opportunities for informal, low intensity, and low-impact activities which enable the understanding, appreciation, and significance of natural resources. Passive recreation use of these sites requires little infrastructure, although amenities such as backcountry trails and trailhead facilities may be needed to accommodate appropriate types and levels of public use. Natural areas often contain undeveloped or un~~((r))~~developable acreage that is managed primarily to support habitat to provide ecological benefits ~~((and contribute to biodiversity)).~~

Forested areas provide carbon sequestration and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and play a role in adaptation to climate change.

For the purposes of the King County open space system, "regional" means sites and facilities that are large in size and serve communities from long distances and multiple jurisdictions. "Local" means sites and facilities that serve unincorporated communities and are smaller sites servicing close-to-home park and recreation needs.

~~((P-101) For the purposes of the King County open space system: "regional" shall define sites and facilities that are large in size, have unique features or characteristics or significant ecological value, and serve communities from many jurisdictions; and "local" shall define sites and facilities that serve unincorporated communities predominately in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.))~~

## A. ((The Regional)) King County's Open Space System of Parks, Trails, Natural Areas, and Working Resource Lands

The policies in this chapter provide the basis to develop a contiguous and functional open space system, connecting and including recreation and multiuse parks, natural areas, working resource lands and regional trails. ~~((The components of this vital system contribute to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of county residents. Other publicly-owned lands such as Farmland Preservation Program and Flood Hazard Management properties also contribute to the system and its environmental benefits.))~~ The Open Space System Map shows these publicly(=)owned open space lands and provides the basis for identifying the linkages necessary to strengthen the physical and functional connectivity of the ((e))County's open space system. The following policies reinforce the importance of the ((c))County's open space system((:)) and guide planning and management of appropriate recreational opportunities that best meet regional and local ((rural)) unincorporated area needs, preserve ecologically significant resources and protect working resource lands.

~~((P-102))~~ **P-101** King County shall ((be)) provide a regional ~~((leader in the provision of a regional))~~ open space system consisting of regional and local parks, regional and backcountry trails, natural areas, working resource lands, and flood hazard management lands.

~~((P-125))~~ **P-102** Management of the ((regional)) County's open space system ((of parks, regional trails, natural areas and working resource lands is)) shall be guided by the King County Open Space Plan: Parks, Trails and Natural Areas.

**P-103** ~~((The regional network of open spaces provides benefits to all county residents including: recreation facilities, conservation of natural and working resource lands, improving air and water quality, flood hazard management and related programs and services, thereby contributing to the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of county residents.))~~  
King County shall:  
a. Prioritize equity and use the opportunities areas map in the development and acquisition of its open space system to help reduce health disparities and promote environmental justice;  
b. Promote equitable access to the open space system for historically underrepresented and historically underinvested communities; and

c. Ensure that equity and racial and social justice benefits to all residents are prioritized in the open space system.

((P-103)) **P-104** King County ((will)) shall preserve wildlife corridors, riparian habitat, contiguous forest land, ((as well as)) and open space areas separating ((U))urban ((A))areas from the Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands, as part of its open space system.

## B. Components of ((the Regional)) King County's Open Space System

King County's ((regional)) open space system contains lands with many functions including: active and passive recreation; special purpose sites such as pools and trails; natural areas(;) with educational, scientific, wildlife habitat, cultural or scenic values; working resource lands including agriculture and forest((—))lands; and community-defining systems, including physical and or visual buffers between areas of urban and rural development. ((Many sites within the open space system serve more than one function, but each site generally serves a primary role within the system.))

### 1. Recreation Sites

#### Regional Parks

King County's regional ((recreation)) parks and facilities accommodate a wide range of ((active and passive)) recreational activities. Recreation sites that make up a functional system include: highly developed sites with organized, scheduled activities such as soccer and softball; ((passive or low impact recreation sites that include both physical activities and less intense activities such as)) informal play, trail use, and picnicking; and multiuse sites that include a ((combination of active recreation and passive)) spectrum of recreational ((with less intensely developed facilities and natural areas)) opportunities. ((Regional recreation parks serve a broad spectrum of users. These parks and their facilities include those not generally viable for individual communities due to site or specialized facility requirements or the unique nature of the offering requiring a broader user base to support them.)) Regional parks include recreational facilities that rely on a broad user base, require a large area, include a specialized facility, or offer a unique experience.

Educational and interpretive programming promotes appropriate and enjoyable use of the park system, increases public awareness of the park system's resources and values, and builds support and stewardship for the system and its resources. Programming and special events provide activities and entertainment that attract people to the parks.

((P-104)) **P-105** King County shall provide regional parks and recreational facilities that serve users from multiple neighborhoods and communities((-Regional parks include unique sites and facilities that should be)) and strive to be equitably and geographically distributed, and shall ensure that investments prioritized using opportunity area metrics are delivered in collaboration with the community, cities, and other partners.

((P-105)) **P-106** King County should facilitate affordable and culturally((-)) accessible educational, interpretive, and aquatic programs on ((c))County-owned properties that further the enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the park system and the region.



~~((P-106))~~ **P-107** King County should facilitate and seek regional and national programs and special events at regional sites and facilities.

## 2. Local ~~((Parks))~~ Open Space

In the Rural Area, the large geographic area and dispersed populations, individual lots, low residential density, and economies of site management dictate fewer and smaller individual park sites ~~than in urban areas. ((Nearby regional parks and other open spaces also provide recreational opportunities in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.))~~ King County's role in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands ~~((with))~~ reflects rural levels of service. King County also provides local parks in unincorporated urban areas and the County's role in these parks reflect urban levels of service. ~~((These vital local parks, local trails, and recreational facilities contribute to the physical, mental and emotional well-being of county residents:))~~

~~P-107))~~ **P-108** King County shall provide local parks, trails, and other open spaces in ~~((the Rural Area))~~ **urban and rural unincorporated areas. Local parks, trails, and other open spaces that complement the regional ((system)) open space should be provided in each community ((in Rural Areas)) to meet local recreation and open space needs and enhance environmental quality and ((visual quality)) view corridors.**

~~((P-108))~~ **P-109** King County should provide local parks that include fields and other active recreation facilities ~~((with))~~ **in urban and rural unincorporated ((communities with fields and other facilities that provide opportunities for active sports)) areas. These facilities shall be ((in addition to and compatible)) additional and complimentary to those in ((with King County's)) regional parks.**

## 3. Regional Trails ~~((System))~~ Network

The Regional Trails ~~((System))~~ network is a major element of the county's greater open space system that provides opportunities for recreation and ~~((nonmotorized transportation))~~ active transportation, as well as corridors often used by wildlife. This system contributes to the health and ~~((wellbeing))~~ wellbeing of ~~((both county residents))~~ trail users and the environment. King County is home to one of the largest ~~((nonmotorized))~~ regional trail networks in the North America. King County and local jurisdictions collectively offer ~~((approximately))~~ over 300 miles of shared-use (multi(~~=~~))purpose) paved and unpaved paths connecting communities and linking Puget Sound urban areas with the Rural Area((s)), Natural Resource Lands, and the Cascade Mountains. ~~((These facilities are classified as shared use paths by the Federal Highway Administration and are a component of the federally-designated regional transportation plan administered by the Puget Sound Regional Council. The))~~ King County ~~((government))~~ stewards some 175 miles of the overall network. The remaining portions of the network are managed by local cities, the Port of Seattle, and Washington State.

~~((Regional trails are non-motorized facilities used for bicycling, walking, jogging, skating, horseback riding where appropriate, and other activities. The paths provide both recreational opportunities and mobility options, connecting users in neighborhoods and communities with schools, parks, employment, and other important destinations. Regional trails may be paved or soft-surface (gravel) or a combination of both. The network reaches more than 30 cities throughout King County, and use is extensive. It has been estimated that 12 million bicycle and pedestrian trips are made on the network in King County annually. These paths serve a wide range of land uses, both urban and rural. They link urban centers, business districts, neighborhoods, universities, schools, parks, and transportation centers. They run through cities, along~~

waterfronts and scenic shorelines, through river valleys and farmlands, and into the Cascade forests.

~~While intended originally as recreational amenities and linear parks, the regional trails in King County have evolved to provide not only extensive recreation, but also important active transportation opportunities, and social and cultural venues. Today, thousands of daily trips are made on paths such as the Burke-Gilman Trail between suburban cities and Seattle.))~~

Recreation remains the primary use on regional trails, but ~~((an increasing number of those))~~ some trips are made for work and school, combining the healthy recreational benefits of cycling and walking with the workday commute. The trails are also used for a variety of special activities that enrich life in the central Puget Sound region, from art-related treks to community fundraisers to long-distance cycling events.

Regional trails in King County now include ~~((not only))~~ decades-old popular routes like the Burke-Gilman Trail~~((, but also))~~ and trails networking many landscapes and destinations. Routes follow abandoned railroad lines, water pipeline and power line corridors, river levees, and other special features or they may establish their own alignments as they seek out practical courses between destinations. More interconnections provide more travel opportunities. Paths access parks and scenic landscapes, but they also now serve urban centers, major transit facilities, and other important everyday destinations. Future facilities will continue to provide the joint benefits of recreation and regional mobility. More information regarding King County's Regional Trails ~~((System))~~ network, including the proposed future regional trails plan, the Regional Trails Needs Report, can be found in ~~((the Appendices))~~ Appendix C2.

**~~((P-109)) P-110 King County shall complete and maintain a regional trails ((system)) network, ((linking trail corridors to form a countywide network)) to provide recreational opportunities and to allow for transportation and wildlife corridor uses to contribute to the health and wellbeing of both trail users and the environment. King County ((will)) shall continue to primarily own the land necessary for the operation and management of the trail ((system)) network and pursue public-private funding opportunities for development and maintenance, while ensuring opportunities for access for all King County residents.~~**

~~((Policies related to the planning, development, and management of the Regional Trails System can be found in the King County Parks Open Space Plan, a functional plan of the King County Comprehensive Plan. Additional policies can also be found in Chapter 8, Transportation:~~

~~Eastside Rail Corridor)) Eastrail~~

~~((The Eastside Rail Corridor))~~ Eastrail provides a ~~((rare and))~~ unique opportunity to develop a major north-south, dual-use ~~((recreational trail and public transportation))~~ corridor in support of active transportation and transit mobility ~~((through transit, nonmotorized and active transportation, including access to transit outside the corridor,))~~ consistent with its federal railbanked status. The owners share ~~((other))~~ multiple objectives for the corridor including accommodating utilities, parks, recreation, and cultural amenities, and encouraging equitable access to these facilities, and to housing and jobs, in support of economic opportunity for all King County residents. ~~((The corridor will be the focus of regional trail planning and development by King County Parks))~~ King County is actively developing the regional trail component of Eastrail, connecting regional growth centers, urban communities, other regional trails, and ((both)) local and high-capacity transit. The trail will connect to existing major regional trail corridors including the Mountains to Sound/I-90 Trail, State Route 520 Trail, Sammamish River Trail, Lake to Sound Trail, and others. ((The trail will provide

opportunities for safe recreation and mobility as a component of King County's Regional Trails System and provide opportunities for environmental benefits to the region.

**P-110a)) P-111((The Eastside Rail Corridor regional trail shall be developed)) King County shall develop Eastrail in coordination with the other trail owners, other jurisdictions, local and state agencies, utilities with property interests, and nonprofit and private partners to enhance regional recreation and mobility and connectivity between regional growth centers, urban communities, other regional trails, and local and high-capacity transit, consistent with a commitment to dual use (recreational trail and public transportation), and consistent with federal railbanking. ((The trail will enhance the quality of life by providing important recreation and mobility options for adjacent land uses.)) The trail corridor shall include high-quality landscaping and environmental features, where appropriate, to enhance the trail experience and to provide ecological benefits to the region.**

**((P-110 King County shall include the planning and development of a regional trail in the Eastside Rail Corridor, to enhance regional recreation and mobility. This facility will be planned and developed in coordination with other owners of BNSF's former interests, and in close coordination with King County Department of Transportation and other state and local agencies, in support of the commitment to dual use (recreational trail and public transportation), consistent with federal railbanking, and multiple objectives of King County and the other owners. The trail will be identified in King County's regional trails plan, the Regional Trails Needs Report, as a priority capital facility.**

**P-110b The Eastside Rail Corridor regional trail shall be developed to the most current regional trail standards, ensuring safe recreation and mobility in accessing trails, streets and transit consistent with a commitment to dual use (recreational trail and public transportation), and consistent with federal railbanking. The trail corridor will include high-quality landscaping and environmental features where appropriate to enhance the trail experience and to provide ecologic benefits to the region.))**

#### 4. Multi((-U))use Sites

((Each portion of a multi-use site will be developed and managed to support the level of use or conservation appropriate to that portion of the site.

**P-110c)) P-112 Multi((-))use sites should include lands that have areas of environmental value, but also may accommodate extensive public access and active and/or passive recreation opportunities. Each portion of a multiuse site shall be developed and managed to support the level of use or conservation appropriate to that portion of the site.**

#### 5. Natural Areas

The King County open space system includes many sites owned by King County whose primary purpose is to conserve and restore ecological value. These sites may allow varying types of public use that do not harm the ecological resources of the site. These sites include many scenic and environmental features of King County's landscape, which play a role in protecting a diversity of vegetation and fish and wildlife important to the beauty and character of the region. King County ((with)) focuses on linking natural areas to create regional open space corridors of greenways and waterways along the major natural systems, such as rivers and shorelines.

~~((Preserving these areas in partnership with other agencies, private groups and individuals will provide multiple values including environmental and economic benefits of air and water quality, surface water management, aquifer recharge, and fish and wildlife habitat preservation and enhancement.))~~

~~((P-111))~~ **P-113 King County ((will)) shall manage its natural areas to protect, preserve, and enhance important natural resource habitat, biological diversity, and the ecological integrity of natural systems.**

~~((P-112))~~ **P-114 King County shall recognize and protect the natural character and ecological value of its natural areas. These areas are important for preserving fish and wildlife and their habitat, native vegetation, ((and)) features of scientific and educational value, and Indian tribal cultural and historic resources. Development and public use may be limited to preserve the natural state and reduce disturbance of the natural and cultural resources. Site improvements should be focused on providing educational and interpretive opportunities. Public access should be directed to ((the)) less-fragile portions of a site to ensure continued protection of the ecological and cultural resources.**

## **6. Working Resource Lands**

The ~~((c))~~County's open space system includes lands owned by King County that are managed as working farms and forests. The ~~((c))~~County has purchased these properties ~~((in fee or less than fee ownership))~~ with the intention of conserving the resource use on the site. County ownership and management of these lands conserves the resource land base, allowing the resource activity to continue, while contributing to the local ~~((rural))~~ economy, providing healthy foods, reducing carbon emissions associated with importing food into the region, providing education about agriculture and forestry, and providing passive recreational opportunities on some properties. The ~~((c))~~County's policies to conserve farmland and encourage agriculture are discussed in Chapter 3, Rural Area~~((s))~~ and Natural Resource Lands.

### Farmland

~~((The Farmland Preservation Program is a county program that preserves farmland through the purchase of development rights. The farms in the Farmland Preservation Program generally remain in private ownership. The county has purchased a farm outright in a few cases, with the intention of reselling the land without the development rights to a private farmer.))~~ The County occasionally acquires farmland, either to address farmland access issues or as part of an acquisition for other purposes, such as habitat protection, food risk reduction, or recreational access. Although the County usually intends to resell farmland to a farmer while retaining a Farmland Preservation Program easement, some farmland has strategic importance to advancing County initiatives and priorities and will be retained in County ownership long-term. The ~~((c))~~County has developed a program to lease farms ~~((to small-scale farmers))~~ until such time that the property ~~((can be))~~ is resold.

~~((P-113))~~ **P-115 Farmland owned by King County shall:**

- a. ~~((c))~~Contribute to the preservation of contiguous tracts of agricultural land; ((and)) or**
- b. ~~((make affordable farmland available for use by small-scale and new farmers))~~ Provide access to farmland to farmers who are historically underrepresented in agriculture, beginning farming, or economically disadvantaged.**

~~((P-114) Farmers leasing properties owned by King County shall use Agricultural Best Management practices, Integrated Pest Management and other sustainable farming methods.))~~

**P-116 King County shall explore opportunities to allow farmers who are historically underrepresented in agriculture, beginning farming, or economically disadvantaged to build equity while leasing farmland owned by the County.**

~~((P-115))~~ **P-117 The use and management of farmlands owned by King County shall be consistent with any requirements imposed by the funding program used to purchase each property and shall serve to meet and enhance the objectives of the King County Agriculture Program.**

#### Forestland

~~((One goal of the King County Open Space System is the c))~~ Conservation of forestland, through acquisition of land or conservation easements, ~~((to))~~ decreases threats of conversion resulting from development and fragmentation, ~~((as well as))~~ and promotes ~~((the))~~ understanding of the importance of forest management, including restoration of the forests to more natural conditions. The working forests owned by King County are generally very large parcels of land (several hundred acres or more) that support sustainable forest management practices and contribute to the retention of a contiguous forest.

These properties contain valuable fish and wildlife habitat, provide environmental services (such as stormwater management, clean air and water and carbon sequestration), and help mitigate the impacts of climate change, as well as provide high-quality passive recreation, scenic vistas, and educational~~((/))~~ and interpretation opportunities.

~~((P-116))~~ **P-118 Working forest land and conservation easements owned by King County shall provide large tracts of forested property in the Rural Forest Focus Areas, the Forest Production District, and Rural Area, ((that will))**

**P-119 Working forest land and conservation easements owned by King County shall remain in active forestry, protect areas from development, or provide a buffer between commercial forestland and adjacent residential development, and may provide ecological or recreational benefits.**

~~((P-117))~~ **P-120 Management goals for working ((F))forest land owned by King County shall ((be used to sustain and enhance environmental)) include enhancing ecological benefits and functions, ((demonstrate progressive)) demonstrating best forest management ((and research)) practices, ((and provide)) providing passive recreation opportunities, and generating revenue ((for the)) to facilitate sustainable management of ((the working forest lands)) those sites.**

~~((P-118) Forest land owned by King County shall provide a balance between sustainable timber production, conservation and restoration of resources, and appropriate public use.))~~

## 7. Backcountry Trails

Backcountry trails are ~~((not a separate open space category, rather they are))~~ facilities located within King County's multi~~((=))~~use sites, forest lands and natural areas. These trails allow visitors to directly experience the county's beautiful natural environment as found in its forests, meadows, and marine and fresh~~((=))~~water shoreline. Unlike multi~~((=~~



))purpose regional trails that network urban and rural landscapes throughout the county, these soft-surface trails are intended for ((passive)) outdoor recreation and appreciation and enjoyment of a natural experience with forest and trees, streams and wetlands, shorelines, and birds and wildlife. Where backcountry trails are developed on lands containing fish ~~((and))~~, wildlife, and cultural resources, development and management of such trails is undertaken ~~((so as))~~ to minimize the impacts on those resources.

**((P-118a)) P-121**      **King County ((will)) shall continue to provide and manage a backcountry trail system on its lands in collaboration with other public and private landholders and consistent with its Trail Programmatic Permit.**

## 8.      Other Open Spaces

Preservation of open space in the county reaches beyond the ((c))County-owned system. Large areas of the county are owned and managed by federal agencies, the state, and other local jurisdictions ~~((that manage the land))~~ for environmental protection, resource production, or a wide range of recreational ~~((opportunities))~~ uses. Additionally, open space benefits are often provided by private land~~((--))~~owners managing their land in ways that protect the environment, conserve natural resources, or provide scenic vistas. ~~((King County acquires property for other reasons, such as flood hazards or providing needed public facilities. These lands can also provide open space conservation benefits:))~~

**P-122**      **King County shall encourage and pursue partnerships and mutually beneficial agreements with Indian tribes, public agencies, nonprofit and community organizations, and the private sector to fund, program, manage, and steward sites and facilities for public recreation and natural resource protection consistent with the classification, role, and use of said sites and facilities.**

~~((King County has acquired lands and manages facilities along major river and stream systems for the primary purpose of floodplain management and flood hazard management. Major streams and rivers are vital components of the county's open space system, therefore the flood hazard management lands contribute critical links in the county's open space network. The King County Flood Control District will continue to maintain flood hazard management land and facilities within available funding levels. The county will also seek innovative measures for maintaining and improving flood hazard management, reducing maintenance costs, integrating flood hazard management and recreational opportunities, and achieving wildlife habitat protection and salmon recovery:))~~

## C.    ((Achieving)) Sustaining and Growing the Open Space System

Parks and other ((c))County-owned open space lands ensure a quality of life today and a legacy to future generations. In King County, many types of open spaces and fish and wildlife habitat remain in private ownership and may be subject to future development. King County's Land Conservation Initiative guides the collaborative strategy to accelerate the preservation of natural lands, working farms and forests, urban green space, and trails in the next 30 years. To ensure that these lands and resources are protected and to offer an alternative to acquisition, the ((c))County offers landowners a wide variety of tools to preserve their property. ~~((Policies outlining strategies for using these tools can be found in Chapters 3, Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands, 4, Housing and Human Services, and 7, Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources:))~~

Cooperation, coordination, and partnerships with public agencies, private groups, and individuals are necessary to develop the ~~((regional parks and))~~ open space system, to meet existing needs for park and recreation facilities, and to accommodate the needs of growth. The Mountains-to-Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, along the I-90 corridor, is a successful model for coordination of efforts by public and private entities to protect the backbone of the ~~((e))~~ County's open space system. King County will achieve the multiple benefits of resource protection and recreation by building partnerships and coordinating with providers and user groups of the ~~((parks and))~~ open space system. Working together, stewardship can be fostered and these lands and facilities can be enhanced, restored, and operated more economically and efficiently to benefit all county residents.

## 1. Priorities

~~((P-119))~~ **P-123** Open space lands should be acquired to expand and enhance the open space system as identified in the King County Open Space Plan: Parks, ~~((Regional))~~ Trails and Natural Areas.

~~((P-120))~~ **P-124** Regional trail corridors should be acquired when identified in King County's Regional Trails Needs Report or other trails plans.

~~((P-121))~~ ~~King County shall consider equity in the location, development and acquisition of its open space system to help in the reduction of health disparities and in the promotion of social and environmental justice.))~~

## 2. Criteria

~~((P-122))~~ **P-125** Lands preserved for ~~((public parks, regional trails or other))~~ open space should provide multiple benefits whenever possible.

~~((P-123))~~ **P-126** Decisions on acquisition and development of park, regional trail, and other open space sites should consider funding needs for public engagement, initial stewardship, site development, long((-))-term maintenance, and operations.

~~((P-124))~~ **P-127** A variety of measures should be used to acquire, protect, manage, and develop regional and local ~~((parks, regional trails and))~~ open space. Measures can include ~~((county funding and other))~~ funding mechanisms, grants, partnerships, incentives, regulations, dedications, ~~((and))~~ contributions from residential and commercial development based on their service impacts, ~~((and))~~ trades of lands, and shared development activities.

## 3. Managing the System

As the caretaker of ~~((200))~~ 205 parks, 175 miles of regional trails, more than ~~((200))~~ 250 miles of backcountry trails, ~~((28,000))~~ 32,000 acres of open space, and ~~((145,000))~~ 150,000 acres of conservation easements, King County is one of the region's important providers and managers of public lands. As such, the principles and policies that guide stewardship and management of these lands and resources are critical to ensure these assets continue to contribute to the region's quality of life now and for future generations.

~~((P-126))~~ **P-128** Development and management of ~~((parks, regional trails and))~~ open space ~~((sites))~~ should be consistent with the purposes of their acquisition and in consideration of their funding sources.

~~((P-127))~~ **P-129** Open space lands shall be classified to identify their role in the open space system and the purpose of the acquisition as recreation site, regional trail, natural area ~~((park, multiuse site, or))~~, working ~~((resource land))~~ forestland, or multiuse site.

~~((P-128))~~ King County will adopt an entrepreneurial approach to managing and operating the open space system and work aggressively to implement multiple and appropriate strategies to fiscally sustain the open space system:

**P-128a) P-130** King County should develop management plans (such as master plans, forest stewardship plans, or site management guidelines) that outline goals and objectives and management recommendations for sites within the open space system, as appropriate.

~~((P-128b))~~ **P-131** King County's use of pesticides and fungicides ~~((will))~~ shall be based on integrated pest management principles.

~~((P-128c))~~ **P-132** King County shall support activities at County parks that advance public health, provide clean environments, and avoid exposure to harmful products, such as tobacco and vaping products, ~~((in order))~~ to promote play, physical activity, and family and community connection.

#### 4. Coordination and Partnerships

~~((P-129))~~ **P-133** Recognizing the value of open space in promoting social and economic health and wellness across the county, King County shall be a leader in establishing partnerships with Indian tribes, cities, adjacent counties, ~~((tribes,))~~ state and federal agencies, school and special purpose districts, community organizations, ~~non((-))~~profit organizations, ~~land((-))~~owners, and other residents. The ~~((c))~~County and these partners should work to:

a. Support and strengthen the linkages between rural, resource, and urban communities' use and maintenance of open spaces;

b. ~~((p))~~ Promote and protect all aspects of environmental quality, while addressing equity and racial and social justice goals to complete the ~~((regional parks and))~~ open space system through joint planning and management of local and regional sites and facilities.

~~((P-130))~~ **P-134** In the Urban Growth Area, King County shall work in partnership with other jurisdictions to facilitate annexation and transfer of local parks~~((, and local trails))~~ and other open space sites to cities or other providers to ensure continued service to the community.

~~((P-131))~~ King County should work with cities to share operational and maintenance costs of parks and other open spaces in unincorporated areas in which a substantial portion of the users are from incorporated areas:

~~P-132))~~ **P-135** King County ~~((will))~~ shall encourage and support volunteer efforts to maintain and enhance programs, sites, and facilities.

## 5. Public Participation

~~((P-133))~~ **P-136** King County ~~((will))~~ shall encourage and seek public input, advice, and participation ~~((from the public))~~ in decisions about ~~((management of))~~ the open space system ~~((that relate to key issues such as funding, planning, acquisition, development and stewardship))~~ and to advance equitable access to parks and trails.

~~((P-134))~~ **P-137** King County ~~((will invite and involve a wide variety of interests via a diversity of individuals, groups and agencies))~~ shall use a variety of methods to ensure early, continuous, and broad engagement with the public consistent with the County's equity and racial and social justice goals and policies. King County ~~((will))~~ shall intentionally engage communities that are the most affected by proposals and plans and shall provide equitable access for historically underrepresented and underinvested populations in public engagement about and access to the open space system.

~~((P-135~~ King County ~~will use a variety of methods to ensure public involvement from all county residents such as public meetings, advisory groups, surveys, web and social media postings, news releases, park site signage, mailing lists, newsletters and through various community groups (including Community Service Areas). These methods will allow for early, continuous and broad public participation:))~~

## II. Cultural Resources

Cultural resources make a significant contribution to the quality of life in King County. Arts and heritage organizations, public art ~~((and))~~, historic and archaeological properties, and Indian tribal celebrations and traditional cultural events contribute to the region's economic vitality, play an essential role in cultural tourism, and contribute significantly to the county's overall quality of life. As King County grows, the need to protect, support, and enhance cultural opportunities and resources is essential ~~((in order))~~ to ~~((sustain))~~ livability. King County plays an important role in supporting the region's cultural life. 4Culture, a County-chartered Public Development Authority, serves as the cultural services agency of King County ~~((county's cultural services agency))~~. 4Culture has operational responsibility for advancing the work of the cultural community in King County by advocating for, supporting, promoting, and enhancing:

- arts;
- heritage;
- preservation; and
- public art.

4Culture~~((s))~~ and the King County ~~((h))~~Historic ~~((p))~~Preservation ~~((p))~~Program work together to provide ~~((s))~~ funding, advocacy, assistance, and support in preserving and conserving the county's historical and archeological resources through projects and programs including~~((t))~~ interpretation, community education and outreach, cultural tourism, and rehabilitation of historical resources~~((The King County Historic Preservation Program, housed in the County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks, also plays an important role ensuring))~~, as well as to ensure that historic properties throughout King County are protected and enhanced.

King County government can lead by example through stewardship and wise management of its own cultural resources. Historic public buildings and facilities, such

as bridges and roads, can be preserved and continue to be used; other historic resources can be converted to public use. As set by ~~((p))~~Policy ED-~~((106))~~109, found in Chapter 10, Economic Development, ~~((in order))~~ to enhance the region's quality of life and economic vitality, the ~~((c))~~County will engage in programs and projects to protect cultural resources and promote expanded cultural opportunities for the county's residents and visitors.

**P-201 King County shall be a steward of cultural resources under its control. It shall identify and evaluate cultural resources, preserve public art ~~((works))~~ and significant historic properties, and interpret and provide public access to them whenever appropriate. County departments and divisions shall collaborate with the Historic Preservation Program to nominate eligible properties for landmark designation.**

**P-202 King County shall consider equity and racial, social, and environmental justice in its promotion and protection of cultural resources.**

**P-203 King County shall encourage ~~((preserving, reusing and recycling))~~ preservation and reuse of historic buildings in its facilities planning and other relevant actions, including open space acquisition, and shall encourage the salvage and recycling of those that cannot be feasibly reused. King County shall also encourage interested parties in pursuing preservation, restoration, and repurposing projects, particularly in those doing repairs and/or upgrades themselves.**

## A. Relationships

County residents need arts and heritage opportunities. These include both attendance-driven programs and projects, as well as more localized, community-orientated opportunities ~~((of))~~ for hands-on participation and education. The county's cultural system is comprised of regional and local arts and heritage organizations, individuals, and venues. It also involves relationships with both public and private entities to preserve the region's history, as well as to enhance placement of art in public places. As such, cultural resource management crosses jurisdictional boundaries and involves countless public and private entities and artists throughout the region. The range and complexity of cultural activity in the region requires coordination and cooperation. King County, through its creation of 4Culture, provides this regional coordination and leadership.

While 4Culture is not a ~~((c))~~County department, the ~~((c))~~County and 4Culture maintain a unique cooperative relationship. Historically, over 95~~((%))~~ percent of 4Culture's budget has been funded by King County resources from either dedicated tax revenue or capital improvement project budgets. The ~~((council approves the executive's nominations for membership on))~~ Council appoints and confirms members of the 4Culture~~(('s))~~ board of directors~~((:))~~, and ~~((F))~~three ~~((c))~~Councilmembers serve on ~~((4Culture's))~~ the board. Additionally, ~~((F))~~the ~~((c))~~Council annually receives briefings from 4Culture on its work program and ~~((to discuss plans for the coming year))~~ budget. Therefore, it is through 4Culture that King County maintains its regional role ~~((with regard to))~~ in cultural resource management.

**P-204 King County shall support the retention and promotion of the region's cultural legacy, promote cultural education, and encourage the preservation and celebration of cultural diversity and creativity.**



- P-205** King County shall support and encourage development of regional cultural organizations, facilities, and services that address a countywide audience or are dedicated to unique and significant cultural themes or disciplines.
- P-206** King County shall support and encourage community cultural organizations, facilities, and services to provide opportunities for local access and participation by all residents throughout the county.
- P-207** King County shall encourage excellence and vitality in the arts by supporting opportunities for attendance at and participation in diverse arts, ((and)) cultural, and heritage activities throughout the county.
- P-208** King County shall pursue its cultural resource goals by working with Indian tribes, residents, property owners, cultural organizations, public agencies, ((tribes,)) schools and school districts, and others.
- P-209** King County shall provide leadership in pursuing its cultural resource goals by actively advancing the protection, enhancement, and ongoing use of ((c))County-owned and other cultural resources, and by promoting intergovernmental cooperation and partnerships for the preservation and use of cultural resources.
- P-210** King County shall partner with cities to protect and enhance historic resources and public art located within city boundaries and Potential ((a))Annexation ((a))Areas.

## B. Arts, Heritage, and Public Art

((The region's artistic environment parallels its natural features in variety and richness. Its arts organizations, artists and opportunities are widely known and valued for their diversity and excellence in music, theater, dance, literary activity, and visual arts. Museums, historical societies, heritage groups, historians, archivists, folklorists and other heritage specialists enrich community life and provide rich cultural experiences for county residents and visitors. Without preservation and stewardship of local history by these groups, the county's rich history would be lost.

~~**P-211** King County shall support, preserve and enhance its heritage by encouraging opportunities for public attendance and participation in diverse heritage activities throughout the county.~~

~~**P-212)) P-211** ((The)) King County ((executive and the King County council)) shall ((regularly seek advice from)) continue to collaborate with 4Culture ((on)) when developing programs, policies, and regulations that support, enrich, and increase access to the arts, public art, and King County's heritage.~~

**P-212** King County shall continue to provide financial support for culture through the Doors Open cultural access program or similar programs that provide operational and capital support to arts, culture, heritage, science, and historic preservation non-profit organizations; increase access to programming for public school children; help launch new organizations and expand access in underinvested areas; and provide free public access.

((Public art means art for shared public space in King County, including King County buildings and infrastructure.)) King County's public art collection includes portable, permanently sited, and architecturally integrated artworks that help define ((c))County

buildings as cultural spaces. Public art also includes art installed or incorporated in places developed by others, but accessible to the public. Public art enhances community character and diversity, sparks imagination, and provides a direct cultural experience for county residents and visitors every day. For new or changing communities, public art is a powerful contributor to local character, sense of place, and belonging. Public art can also help mitigate the adverse effects of new development.

**P-213** ~~King County shall, as appropriate, incorporate public art in its construction and mitigation projects, as well as its undertakings involving public-private partnerships(;) and development authorities that include public funds or resources or have publicly accessible components.~~

**P-214** ~~Maintenance and conservation shall be a consideration in the development and management of public art.~~

**P-215** ~~King County shall incorporate public art into its open space system.~~

## C. Historic Preservation

~~((Preservation of historic properties provides multiple benefits.))~~ Historic properties maintain a tangible connection with the past and contribute to community understanding, character, and diversity. Preservation can save((s)) energy, conserve((s)) existing housing and commercial buildings, and retain((s)) historically significant open space. Historic properties also play a major role in attracting tourists. The mission of the King County Historic Preservation Program(~~(, housed in the County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks,))~~ is to conserve existing historic housing, commercial buildings, and other significant properties and to foster heritage tourism throughout the county. It provides technical and other assistance ~~((to cities lacking preservation programs))~~. It also supports the work of the King County Landmarks Commission.

Many municipalities do not have sufficient resources to administer an historic preservation program. As a result, the history of the region is endangered. King County helps in this regard by providing contracted historic preservation services to interested King County cities. Comprehensive and coordinated protection of significant historic properties is necessary ~~((in order))~~ to ensure that King County's history is preserved.

~~((P-217))~~ **P-216** King County shall acquire and preserve historic properties for use by the ((c))County and other public agencies and shall give priority to occupying historic buildings whenever feasible.

~~((P-215))~~ **P-217** ~~((The))~~ King County ((executive and the King County council)) shall regularly seek advice from the Landmarks Commission on programs, policies, and regulations that support and enhance preservation and protection of significant historic properties.

~~((P-216))~~ **P-218** King County shall administer a historic preservation program to identify, protect, and enhance historic properties throughout the region.

~~((Historic preservation is an ongoing process that requires identification, evaluation, designation and protection of significant properties, and attention to long-term enhancement and interpretation. Historic properties are often destroyed through neglect. Regular maintenance and other management practices that protect historic properties are critical to long-term preservation. King County government can lead by example through stewardship and wise management of its own historic properties.))~~

Review of development proposals and other actions affecting historic properties resources is necessary ~~((in order))~~ to eliminate or minimize adverse effects of development or changing land use. Archaeological sites are particularly sensitive and endangered because they are not visible and may be unexpectedly encountered. King County government can also protect historic properties through careful planning and review of its own undertakings, both directly and in partnerships with private parties and other agencies.

~~((P-218))~~ **P-219** King County shall establish comprehensive review and protection procedures for historic properties affected by public and private projects.

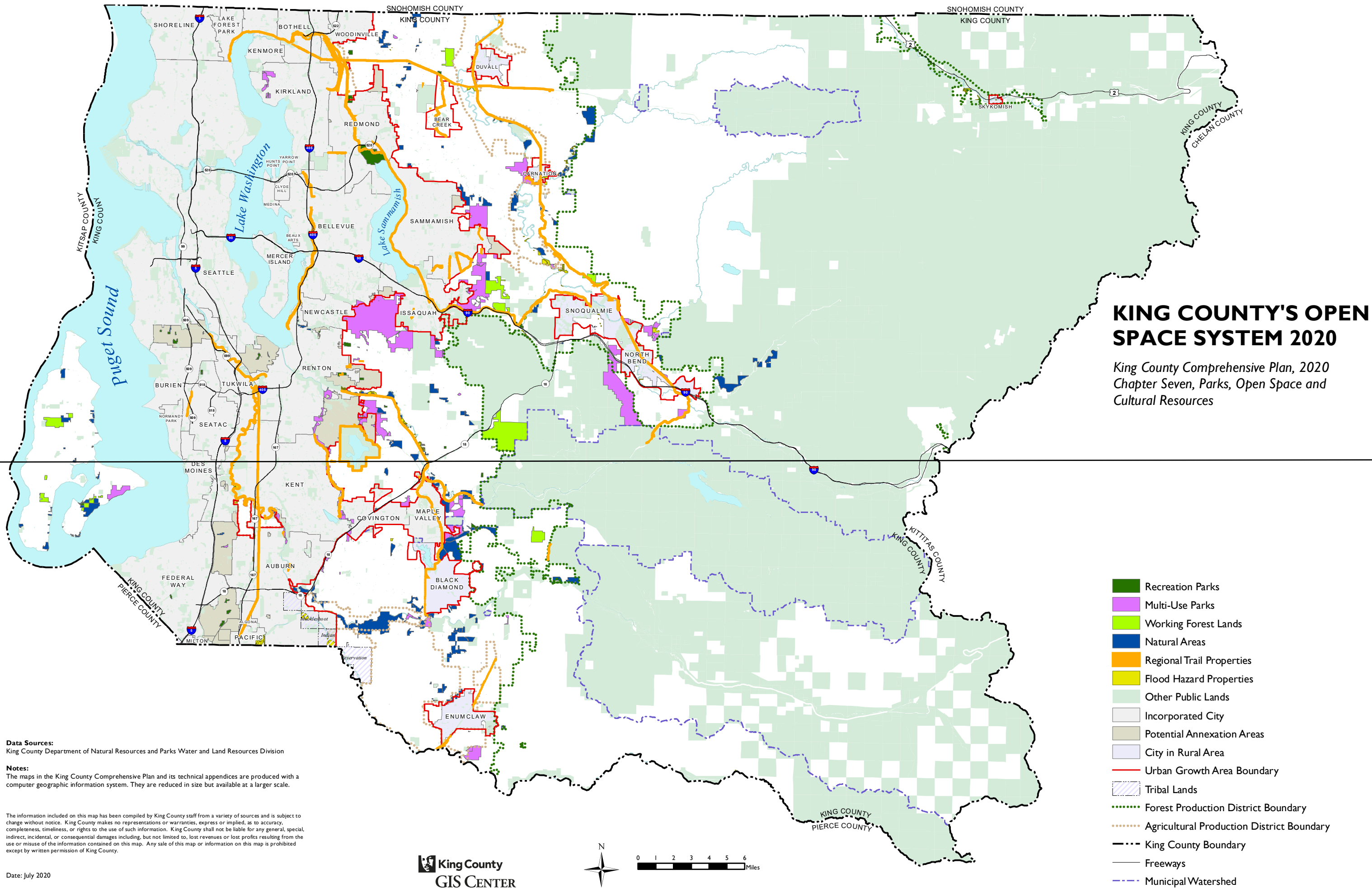
~~((P-219))~~ **P-220** King County ~~((may))~~ should condition public and private projects ~~((in order))~~ to protect historic properties. King County agencies shall coordinate with the Historic Preservation Program to provide consistent review and mitigation for their projects and undertakings throughout the county.

~~((P-220))~~ **P-221** King County shall encourage land uses and development that retain and enhance significant historic properties and sustain historic community character. County building and zoning codes and other regulations and standards should provide flexibility to accommodate preservation and reuse of historic properties. Zoning actions should take into account the effects of zoning on historic properties.

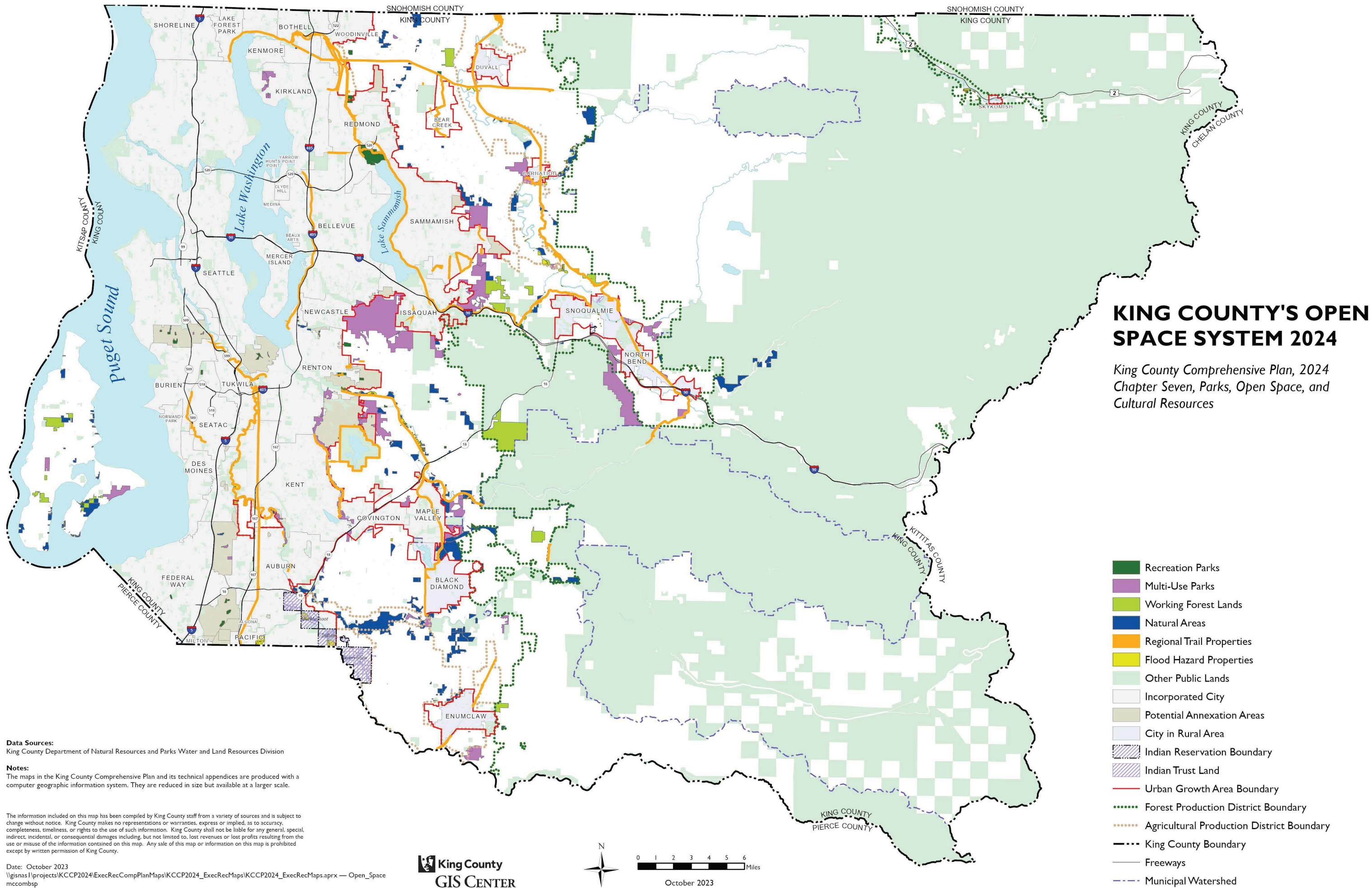
**P-222** Parcels on which a cemetery is located should be given a land use designation, a zoning classification, or both, that allows less intensive development than would be assigned to the parcel were the cemetery not present.

~~((P-221))~~ **P-223** King County shall maintain an inventory of historic properties ~~((in order))~~ to guide its historic preservation decision making.

~~((Preservation requires active support by governments and cooperation with property owners. Incentives such as tax reduction, revolving loans, transfer of development rights, expedited permitting, reduced permit fees, zoning flexibility, technical assistance and other measures can be used to encourage preservation. As set by policy ED-208, found in Chapter 10, Economic Development, the county shall assist businesses, property owners, and other jurisdictions in preserving and enhancing historic properties, including historic business districts, through a variety of incentives and economic development measures:))~~









## CHAPTER 8

# TRANSPORTATION





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Photo:  
John Stamat for KC DOT

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Transportation is critically important to King County and the surrounding region and has profound effects on quality of life and the vitality of the economy. Transportation provides access to jobs, education, services, recreation, and other destinations throughout King County. King County plays a central role in the regional transportation sector, supporting a variety of motorized, nonmotorized, air and marine transportation needs and providing services and facilities ranging from local to international.

The County has direct responsibility for the unincorporated area road network. It provides transit services and facilities throughout the County, including within cities, and also performs many of Sound Transit's services under contract.

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King County Metro also operates streetcar services within the City of Seattle. The King County International Airport/Boeing Field is owned, operated and maintained by the County.

King County's Marine Division operates passenger-only ferry service from downtown Seattle to Vashon Island and West Seattle.

The County also provides requested road-related services to over two dozen cities or other agencies through contractual agreements where there is mutual benefit to the County and its customer cities and agencies:))

# I. ~~((Creating an Integrated, Sustainable, and Safe Transportation System That Enhances Quality of Life))~~ The Regional Transportation System

## A. Introduction

King County collaborates with the state and other local governments with the goal of providing an integrated, multi((-))modal transportation system for the Puget Sound region. These intergovernmental partnerships seek to ensure that the county's transportation system is designed, operated, and maintained in a manner that provides mobility options for a wide range of users((-)); contributes to safe, affordable, and accessible communities for all((-, and)); advances social and racial equity; helps ((to)) address complex issues like climate change and homelessness; and safeguards and enhances King County's natural resources and environment. It is important ~~((for))~~ that the county's and the region's transportation system ~~((to achieve))~~ provide equitable travel opportunities for all people and communities. It is also important for all jurisdictions, including King County, to exercise sound financial management in the provision of transportation services and infrastructure.

~~((The King County Strategic Plan, as updated in 2015 by Motion 14317, provides policy direction for transportation under the "Mobility" goal, through which the county aims to "deliver a seamless network of transportation options to get people where they need to go, when they need to get there."))~~ Transportation and mobility are ~~((further))~~ implemented ~~((at))~~ in King County through the functional plans: the ~~((Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, the Long Range Plan for Public Transportation, the Strategic Plan for Road Services, the King County International Airport Strategic Plan and the King County Ferry District 2014 Strategic Plan, discussed later in the chapter:))~~ King County Metro Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2021-2031, Metro Connects (Metro's long-range plan), the King County Metro Service Guidelines, the Strategic Plan for Road Services, and the King County International Airport Strategic Plan. Implementation of the Regional Trails network, which provides important bicycling and walking links, is guided by Chapter 7, Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Resources, and the 2022 King County Open Space Plan. King County transportation planning is further informed by the Strategic Climate Action Plan, which provides additional guidance related to greenhouse gas reduction goals, community-driven transit development, and climate-resilient transit infrastructure; and King County Code Chapter 2.10, which establishes an integrated effort that intentionally applies the "Fair and Just" principle to all work to achieve equitable opportunities for all people and communities.

~~((The following summarizes -e))~~ The County's priorities ((for responding to policy direction established and articulated in the King County Strategic Plan, the King County Comprehensive Plan, County transportation agencies' functional plans, and the associated state and regional laws and planning requirements)) include:

- Maintain safe and secure County-owned infrastructure, including roads, bridges, trails, transit vehicles (buses, paratransit vehicles, passenger ferries, non-revenue fleet, etc.), transit facilities, and airport facilities;
- Coordinate and develop multimodal services and facilities for an integrated and seamless regional and local transportation system;
- Deliver transportation services that support density and growth in the urban area, and meet the transportation needs of the Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands without creating additional growth pressure;

- Maintain and preserve infrastructure that facilitates the efficient movement of freight and goods to support economic vitality and regional trade;

((

- ~~• Maintain safe and secure county-owned infrastructure, including roads, bridges, trails, buses and passenger ferries, transit and ferry facilities, and airport facilities;))~~

- Provide transportation choices and support travel modes that use less energy, produce fewer pollutants, and reduce greenhouse gases in the region;

- Identify and adapt to the impacts of climate change on transportation infrastructure and services;

- Provide opportunities for people to make active transportation choices by increasing the convenience, accessibility, safety, and comfort of taking transit, walking, and bicycling;

- ~~((Address the transportation needs of people of color, low-income communities, immigrant and refugee populations, people with limited English proficiency, and others who may have limited transportation options))~~ Support safe and equitable access to mobility options through transportation investments where needs are greatest, including for historically underinvested groups, people with disabilities, seniors (depending on the program, the age threshold for a senior could be 55, 62, or 65 years and over), and people with special transportation needs;

- Address homelessness and other significant issues using a holistic, countywide approach, through actions such as supporting equitable and affordable transit-oriented development, making transit more accessible through actions such as Metro's income-based approach to fare discounts, and by connecting people to the services and opportunities they need;

((

- ~~• Identify and adapt to the impacts of climate change on transportation infrastructure and services;))~~

- Integrate transportation and land use planning to increase transit use; support sustainable community development, including equitable and affordable transit-oriented development; and provide mobility services that are responsive to community characteristics;

- Incorporate sustainable development practices into the design, construction, and operation of infrastructure and facilities;

- Establish and implement clear transportation service priorities and guidelines - with a focus on equity and racial and social justice - and use transportation resources wisely and efficiently;

- Develop sustainable, equitable funding sources to support the level of services needed by communities; and

- Monitor and measure system performance and use this feedback to continuously improve transportation products and services.

The current and projected economic climate, however, places severe constraints on the County's ability to meet these important goals. The strategic plans for the Road Services Division, Metro Transit Department (Metro), and the Marine Division identify priorities, analyze available funding and constraints, and set targets to help reach these goals.

## B. Components of the Transportation Element

The following documents address the Growth Management Act requirements for the transportation element:

- a. This Transportation chapter, which includes the narrative and policy language;
- b. Technical Appendix C, Transportation ~~((of this Comprehensive Plan))~~, which contains the Travel Forecast Summary, ~~((the))~~ Arterial Functional Classification Map, ~~((a-t))~~ Transportation ((i))Inventory; and Transportation Needs Report ~~((that))~~, which contains a multi~~((=))~~year financial forecast and a multi~~((=))~~year list of road facility needs;
- c. The ~~((r))~~ Roads Capital Improvement Program;
- d. The King County Metro Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, ~~((the Long Range Plan for Public Transportation))~~ Metro Connects, and the Transit Capital Improvement Program; and
- e. Concurrency regulation, which implements the concurrency requirements and is codified ~~((at))~~ in King County Code Title 14.

## ~~((C. Consistency with Plans~~

~~The framework and direction for the development of Comprehensive Plans are provided by the Growth Management Act. The transportation element of the King County Comprehensive Plan is consistent with and meets the requirements of regional and countywide plans and policies that respond to the Growth Management Act. The Countywide Planning Policies have been used to guide the development of the transportation element and to ensure consistency with plans and programs developed by adjacent jurisdictions.~~

~~Regional direction for the transportation element is set by Transportation 2040, developed by the Puget Sound Regional Council. (Transportation 2040 is consistent with the region's urban growth strategy, VISION 2040, also developed by the Puget Sound Regional Council.~~

~~King County identifies improvements and strategies needed to carry out the land use vision and meet the Level of Service requirements for transportation. Road improvements are guided by the Strategic Plan for Road Services, prioritized in the Transportation Needs Report and funded in the Roads Capital Improvement Program. Public transportation investments are guided by the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation and are identified in the Transit Capital Improvement Program, and the King County Ferry District 2014 Strategic Plan, 2014 – 2018, or successor plans. Operation and management of the King County International Airport/Boeing Field is guided by the King County International Airport Strategic Plan.~~

## ~~D.)) C. Transportation System, Services, and County Responsibilities~~

The region's transportation system is comprised of the following elements:

- a. Highways, arterial streets, and local/neighborhood streets;
- b. Bridges;
- c. Local and express bus transit and paratransit services and facilities, including Americans with Disabilities Act service programs;
- d. High-capacity transit;
- e. High-occupancy-vehicle lanes and ridesharing facilities;
- f. Facilities and programs for ~~((pedestrians, bicycle riders and equestrians))~~ active transportation, including sidewalks, shoulders, bicycle racks on transit, and regional trails;



- g. Facilities to accommodate freight and goods movement, including railroads, intermodal yards, and distribution centers;
- h. Marine transportation services, ferries and ferry facilities, and navigable waterways;
- i. Airports;
- j. Transportation Demand Management programs, systems, facilities, and technologies; and
- k. Facilities to maintain the transportation system elements.

~~((The specific responsibilities of King County government are described below:))~~

## 1. Public Transportation

~~((Public transportation is vitally important to the Puget Sound region. It provides)) Public transportation enhances regional economic vitality by providing connections to jobs, schools, and other destinations, and enables those with limited mobility options to travel. ((Public transportation enhances regional economic vitality by freeing up roadway capacity and improving the mobility of people, goods, and services. It saves the region time and money:)) It helps accommodate regional growth by ((making better use of)) more efficiently moving people within the region's existing infrastructure and ((benefiting the environment)) reducing the need for single-occupant vehicles and space for parking. Public transportation can help address major societal issues, such as homelessness, by connecting people to the services and opportunities they need. It improves the quality of life and health for residents and visitors to the Puget Sound region. ((King County provides public transportation services through the Metro Transit Department, as well as passenger ferry service through the Marine Division.~~

### Metro Transit Department

~~The King County Metro Transit Department (Metro) is the designated public transit provider for King County. Metro's mission is to provide the best possible public transportation services and improve regional mobility and quality of life in King County:))~~

~~Metro ((provides)) operates more than 180 bus routes, and its fixed-route services delivered more than ((120)) 130 million ((fixed-route transit rides per year)) passenger trips in 2019. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Metro delivered more than 400,000 trips every weekday; roughly half of downtown Seattle commuters relied on transit. Even at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Metro delivered more than 100,000 trips daily. Its fixed((-))route system includes a network of frequent all-day((-two-way)) bus routes between residential, business, and other ((transit)) activity centers; express and peak-period commuter service to major destinations from many neighborhoods and from a network of park-and-ride lots; and local bus services that connect people to their communities and the larger transportation system. ((In addition to bus service, Metro provides alternative services, such as commuter vanpools, Access paratransit service, Commute Trip Reduction programs, and Rideshare Online, as well as community programs such as In Motion and car-sharing:)) For people with disabilities who cannot use Metro's regular fixed-route buses, Metro offers Access paratransit service. Metro also offers additional services for specific age groups, such as people aged 55 years and over via the Community Access Transportation program, which is open to people with disabilities as well. Metro also operates a commuter vanpool program for people who don't have convenient transit service between home and work. As of 2023, the vanpool program was serving 1,200 commuter groups with a fleet of 1,347 vehicles.~~

~~Metro augments its own investments by developing partnerships with ((local jurisdictions, other agencies, employers, and institutions to increase public~~

transportation services and improve service effectiveness. Metro enters into agreements with public and private entities to fund new or improved public transportation services; where the partner contribution may be in the form of direct funding or investment that results in transit speed or reliability improvements. Metro also forms partnerships to develop and promote alternative commute programs and to manage parking and traffic to make public transportation more efficient and attractive. Metro works with the Washington State Department of Transportation and local cities to provide services that help mitigate the impacts of major construction projects)) a range of entities, including transit providers; community-based groups; schools and universities; human service organizations; property owners and managers; businesses; and local, regional, and state agencies and jurisdictions. By working with partners, Metro can leverage public and private resources and discover new opportunities to improve service or infrastructure. Metro can expand its accomplishments by collaborating with partners to design and deliver services, facilities, and access improvements, and to develop policies, programs, products, and incentives. Metro's Service Guidelines and Metro Connects include more information about how Metro will partner with other entities and offer examples of such partnerships.

Metro is guided by ~~((its))~~ the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation ((2011-2024)) 2021-2031, the King County Metro Service Guidelines, and ~~((its Long Range Plan for Public Transportation))~~ Metro Connects. The Strategic Plan for Public Transportation defines a vision and mission for public transportation services in King County and describes the strategies to implement that vision. It also defines desired outcomes and describes how progress will be measured. The Strategic Plan for Public Transportation and Service Guidelines ~~((strike a balance between productivity;))~~ prioritizes social equity and ((geographic value)) sustainability to ensure Metro ~~((serves areas that have many low-income and minority residents - and others who may depend on transit))~~ invests where needs are greatest (including for populations who identify as Black, Indigenous, other People of Color; immigrants; refugees; people with low- or no incomes; people with disabilities; and people who are linguistically diverse); addresses climate change; and ((that)) meets public transportation needs ((are met)) throughout the county. The ((Metro)) Service Guidelines ((augment the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation by identifying)) identifies detailed methodologies for how Metro should measure the performance of ((Metro's overall)) its transit network((, as well as each)) as a whole and of its individual bus routes, and ((by providing)) provides clear guidance on how Metro should use transit resources in alignment with ((the County's Equity and Social Justice Ordinance. The Long Range Plan)) Metro and King County policies and values, including equity. Metro Connects sets the long((-))-term vision for service and supporting capital infrastructure.

Increasing the use of public transportation plays an important role in King County's efforts to ~~((mitigate))~~ address climate change and support livable, healthy communities. Public transportation reduces greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating private vehicle trips, reducing vehicle miles traveled, mitigating traffic congestion, and supporting efficient land use. Metro~~((s use of green vehicles, such as))~~ provides public transportation using a "green" fleet of electric trolleys, ((and)) hybrid diesel-electric buses((, and cleaner-burning fuels, such as Ultra Low Sulfur diesel;)) fueled with a biodiesel blend, and battery electric buses. This efficient fleet adds to the environmental advantage of combining many riders in a single vehicle. Metro's policies articulate a goal of transitioning to a zero-emissions bus fleet powered by renewable energy by 2035. Metro's wide range of ((transportation)) mobility alternatives ((=)) (including ((vanpools, carpools)) fixed-route transit, passenger ferries, flexible services, and Access paratransit); ((=and)) its support of choices such car- and bicycle-sharing, ((biking and)) walking and rolling to transit; and its commitment to seek out and support opportunities for transit-oriented development make transit a powerful tool to help reduce pollution and support active, healthy lifestyles.

((In addition to reducing single occupant vehicle trips;)) Metro is ((also)) committed to being a leader in environmentally((=))\_friendly operating and maintenance practices and minimizing its energy use. ~~((Metro educates its employees about reducing energy consumption at work and using public transportation to commute.))~~ The King County Employee Transportation Program educates people about commuting to work via another option than a single-occupancy vehicle. The agency also incorporates cost-effective green building and sustainable development practices in all capital projects that it plans, designs, constructs, remodels, renovates, and operates.

~~((Metro also is committed to providing equitable opportunities for people from all areas of King County to access the public transportation system. It provides travel opportunities and supporting amenities for historically disadvantaged populations, such as low-income people, students, youth, seniors, immigrants and refugee populations, people with disabilities, and others with limited transportation options.~~

#### Water Taxis: King County's Marine Division

The Marine Division, which is a part of the Metro Transit Department, provides service from downtown Seattle to West Seattle and Vashon-Maury Island. The Marine Division is guided by the King County Ferry District 2014 Strategic Plan, which was developed while under the King County Ferry District's governance. The plan expresses the vision and goals for passenger-only ferry service in King County for the next three to five years. The strategies are the broad initiatives to pursue the vision and goals, with specific actions listed under each strategy. The plan's vision is to be a leader in regional mobility benefiting the community and economic development needs of King County through providing water taxi service that is safe, reliable, and a great customer experience while being responsive and accountable to the public. The goals are to: 1) provide reliable and safe service; 2) deliver financially sustainable water taxi service; and 3) to integrate water taxi service with the broader regional transportation system and economy. The strategies to achieve these goals include: 1) build on strengths and grow ridership; 2) achieve financial stability; 3) coordinate with regional planning and emergency management efforts; and 4) explore growth and partnership opportunities.

Similar to Metro, King County's passenger-only ferries also use cleaner-burning fuels such as Ultra Low Sulfur diesel and a blend of biodiesel (B-10:))

Bus, rail, ~~((and))~~ passenger-only ferry, and flexible transit services provide the critical transportation links on which the regional economy depends. ~~((In addition;))~~ These public transportation services depend on convenient connections to roads, highways, and ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active transportation systems. As the region grows, coordinating ~~((transit and passenger-only ferry))~~ public transportation routes and schedules ~~((among))~~ across agencies and modes will make public transportation a more viable and convenient option for people traveling in King County. King County seeks input from a broad spectrum of county residents and businesses to identify needs and provide services to meet those needs.

## **2. Road System**

Travelers in King County use a system of interconnected roads that includes interstate highways, state highways, urban and rural arterials, local access roads, private roads, and forest~~((/))~~ and logging roads. King County is responsible for all ~~((e))~~ County-owned roads, bridges, and related infrastructure in the unincorporated areas of the county, and must meet the road-related transportation needs of a very large and geographically and demographically diverse service area. The ~~((e))~~ County's many bridges are an integral part of the road system, as are other components such as sidewalks, shoulders, ~~((and))~~ pathways, bicycle lanes, guardrails, stormwater drainage and water quality treatment facilities, traffic control equipment, and traffic cameras. Interstate highways, state

highways, city roads, and private roads are not under ((c))County jurisdiction; rather, they are the responsibility of other government agencies or property owners.

The Strategic Plan for Road Services defines the ~~((vision and mission))~~ strategic direction for the King County Department of Local Services - Road Services Division ~~((The Strategic Plan for Road Services provides detailed direction for the response to the many complex challenges, including two trends that have had significant impacts on the County's road services. One is that annexations, consistent with the goals of the Growth Management Act, have reduced the urban unincorporated area and therefore the tax base that supports the unincorporated road system has shrunk significantly. By 2024, when the next eight-year Comprehensive Plan update is completed, Road Services Division's responsibilities will likely focus almost entirely on the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. A second trend is the decline in County road funding, described in greater detail in Section IV. The Strategic Plan for Road Services guides the Road Services Division))~~ as it ~~((is faced with the consequences of a smaller service area and reduced funding and seeks to manage the unincorporated King County road system through focused investment of available resources to facilitate the movement of people, goods and services, and respond to emergencies))~~ seeks to safely connect communities while addressing a county road funding crisis, widespread and aging infrastructure, and historical underinvestment in urban areas.

As of winter 2023, ((F))the ((c))County-owned unincorporated((=))\_area road system includes approximately:

- ~~((1,469))~~ 1,469 miles of roadway;
- ~~((181))~~ 185 bridges, including several jointly owned with cities;
- 275 miles of sidewalks;
- ~~((78))~~ 79 traffic signals;
- ~~((44,000))~~ 49,000 traffic control signs;
- ~~((50))~~ 57 traffic cameras; ~~((and))~~
- 3.5 million linear feet of drainage pipes; and
- ~~((114))~~ 118 miles of protective guardrail.

The users of the ((c))County road system may travel on foot or by car, public transit, truck, or bicycle, or even on horseback. They may live in an unincorporated area, in ~~((one of the county's 39))~~ cities, or in another county. The unincorporated road system supports local trips close to home, commuter trips, the movement of freight and goods, and regional travel between jurisdictions. The system also provides access to outdoor recreational activities in King County~~((, which has one of the largest concentrations of outdoor recreation enthusiasts in the state))~~. Public service providers, such as police, fire, emergency medical responders, Metro ~~((Transit))~~, and school buses are also key users. In total, more than one million daily trips are taken on King County's unincorporated road network. ~~((During this time of tight budgets, changing communities, annexations, and increasing traffic on aging roads and bridges, the county must manage facilities and services with exceptional care and efficiency.))~~

### 3. Air Transportation

~~((F))~~ Established in 1928, the King County International Airport/Boeing Field is located in south Seattle in the Duwamish River Industrial Corridor. It operates on a ~~((24/7))~~ twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week basis and in all weather. ~~((Established in 1928, the airport is supported by revenue generated by its operations, rather than relying on general tax revenues.))~~ King County plans, designs, and implements services, programs, and facilities for the King County International Airport in compliance with Federal Aviation Administration regulatory requirements to support a safe, secure, and efficient international aerospace system. The airport is also a significant employment

center and supports more than ~~((150))~~ 50 on-airport aviation-related businesses, including The Boeing Company. The airport is a port of entry for international flights and serves regional air carriers, national and regional cargo carriers, corporate aviation, and general aviation.

King County International Airport/Boeing Field is the ~~((34<sup>th</sup>))~~ 75<sup>th</sup> busiest airport in the United States and ranks ~~((25<sup>th</sup>))~~ 46<sup>th</sup> in cargo handling. The airport's air taxi carrier serves the San Juan Islands. It is also the largest corporate aircraft center in the Pacific Northwest. Airport business activities are estimated to support almost ~~((5,000))~~ 7,000 direct jobs, plus more than ~~((16,000))~~ 9,000 additional jobs in the region. The airport's total positive economic impact within the Puget Sound Region and Washington State is more than ~~((3.5))~~ \$5.2 billion in direct and induced economic activity, including the sale of goods and services, labor income, and tax revenues.

~~((The King County Department of Transportation has developed a strategic plan for King County International Airport/Boeing Field. This plan was the result of a strategic planning process, which was guided by an advisory committee comprised of Airport Roundtable members and staff from both the executive and legislative branches of King County. The Strategic Plan complements)) The King County International Airport Strategic Plan, or successor plans, guides the planning, development, and implementation of airport facilities and services managed by the King County International Airport. Management of the airport is informed by the King County International Airport Master Plan and the Federal Aviation Administration((s))-mandated ((Airport Master Plan and)) Airport Layout Plan.~~

The Bandera and Skykomish Airports, located in eastern King County near the communities of North Bend and Skykomish, are state((-))-owned and operated. Vashon Airport, located on Vashon-Maury Island, is publicly owned and operated by King County Airport Special District Number One. King County does not have operating or regulatory authority over these airports, but does control land use activity adjacent to the facilities. ~~((All airports in the county should make every effort to minimize noise impacts to land uses that are especially sensitive to the effects of noise such as residential areas, hospitals and schools.~~

## ~~E.))~~ II. General Policy Guidance

### ~~((H. Providing Services and Infrastructure that Support the County Land Use Vision~~

~~This section of Chapter 8 discusses c))County transportation services and policies ((as they)) support the ((c))County's land use strategy, which seeks to concentrate development and services in urban areas, conserve and enhance the Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands, and create communities that have a positive effect on public health and climate change. ((One focus of this section is on issues related to the county's responsibilities in the unincorporated area, including Level of Service standards for county roads, transportation concurrency management, mitigation of growth-related impacts, avoidance of road expansion in Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands, prevention of airport/land use conflicts, and support for nonmotorized transportation options. Another focus is on county transportation activities that affect a broader region, notably the four-county region's policy of concentrating development in more densely populated urban areas. King County Metro operates a majority of the transit service in the region and provides transportation demand management services to cities and employers. Consequently, the region's success in achieving its development~~



goals will depend to a great extent on King County's ability to provide appropriate transit services within King County:))

**T-101** King County should provide a safe and accessible system of transportation services and facilities that offers travel options to all members of the community.

~~((T-101a))~~ **T-102** King County should seek to ensure that its system of transportation services and facilities equitably serves the mobility needs of ~~((disadvantaged))~~ communities with the greatest need. ~~((and people with limited transportation options, including people of color, low income communities, people with limited English proficiency, immigrant and refugee populations, students, youth, seniors, and))~~ including historically underinvested groups, people with disabilities, seniors, and people with special transportation needs.

~~((T-102))~~ **T-103** As a transportation provider and participant in regional transportation planning, King County should support, plan, fund, design, and implement an integrated((:)) and coordinated ~~((and balanced))~~ multimodal transportation system that serves the growing travel needs of the county safely, equitably, effectively, sustainably, affordably, and efficiently, and ~~((promotes a decrease in the share of trips made by single-occupant vehicles))~~ reduces vehicle miles traveled.

~~((T-103))~~ **T-104** In striving to meet the growing need for transportation services, King County shall seek to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of its services, infrastructure, and facilities.

~~((T-104))~~ **T-105** The Strategic Plan for Public Transportation ~~((2011-2021))~~ 2021-2031, King County Metro Service Guidelines, and ~~((the King County Metro Long Range Plan for Public Transportation))~~ Metro Connects, or successor plans, shall guide the planning, development, and implementation of the public transportation system and services operated by the King County Metro Transit Department.

~~((T-105))~~ ~~The King County Ferry District 2014 Strategic Plan, or successor plans, shall guide the planning, development and implementation of the passenger-only ferry system and services operated by the King County Marine Division:))~~

**T-106** The King County Strategic Plan for Road Services, or successor plans, shall guide the planning, development, and implementation of the unincorporated road system managed by the King County Road Services Division.

**T-107** The King County International Airport Strategic Plan, or successor plans, shall guide the planning, development, and implementation of airport facilities and services managed by the King County International Airport.

**T-108** King County shall ~~((consider))~~ evaluate equity impacts and benefits when planning, developing, and implementing transportation programs, projects, and services, including physical, economic, and cultural displacement risk.

**T-109** As directed by the King County~~((s))~~ Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, King County shall seek to protect its transportation system against disasters, to the extent possible, by developing prevention and recovery strategies in partnership with other

jurisdictions and agencies, and coordinating emergency transportation response.

## A. Land Use and Growth Strategy

The transportation element of this Comprehensive Plan is grounded in a firm understanding of the important relationship between land use and transportation. A thoughtfully designed transportation system that supports the ((c))County's long-term land use vision and regional growth strategy should provide improved mobility and greater accessibility for all users and contribute to vibrant, thriving communities. Considering the interconnection of land use and transportation can also help address issues like regional affordability by supporting equitable, transit-oriented communities. It should also facilitate more efficient travel that addresses climate change, in part, by ((reduces)) reducing energy consumption, ((and)) greenhouse gas emissions, and other forms of pollution.

Integrated transportation and land use planning is called for at the regional level in ((Vision 2040)) VISION, ((Transportation 2040)) the Regional Transportation Plan, and the Countywide Planning Policies regarding transportation((, which)); these plans and policies outline and support a regional growth strategy built around the concept that additional infrastructure and services are to be provided in areas that accept an increased share of the region's growth. The Countywide Planning Policies' ((c)) 2019-2044 ((H))housing and ((E))employment ((G))growth ((F))targets ((2006-2031) adopted by King County and its cities, represent each jurisdiction's agreed upon fair share of future growth and)) have been incorporated into the travel demand forecast developed for this plan.

((Vision 2040)) VISION, ((Transportation 2040)) the Regional Transportation Plan, and the Countywide Planning Policies also promote the concept of maximizing mobility choices through a multimodal approach to moving people, goods, and services efficiently within and beyond the region. Travel to and within regional and countywide growth centers is emphasized, with a focus on the availability of transit and ((nonmotorized modes)) active transportation facilities in centers. These urban centers are characterized by compact, pedestrian-oriented development((;)) with a mix of ((different)) office, commercial, civic, entertainment, and residential uses ((and)) that can be efficiently and cost-effectively served by transit and ((nonmotorized travel)) active transportation options. In addition, these regional plans and policies address the importance of protecting and preserving the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands and avoiding construction of major new roads and capacity expansion on existing roads in the Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands.

Metro's Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, Service Guidelines, and Metro Connects also emphasize the importance of integrated transportation and land use planning in providing an integrated mobility network that advances policy goals related to equity, climate change, transit-oriented communities, and others. A multimodal transportation system supports healthful choices by providing greater access to housing, jobs, schools, medical care, healthy food, shopping, recreation, and other services - all of which contribute to a high quality of life. Designing highly connected communities that support safe ((nonmotorized travel)) active transportation and ((facilitate nonmotorized)) access to the transit system without a car reduces the overall cost of living by controlling or lowering transportation costs, reduces vehicle miles traveled, reduces air pollution, and leads to opportunities for greater levels of physical activity ((through walking and bicycling)).

Regional and countywide guidance also encourages innovative approaches to transportation and land use management, including Transportation Demand

Management strategies designed to reduce vehicle miles traveled, single-occupant vehicle trips, and greenhouse gas emissions.

~~((Metro operates transit service throughout King County, including in cities, while the county's road system service area is limited to the unincorporated area. Due to annexations and incorporations, the unincorporated road system is transitioning to become primarily rural.))~~ In the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, protection of natural resources, agriculture and forestry, and the rural lifestyle and character are a high priority. ~~((At the same time))~~ However, there is still a ~~((certain))~~ limited amount of growth within the Rural Area and on Natural Resource Lands, ~~((as well as high))~~ significant growth in some adjacent Cities in the Rural Area, ~~((or))~~ and growth beyond the county's boundaries~~((;))~~ that must be considered in managing the road system.

~~((The county's urban areas, Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands form a complex landscape, and the urban/rural boundary is not a simple straight line. As a result, t))~~ The ~~((c))~~ County's arterial network weaves through ~~((both))~~ urban areas, the Rural Area~~((s))~~, and Natural Resource Lands as it facilitates regional mobility. This ~~((complex urban/rural/resource pattern))~~ presents challenges to planning for the region's mobility needs and providing safe and adequate roadways. ~~((Issues include regional arterial corridors that link designated urban areas by crossing Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands, and roads located in the Urban Growth Area))~~. High traffic volumes on ~~((these))~~ roads in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands may necessitate road improvements to ensure safe and efficient travel. However, it is critical to ensure that appropriate development regulations and access management strategies are first in place ~~((in order))~~ to prevent unplanned and unwanted growth in the Rural Area~~((s))~~ and Natural Resource Lands.

~~((Growth management envisions different landscapes and infrastructure for urban and rural communities. King County is committed to managing its transportation system consistent with that vision.~~

**T-201)) T-110 King County prioritizes multimodal transportation options in the urban areas, where they are most effective. ((Multimodal transportation options such as public transportation, bicycling and walking, are most effective in densely developed urban areas. As resources allow,))** King County's transportation investments in urban areas should emphasize public transportation and road services and facilities that support multiple modes and facilitate connections between them.

**((T-202)) T-111 ((As resources allow,)) King County's transportation investments in the Rural Area**~~((s))~~ and Natural Resource Lands should emphasize maintaining, ~~((and))~~ preserving, and, where appropriate, providing flexible service options and safe road infrastructure that is compatible with the preservation of rural character and does not promote urban or unplanned growth.

**((T-202a)) T-112** In areas not well suited to fixed~~((-))~~ route transit, the ~~((c))~~ County should work with partners to develop a range of ~~((alternative))~~ flexible service options ~~((such as community shuttles, real-time rideshare, community vans and other innovative options)),~~ consistent with Metro plans and policies.

~~((T-203))~~ **T-113** ~~((As funding permits,))~~ King County should partner with jurisdictions and the private sector to spur infrastructure investments that enhance safe, equitable, and accessible opportunities for transit, pedestrians, bicyclists, carpools and van((-))pools, and other alternatives to single-occupant vehicles.

## ~~((F))~~ **B. Level of Service Standards**

~~((The Growth Management Act requires Level of Service standards for all arterials and transit routes to judge performance of the transportation system. The Growth Management Act also calls for specific actions and requirements for bringing into compliance facilities or services that are not meeting the adopted Level of Service standard. King County's Level of Service standards comply with growth management policies of encouraging growth in the urban area while restricting growth in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands:))~~

Level of service for arterials is a qualitative measure that describes traffic flow and is often represented by a system using the letters A through F. Level of Service A represents the least-congested conditions and Level of Service F represents the most-congested conditions. Level of Service B is indicative of stable traffic flow. However, unlike Level of Service A, operating speed is beginning to be restricted by other traffic. At Level of Service E, operation is unstable, and speeds are reduced but will fluctuate widely from point to point. ~~((There is little independence of speed selection and maneuverability at Level of Service E:))~~ Level of Service F is indicative of forced flow of traffic with extremely low speeds and long delays at intersections.

~~((King County has been one of the most successful jurisdictions in the state in implementing the Growth Management Act by directing growth to urban areas and encouraging annexation by cities, which are the preferred provider of municipal services. As a result, the majority of the urbanized area is contained within cities and the final remaining urban unincorporated islands are expected to annex by 2020. While annexations have helped support the County's land use, density and service goals, unincorporated King County no longer has the tax base to support growing travel needs with transportation capacity improvements in the urban area. The urban pockets that remain are influenced by development in surrounding cities and during the peak travel times commute travel is heavily impacted from people traveling to and from cities and other counties:))~~

In the remaining urban pockets of unincorporated King County, road usage is heavily impacted by development in the larger surrounding cities; however, there are more travel choices available in these areas. The urban level of service reflects these factors.

~~((King County recognizes a profound difference between t))~~The differences in the nature and character of the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands as compared with the urban area ~~((and therefore sets))~~ means that ~~((t))~~level of ~~((S))~~service standards for arterials ~~((to))~~ allow less congestion in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. In the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands the ~~((vast))~~ majority of the road network operates at Level of Service B; however, there are key arterials (typically the Rural Regional Corridors) that are frequently congested from carrying traffic from one urban area to another, and these often operate at a Level of Service C or lower.

In addition, King County recognizes ~~((certain areas, called))~~ that Rural Towns, or Rural Mobility Areas, ~~((where))~~ have land use designations that support a greater variety of transportation mode choices. The ~~((t))~~level of ~~((S))~~service standards for Rural Mobility Areas are set to recognize these greater choices and support and encourage people to use forms of transportation other than ~~((cars))~~ single-occupant vehicles. ~~((The Rural Mobility Areas are the Rural Towns of Vashon, Snoqualmie Pass and Fall City:))~~

In addition to ~~((the))~~ Rural Mobility Areas, certain ~~((large))~~ areas with the Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center~~((s))~~ land use designation are recognized as having distinct mobility characteristics and ~~((with))~~ have a ~~((L))~~level of ~~((S))~~service standard consistent with their land use character. ~~((The large Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers))~~ These are~~((:))~~ Cottage Lake, Maple Valley, Preston, and Cumberland.

The framework for identifying appropriate levels of service for King County Metro services is established in ~~((the))~~ Metro's Strategic Plan for Public Transportation ~~((and))~~, the King County Metro Service Guidelines, and Metro Connects. Level of service standards for Regionally Significant State Highways are adopted by the Puget Sound Regional Council. Level of service standards for Highways of Statewide Significance are set by the Washington State Department of Transportation. Highway level of service standards are shown in Appendix C, Transportation.

~~((T-214b)) King County shall design a new concurrency management methodology that is efficient to administer, incorporates travel demand management principles, includes measures of congestion based on optimizing movement of people rather than cars, and promotes increased efficiency of the transportation system as a whole.~~

~~T-215))~~ **T-114** The ~~((L))~~level of ~~((S))~~service standard for the Urban Area shall be E except as provided in Policy T-~~((216))~~**115**. The ~~((L))~~level of ~~((S))~~service standard for the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands shall be B, except as provided in Policies T-~~((216))~~**115**, T-~~((217))~~**116**, and T-~~((218))~~**117**. These standards shall be used in concurrency testing.

~~((T-216))~~ **T-115** The ~~((L))~~level of ~~((S))~~service standard for certain minor residential and minor commercial developments~~((, along with))~~ and certain public and educational facilities, as established in the King County Code, shall be Level of Service F. This standard shall be used in concurrency testing.

~~((T-217))~~ **T-116** Rural Mobility Areas shall be defined as Rural Towns. The ~~((L))~~level of ~~((S))~~service standard for designated Rural Mobility Areas shall be E. This standard shall be used in concurrency testing.

~~((T-218))~~ **T-117** The ~~((L))~~level of ~~((S))~~service standards for the Cottage Lake, Maple Valley, Preston, and Cumberland Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers shall be D. This standard shall be used in concurrency testing.

**T-118** The appropriate levels of service for King County Metro transit services shall be established in Metro's Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, the King County Metro Service Guidelines, and Metro Connects, or successor plans.

## ~~((B))~~ **C. Travel Forecasts**

Travel demand forecasts are used to project transportation system needs. They provide an important link between land use and transportation. The Puget Sound Regional Council's Forecasting Model uses regionally adopted growth targets for the year ~~((2031))~~ 2050, and was used to develop the travel demand forecasts for this plan, the Transportation Appendix, and the Transportation Needs Report Appendix.

~~((Recent generations of the Puget Sound Regional Council model have increased the level of detail in unincorporated King County, allowing improved analysis of future transportation system performance and system improvement needs, within the~~



framework of growth management and regional and county policy guidance regarding appropriate urban and rural levels of service.

## H)) D. Impact Mitigation

((The State Environmental Policy Act establishes environmental review of project impacts on all elements of the environment including transportation:

**~~T-225~~) T-119** Needed rights-of-way, strategies to manage transportation demand, and off-site improvements should be identified and required as conditions of development approval to the extent that such conditions are directly related to impact mitigation.

**~~((T-226)) T-120~~** King County shall encourage the development of highly connected, grid-based arterial and nonarterial road networks in new developments and areas of in((-)fill development. To this end, the ((c))County should:

- a. Make specific findings at the time of land-use permit review to establish a nonarterial grid system for public and emergency access in developments; and
- b. Require new commercial((-)) and ((multifamily;)) multiunit developments and residential subdivisions to develop highly connective street networks to promote better accessibility and avoid single street((-)-only access.

**~~((T-227)) T-121~~** Development proposals should extend the public road system through dedication when the extension is in the public interest. Conditions that may warrant such an extension include, but are not limited to, impacts on neighborhood circulation, increases in the use of arterials for local vehicular trips, reductions in traffic safety through uncoordinated and inadequately spaced street access to arterials, and restrictions on the availability of alternative emergency access routes.

**~~((T-228)) T-122~~** As mitigation for the impacts of new development and as a condition of development approval, King County shall require the improvement of existing off-site roadways and undeveloped road rights-of-way, and other strategies to reduce demand on roads. Impacts that may warrant such mitigation include, but are not limited to, those that create safety concerns, raise road operational issues, or increase the number of residences served by a single access route.

## ((E. Financing

Fully achieving King County's transportation goals depends on adequate funding for transportation system and service needs. This section discusses the extent to which the transportation system and services can be funded within a reasonable revenue forecast and expenditure schedule. The Growth Management Act requires the county to include an analysis of funding capabilities, a multiyear financing plan based on needs, and a discussion of how to raise additional funds to build needed transportation projects, or to reassess growth and Level of Service standards to resolve potential funding shortfalls in a ten-year time frame. This analysis is provided in the Transportation Needs Report and summarized below:

## ~~E)) E.~~ Funding Priorities ~~((Consistent with Transit and Road Strategic Plans~~

### ~~A. Public Transportation Revenue Sources~~

#### ~~1. Metro Transit~~

King County Metro Transit's)) Metro's budget provides for both the operating and capital needs of its public transportation system. The operating budget funds Metro's broad range of public transportation services. The capital budget provides for transit facilities needed to operate Metro's services, such as maintenance and bus storage facilities, transit centers and park-and-ride((s)) lots, bus shelters and other passenger facilities, buses, and non-revenue vehicles.

Metro's primary source of revenue, a 0.9((%)) percent sales tax (the maximum authorized by the state), provides ~~((approximately 54%))~~ more than half of Metro's revenues. This rate has been in effect since late 2006, when voters approved a 0.1((%)) percent increase as part of the Transit Now initiative. Sales tax is a highly volatile revenue source because it fluctuates with changes in economic conditions. It is also regressive, as people with lower incomes spend a larger portion of their income on sales tax than people with higher incomes. Metro has had to rely more on sales tax since 2000, when the Washington legislature eliminated the motor vehicle excise tax for transit.

~~((Beginning in 2009, King County levied a 5.5 cent property tax to support transit:))~~ King County levies a 1.25 cent property tax for ferry service and a 5.5 cent property tax for other Metro transit services. Fares paid by users of Metro's system ~~((and transit advertising revenues))~~ provided about ~~((a quarter))~~ 15 percent of Metro's operating revenues before the COVID-19 pandemic and about five percent of operative revenues in 2022. ~~((Metro also receives))~~ Other sources of revenues include: federal and state grants, ((that)) which can fluctuate significantly and contribute primarily to capital expenses, and revenues from vanpool operations, investment income, and service partners. Examples of service partnership funding include revenue from Sound Transit for operating Link light rail and Sound Transit Express, and from the City of Seattle; these sources account for about 15 percent of Metro's total operating revenue.

~~((The Great Recession and a slower than normal recovery took a major toll on Metro's largest revenue source, sales taxes. After the 2008 recession caused a steep drop in sales tax revenue, Metro took action to preserve transit service by cutting costs, raising fares, and making a host of fiscal reforms. Metro's ongoing efficiency gains, projections of lower fuel costs, improved sales tax forecasts and other financial improvements enabled the County to adopt a 2015/2016 budget and six-year financial plan that does not envision future service cuts.~~

Beginning in 2011, sales tax revenues began to recover and by 2015, sales tax receipts have been restored to pre-recession levels in terms of purchasing power. The near term outlook is for continued growth; however this is tempered by the reality and need to plan for economic downturns. Over the last 50 years there has been, on average, a recession every eight years. The county's financial policies and reserve requirements help Metro plan for the eventuality of economic downturns.

In November 2014, Seattle voters approved funding for additional transit service. The City of Seattle subsequently entered into a contract with King County to purchase Metro

service through the County's Community Mobility Contracts Program. Seattle will expand service on Metro routes that serve the city by about 10%. Additionally, Metro will leverage Seattle's Regional Partnership Fund created as part of the voter approved measure to improve transit service for suburban commuters through regional partnerships. This funding is scheduled to expire after 2020.))

The COVID-19 pandemic added uncertainty to Metro's financial situation, particularly due to the pandemic's impact on ridership and the resultant fare revenue impacts. The need remains for long-term, sustainable funding that fully meets King County's current and future demand for ((bus)) transit service. The need for transit outlined in Metro Connects exceeds Metro's current funding capacity for service, and the funding gap will only increase as Metro moves toward the 2050 service network, which envisions approximately 70 percent more transit service. Metro will not be able to grow its system as planned without significant amounts of new, sustainable funding. Funding source volatility has a uniquely negative impact on service growth and capital program development.

~~((Metro will continue striving for efficiency improvements to make the most of every available transit dollar, and county leaders have pledged to continue working for a statewide transportation funding solution. Over the coming years, Metro will continue to take actions to stabilize its finances and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivered as state, county and local officials work on a long-term transit funding solutions.~~

## **B. ~~Road-Related Funding Capabilities~~)**

King County ~~((is experiencing))~~ has a structural roads funding crisis, largely due to municipal annexations, ((the 2008 recession, declines in)) Washington State's outdated tax system, stagnant gas tax revenues, the effects of voter initiatives, and an aging bridge and road system. The lack of revenue is significantly impacting the ~~((c))~~ County's capacity to maintain and improve roads. Regional growth over the last few decades has resulted in higher traffic volumes and congestion, contributing to the deterioration of the County's road network.

King County receives road revenues from a variety of sources, including a dedicated unincorporated King County property tax, ~~((federal and state grants,))~~ gas tax, federal and state grants, and local taxes ~~((and road mitigation payments from private developments))~~. The dedicated property tax and gas tax provide the largest portion of funding for the Road Services Division ~~((71% in 2014))~~ 76 percent in 2023. The property tax is tied to the assessed value of properties in unincorporated King County. The County road system and its funding mechanisms predate growth management. After annexation of high-property value properties into cities, the County's unincorporated area tax base is small relative to the size and age of the unincorporated road system. In King County, 13 percent of the total population pays for the roads that support more than one million trips every day.

~~((During the recession, property values in unincorporated King County dropped sharply. While the economy has shown signs of recovery, future growth in revenues is significantly limited by state law and is not predicted to recover in real terms during the horizon of this plan.))~~ Property tax growth is capped at one percent annually, a pace slower than the ongoing growth in the cost of delivering services or the rate of inflation. Washington State's outdated tax system limits the County's ability to leverage revenue sources to support its funding needs. Local governments, like King County, need the flexibility and tools to help implement a more effective tax system and to preserve and maintain local roads. Gas tax revenues ((have been)) are flat, in part because of increased vehicle((s that are more fuel efficient)) fuel efficiency, lower sales of gas due to

850 ((the)) economic conditions, changing driving patterns, and a decline in the revenue  
851 allocation to King County due to the reduction in road miles from ((recent)) annexations.  
852

853 Grant funding supports important road projects, but grants alone, even sizeable ones,  
854 will not be sufficient to address the current and growing volume of unmet road and  
855 bridge needs. In addition, grants typically fund capital projects, are rarely available for  
856 maintenance and operations, and are an unpredictable and unreliable source of  
857 funding due to the competitiveness of the grant process.  
858

859 ~~((In August 2015, a panel regional leaders and community members began meeting to~~  
860 ~~explore solutions for maintaining and preserving the aging bridge and road system in~~  
861 ~~unincorporated King County. The Bridges and Roads Task Force membership included~~  
862 ~~neighbors, representatives from agriculture and recreation organizations, road experts~~  
863 ~~and public policy leaders. In January 2016, the Task Force recommended a host of~~  
864 ~~reforms and funding principles. The Task Force identified the range of the Roads~~  
865 ~~funding gap as \$250 to \$400 million a year, and generated 152 recommendations to~~  
866 ~~address that gap. Among the recommendations were the following:~~  
867

868 In response to the funding crisis, the County halved its staffing level, refocused on core  
869 safety services, and pursued funding solutions through regional collaboration. These  
870 efforts included the 2015 Bridges and Roads Task Force and the 2017 Regional  
871 Transportation System Initiative. The former quantified the size of the funding gap and  
872 developed responsive policy recommendations. The latter identified a transportation  
873 network of regionally significant city, county, and state facilities; its unmet needs; and  
874 ways to improve network performance on the roads, streets, and routes that connect  
875 communities. Over 2020 and 2021, the County considered legislation that would have  
876 proposed voter propositions authorizing a six-year permanent levy lid lift to support the  
877 maintenance and preservation of the King County roads system. However, as the result  
878 of the COVID-19 pandemic and its uncertain impact on the economy, neither proposal  
879 moved forward. Roads has subsequently prioritized sustainable funding as a key  
880 strategic objective. To support this priority, a dedicated team was established to pursue  
881 grant opportunities, resulting in the successful acquisition of 48 grants totaling \$121.8  
882 million since 2019. Roads has also expanded its Fish Passage Program as a targeted  
883 strategy to attract further funding and grant revenues. To further these efforts, a  
884 sustainable funding program manager was hired to lead and coordinate initiatives  
885 focused on long-term financial sustainability. Additionally, King County's legislative  
886 priorities in the Washington State Legislature since 2019 have included advocating for  
887 tax reform to help local governments provide critical services, such as maintaining road  
888 infrastructure. County leaders have urged the Legislature to lift the arbitrary cap on  
889 local property taxes; and offer flexible, progressive revenue options for County  
890 government services and the preservation of County roads and bridges. Solutions are  
891 still needed at state, regional, and local levels to address the estimated \$250-\$400  
892 million annual funding gap, including the needs identified in the Transportation Needs  
893 Report. The County has identified several strategies to address the funding shortfall,  
894 including:

- 895 • Advocating for state legislative changes for additional or more flexible tools,  
896 such as raising the one percent property tax limit and addressing the fiscal  
897 impacts of successfully implementing the Growth Management Act.
- 898 • Advocating for state funding dedicated to the management of the County road  
899 system.
- 900 • ~~((Revenue:))~~ Advocating for authority from the state Legislature for a fair, non-  
901 regressive, sustainable countywide revenue tool ((that is)) tied to inflation((, is  
902 sustainable over the long-term, and)) that provides a benefit to both cities and  
903 the County. ((The Task Force recognized that the most successful approach may  
904 involve using multiple revenue tools and efficiencies with some additional  
905 resources dedicated to city transportation needs.))

- ~~((Infrastructure: Authority))~~ Advocating for support from the state Legislature ((that provides for cities to annex orphan)) to facilitate the annexation of County roads ((that lie)) inside ((their)) and adjacent to city boundaries(;) and ((supports)) annexation of Potential Annexation Areas ((within the growth boundaries of those cities)).
- Collaborating with regional partners to identify a mutually beneficial transportation funding solution that recognizes that county roads form one element in a regional road network and are used to travel to and between urban residential and employment centers.
- Increasing pursuit of grant funding.
- Potentially implementing road usage charges at the local, regional, or state level.
- Potentially leveraging of King County Transportation District funding through vehicle license fees, sales taxes, general obligation bonds, impact fees, or other mechanisms.
- Potentially implementing a levy lid lift.

The Road Services policies and priorities in the Comprehensive Plan and the Strategic Plan for Road Services direct the County's prioritization of projects in the context of this scarce funding. Using this guidance, the County prioritizes projects and activities that address operational safety and property damage hazards, meet regulatory compliance, maintain and preserve existing infrastructure, enhance mobility, and address roadway capacity, in that order. Project prioritization also considers road function, traffic volume, life-safety needs, network connectivity, and transit use. The Transportation Needs Report provides more detailed prioritization factors by project type. The County's Capital Improvement Program and Financial Plan for Road Services is reassess during the budget process to assure alignment with these guiding policies.

Financial viability to support the operation of the road system and provide for capital construction and preservation needs is tested over two ~~((time frames))~~ timeframes for the Comprehensive Plan. The Transportation Needs Report, the ~~((c))~~ County's 20-year transportation plan, identifies the road-related investments needed to support the land use vision of the ~~((County's))~~ Comprehensive Plan. The ~~((20-year plan))~~ Transportation Needs Report provides an assessment of revenues projected from currently available resources and identifies reasonable options for securing additional revenues over the life of the plan. Secondly, the biennial update of the ~~((r))~~ Roads Capital Improvement Program examines the specifics of how to implement the financing plan over the next six years.

~~((T-401))~~ **T-123** Financial investments in transportation should support a sustainable(;) transportation system, consistent with the priorities established in ~~((the King County Strategic Plan and))~~ each department and division's strategic plan or other functional plans.

~~((T-402))~~ **King County should fund services, operations, and capital facilities that support local and regional transportation and land use goals and result in a balanced, multimodal transportation system.**

~~T-403))~~ **T-124** ~~((The unincorporated county road system provides transportation connections for large numbers of users that travel through the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands to reach adjoining cities, other counties or regional destinations.))~~ King County should ~~((seek))~~ pursue and support regional planning and funding sources that ((could be used to repair and maintain the arterial system)) recognize the interdependent, cross-jurisdictional nature of the region's transportation system, including impacts of urban development on the rural area transportation network.



~~((T-404))~~ **T-125** When funding transportation projects in areas where annexations or incorporations are expected, King County should seek interlocal agreements with the affected cities and other service providers to provide opportunities for joint grant applications and cooperative funding of improvements.

## ~~((D. Revenue Shortfall))~~

The state Growth Management Act provides guidance for managing a revenue shortfall. The following actions can be used to balance the funding shortfall of the plan:

1. Reduce transportation funding needs;
2. Develop new revenue options;
3. Change ~~((t))~~level of ~~((s))~~service; or
4. Change land use.

~~((T-405))~~ **T-126** During review of its Comprehensive Plan, King County should consider and address any potential shortfalls likely to occur between expected revenues and costs to maintain, preserve, and improve transportation infrastructure and service levels. Such review could include a reassessment of land use, growth targets, ~~((t))~~level of ~~((s))~~service standards, and revenue availability.

~~((T-406))~~ **T-127** King County shall continually work to improve the efficiency of its operations and delivery of projects and services ~~((in order to minimize the need for new revenue sources))~~.

~~((T-407))~~ **T-128** ~~((New funding sources should be identified and pursued that provide adequate and sustainable resources for transportation system investments.))~~ To provide adequate and sustainable resources for transportation services, infrastructure, and facility improvements, King County shall maximize its efforts to obtain federal and state funding and should identify and pursue new funding sources, including leveraging partnership opportunities, grants, and other cooperative funding mechanisms. These funding sources should not be regressive, and whenever possible, provide multi~~((-))~~jurisdictional benefits.

~~((T-408))~~ ~~King County should leverage partnership opportunities, grants and other cooperative funding mechanisms to help finance transportation services, infrastructure and facility improvements.~~

~~T-409~~ ~~King County shall maximize its efforts to obtain federal and state funding for its transportation services, infrastructure and facility improvements.))~~

## ~~((D))~~ **E. Climate Change, Air Quality, and the Environment**

Clean air and minimizing greenhouse gas emissions contribute~~((s))~~ to the health of people, ~~((the))~~ ecosystems, and the economy. ~~((Transportation is the primary source of air pollutants regionally. In addition to complying with state and federal regulations described below, t))~~The ~~((c))~~County is working to reduce transportation-related emissions, which are the primary source of air pollutants regionally and a major driver of climate change. ~~((through the policies and actions contained in this Comprehensive Plan.~~

The Washington State Clean Air Conformity Act establishes guidelines and directives for implementing the federal Clean Air Act Amendments. It specifically links air quality

conformity to growth management planning efforts at the local and regional level. The King County transportation system complies with the federal and state Clean Air Acts by maintaining conformity with the Puget Sound Regional Council Transportation 2040 plan and by following the requirements of Chapter 173-420 of the Washington Administrative Code.

Climate change is of significant local, national and global concern. It is clear that greenhouse gas emissions from transportation sources are a significant contributing factor to climate change. In addition to meeting its regulatory requirements, King County is committed to addressing climate change through its decisions and actions and encouraging others to act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well. Climate change is projected to increase the frequency of flood events in most of western Washington's river basins. Increased flood frequency and intensity will increase public investment needed to ensure public safety and mobility, particularly on the county road system. Climate change will affect the county's road and transit infrastructure. More storm events and increased temperatures will disrupt service, increase road maintenance requirements and adversely affect mobility. Changes in precipitation patterns and sea levels may cause greater damage to roads, bridges and seawalls from erosion, landslides, and flooding.

The goals and activities of King County departments and agencies that provide transportation services in King County are integrally linked to the County's strategies and activities for addressing climate change. This linkage was refined in the County's 2012 Strategic Climate Action Plan, with an entire chapter focused on the operational and service targets related to transportation and land use. The Strategic Climate Action Plan identifies clear performance targets (how much change is the County attempting to achieve) and strategies and priority activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It allows for the reporting of strategies, program activities, and performance measures related to climate change in one location.

The updated 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan provides a mechanism to evaluate progress since the 2012 Strategic Climate Action Plan and refines strategies and program activities to achieve the objectives of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change impacts.))

In addition to reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, King County must also prepare County roads and transit infrastructure for climate change. More extreme heat events, heavier rain events, and sea level rise increase the potential for damage to roads, bridges, and sea walls, particularly as infrastructure ages. This can result in higher maintenance costs, more service disruptions, and mobility impacts. Increased flood impacts will require public investment to ensure public safety and mobility, particularly on the County road system.

King County transportation services are integral to implementing the Strategic Climate Action Plan. The Strategic Climate Action Plan sets transportation-related greenhouse gas reduction goals and guides the planning, development, prioritization, implementation, and tracking of County actions, such as linking transportation and land use, developing community-driven transit, and creating climate-resilient transit infrastructure and services.

**((T-320)) T-129 Transportation improvements should be designed, built, and operated to minimize air, water, and noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and the disruption of natural surface water drainage in compliance with provisions and requirements of applicable federal, state, and local environmental regulations. Natural and historic resource protection should also be considered. Particular care should be taken to minimize impacts where the location of such facilities could**

increase the pressure for development in critical areas or the Rural Area(s) and Natural Resource Lands.

**T-130 King County should proactively identify barriers to fish passage created by existing County roads and prioritize multiple-benefit solutions that enhance high-priority habitats and address critical roadway maintenance and preservation needs.**

~~((T-321))~~ **T-131 ((Within new developments, King County supports designing and building roads, bicycle facilities, pedestrian ways and trails in ways that minimize pollution, provide opportunities for physical activity, promote energy conservation,)) King County, through its Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations, should support healthy community, road, and other transportation infrastructure designs that enable active transportation and public transit use, increase community cohesion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and preserve natural ((flora and wildlife)) habitats.**

~~((T-322))~~ **T-132 Through its own actions and through regional partnerships, King County ((will promote)) shall pursue strategies to reduce emissions from the transportation sector, including((- The county will promote)) new vehicle technologies, the use of low-carbon fuels, ((and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including)) land use changes, investment in equitable transit-oriented development, provision of transit, promotion of ((nonmotorized travel)) active transportation, joint purchasing, pilot projects, and actions to reduce vehicle miles traveled.**

**T-133 King County shall increase the share of its fleet that is electric vehicles, as guided by County policies.**

~~((T-323))~~ **T-134 King County ((will)) shall strive to become a world leader in the use of transportation fuels and technologies that reduce operational greenhouse gas emissions from its fleets and vessels. King County ((will)) shall achieve this goal by:**  
**a. ((b))Buying ((hybrid-electric,)) electric, zero-emission, and other clean transportation technologies when feasible to meet operational needs;**  
**b. ((u))Using clean fuels in its fleets and vessels;**  
**c. ((i))Implementing demonstration projects that use alternative fuels and technologies;**  
**d. ((p))Purchasing locally((-)produced energy sources when practical;**  
**e. ((s))Seeking local and federal support to expand the use of low-carbon fuels and alternative, zero((-)-emission technologies; ((and))**  
**f. ((p))Promoting best practices, innovations, ((trends)) and developments in transportation fuels and technologies((-); and**  
**g. ((The county will also-s))Seeking to deploy and use its vehicles in an energy-efficient manner through vehicle routing, idling-reduction, and operator practices.**

~~((T-324))~~ **King County will incorporate climate change impacts information into construction, operations, and maintenance of infrastructure projects. The department will incorporate climate change into its planning and design documents and also develop strategies to incorporate climate change response into the design and operations of its transportation structures and services.**

**T-324a) T-135 King County ((will)) shall reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its off-road vehicles and equipment by using low-carbon fuels and advanced technologies, and by partnering with other agencies to implement demonstration projects using these vehicle technologies.**

~~((T-325 King County will develop methods to evaluate the climate change impacts of its actions and transportation services and will implement climate sensitive strategies and practices consistent with the environmental sustainability goals and policies described in Chapter 5, Environment, as well as existing state, regional and local plans, laws, and regulations.~~

~~**T-326 To the extent practicable, future expansion or redevelopment of the county's road stormwater infrastructure should minimize pollutant discharges and flow alterations by mimicking the natural drainage system or preserving the ability to create such a system in the future:))**~~

## 1. Electric Vehicles

Transportation emissions - primarily from passenger cars and trucks - are the biggest source of carbon pollution in Washington, accounting for 39 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions in 2019. Supporting the transition of private cars and trucks to electric vehicles will lead to fewer climate-altering pollutants, improved air quality, lower maintenance and fueling costs for car owners, and reduced pollution exposure for communities along major transportation corridors.

The Strategic Climate Action Plan supports efforts to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles while ensuring the equitable distribution of benefits of electric vehicles and promoting equitable access to mobility that prioritizes shared mobility solutions. The Strategic Climate Action Plan sets the following targets for the share of new vehicles sold that are electric vehicles by 2035: 100 percent of light-duty vehicles, 50 percent of medium-duty vehicles, and 28 percent of heavy-duty vehicles. King County and the State have adopted regulations requiring electric vehicle charging infrastructure be provided with new and substantial improvements to residential and nonresidential development. Washington State has also developed the Washington State Plan for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment and has set a target that all model year 2030 and later passenger and light-duty vehicles that are sold, purchased, or registered in Washington be zero-emission vehicles. The State also mandates that all new vehicles must be zero-emission vehicles from model year 2035 onward.

Challenges remain for equitable access to electric vehicles due to higher vehicle costs and access to charging infrastructure. On average, electric vehicles have a higher purchase price, though they are less expensive to own overall. Additionally, people who live in older multiunit or rental housing face barriers to securing electric vehicle charging at home, as tenants do not have property control and property owners have few incentives to install charging equipment. Constricted charging supply is exacerbated by existing disparities, as historically underinvested families disproportionately rent. However, there are some state and federal financial incentives available.

**T-136 King County should support expansion of private electric vehicle use and the provision of necessary charging infrastructure, including opportunities to improve equitable access to the benefits of electric vehicles and geographically dispersed access to public vehicle charging at King County-owned facilities and at partner locations, by taking action such as convening partners and leading grant proposals, administering grants, and supporting regional planning for electric vehicle infrastructure.**

**T-137 King County should support expansion of private electric vehicle freight use and the geographically dispersed charging infrastructure necessary to enable the emission-free movement of goods traveling throughout the county, regionally, nationally, and internationally.**

### III. Multimodal Transportation ((Ensuring Effective Management and Efficient Operations

This section contains policy direction to guide the ongoing design, maintenance, operation and management of the county transportation system to provide for safety, efficiency and sustainability. It is consistent with the King County Strategic Plan, which, as a component of the county's Performance Management and Accountability System, provides the foundation for managing the performance of county services. The Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, and the Strategic Plan for Road Services, as transportation functional plans, provide the detailed guidance on operational issues and also address transportation performance measurement and reporting.))

#### ((€)) A. Public Transportation System

Metro ((and the Marine Division)) plays an important role in achieving the region's growth strategy by focusing public transportation services in the ((τ))Urban ((g))Growth ((σ))Area of King County and providing service to designated regional, countywide, and other centers and ((other)) areas of concentrated activity. Centers and other communities that are compact and ((friendly to pedestrians and bicycles)) designed to prioritize walking and biking are most easily served by transit. Such communities foster healthier, more active lifestyles while reducing ((auto)) vehicle dependency and associated road investments. By the same token, transit service can support and encourage development that is more compact. Metro's Service Guidelines describe the types of land uses that support different types of transit service. Metro's Strategic Plan for Public Transportation and Metro Connects direct Metro to support equitable, affordable, transit-oriented communities and development.

((Metro and the Marine Division support municipal, agency and private development of transit-supportive, pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly communities through partnership, coordination and delivery of public transportation services. Metro also promotes partnerships to implement transit-supportive infrastructure to improve access to transit. Metro also partners with jurisdictions and the private sector to spur transit-oriented development through redevelopment opportunities at or adjacent to park-and-rides.

**T-204)) T-201 King County should support local and regional growth plans and policies by focusing transit services on centers and other areas of concentrated activity.**



**~~((T-205)) T-202~~ King County should support, encourage, and implement high-capacity transit facilities and services that are consistent with, and supportive of, the Comprehensive Plan, Metro's Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, Metro's ~~((Long Range Plan for Public Transportation and the King County Ferry District 2014 Strategic Plan)) Service Guidelines, and Metro Connects, or successor plans.~~**

## **~~((A))~~ B. Public Transportation Policies and Service Guidelines**

Metro is committed to ~~((using))~~ delivering a regional, innovative, and integrated mobility network that is safe, equitable, and sustainable. To do this, Metro must invest in line with its values and policies, use resources wisely, and ~~((increasing))~~ increase the efficiency of its operations. Consistent with its Strategic Plan and ~~((Long Range Plan))~~ Metro Connects, Metro emphasizes planning and delivery of productive services and is committed to controlling costs. To help ensure efficiency and investments aligned with Metro's values, Metro uses service guidelines and performance measures to manage the transit system. Performance monitoring helps Metro evaluate its progress, plan and budget for the future, and improve agency practices. Metro is also committed to improving its transparency and so makes performance reports readily available to internal and external audiences.

Metro's Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, Service Guidelines, and Metro Connects emphasize advancing equity and addressing climate change. The three documents strongly emphasize the need to invest upstream and where needs are greatest, including for priority populations: people who have low or no income; are Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color; are immigrants or refugees; have disabilities; or are linguistically diverse. For example, when considering where to add new service, Metro's Service Guidelines now direct Metro to consider social equity first, and land use second.

**~~((T-301)) T-203~~ King County should provide reliable, safe, convenient, equitable, and accessible public transportation services that are responsive to the needs of people, businesses, and communities in King County – especially where needs are greatest.**

**~~((T-301a)) T-204~~~~((The))~~ King County ~~((Marine Division))~~ should be a leader in regional mobility by providing ~~((passenger-only ferry))~~ service that benefits the community, helps reduce road congestion, can assist in emergency management needs, and supports the economic development and growth management needs of King County.**

**~~((T-301b)) T-205~~ King County~~((s))~~ should provide ~~((passenger-only ferry))~~ service ~~((should be))~~ that is efficient, safe, accessible, and reliable, ~~((and provide))~~ in addition to providing excellent customer service while being responsive and accountable to the public.**

~~((T-302))~~ **T-206 ((The)) King County ((Marine Division)) should work with the Washington State Department of Transportation, Kitsap County, and other entities offering passenger ferry services(;) to ensure that service and capital plans for ferries are consistent with ((the King County Ferry District 2014 Strategic Plan)) Metro's Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, Service Guidelines, and Metro Connects, or successor plans.**

## ~~((I. Nonmotorized))~~ C. Active Transportation Program

~~((Vision 2040, the region's long-range growth management, economic and transportation strategy, and Transportation 2040, the adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and the associated Active Transportation Plan call for the development of a regional transportation system that offers a variety of travel choices while preserving environmental quality and open space. Nonmotorized))~~ Active transportation - such as walking, biking, using a wheelchair, and, in some parts of the county, equestrian travel - ((plays a key role in achieving these goals and)) is an essential component of King County's multimodal transportation system. ((Pedestrians, bicyclists and in some parts of the county, equestrians, are nonmotorized users of the transportation system:)) Regional trails serve a recreational function and also allow for uses such as transportation-enabling integration of the trail network with other active transportation networks.

~~((Biking and walking are))~~ Active transportation is an energy efficient, economical, and low((-))\_impact mode((s)) of travel that promotes health ((and don't contribute to air or water pollution)). By providing options for ((nonmotorized travel)) active transportation, King County helps to reduce ~~((automobile))~~ vehicle dependency and congestion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create opportunities for individuals to integrate healthy exercise into everyday activities. The ability to safely ~~((bicycle and walk))~~ use active transportation can provide varying levels of accessibility and mobility to almost everyone, including people who are young, ((elderly)) seniors, ((physically disabled, or)) who have physical disabilities, who are part of a household at or below 80 percent of area median income, ((low-income people and others)) or who may not drive for other reasons. Well-designed, strategically located ~~((bicycle and pedestrian))~~ active transportation facilities can also provide increased and safer access to transit for more people. ~~((Bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian trails are important community amenities that foster vibrant communities and may help spur economic development. Equestrian travel is also an important aspect of the rural heritage and lifestyle of King County as well as a very popular recreational activity:))~~

In unincorporated King County, the Road Services Division is responsible for ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active transportation facilities such as bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or shoulders on County roads. The ~~((d))~~ Division also provides crosswalks and specialized signals or signage that help facilitate safer ~~((nonmotorized travel))~~ active transportation. The King County Road Design and Construction Standards ~~((include accommodation for nonmotorized uses and))~~ specify bicycle lane, sidewalk, or road shoulder criteria for unincorporated ~~((urban and rural))~~ roads. Sidewalks are allowed in Rural Towns and, under certain circumstances, ~~((sidewalks))~~ are allowed in the Rural Area as a spot improvement to address an existing safety or high-use issue when other walkway alternatives would not be as effective~~((, or))~~ and for safe routes to school. Road-related ~~((nonmotorized))~~ active transportation capital needs in the unincorporated area are included in the Transportation Needs Report and are programmed in the six-year Roads Capital Improvement Program as funding allows. ~~((The HealthScape Transportation Programming Tool, along with other criteria, is used in evaluating nonmotorized projects in the Transportation Needs Report:))~~ Road safety, including consideration of

vehicle speeds in roadway design, and strategic, capital, and operational countermeasures to enhance safety are critical tools to provide for safe and easy transportation options.

((King County also plays a countywide role in nonmotorized transportation through its Regional Trails System and transit services.)) The ((r))Regional ((t))Trails network((; discussed in Chapter 7, Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources;)) is an integral component of the ((c))county's recreational and transportation system. It includes facilities located both in cities and the unincorporated area. ((The trail network functions as the spine of the County's nonmotorized system in many areas)). Transit and ((walking or biking)) active transportation are highly synergistic; transit use tends to be highest in locations where ((walking and biking are)) active transportation use is prevalent, and vice versa. ((The)) Metro ((Transit Department)) supports ((nonmotorized)) active transportation programs such as bicycle racks on transit buses and passenger ferries, and bicycle lockers at park-and-ride lots, employment sites, ferry terminals, and other locations.

**((F-230)) T-207** King County shall consider the safety, needs, and abilities of ((nonmotorized)) active transportation users ((of the transportation system)) in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, preservation, and operation of road infrastructure and other transportation facilities ((to the extent feasible given available funding)).

**((F-231)) T-208** Consistent with the priorities defined in the County's ((functional)) transportation plans((;)) and the Regional Growth Strategy, ((nonmotorized)) active transportation system investments should aim to increase safety, accessibility, and mobility((, facilitating)); facilitate mode integration and intermodal connections((;)); improve access to centers, where appropriate((;)); and ((providing)) provide opportunities for healthy activity and alternatives to driving for all populations.

**((F-232)) T-209** King County shall evaluate ((and implement nonmotorized)) active transportation improvements in its road construction projects and shall implement these improvements where appropriate and feasible.

**((F-233)) T-210** In unincorporated areas of King County, the following needs ((will)) shall be given the highest priority when identifying, planning, and programming ((nonmotorized)) active transportation improvements:

- a. Addressing known collision locations;
- b. Fostering safe ((walking and bicycling)) active transportation routes to schools and other areas where school-aged children regularly assemble;
- c. Filling gaps in, or enhancing connections to, the ((r))Regional ((t))Trails ((system)) network;
- d. Serving ((l))locations of high concentration of pedestrian and/or bicycle traffic; and
- e. Providing safe routes to transit.

**((F-234)) T-211** In urban areas, ((nonmotorized)) active transportation improvements should increase access to transit and urban centers while enhancing community connections to parks, local trails, shopping, libraries, healthcare, and other public and private services and facilities.

**((F-235)) T-212** The King County Regional Trails ((System)) network ((is)) shall be the centerpiece of the ((nonmotorized system)) network for active transportation in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. The ((c))County's efforts to enhance the Rural Area and Natural Resource

Lands ((nonmotorized)) active transportation network should include ((filling in)) completing the Regional Trails ((System's)) network's ((missing links)) gaps, coordinating road and trail projects whenever possible, considering access from roadways such as gateway (trailhead) parking, and enhancing access to transit, especially park((-))-and((-))-ride((s)) lots and transit centers.

**T-213** The Regional Trails network, and its use, shall be for both recreation and transportation purposes. Not all facilities are appropriate for all modes and may have restrictions on the use of any mode.

~~((T-236))~~ **T-214** In the Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands, ((nonmotorized)) active transportation improvements shall be ((consistent with providing)) provided at rural levels of service, ((preserving)) preserve rural character, and ((avoiding)) avoid impacts to the environment and significant historic properties.

~~((T-237))~~ **T-215** To increase equitable access to walking, bicycling, and transit mobility options, the ((c))County should actively seek grant funding to improve ((nonmotorized)) active transportation infrastructure that serves the needs of ((people of color, low-income communities, people with limited English-speaking proficiency, immigrant and refugee populations, and others who may have limited transportation options such as students, youth, seniors, and)) historically underinvested groups, people with disabilities, seniors, and people with special transportation needs.

~~((T-238))~~ **T-216** New school development should address safe walking and bicycling routes for students. If the existing transportation infrastructure within a one-mile radius, together with the school's road frontage improvements, cannot support safe walking or bicycling to school, King County shall use its development review authority to require the school district and the new school to address the long-term transportation needs of students, including through the state-mandated Safe Routes to School program.

~~((T-239))~~ **T-217** New ((land use)) binding site plans, commercial developments, and subdivisions shall seek to accommodate internal ((nonmotorized)) active transportation mobility and access to nearby shopping, parks, trails, schools, healthcare, community resources, and other public and private services and facilities, consistent with the different needs and service levels for urban ((and)) areas, the Rural Area((s)), and Natural Resource Lands.

~~((T-240))~~ **T-218** The specifications in the King County Road Design and Construction Standards shall support ((nonmotorized)) active transportation safety and accessibility, consistent with the County's adopted policies regarding appropriate urban and rural levels of service.

~~((T-241))~~ **T-219** In supporting equestrian travel in the Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands, King County should emphasize safety and connection to ((the Regional Trail System and other)) established trail networks open to equestrian use.

((T-242)) T-220 King County shall seek opportunities to acquire and develop ((nonmotorized)) active transportation corridors. Evaluation of requests to vacate unused road rights-of-way ((will)) should consider existing ((nonmotorized)) active transportation uses and future development of such uses.

((T-243)) T-221 King County should coordinate with ((bicycling, pedestrian and equestrian stakeholders)) active transportation users and advocacy organizations to ensure that their input is included early ((in)) and throughout the planning and project design process for projects with ((nonmotorized)) active transportation elements or that have the potential to affect ((nonmotorized)) these users.

((T-244)) T-222 King County should participate((d)) in the Puget Sound Regional Council's regional bicycle network planning efforts(;) and consider related project needs within King County's jurisdiction ((should be considered)) in the ((c))County's ((nonmotorized)) active transportation planning and project prioritization processes ((as financial resources allow)).

## ((f)) D. Transportation Demand Management

Transportation affects every aspect of the lives of King County residents, not only in terms of mobility but also in terms of health, equity, racial and social justice, economy, and environment. Transportation Demand Management consists of a broad range of strategies that provide for reduced reliance on single occupancy vehicle trips, reduced vehicle miles traveled, and increased efficiency of the whole transportation system. Transportation Demand Management results in lower greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, and equitable access to alternative mobility options.

((King County, both as a government and as an employer, is a leader in implementing transportation initiatives and encouraging land uses, policies and development that lead people and businesses to reduce single occupant vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled, while decreasing the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. King County's ability to provide for the mobility needs of its residents will increasingly depend on actively managing the existing transportation system.))

Transportation Demand Management strategies include (but are not limited to):

- Public education((f)), information, and incentive programs;
- Public transportation (((ie)) bus, rail, passenger ferry, ((and)) vanpool, and carpool);
- ((Nonmotorized travel)) Active transportation options;
- State-mandated Commute Trip Reduction and Growth and Transportation Efficiency Centers;
- Roadway and lane management (such as ridesharing, intelligent traffic systems, and active traffic management);
- Congestion pricing strategies (such as high-occupancy toll((f)) lanes, express toll lanes, corridor tolling, cordon tolling, system-wide tolling, and vehicle miles traveled charges);
- Joint use and intermodal transfer facilities (such as park((-))-and((-))-ride((s)) lots);
- Parking management and pricing (such as connecting supply with mode split targets; mode split is the percentage of a specific mode's use from among all modes of travel);
- Telecommunications substitutes for physical travel ((f)), such as ((telecommuting, e-government, and internet-based business-to-business activities))) remote work; and



- Land use decisions (such as site design standards and concurrency).

((In its application of Transportation Demand Management strategies, King County fulfills many roles, including:

- The jurisdiction responsible for land use, transportation infrastructure and permitting in unincorporated areas;
- The operator and manager of unincorporated area roadways and Metro Transit;
- A local, regional and statewide advocate for integrated transportation solutions and climate change actions; and
- A leading edge employer implementing progressive employee transportation programs.

**T-245)) T-223** King County shall implement policies and programs that support ((t))Transportation ((d))Demand ((m))Management, ((nonmotorized travel)) active transportation, transit service improvements, and expansion of high-occupancy((-))vehicle travel ((in order)) to increase the share of trips made by modes other than driving alone, and should partner with the Washington State Department of Transportation, Puget Sound Regional Council, local jurisdictions, employers, major institutions, and developers to implement programs that support, encourage, and raise awareness of alternatives to driving alone.

~~((T-246~~ Where appropriate King County should support the use of Transportation Demand Management strategies including variable tolling on state highways to increase mobility options, promote travel efficiency, optimize the existing transportation system and reduce the adverse environmental impacts of the transportation system.

**T-247)) T-224** King County should consider Transportation Demand Management strategies, beyond those adopted as ((c))County regulation, among a menu of measures to mitigate for traffic impacts of proposed development or major highway construction projects. ((Transportation Demand Management, as well as other mitigation requirements, may be imposed on new development as mandatory mitigation measures as necessary to meet the requirements for mitigation of impacts pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act and the State Subdivision Act.

**T-248)) T-225** King County should promote employee transportation programs, including those for its own employees, that encourage trip reduction, use of public transportation, walking, and bicycling. ((King County should demonstrate regional leadership by continuing to provide a model program for its own employees.

~~T-248a~~ King County should actively participate in developing and implementing state-mandated Commute Trip Reduction programs.

**T-249)) T-226** King County should participate in local, regional, and statewide efforts to implement and measure the results of Transportation Demand Management strategies, technologies, and systems, including policies developed through regional consensus and adopted by the ((c))County. To this end, the ((c))County shall identify funds to research, plan, implement, and measure the success of Transportation Demand Management strategies.

~~((T-250))~~ **T-227** King County ((will)) shall work with the Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington State Transportation Commission, Puget Sound Regional Council, and cities to ((develop and)) implement ((applications of managed-t))Transportation Demand Management ((facilities and congestion pricing)) strategies, such as

congestion pricing, to support increased efficiency and reduce the need for ((on)) new ((and existing transportation)) facilities.

((T-251)) T-228 King County should support((s)) Transportation Demand Management strategies, including congestion pricing and other road usage pricing strategies, and should especially support more-equitable and less-regressive approaches, as a means to optimize transportation system performance and efficiency, generate revenues, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and ((reduce greenhouse gas emissions)) support King County environmental and climate goals.

((T-252)) T-229 Revenue from congestion pricing and other road usage pricing should be used to improve, preserve, and operate the transportation system, including transit and other multimodal investments, as well as to help fund improvements that address the diversionary impacts on non-tolled facilities.

((T-253) King County should partner with the Washington State Department of Transportation, Puget Sound Regional Council, local jurisdictions, employers, major institutions and developers to implement programs to encourage alternatives to commuting by single-occupant vehicles, and to improve travel options and awareness of those options.

T-253a)) T-230 King County shall provide culturally((-)) appropriate opportunities to inform and participate in programs that increase access to effective alternatives to driving alone for ((residents of low-income communities;)) households at or below 80 percent of area median income; Black, Indigenous, and other ((p))People of ((c))Color((-); people ((with limited English proficiency)) speaking languages other than English; ((and)) immigrants; and refugees ((populations to inform and participate in programs to increase access to effective alternatives to driving alone)).

## IV. Roads ((Financing Services and Facilities that Meet Local and Regional Goals))

### ((D)) A. Road System

((T-206)) T-301 ((Except as provided in T-209;)) King County shall not construct and shall oppose the construction by other agencies of any new arterials or highways in the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands.

((T-207)) T-302 King County recognizes the importance to regional and local mobility of existing state highways that traverse the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands and should advocate for state and federal agencies to improve ((performance)) the safety, efficiency, and resiliency of these facilities((, consistent with the county's adopted Comprehensive Plan policies to)) where they prevent unplanned development in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands and preserve rural character.

((T-208)) T-303 King County shall not ((add any new arterial)) expand capacity of existing arterial roads in the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands, except for roads where needed for safety, or for segments of rural regional corridors that pass through the Rural Area((s and)) or Natural

Resource Lands, or both, to accommodate levels of traffic between urban areas. Appropriate rural development regulations and strong commitments to access management should be in place prior to authorizing capacity expansion of rural regional corridors to prevent unplanned growth in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. Rural regional corridors shall be identified in the Transportation Needs Report (Appendix C1) and shall meet all of the following criteria:

- a. Connects one urban area to another, or to a highway of statewide significance that provides such connection, by traversing the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands;
- b. Classified as a principal arterial;
- c. Carries high traffic volumes (at least 15,000 average daily traffic); and
- d. At least half of ((P.M.)) p.m. peak trips on the corridor are traveling to cities or other counties.

~~((T-209)) King County shall avoid construction of major roads and capacity expansion on existing roads in Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands. Where increased roadway capacity is warranted to support safe and efficient travel through Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands, appropriate rural development regulations and strong commitments to access management should be in place prior to authorizing such capacity expansion in order to prevent unplanned growth in these areas.~~

~~T-210))~~ **T-304** Any capacity increases to rural regional corridors shall be designed to accommodate levels of traffic between urban areas consistent with ~~((the county's adopted))~~ Comprehensive Plan policies regarding development in the surrounding Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands. The ((c))County shall seek to maximize the efficient use of existing roadway capacity before considering adding new capacity to rural regional corridors.

~~((T-211))~~ **T-305** Any segment of a ((c))County roadway that forms the boundary between the Urban Growth Area and the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands should be designated urban and all associated road right-of-way fully contained within the Urban Growth Area boundary. Such urban boundary roads shall be designed and constructed to urban roadway standards on both sides of the roadway segment.

~~((T-212))~~ **T-306** King County shall work with cities for the annexation of ((c))County((-)) roadways and/or street segments located in the urban area and within or between cities((-, in order)) to provide for a consistent level of urban services on the affected roads and reduce the burden on unincorporated taxpayers that are supporting this urban infrastructure.

## ~~((G))~~ **B. Concurrency**

~~((The Growth Management Act requires local jurisdictions to adopt and enforce ordinances that prohibit development approval if the development causes the Level of Service on identified county arterials to decline below the adopted Level of Service standards. King County's Transportation Concurrency Management program was developed to address the Growth Management Act's concurrency requirement.))~~ The Transportation Concurrency Management program requires that adequate transportation facilities must be available to carry the traffic of a proposed development at ((e))County ((t))level of ((S))service standards, or that construction for needed improvements is funded in the adopted Six-Year Roads Capital Improvement Program, or else the proposed development cannot be approved.

~~((The requirements of King County's Transportation Concurrency Management program may apply to transportation facilities designated by the Washington State Department of Transportation as "highways of statewide significance." The portions of certain highways of statewide significance that do not have limited access and function like county arterials may be included in the King County concurrency test:))~~

The Transportation Concurrency Management program has been designed to meet the following goals:

- Fulfill the requirements of state growth management legislation;
- Be simple to understand, easy to implement and administer, and transparent to those affected by its processes and regulations;
- Consider and encourage multimodal travel;
- Encourage growth in urban areas where provision of transportation infrastructure and services is most efficient and economical; and
- Efficiently integrate concurrency determination into the permit system process and database.

Transportation concurrency is a plan-level system that does not require testing of individual developments. Instead, concurrency status is determined by broad geographic areas within unincorporated King County called ~~((travel-sheds))~~ travelsheds, which were drawn to reflect where travel patterns share common characteristics. Trips associated with development within a particular ~~((travel-shed))~~ travelshed would likely use or be affected by traffic on arterials located within and bordering that ~~((travel-shed))~~ travelshed. A development proposal ~~((including both residential and nonresidential proposals))~~ will be considered to meet the transportation concurrency standard if it is located in a ~~((travel-shed))~~ travelshed that meets ~~((L))~~ level of ~~((S))~~ service standards as depicted on the concurrency map in effect at the time of development application. Development proposals must still meet all applicable zoning and land use regulations.

~~((T-219))~~ **For the purposes of concurrency testing, a travel shed is a geographic area within unincorporated King County where trips generated by development within the travel shed would likely use or be affected by traffic on arterials within the travel shed.**

~~T-220~~ **The concurrency program shall include provision for mobility areas within travel sheds as provided in T-217. Rural Mobility Areas shall be defined as unincorporated Rural Towns as designated in the King County Comprehensive Plan.**

~~T-221))~~ **T-307 The concurrency map shall identify the ~~((travel-sheds))~~ travelsheds that meet or do not meet concurrency standards. Any proposed development in ~~((travel-sheds))~~ travelsheds that meet concurrency standards ~~((will))~~ shall be deemed concurrent.**

~~((T-222))~~ **T-308 The concurrency test shall be based on the ~~((L))~~ level of ~~((S))~~ service on arterials in unincorporated King County using the ~~((C))~~ County's adopted methodology. ~~((The test may be applied to designated Highways of Statewide Significance.~~**

~~T-223))~~ **T-309 The concurrency test may include provision of factors for safety, pavement condition, and availability of multiple modes of transportation.**

((T-224)) T-310 In the Rural Area, the concurrency test may include a provision that allows the purchase of Transferable Development Rights ((in-order)) to satisfy transportation concurrency requirements.

## ((B)) C. Road Services Policies and Priorities

Effective design, management, and operation of the road system are critical to mobility and quality of life. King County strives to make efficient use of the existing infrastructure, serve the broad needs of users, address safety issues, and design facilities that are appropriate for the surrounding communities. King County has a structural funding deficit that continues to severely impact the ((c))County's ability to provide basic preservation and maintenance of its aging and declining road system. Therefore, as the revenue available to manage the road system fluctuates, so will the ((c))County's ability to maintain and preserve its roads and bridges. If sufficient revenue is not available to sustain the road system, then infrastructure may be downgraded or closed. The ((c))County's focus will remain on the priorities in the Strategic Plan for Road Services to guide these critical decisions. The Strategic Plan for Road Services also prioritizes funding of services and projects, including both the type of activities and the location of investments.

The Strategic Plan for Road Services lays out the priority for the Road Services Division funding decisions in the following order:

1. Prevent and respond to immediate operational life safety and property damage hazards.
2. Meet regulatory requirements and standards in cooperation with regulatory agencies.
3. Maintain and ((P))preserve the existing roadway facilities network.
4. Enhance mobility (movement of people and goods) by facilitating more efficient use of the existing road system.
5. Address roadway capacity when necessary to support growth targets in the urban area.

Based on the Strategic Plan for Road Services, King County has implemented a graduated service level decision framework that considers road function, traffic volume, life-safety needs, network connectivity, and transit use. Priority will be given to keep the most vital components of the road system operational for users. This approach guides service provision under limited funding scenarios and also helps direct investments toward the most critical needs when additional resources are available. Performance measurement and reporting is also an important aspect of the Strategic Plan for Road Services and a critical tool in managing the ((c))County's road system.

To improve efficiency and productivity, King County has implemented and continues to enhance and refine a data-driven asset management approach that, combined with the policy direction in this Comprehensive Plan and the Strategic Plan for Road Services, will guide investment choices over the next biennium and beyond.

The Road Services Division's Capital Improvement Program and Financial Plan must be consistent with this Comprehensive Plan and consider the current performance of the transportation system, concurrency needs of planned developments, priority projects, phased implementation of improvements, and other related factors. Revenues from a range of sources, including grants, are programmed to appropriate projects.

While new streets are designed to balance the safety and mobility needs of all users, including people walking and biking, much of the network was built many generations



ago using the standards of the time. Over time, as resources become available, the County strives to improve the system to one that is designed and operated in a human-centric manner to accommodate certain types and levels of human mistakes, accommodates physical human vulnerabilities, proactively addresses safety, and reduces risk through redundant measures. The responsibility for traffic safety outcomes on the road network is shared between multiple actors, including the Road Services Division as the road system manager, as well as public health organizations, law enforcement agencies, emergency responders, road users, and others.

Arterial Functional Classification, established in Appendix C, Transportation, is implemented through the specifications provided in the King County Road Design and Construction Standards. The Urban Growth Area boundary provides the distinction between urban and rural arterials.

Management of the County road network gives special consideration to its designated Heritage Corridors, where travelers can still experience a sense of the county's rich transportation history. These historic and scenic corridors include:

- Cedarhurst Road/Westside Highway and Dockton Road on Vashon-Maury Island;
- Green Valley Road in the Auburn Black Diamond area;
- Issaquah Fall City Road, West Snoqualmie River Road, and West Snoqualmie Valley Road/Carnation Farm Road in the Snoqualmie Valley;
- Old Cascade Scenic Highway and Old Sunset Highway in Stevens Pass; and
- Osceola Loop in the Enumclaw Plateau.

Likewise, travelers in King County also benefit from multiple scenic, historic, and recreational highways located within King County. Designated Washington Scenic and Recreational Highways include:

- I-90 (Mountains to Sound Greenway).
- US 2 (Stevens Pass Greenway).
- State Route 410 (Chinook Pass Scenic Byway), and
- State Route 202 (Cascade Valleys Scenic Byway).

## ((Equity and Social Justice))

Equity and racial and social justice principles receive significant consideration in decision-making processes. The Road Services Division's approach to integrating equity and racial and social justice into agency business operations and budgeting includes the following components:

- Prioritize emergency snow and ice response along Metro's highest priority transit snow routes, since these may be the only source of transportation available to lower-income residents.
- Promote equal access to, and availability of, information and services for all county residents by designing Division communications and public engagement processes that are culturally relevant for diverse communities, including communities whose residents ~~((have limited English proficiency))~~ speak languages other than English.
- Utilize partnerships with other King County or external agencies, community groups, and non-profit organizations to better understand community needs and obtain community input and involvement.
- When available, grant-funded ~~((non-motorized))~~ active transportation improvements are directed to ~~((disadvantaged))~~ historically underinvested

communities because they both help to support active, healthy lifestyles and also facilitate mobility for people with disabilities((;)) and those who cannot drive or are unable to afford a car.

- ((King County a)) Acknowledge((s)) that ((there are significant concentrations of)) Black, Indigenous, and other ((p)) People of ((c)) Color((; low income populations)); households at or below 80 percent of area median income((;); people ((with limited English proficiency)) speaking languages other than English((; and)); immigrants; and refugees ((populations)) disproportionately reside in ((certain areas)) some King County neighborhoods. The ((c)) County also recognizes that these groups of people are ((disbursed)) dispersed across the county. ((Their mobility needs, as well as the mobility needs of students, youth, seniors, and people with disabilities, should be considered when evaluating division projects and programs.

## General Priorities

~~T-303~~) **T-311** King County shall maintain and preserve the unincorporated area road system to keep it operating safely, protect mobility and infrastructure investments, and maximize the useful life of transportation assets to the extent feasible under available funding levels.

~~((T-304))~~ **T-312** ~~((In order to))~~ To keep the most vital components of the road system operational for users, King County should use a decision framework that considers road function, life-safety needs, network connectivity, traffic volume, transit use, and other assessment criteria to both guide service provision and help direct investments toward((s)) the most critical needs when additional resources are available.

~~((T-305))~~ **T-313** ~~((To ensure that the most vital components of the county's road system are kept operational;))~~ King County should fund safety, essential regulatory compliance, and maintenance and preservation needs of the existing road system ~~((should be funded))~~ prior to mobility and capacity improvements.

~~((T-306))~~ **T-314** Maintenance and preservation of the unincorporated rural roadway system shall be emphasized in long-term planning and asset management in recognition of the fact that Rural Area and Natural Resource Land roads and bridges will remain the ((c)) County's long-term responsibility after all annexations are complete.

**T-315** King County should contribute to achieving the state traffic safety goal of zero deaths and serious injuries using a safe systems approach, through which road system managers, public health organizations, law enforcement agencies, emergency responders, road users, and other parties collaborate to prioritize the elimination of crashes that result in death and serious injuries.

~~((T-306a))~~ **T-316** Decisions on long-term road closures and abandonments should be made based on public safety considerations, technical((/)) or engineering standards, and the policy guidance set forth in the Strategic Plan for Road Services, including preservation of local access to adjacent property. Impacts to residents, businesses, and other road users or ((stakeholders)) affected parties should be identified and communicated to them in a timely manner.

~~((T-307))~~ **T-317** Roadway stormwater facilities are an integral component of a properly functioning transportation network and shall be maintained, preserved, and, when ((practicable)) feasible, upgraded ((in order)) to

protect infrastructure, public health, and the natural environment, as well as meet federal, state, and local regulations.

~~((T-308))~~ **T-318** Road projects and programs ~~((shall))~~ should be implemented in ways that avoid or minimize negative impacts ~~to, as well as seek to provide positive benefits for, ((people of color, low-income communities, people with limited English proficiency, immigrant and refugee populations and others who may have limited transportation options, such as students, youth, seniors, and))~~ historically underinvested groups, people with disabilities, seniors, and people with special transportation needs. ~~((Projects and programs shall seek to provide tangible, positive benefits.))~~

~~((T-309))~~ **T-319** To facilitate the establishment of a safe and efficient traffic circulation network reflecting all transportation modes and to retain the availability of access to adjacent properties, the ~~((c))~~ County shall review and comment on the appropriate placement of new or major modified facilities or physical barriers, such as buildings, utilities, and surface water management facilities in or adjacent to road rights-of-way.

~~((T-310))~~ **T-320** ~~((State highway facilities and arterial roads are designed to accommodate higher traffic volumes, at higher speeds, than local roads. To protect residential neighborhoods from the impacts of pass through traffic,))~~ King County should design and operate roads to direct ~~((such))~~ pass-through traffic away from local roads and encourage such traffic to use highways or arterials ~~((whenever possible)), which are designed to accommodate higher traffic volumes at higher speeds.~~

~~((T-311))~~ **T-311** ~~The Department of Local Services has responsibility for development and maintenance of transportation facilities in County-owned road rights-of-way. Other right-of-way users must obtain approval from the department regarding projects, maintenance and other activities impacting the right-of-way.~~

~~T-312~~ **T-312** ~~Arterial Functional Classification, established in Appendix C of this plan, should be implemented through the specifications provided in the King County Road Design and Construction Standards. The Comprehensive Plan's Urban Growth Area boundary provides the distinction between urban and rural arterials.~~

~~T-313))~~ **T-321** ~~The King County((s)) ((r))Road ((d))Design and ((c))Construction ((s))Standards shall promote safe, cost-effective roads that, ((encourage multimodal use,))~~ to the extent practical and allowed by law, incorporate complete streets infrastructure to balance the health and safety needs of all road users, contribute to the state traffic safety goal of zero deaths and serious injuries, and reflect the function of the road and the different needs of and service levels for the Urban Growth Area and Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.

~~((T-314))~~ **T-322** King County should provide road services in a manner that is sensitive to the natural environment, historic~~((at))~~ properties, and archaeological resources, and to design new facilities that fit within the context of the built or natural environments in which they are located.

1931 ((T-315)) T-323 King County should preserve its identified Heritage Corridors  
1932 through context-sensitive design, planning, and maintenance, as  
1933 exemplars of historic and scenic character. ((The corridors include:  
1934 Cedarhurst Road/Westside Highway (Vashon Island), Dockton Road  
1935 (Vashon-Maury Island), Green Valley Road (Auburn-Black Diamond),  
1936 Issaquah-Fall City Road (Snoqualmie Valley), Old Cascade Scenic  
1937 Highway (Stevens Pass), Osceola Loop (Enumclaw Plateau), Old Sunset  
1938 Highway (Snoqualmie Pass), West Snoqualmie River Road (Snoqualmie  
1939 Valley), and West Snoqualmie Valley Road/Carnation Farm Road  
1940 (Snoqualmie Valley).)) In-kind replacement of road and roadside  
1941 features and the use of materials that complement the character of each  
1942 corridor should be utilized to the extent ((that is practicable)) feasible  
1943 and meets safety needs. King County should encourage adjacent  
1944 property owners, through outreach efforts, to similarly support the  
1945 preservation of these corridors.  
1946

1947 ((T-316)) T-324 King County shall support and encourage the preservation and  
1948 enhancement of scenic, historic, and recreational resources along the  
1949 designated Washington Scenic and Recreational Highways located in  
1950 the county((, including I-90 (Mountains to Sound Greenway), US 2  
1951 (Stevens Pass Greenway), State Route 410 (Chinook Pass Scenic  
1952 Byway), and State Route 202 (Cascade Valleys Scenic Byway))). The  
1953 corridor management plans established for these highways should be  
1954 considered in the development and implementation of King County's  
1955 plans, projects, and programs.

## 1956 V. Air Travel

### 1957 ((E)) A. Airports

1958 ((T-213)) T-401 King County should use its authority, including zoning, permitting,  
1959 and development standards, to protect the ((public use airports of))  
1960 Bandera ((near the town of North Bend)), Vashon, and Skykomish  
1961 ((airport in King County)) public-use airports and private airports from  
1962 encroachment of non-compatible land uses. Compatible airport land  
1963 uses are those that comply with ((generally accepted)) Federal Aviation  
1964 Administration guidance on location, height, and activity that provide  
1965 for safe aircraft movement, airport operations, including expansion,  
1966 and community safety.

### 1967 ((3)) B. Air Transportation

1968 ((T-317)) T-402 King County shall plan, design, and implement services, programs,  
1969 and facilities for the King County International Airport ((in compliance  
1970 with Federal Aviation Administration regulatory requirements)) to  
1971 support a safe, secure, and efficient global aerospace system.  
1972

1973 ((T-317a)) T-403 King County International Airport shall continue to provide  
1974 and maintain safe and secure transportation services and facilities for  
1975 the flying public and aviation community in support of a broad range of  
1976 uses, including corporate general aviation, small general aviation,  
1977 charter and commercial passenger services, military aircraft, air cargo,  
1978 and aircraft manufacturing, maintenance, storage, and service, while  
1979 improving mobility for people and freight to meet growing and  
1980 evolving demand.  
1981

**T-404 King County and King County International Airport planning efforts shall:**

- a. Promote coordinated planning and effective management to optimize the movement of people and goods in the region's aviation system in a manner that minimizes health, air quality, and noise impact to the community, especially frontline communities;**
- b. Consider demand management alternatives as future aviation growth needs are analyzed, recognizing capacity constraints at existing facilities and the time and resources necessary to build new ones; and**
- c. Support the ongoing process of development of a new commercial aviation facility in Washington State.**

((In 2005,)) King County International Airport noise-reduction efforts in communities surrounding Boeing field are guided by the Federal Aviation Administration approved ((a)) Part 150 Noise and Land Use Compatibility Plan ((to reduce noise impacts in communities surrounding Boeing Field. This is a significant event and represents a positive step in making)). The Plan supports King County International Airport efforts to be a "good neighbor" to affected residential areas((The Part 150 plan)) and identifies many actions that ((are allowed to)) may be taken by King County International Airport, pilots, tenants, the Federal Aviation Administration, and others to reduce noise impacts on residential areas. ((The Part 150 noise mitigation program, including home insulation, was completed in 2015.

**~~T-318~~) T-405 Recognizing that certain noise-reduction measures are contingent on ongoing and future Federal Aviation Administration funding, King County shall implement those actions((;)) under its control and identified in the Part 150 Noise and Land Use Compatibility Plan. King County shall encourage other entities to implement those measures under their control and also identified in the Part 150 Noise and Land Use Compatibility Plan.**

**~~((T-319)) T-406 King County shall ((encourage all airports located in the county, whether owned by a public or private entities, to be responsible neighbors and make all reasonable efforts to minimize noise impacts on sensitive land uses such as residences, hospitals and schools)) work with airports, federal agencies that oversee flight operations, local jurisdictions, community-based partners, and others to advance health equity and racial and social justice by mitigating exposure to noise and other airport-related harm.~~**

## VI. Coordination and Public Outreach

**~~((A))~~) The elements of the transportation system outlined in ((this)) the ((c))Comprehensive ((p))Plan ((update)) are planned and operated in coordination with the cities in and abutting King County, the adjoining counties, the Puget Sound Regional Council, the Port of Seattle, the transit agencies providing service in and connecting to King County, and the Washington State Department of Transportation. ((Agencies and the public were invited to review and comment on this plan.))**

The following activities support the coordination process:

- Review of plan updates by affected and interested parties, such as the transportation subarea boards((;
- ~~Review by))~~ and unincorporated area residents and organizations ((within the county's Community Service Areas));
- ~~((The u))~~ Updates of King County functional, strategic, and other plans such as the Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, ((and)) Metro Service Guidelines,



~~Metro Connects, the Open Space Plan, and the Strategic Climate Action Plan;~~

- ~~((The development of the Long Range Plan for Public Transportation;))~~
- ~~The statewide and countywide grant application process;~~
- ~~The Transportation Needs Report and Capital Improvement Program coordination process;~~
- ~~Participation in the Puget Sound Regional Council((, which enables King County to coordinate its transportation planning activities with other local and regional agencies for the four central Puget Sound counties));~~
- ~~Review of information provided online by external agencies and organizations;~~
- ~~((Internet sites and other p))Public information ((provided in a variety of formats)); and~~
- ~~Public outreach and meetings.~~

~~((As a countywide transportation service provider, King County provides Metro Transit's public transportation services and works with Sound Transit and other transit and transportation agencies to provide seamless, multimodal transit services. King County cooperates with other local governments and the Washington State Department of Transportation to improve freight mobility and carry out strategies to maintain the efficiency of freeways and arterials in the region. One such strategy would include active management, which is the ability to dynamically manage congestion based on prevailing traffic conditions. King County works with the PSRC and its members to ensure that the transportation needs of the region's residents and economy are addressed in a timely manner.))~~

## A. Regional Coordination

**T-501 King County should pursue regional coordination and partnership to address county((-))wide transportation challenges.**

**T-502 King County should promote a multi((-))jurisdictional, multimodal regional corridor approach to reducing congestion and improving efficiency on highways and arterial roads.**

**T-503 King County should lead, partner in, and promote regional technology initiatives that help to improve mobility.**

**T-504 King County should work with state agencies, the Puget Sound Regional Council, and ((its members)) other jurisdictions to ensure that any regional projected aviation capacity problems, and the air transportation needs of the region's residents and economy, are addressed in a ((timely)) manner that is timely and reflects the County's land use plans, transportation plans, and infrastructure capacity.**

**T-505 King County shall support active management of state-owned freeways to optimize movement of people. High((-))Occupancy Vehicle, High((-))Occupancy Toll, or Express Toll lanes should be managed to prioritize reliable speed advantage for transit and vanpools, and maintain a reliable speed advantage for the other high((-))occupancy vehicles consistent with the State's High-Occupancy-Vehicle lane minimum performance standard.**

**T-506 King County shall advocate that transit should be exempt from paying tolls as it is an essential element of the transportation system, and is critical to maintaining and increasing the person-carrying capacity of the highway and arterial network. Transit provides an alternative travel mode and improves mobility for all users of the system. Transit also increases the efficiency of transportation infrastructure, thereby**

reducing investments needed in roadway expansion and additional parking.

**T-507** King County should collaborate with the Puget Sound Regional Council, cities, and other affected agencies to develop a regional parking strategy consistent with the parking pricing and management recommendations of ((Transportation—2040)) the Regional Transportation Plan, or successor plans.

**((T-507a)) T-508** King County should collaborate with the Puget Sound Regional Council, cities, and other agencies to improve interjurisdictional coordination on active transportation and Regional Trail infrastructure ((including bicycle/pedestrian facilities)). The County should support efforts to maintain comprehensive information about existing and planned facilities, model plans and best practices, and grant opportunities.

The ((Eastside Rail Corridor)) Eastrail corridor provides a ((rare and)) unique opportunity to ((develop dual use (recreational trail and public transportation) facilities supporting: mobility through transit, nonmotorized and active transportation, including access to transit outside the corridor)) support active transportation and transit mobility, consistent with its federal railbanked status. The ((owners share other multiple objectives for the corridor including)) County's goal for the corridor is to support economic opportunity for all King County residents by linking jobs and housing through multimodal connections between regional growth centers, urban communities, local and high-capacity transit, and other regional trails - while accommodating utilities, parks, recreation, and cultural amenities((, and encouraging equitable access to these facilities, and housing and jobs, in support of economic opportunity for all King County residents. Development of the corridor will provide multimodal facilities and connections that link jobs and housing, and provide an opportunity to illustrate innovative ways of connecting growing communities)).

**((T-507b)) T-509** King County ((shall support and participate in collaborative planning efforts - both inter-departmentally and)), in coordination with ((other)) federal, state, and other local agencies ((-to)), shall develop the ((Eastside Rail-€)) Eastrail corridor in ways that enhance multimodal mobility and connectivity, with a commitment to dual use (recreational trail and public transportation), consistent with federal railbanking. Planning and development should consider opportunities for integration of multimodal facilities, including regional trails, into the greater transportation network.

## B. Freight Mobility

Freight mobility is critical to King County's economy and western Washington's role as a major national and international trading region. King County supports efforts to plan and create a fast, reliable freight transportation system in the region. To maintain the region's competitive edge, transportation infrastructure must provide for the efficient movement of goods and freight to and from ports, airports, and industrial areas balanced with the needs of general purpose and high((-))occupancy vehicle traffic.

**((T-508)) T-510** The King County transportation system should support reliable and efficient movement of goods throughout the county, while minimizing the impacts of freight traffic on general purpose traffic and residential neighborhoods. The ((c))County should participate in regional efforts and partnerships to achieve these goals.

**((T-509)) T-511 King County should support regional freight mobility by incorporating freight considerations into road planning, design, construction, and maintenance.**

**((T-510)) T-512 King County should coordinate with other jurisdictions, the public, and the private sector to identify barriers to the effective and efficient movement of freight and goods and develop proposals to improve freight mobility on the arterial system.**

New or expanded truck parking along the I-5 corridor within the Seattle, Tacoma, and Federal Way areas is needed. Improved and expanded truck parking facilities are also needed at the chain-up locations on both sides of Snoqualmie Pass. The lack of truck parking capacity not only causes safety problems, it also has a negative impact on communities in high((-))-demand areas. For example, the city of North Bend is inundated with trucks parking on local roads when Snoqualmie Pass is closed in the winter.

~~((The Federal Hours of Service rule changed effective July 1, 2013, exacerbating the state's truck parking problem as it shortened))~~ Federal law limits the number of hours that truck drivers may work. This ~~((rule change))~~ means that drivers must stop for rest ~~((more))~~ frequently and need ~~((increased))~~ access to safe, secure, and legal truck parking facilities. The shortage of truck parking can contribute to truck drivers driving while fatigued and parking illegally, creating a safety hazard on highways and greater community impacts.

Interstate commerce is a state and national priority and small communities located next to high-volume, long-haul truck corridors are not able to resolve multistate truck parking issues by themselves. Washington State Department of Transportation Truck Parking Studies show that the state's greatest need for additional truck parking is along I-5, I-405, ~~((and))~~ State Route 167 in central Puget Sound, and ~~((on))~~ I-90 near North Bend.

**((T-510a)) T-513 King County should work with regional partners ~~((and stakeholders))~~ to plan for and develop adequate truck parking in high-demand locations along King County's Truck Freight Economic Corridors to improve safety and reduce negative impacts on local communities. Development of truck parking should be supportive of technologies that reduce greenhouse gases, such as electric charging, energy efficiency, and biodiesel.**

## C. Public Involvement

**((T-511)) T-514 King County should provide accessible, culturally((-)) appropriate, timely, accurate, and consistent public information about transportation services, infrastructure, and funding issues, and ensure a wide range of opportunities for input and engagement with county residents, including ~~((low income communities, people of color, people with limited English proficiency, immigrant and refugee populations and other stakeholders))~~ historically underinvested groups, people with disabilities, seniors, and people with special transportation needs, and other affected community members.**

**((T-512)) T-515 King County should actively engage the public and other appropriate ~~((stakeholders))~~ parties, such as the ~~((c))~~Community ~~((s))~~Service ~~((a))~~Areas constituencies, community groups, ~~((and subarea transportation forums))~~ elected officials, and jurisdictions throughout the region, in transportation planning processes and plan updates.**

2202 **T-516 King County Metro Transit's engagement should follow guidance in**  
2203 **Metro's Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, Service Guidelines,**  
2204 **and Metro Connects, or successor plans, to prioritize equity, involve**  
2205 **communities in upstream decisions, and build lasting relationships with**  
2206 **community partners.**

A photograph of an industrial facility, possibly a water treatment plant, with large green buildings and complex piping. Two workers in orange safety vests and hard hats are standing in the foreground on a paved path. The sky is overcast with soft light.

## CHAPTER 9

# **SERVICES, FACILITIES, ~~((AND))~~ & UTILITIES**



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The Growth Management Act requires coordinated planning so that the services required by new residents and their homes and businesses are available as growth occurs. Needed services include many that are not provided by King County, such as water supply, local sanitary sewers, fire protection, schools, energy facilities, and:

King County does provide services such as regional wastewater treatment, regional solid waste management, and local stormwater management. The County also has a regional human services role, which is described in Chapter 4: Housing and Human Services. This chapter contains policies that guide service provision:

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## ~~6.))~~ I. Identifying Needs for Facilities and Services

Public facilities and services are vital to protect public health, safety, and welfare and to protect and enhance community and environmental quality. Inadequate sewage disposal, for example, could directly threaten public health. Inadequate groundwater protection could result in unsafe drinking water and threaten stream flow. Deficiencies in ~~((other))~~ services, such as police protection or parks, might not raise severe obstacles to any single new development, but over time could cause general threats to public health, safety, and welfare and deterioration of community quality.

King County government is responsible for ~~((assuring that))~~ ensuring adequate facilities and services are available or can be made available to support planned growth. This responsibility is carried out by identifying needs for facilities and services based on the planned amount and location of growth. The mechanism for identifying needs is capital improvement programming.

The Growth Management Act requires the ~~((c))~~ County to prepare a capital facility plan that includes an inventory of existing capital facilities owned by public entities, a forecast of the future needs for capital facilities, including the proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new facilities, ~~((and))~~ a six-year plan that will finance the expanded or new facilities, and direction for reassessment of land use if funding is unavailable to meet existing and future needs. These requirements are addressed through:

- Chapter 9, Services, Facilities, and Utilities, including Policies F-405, F-406, F-411, F-413, and F-306;
- Chapter 8, Transportation, including the "Funding Priorities" section and Policy T-126; and
- Appendix A, Capital Facilities and Utilities.

~~((The Capital Facility Plan Element for King County is comprised of the following four components:~~

- ~~1. Technical Appendix A is an executive summary of documents containing inventories of facilities and services provided by King County (health and human services and law, safety and justice, transportation, stormwater and regional wastewater treatment and reclamation) and those provided by other entities (drinking water supply, sanitary sewer collection and treatment, schools, fire protection, libraries, natural gas, telecommunications, and electricity);~~
- ~~2. Technical Appendix A is an executive summary of documents containing the forecast of future needs for capital facilities, including the proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new facilities;~~
- ~~3. Six-year plan that will finance the expanded or new facilities:~~
  - ~~a. Technical Appendix A is an executive summary of the finance plans for facilities and services provided by the county and other entities;~~
  - ~~b. Technical Appendix A references the Transportation Needs Report, which includes an analysis of funding capability to judge needs against probable funding resources, and a 20-year financial forecast report based on identified needs;~~

~~Current adopted King County Capital Improvement Program for facilities other than transportation.~~

4. Requirement to reassess land use if funding is unavailable to meet existing and future needs:

a. Policies of Chapter 9 Section II (Facilities and Services), subparts B through F.

b. Chapter 8: Transportation, Section IV.

**F-201** ~~All facilities and services should be provided in compliance with provisions and requirements of the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the Growth Management Act.~~

**F-202)) F-101** ~~King County ((should seek to create quality communities by defining)) shall seek to identify the needs and propose((ing)) strategies for ((a full range of)) public facilities and services, including physical infrastructure and health, human, and public safety services((. King County should strive to provide an adequate and equitable supply and appropriate level of public facilities)) necessary to support all communities at appropriate urban and rural service levels.~~

**((F-202a)) F-102** ~~Results from ((the King County E))equity ((t))impact ((R))reviews ((Tool will)) shall be used as an important consideration in evaluating funding, capital project, and service delivery decisions, and the County's equity and racial and social justice principles should be used to improve residents' access to the determinants of equity.~~

**((F-101a)) F-103** ~~King County agencies ((will)) shall engage communities in a culturally((+)) and audience-appropriate manner, including language access. King County agencies ((will)) shall also engage communities ((that are)) most affected by proposed projects.~~

**((F-101b** ~~King County shall adhere to the Executive Order on Written Language Translation Process and other applicable policies for those with limited English proficiency.~~

**F-108a)) F-104** ~~King County ((should)) shall consider ((address historic)) historical inequities and ((disadvantaged)) historically underinvested communities both in rural and unincorporated urban areas in determining the priority areas for public funding of capital facilities, services, and infrastructure.~~

## II. Regional Services

King County ((government)) is a regional and local service provider. ((Types of r))Regional services provided by the County include transit, wastewater treatment, human services, and solid waste management. ((Local services provided to)) For residents of unincorporated urban areas, the Rural Area, and Natural Resource Lands in King County, local services may include ((police, building permits,)) sheriff, development review, land use regulation, and the coordination of water, sewer, and health service((s)) providers.

((As annexations and incorporations of unincorporated urban areas continue, King County government will focus more on its role as the coordinator and provider of regional services and protector of the county's Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. As annexations of unincorporated urban areas continue, King County will transition out of the role of coordinating with local service providers on how to best provide local services to those areas, and transition to lead for that coordination role to the cities, through collaboration with current service providers, as those former unincorporated areas become part of city limits. The following policies direct King County's evolving

role as regional service provider. Provisions related to housing and human services are found in Chapter 4.

**F-103)) F-201** King County ~~((will))~~ shall provide or manage ~~((countywide))~~ regional services and programs, which include but are not limited to:

- a. Affordable housing;
- b. Economic development;
- c. Flood warning and flood hazard management;
- d. Harborview Hospital;
- e. Hazardous waste management;
- f. Human services;
- g. ~~((Protection and preservation of natural resource lands;~~
- h.)) Public health;
- ~~((i.))~~ h. ~~((Regional))~~ Law and criminal ~~((justice))~~ legal services;
- ~~((j.))~~ i. ~~((Regional-p))~~ Park, trails, and open space systems;
- ~~((k.))~~ j. ~~((Regional-w))~~ Wastewater collection ~~((and))~~, treatment, and ~~((reclamation))~~ resource recovery;
- ~~((l.))~~ k. Solid waste management, including recycling;
- ~~((m. Stormwater management;~~
- n.)) l. Transit; and
- ~~((o.))~~ m. Water resource management.

~~((F-107))~~ King County will, in cooperation with special purpose districts or local service providers, continue to plan for and provide public services to the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, consistent with rural standards and needs.

**F-108)) F-202** ~~((To support the intent of the Growth Management Act,))~~ King County should work with cities and other service providers to establish priority areas for public funding of capital facilities, services, and infrastructure.

### III. Partnerships and Coordination

~~((F-101))~~ King County, the cities, special purpose districts or local service providers shall plan as partners. King County's planning will focus on unclaimed urban-unincorporated areas and cities' Potential Annexation Areas.

**F-102)) F-301** King County shall ~~((work))~~ plan as partners with cities, special purpose districts, other local service providers, and residents to ~~((identify and distinguish))~~ provide local~~((-countywide))~~ and regional services. ~~((Over time,))~~ As cities ~~((will))~~ assume primary responsibility for coordinating the provision of local services delivery in urban areas~~((-in general))~~, the ~~((c))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall continue to provide local services delivery within the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, consistent with rural standards and needs. Special purpose districts may still provide services, where appropriate. The ~~((c))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall also assume primary responsibility for coordinating the provision of ~~((countywide))~~ regional services, including ~~((countywide))~~ services that must be delivered within city boundaries. The ~~((c))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall also work with cities, special purpose districts, and other counties to identify regional service and facility needs and develop strategies to provide them.

## ~~((H. Facilities and Services~~

### ~~A. Providing a Spectrum of Services~~

King County and numerous service providers need to coordinate planning and funding activities to ensure that needed facilities and services are provided in the region.

~~F-203)) F-302 ((When service providers are planning and designing facilities;))~~  
King County should ~~((encourage them to use sustainable development practices to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in new buildings by 2030))~~ work with service providers to implement incentives that encourage green building, such as financial and development incentives, and help more people to access healthier buildings with reduced utility bills.

~~((F-204 King County should work with the cities, special purpose districts and other service providers to define regional and local services and to determine the appropriate providers of those services.~~

~~F-206)) F-303~~ Public and private community service providers should be encouraged~~((, as appropriate;))~~ to share or reuse facilities when appropriate to reduce costs, conserve land, and provide convenience, access, and amenity for the public, and to reduce the generation of greenhouse gas~~((s))~~es. Joint siting and shared use of facilities should be encouraged for schools, community centers, health facilities, cultural facilities, libraries, swimming pools, and other social and recreational facilities. Sharing of facilities may include providing meeting space that can be accessed by the community, as appropriate.

~~((F-206a)) F-304~~ King County should make its public facilities and properties available for renewable energy production, such as community solar programs, when such use is compatible with the primary use of and any regulations associated with the facility.

~~((F-207)) F-305~~ King County should make its public facilities or properties available for use as a P-patch or community garden when such use is compatible with the primary public use of the facility.

### ~~((E.)) A. Addressing Service Deficiencies~~

~~((In the event that needed facilities and services are not available to support either existing development or growth, King County will work with other service providers, such as water, sewer or solid waste purveyors, to address the service deficiency.~~

~~F-221)) F-306 ((King County shall consider the initiation of a subarea study, or other corrective action, with any))~~ If a service provider ((that)) declares, through their capital facilities plan, an inability to accommodate projected service needs inside their service area, King County and the service provider shall remedy the deficiency through a joint planning process addressing capital improvement programs, long-term funding strategies, or other appropriate corrective actions. If those actions cannot resolve the deficiency, King County shall not allow for expansion of the service provider's service area and shall consider regulations to mitigate the effect of the deficiency.



~~((F-221a) Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool will be used as an important consideration in evaluation funding and service delivery decisions when needed to address service deficiencies.~~

~~F-222)) F-307 King County ((and its)) should coordinate with Indian tribes, cities, and hospital districts ((should coordinate planning for)) on health and human service facilities and services. County investments in health and human service facilities should be targeted primarily to the designated Urban Centers and secondarily to other locations in the Urban Growth Area and Rural Towns.~~

~~((F-223) If a service deficiency is identified in a service provider's existing service area, King County and the applicable service provider shall remedy the deficiency through a joint planning process addressing capital improvement programs and long-term funding strategies. If financing and level of service remedies cannot solve the deficiency, King County shall not allow for expansion of the service provider's service area and shall consider regulations to mitigate the effect of the deficiency.~~

## F.)) B. Financing Strategies

~~((King County, cities, and other service providers will work together to address the financing needs of facilities and services.~~

~~F-224)) F-308 As part of pre-annexation or annexation agreements, excluding Four-to-One Program-related agreements, King County shall work with the cities to create a financing partnership for areas of the Urban Growth Area that the cities will annex. This includes determining county/regional and city/municipal facilities and services and then committing to a shared financing strategy to build or provide these infrastructure improvements or services.~~

~~((F-225)) F-309 King County should, in cooperation with other jurisdictions, develop funding strategies for governmental infrastructure that take into account economic development goals and consider the costs to, and benefits for, the jurisdictions and the region.~~

~~((F-225a)) F-310 King County should ((consider)) identify, strengthen, and support equitable discount or low-rate service fees ((for)) to reduce cost burden on seniors and households at or below 80 percent of area median income ((low-income households)).~~

~~Depending on the program, the age threshold for a senior could be 55, 62, or 65 years or over.~~

## ~~((B. Urban and Rural))~~ IV. Facilities and Services

~~((Although growth will be directed to Urban Areas, it is recognized that Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands have facility and service needs also.~~

~~F-208)) F-401 Public spending to support growth should be directed to the Urban Growth Area and to maintain existing ((unincorporated)) infrastructure in the unincorporated area, and should be prioritized through the~~

Capital Facility Plan to comply with the concurrency requirements of the Growth Management Act.

((F-209)) **F-402** In the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, services provided by agencies ((should)) shall support a rural level of development and support service that meets the needs of the community and not facilitate urbanization.

((F-209a)) **F-403** King County ((will)) shall provide or manage local services and programs for unincorporated areas, which include but are not limited to:

- a. ((Building permits)) Permitting and code enforcement;
- b. District Court;
- c. Economic Development;
- d. Land use regulation;
- e. Law enforcement;
- f. Local parks;
- g. Roads;
- h. Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands protection, preservation, and management ((assistance)); and
- i. Surface water management.

~~((F-209b) King County's local economic development services are provided in Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands through the Rural Economic Strategies Plan and in unincorporated urban areas through joint partnerships with cities, including annexation and governance transition services.))~~

**F-404** King County shall encourage investment in improved infrastructure and amenities in existing neighborhoods, particularly in communities at risk of displacement.

**F-405** When planning major capital investments in areas at risk of displacement, King County should coordinate such actions with equitable engagement and anti-displacement measures.

## ((D.)) A. Capital Facility Planning

~~((King County and other service providers are required to prepare six-year capital facility plans that describe needs for the six-year facility and propose funding to meet those needs.~~

~~F-210))~~ **F-406** The capital facility plans and capital improvement programs prepared by all other agencies that provide services to unincorporated areas ((of the county)) should be consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan.

((F-210a)) **F-407** King County shall engage in ongoing facilities planning to ensure that it has sufficient ((work space)) workspace to meet its operational needs on a going-forward basis. Facilities planning shall include an assessment of current facilities and future needs and shall promote equity, economic and operational efficiencies, and environmental sustainability. ((This-f)) Facilities planning, decisions, and implementation ((policy)) shall be ((implemented through)) guided by the Real Property Asset Management Plan ((, which shall be updated at least every four years, but may also be updated, in whole or in part, when proposals with significant impacts on county facilities are made.

~~F-210b~~ Consistent with K.C.C. 20.12.100, the Real Property Asset Management Plan shall consist of real property asset management policies, practices and strategies, including planning policies, locations of county agencies and implementation plans, planned moves and references to King County space standards. The Real Property Asset Management Plan shall guide facility planning processes, decisions and implementation.

~~F-210c)~~ **F-408** King County shall take into account the equity and racial and social justice opportunities for capital investments within a community when siting a facility or changing locations to improve service delivery.

~~((F-211))~~ **F-409** To reduce overall public costs, noise, climate change impacts, and disruption to the local area during construction, installation of new or maintenance of existing utility facilities should be timed and coordinated with other projects that utilize public rights-of-way and easements, where possible.

~~((F-212))~~ **F-410** King County's capital facility plans ~~((should))~~ shall identify financing strategies to support ~~((its))~~ the land use assumptions in the Comprehensive Plan, including adopted ((20-year)) growth targets ((and land use plan)) and allocated housing needs.

~~((F-205))~~ **F-411** King County shall work with ~~((its))~~ neighboring counties, the state, Puget Sound Regional Council, special purpose districts, ports, and ~~((the))~~ cities to identify areas of shared need and adequate land supply for public facilities. The ~~((c))~~ County's capital acquisition budget shall reflect the jointly agreed-upon priorities and ~~((time))~~ schedule.

~~((F-213))~~ **F-412** King County's capital improvement program shall demonstrate that projected needs for facilities and services can be met within the Urban Growth Area and can be served in compliance with the concurrency requirements of the Growth Management Act ~~((or, if)),~~ If that is not possible, King County shall determine where and when deficits may occur and how needed facilities and services might be phased in and (( ))/or financed to serve such deficit areas. Alternative phasing and financing strategies must be identified and determined to be infeasible prior to triggering a land use and zoning reassessment ((under Policy F-223)).

**F-413** King County shall work with the school districts and other special purpose districts to plan for growth in line with the county's housing and job growth targets.

~~((F-214))~~ **F-414** School districts that choose to have the ~~((c))~~ County collect impact fees for them, and water and sewer utilities that provide their services to unincorporated King County~~((;))~~ shall prepare capital facility plans consistent with requirements of the Growth Management Act, the Countywide Planning Policies, and King County Code.

~~((F-215))~~ **F-415** Provision of an adequate supply of kindergarten through ~~((twelfth))~~ 12th grade public schools and public school facilities is essential to avoid overcrowding and to enhance the educational opportunities for children. King County shall adopt regulations that are supportive of the permitting of kindergarten through ~~((twelfth))~~ 12th grade public schools and facilities in a manner consistent with the goals of the Growth Management Act and as provided in ~~((p))~~ Policies R-~~((326))~~ 327 and R-~~((327))~~ 328.

((F-215b)) F-416 King County shall strive to provide services and build and operate public buildings and infrastructure that are ((carbon-neutral)) fossil fuel free and shall strive to eliminate fossil fuels in new construction.

## B. Sustainable Capital Facilities

((It is the goal of)) King County's goal is to work toward a model sustainable community to balance growth with natural resource protection while addressing climate change. Sustainable development seeks to achieve this goal by addressing the impacts of the built environment in which people live and work.

Traditional development practices can contribute significantly to the adverse impacts ((that)) of buildings and associated infrastructure ((have)) on the environment and people's health. These impacts include heavy consumption of material resources, energy, and water, large-scale production of wastes, water pollution, degradation of habitats and other ecological resources, and contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. Implementing sustainable development includes incorporating green building practices into policies through education, incentives, and regulations that help reduce negative impacts.

The elements of green building include:

- ((s))Siting the project ((t))to take advantage of existing services, ((to)) retain existing landscaping and natural features, and ((to)) increase building energy performance ((t));
- ((r))Requiring energy efficiency ((t))to reduce energy consumption, ((to)) increase occupants' comfort, and ((to)) reduce greenhouse gas emissions((t));
- ((m))Managing building construction and demolition materials efficiently to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ((to)) increase the life((=))\_cycle of the building((t));
- ((i))Increasing water efficiency ((t))to reduce water consumption and ((to reduce)) wastewater treatment((t));
- ((i))Improving water management to reduce stormwater runoff and produce less pollution and damage to water bodies;
- ((u))Using sustainable materials to improve indoor air quality, minimize toxic materials, reduce material consumption, and foster sustainable manufacturing;
- ((a))Addressing equity and racial and social justice to ensure equitable access to sustainable development, services, and community amenities; and
- ((i))Implementing universal design to ensure potential for aging in place and to service diverse occupancy opportunities.

The incorporation of sustainable practices into the design, construction, and operation of King County capital improvement projects can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, ((reduce)) pollution, ((reduce)) the use of natural resources, ((reduce)) energy, and other operating costs, and can enhance asset value, optimize performance, promote cultural sustainability by preserving historic resources, and create healthier and more appealing environments for the visiting public and for King County employees. ((The strategic energy management, efficiency, and conservation program called for in F-312 will enable King County to monitor the effectiveness of sustainable development practices in improving energy efficiency:))

The LEED rating system is a voluntary, consensus-based national((ty)) standard for developing high performance, sustainable buildings and ((to guide)) guiding project design. The LEED rating system components include sustainable site design((:)), water efficiency((:)), energy and atmosphere((:)), indoor environmental quality((:)), materials and resources((:)), innovation in design((:)), and regional priorities. For those projects that are not eligible for LEED certification, the ((e))County's Green Building Team,

comprised of representatives from the various ((c))County departments that have capital projects, developed a Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard and guidelines to help such projects achieve measurable green building goals.

The Green Building and Sustainable Development Ordinance ((17709)) 19402, adopted in ((2013)) 2022, requires that new ((c))County capital projects ((set a goal to)) achieve a platinum level certification using the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system ((of)) or the King County Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, or the highest certification level using an approved alternative rating system((, when the incremental costs do not exceed the maximums allowed by the King County Code)). Minimum performance requirements include implementing energy and emission reduction targets as instructed by the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan; diverting ((80%)) 85 percent of demolition and construction materials by ((2016 and 85%)) by 2025 and zero waste of resources by 2030; integrating equity and racial and social justice efforts; and implementing the King County ((Stormwater Management)) Surface Water Design Manual or more stringent guidelines required by jurisdiction.

**~~((F-216)) F-417~~ King County capital facilities and ((c))County-funded projects should be designed and constructed using sustainable development practices, with consideration for long-term environmental and economic sustainability.**

**~~((F-217)) F-418~~ All eligible King County new capital projects shall ((plan for and should)) achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification level using the LEED rating system or the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, or achieve the highest certification level using an ((approved alternative rating system, and apply minimum performance standards when the incremental cost impacts do not exceed the maximums allowed by King County code)) accepted alternative green building rating system.**

**~~((F-217a)) F-419~~ All eligible King County major remodels and renovations shall ((plan for and should)) achieve LEED Gold certification level using the LEED rating system or the Sustainable Infrastructure Scorecard, or achieve a similar certification level using an ((approved)) accepted alternative green building rating system((, and apply minimum performance standards when the incremental cost impacts do not exceed the maximums allowed by King County code)).**

**~~((F-217b)) F-420~~ All King County-owned new construction capital projects should achieve net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2030.**

**~~((F-217c)) F-421~~ All King County capital programs ((will)) shall evaluate their project portfolio for opportunities to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through ((programs)) alternative green building rating systems such as ((the)) LEED Zero Energy or Zero Carbon, Living Building ((c))Challenge, Living Communities Challenge, Net Zero Energy, ((Envision)) Built Green Emerald Star, or EcoDistrict.**

**~~((F-217d)) F-422~~ King County should build and operate public buildings and infrastructure that result in regenerative and net positive benefits related to energy, water, greenhouse gas emissions, and other resources ((and, for private development, guide development practices to achieve these same benefits)).**

**~~((F-217e)) F-423~~ King County ((will)) shall increase water efficiency, ((and)) improve conservation, and ((reduce purchased water consumption)) minimize the purchasing of water in its facilities through ((appropriate and**



economically feasible)) methods such as reuse of wastewater effluent, recycled water, stormwater, and harvested rainwater.

((F-219)) F-424 King County should leverage its purchasing power related to capital improvement projects to help expand the markets for green building products, including recycled-content materials and clean, renewable energy technologies((, including)) such as zero-emission buses, and particularly for products and services that are locally produced.

## ((G.)) C. Essential Public Facilities

((The region will work cooperatively to site essential public facilities in an equitable manner. Essential public facilities are defined in the Growth Management Act and include large, usually difficult to site facilities such as prisons, solid waste facilities, wastewater facilities, and airports.

F-226)) F-425 King County should ensure that ((P))proposed new or expansions to existing essential public facilities ((should be)) are sited consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan((, Listed)), and allow existing essential public facilities ((should)) to be preserved and maintained until alternatives or replacements for such facilities can be provided.

((F-227)) F-426 King County and neighboring counties((, if advantageous to both,)) should share essential public facilities to increase efficiency of operation((, Efficiency of operation should take into account)), including consideration of the overall value of the essential public facility to the region and the county and ((the extent to which, if properly mitigated,)) whether expansion of an existing essential public facility ((located in the county)) might be more economical and environmentally sound. The County should work with neighboring counties to reasonably minimize impacts to the communities in which facilities are located, consistent with state law.

((F-228)) F-427 King County ((should)) shall strive to site essential public facilities equitably so that:

- a. ((n))No racial, cultural, or socio-economic group, or community, is ((unduly)) disproportionately impacted by, nor benefits from, essential public facility siting or expansion decisions; and
- b. No single community should absorb an inequitable share of these facilities and their impacts. An assessment of existing facilities should be conducted when siting new facilities. Siting ((will)) shall consider equity((,)); environmental justice; and environmental, economic, technical, and service area factors. Communities with a disproportionate share of existing facilities ((should)) shall be actively engaged in the planning and siting process for new facilities or the expansion of an existing facility.

F-428 King County should weigh ((F))the net impact of siting new essential public facilities ((should be weighed)) against the net impact of expansion of existing essential public facilities, with appropriate buffering and mitigation.

F-429 King County shall discourage ((E))essential public facilities that directly serve the public beyond their general vicinity ((shall be discouraged)) from locating in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.

549 ~~((F-229))~~ **F-430 ((A)) King County shall determine a facility ((shall be determined))**  
550 **to be an essential public facility if it has one or more of the following**  
551 **characteristics:**  
552 **a. The facility meets the Growth Management Act definition of an**  
553 **essential public facility;**  
554 **b. The facility is on a state, county, or local community list of essential**  
555 **public facilities;**  
556 **c. The facility serves a significant portion of the county or**  
557 **metropolitan region or is part of a countywide service system; or**  
558 **d. The facility is the sole existing facility in the county for providing**  
559 **that essential public service.**

560  
561 ~~((F-230))~~ **F-431 The proponent's ((S))siting analysis for proposed new or**  
562 **expansions to existing essential public facilities shall consist of the**  
563 **following:**  
564 **a. An inventory of similar existing essential public facilities in King**  
565 **County and neighboring counties, including their locations and**  
566 **capacities;**  
567 **b. A forecast of the future needs for the essential public facility;**  
568 **c. An analysis of the historical, current, and potential social, equity,**  
569 **health, and economic impacts and benefits and burdens to**  
570 **((jurisdictions and local)) communities receiving or surrounding the**  
571 **facilities;**  
572 **d. An analysis of the proposal's consistency with ((p))Policies**  
573 **F-((226))425 through F-((229))430;**  
574 **e. An analysis of alternatives to the facility, including**  
575 **decentralization, conservation, demand management, and other**  
576 **strategies;**  
577 **f. An analysis of economic and environmental impacts, including**  
578 **mitigation, of any existing essential public facility, as well as of any**  
579 **new site(s) under consideration as an alternative to expansion of an**  
580 **existing facility;**  
581 **g. An analysis of potential climate change impacts on the essential**  
582 **public facility, including consideration of sea level rise and options**  
583 **for reducing climate change impacts on the facility, including**  
584 **locating the facility outside of the mapped 500-year floodplain**  
585 **along the marine shoreline (except for water-dependent facilities,**  
586 **such as wastewater treatment facilities and associated conveyance**  
587 **infrastructure); ((Extensive public involvement which strives to**  
588 **effectively engage a wide range of racial, ethnic, cultural, and**  
589 **socio-economic group, including communities that are the most**  
590 **impacted;**  
591 **h. Consideration of any applicable prior review conducted by a public**  
592 **agency, local government, or stakeholder group; and))**  
593 **((i:)) h. To the extent allowable under the Growth Management**  
594 **Act, the locational criteria in ((p))Policies R-((326))327 and R-**  
595 **((327))328; and**  
596 **i. A cumulative impact analysis to include all other facilities, public or**  
597 **private, that may pose health risks, located near the proposed**  
598 **facility.**

599  
600 **F-432 When new or expanded essential public facilities are proposed by the**  
601 **County or others, the proponent shall:**  
602 **a. Conduct extensive public involvement, which strives to effectively**  
603 **engage a wide range of racial, ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic**  
604 **groups, including the most-impacted communities; and**  
605 **b. Consider any applicable prior review conducted by a public**  
606 **agency, local government, or interested parties.**  
607

**F-433** For existing essential public facilities, King County should consider potential impacts from climate change and identify and implement actions to improve resiliency and mitigate for impacts, including consideration of potential long-term relocation of facilities that are in the mapped 500-year floodplain along the marine shoreline (except for water-dependent facilities, such as wastewater treatment facilities and associated conveyance infrastructure).

## ((F-265)) D. Solid Waste

King County's Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan, prepared by the Solid Waste Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, guides the management of solid waste in the unincorporated county and for cities with which the ((C))County has interlocal agreements. The Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan presents policies, recommendations, and goals for the following elements of solid waste management: system planning, policy priorities, waste prevention, recovery and recycling, solid waste collection and processing, the transfer system, landfill management ((and)), solid waste disposal, and system financing. The overall vision is for healthy, safe, and thriving communities in a zero-waste county, working in partnership with communities, businesses, local jurisdictions, and residents to create a more circular economy through programs like Re+.

**((F-265)) F-434** Regional solid waste planning should integrate the principles of environmental stewardship, circular economy, equity and racial and social justice, and sustainable development into all aspects of solid waste management.

**((F-266)) F-435** Solid waste should be collected, handled, processed, and disposed of in ways that reduce waste, conserve resources, and protect public health and the environment.

**((F-267)) F-436** King County should achieve ((Z))zero ((W))waste of ((R))resources by 2030 and an 85 percent construction and demolition diversion rate by 2025 by targeting areas of the waste stream that have the greatest potential for ((diversion)) prevention and reuse, product stewardship, recycling and composting, beneficial use, and recovery while regenerating natural systems.

**((F-268)** Solid waste management should be planned, and transfer and disposal capacity provided, on a regional basis.

**F-269)) F-437** King County shall plan for and operate a regional transfer system that is dispersed throughout the county to ensure access to safe, reliable, efficient, and affordable solid waste services, and improves recycling opportunities for residents and businesses. King County should continue to provide facilities for self-haulers.

**((F-269a)) F-438** King County should ((consider demand management)) implement strategies that increase equitable participation from frontline communities and that maximize the safety and efficiency of the transfer system and encourage use of solid waste curbside collection services.

**((F-269b)) F-439** ((In order to support achieving a 70% recycling goals)) To minimize the disposal of materials with economic value, King County should work with partners and jurisdictions to encourage implementation of frequency and separation policies for curbside collection of garbage, recyclables, and organics throughout the county, including in unincorporated areas.

**F-440** King County shall collaborate with cities to achieve a circular economy and preserve landfill space by implementing policies and hauler contract amendments that harmonize recycling and compost standards regionally, such as through the zero waste of resources plan.

~~((F-270))~~ **F-441** King County should maximize the capacity and lifespan of the Cedar Hills Regional Landfill and plan for future disposal when Cedar Hills Landfill closes to ensure no gap in service, subject to environmental constraints, relative costs to operate, ((stakeholder)) partner and public interests, and overall solid waste system optimization. The County shall not seek to site a replacement landfill in King County for the Cedar Hills regional landfill.

~~((F-271))~~ **F-442** King County shall:  
a. ~~((e))~~ Encourage sustainable development and development of markets for reusable and recyclable materials((;)); and  
b. ~~((p))~~ Provide consumer education in the public and private sectors regarding green building practices, product stewardship, extended producer responsibility, circular economy, recycling, purchasing, and consumption ((in-order)) to reduce the amount of waste disposed.

~~((F-271a))~~ **F-443** King County should consider ((whether)) opportunities to increase energy recovery from select solid waste materials including organics, mixed plastics, and the non-recyclable portion of the waste stream ~~((are beneficial in terms of cost;))~~ by factoring in the financial, ((natural environment)) environmental, greenhouse gas ((emissions)), and community impacts~~((, as well as whether any such energy recovery facilities might be more appropriately located outside King County)).~~

~~((F-271b))~~ Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool will be used as an important consideration to identify and assess the impacts of proposed service changes, and the county's Equity and Social Justice principles should be used to improve residents' access to the determinants of equity.

## t.) E. Public Sewers and On-Site Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems

King County protects water quality and public health in the central Puget Sound region by providing ~~((high quality))~~ high-quality and effective treatment to wastewater collected from 34 local sewer utilities. The ~~((e))~~ County's Wastewater Treatment Division serves about ~~((1.6))~~ 1.9 million people within a ~~((420))~~ 424-square-mile service area, which includes most urban areas of King County and parts of south Snohomish County and northeast Pierce County. In addition to treating wastewater, King County also creates resources such as energy, recycled water, and biosolids from byproducts of the treatment process.

The County's wastewater system includes:

- ~~((t))~~ Three large regional wastewater treatment plants (the West Point Plant in the City of Seattle, the South Plant in the City of Renton, and the Brightwater Plant in unincorporated Snohomish County)((;));
- ~~((t))~~ Two small wastewater treatment plants (one on Vashon-Maury Island and one in the City of Carnation)((;));
- ~~((o))~~ One community septic system (Beulah Park and Cove on Vashon-Maury Island)((;));

- ~~((four))~~ Five combined sewer overflow treatment facilities (Alki, Carkeek, Georgetown, Henderson/Martin Luther King Jr. Way, and Mercer/Elliott West(~~(;~~ and Henderson/Norfolk))--all in the City of Seattle)(~~(:);~~);
- ~~((m))~~ More than ((350)) 390 miles of pipes(~~(:);~~);
- ~~((19))~~ 25 regulator stations(~~(:);~~);
- ~~((42))~~ 48 pump stations(~~(:);~~); and
- ~~((38))~~ 39 combined sewer overflow outfalls.

Recycled water is an important wastewater-management tool that can also be used as a beneficial resource. King County has been producing and distributing recycled water since 1997. Recycled water is used for treatment process water and on-site landscaping at the County's wastewater treatment plants. In addition, some of the recycled water from the South Treatment Plant is used off-site for irrigation purposes and public works uses, such as street sweeping and sewer flushing. Recycled water from the Carnation Treatment Plant is ~~((sent to the wetlands))~~ is used for wetland enhancement at the Chinook Bend Natural Area in accordance with the County's commitment to use the wetlands as its primary discharge location rather than the Snoqualmie River. The Brightwater Treatment Plant ~~((started distributing))~~ distributes recycled water to the Brightwater Education Center for irrigation and toilet and urinal flushing, as well as to the Sammamish Valley ~~((for irrigating golf courses, nurseries, farms and for commercial and industrial uses))~~ to irrigate turf and trees.

~~((King County adopted the Regional Wastewater Services Plan in 1999 to make sure the regional wastewater system keeps pace with growth and meets permitting standards. The Regional Wastewater Services Plan includes a number of planned projects through 2030 to protect public health, the environment and the economy for both present and future wastewater customers, such as:~~

- ~~—building the Brightwater Treatment System to accommodate growth in the northern portion of the wastewater service area;~~
- ~~—improvements to the county's regional conveyance system to meet the 20-year peak storm design standard and accommodate increased wastewater flows;~~
- ~~—improvements to reduce existing and future levels of infiltration and inflow into local collection systems; and~~
- ~~—improvements to control combined sewer overflows so that an average of no more than one untreated discharge occurs per year at each combined sewer overflow site by 2030.~~
- ~~—The adopted policies that guide implementation of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan are in King County Code 28.86.010 through 28.86.180:))~~

The King County Regional Wastewater Services Plan establishes, or sets direction to establish, a number of programs to guide long-term planning and investments in wastewater infrastructure. The Regional Wastewater Services Plan guides improvements to the regional wastewater system to ensure the continuation of wastewater treatment services in the future to sustain a healthy environment and economic development in the King County wastewater service area. Many of the major projects outlined in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan have been completed, are underway, or are planned to begin by 2030. The Regional Wastewater Services Plan, codified in King County Code Chapter 28.86, and component plans (such as the Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan) serve as the most recent amendment to King County's general sewer plan until a new plan is developed. The County is working on a wastewater planning effort that is expected to result in a new plan that sets the direction beyond 2030.



In addition to King County's role as the regional wastewater treatment provider, Public Health - Seattle & King County is the agency responsible for permitting on-site wastewater treatment and disposal systems (septic systems). In addition, the Utilities Technical Review Committee and the King County Council review and approve sewer utility comprehensive plans.

**~~((F-255)) F-444~~ In the Urban Growth Area, all new development shall be served by public sewers unless:**

- a. Application of this policy to a proposal for a single~~((family))~~ detached residence on an individual lot would deny all reasonable use of the property; or**
- b. Sewer service is not available for a proposed short subdivision of urban property in a timely or reasonable manner as determined by the Utilities Technical Review Committee. These on-site systems shall be managed by one of the following entities, in order of preference:**
  - 1. The sewer utility whose service area encompasses the proposed short subdivision; ~~((or))~~**
  - 2. The provider most likely to serve the area; ~~or((:))~~**
  - 3. An On-site Sewage System Maintainer certified by the Public Health - Seattle & King County.**

**The on-site system shall meet all state and county approval requirements. The approved short subdivision shall indicate how additional lots to satisfy the minimum density requirements of the zoning will be located on the subject property in case sewers become available in the future. There shall be no further subdivision of lots created under this policy unless served by public sewers.**

**~~((F-256)) F-445~~ In the Urban Growth Area, King County and sewer utilities should jointly prioritize the replacement of on-site systems that serve existing development with public sewers, based on the risk of potential failure. King County and sewer utilities should analyze public funding options for such conversion and should prepare conversion plans that will enable quick and cost-effective local response to health and pollution problems that may occur when many on-site systems fail in an area.**

**~~((F-257)) F-446~~ City-owned parks that are redesignated from Rural to Urban on or after September 20, 2004 to allow future annexation by a city, and that are subsequently served by public sewers, shall be tightlined. ~~((This policy applies to parks that were redesignated from Rural to Urban on or after September 20, 2004.~~**

**~~F-258)) F-447~~ The existing public sewer system in the Rural Towns of Vashon and Snoqualmie Pass shall not be expanded to serve land beyond the boundaries of the town, except as provided in Policy ~~((F-264)) F-453~~ and as consistent with Title 57 Revised Code of Washington. Subject to Policy F-452, ~~((Θ))~~on-site systems, community on-site systems, or decentralized treatment systems may be used as appropriate for planned growth in the Rural Town~~((s))~~ of Fall City ~~((and Snoqualmie Pass)).~~**

**~~((F-259)) F-448~~ Sewer facilities such as pump stations, force mains, and trunk lines that do not provide connections to the Rural Area may be located in the Rural Area only when they are identified in a King County-approved comprehensive sewage system plan and upon a finding by King County that it is technically necessary ~~((in providing))~~ to provide service to the Urban Growth Area.**

**~~((F-260)) F-449~~ On-site wastewater treatment systems in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands that serve the Rural Area~~((s))~~ and Natural**

Resource Lands should be designed, built, and operated as permanent methods of sewage disposal.

((F-261)) F-450 King County should monitor on-site wastewater systems that have shown evidence of failure or potential for failure. The data should be used to correct existing problems and prevent future problems. King County should analyze public funding options for correcting on-site wastewater system failures and only as a last resort in Rural and Natural Resource Lands, and as otherwise consistent with this plan, conversion to community sewage systems or installation of public sewers.

((F-282a)) F-451 King County should work with landowners, other jurisdictions, the state Department of Health, sewer districts, and the Puget Sound Partnership to develop effective strategies and additional resources for working with landowners to provide technical assistance and requested support regarding managing on-site septic systems, and proactively addressing failing septic systems in ((environmentally sensitive)) critical areas.

((F-262)) F-452 Developments using a ((Collective)) community on-site sewage system((s)) or large on-site sewage system may be ((used)) allowed only in the following circumstances in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands:

- a. Existing on-site systems are failing within an area and ((the Seattle/King County Department of)) Public Health - Seattle & King County concurs that long-term individual on-site sewage system repairs are not feasible or water quality is threatened by the presence of or potential for health hazards resulting from inadequate on-site wastewater disposal methods;
- b. An authorized public agency will manage the ((community)) system; ((and))
- c. The ((community)) system is designed only to serve existing structures and lots. Modifications to existing structures and lots shall not be allowed if the modification triggers an expansion of sewage capacity above the original approval of the system; ((and))
- d. The system cannot be used as a basis to ((increase)) exceed base density for the zone, special district overlay(s), or p-suffix(es) ((or to expand permitted nonresidential uses)). Substandard vacant lots must be combined to the extent feasible to meet rural density policies((- Management of the community system must be by an authorized public agency-)) and regulations;
- e. A system serving residentially developed lots cannot be used to: expand existing allowed nonresidential uses in size or scale; establish new allowed nonresidential uses; or serve commercially zoned properties; and
- f. For a system serving commercially developed lots: the system is used only to serve commercially zoned properties; development conditions are imposed that establish a range of allowed uses that can be adequately served by the system at the time of its construction; and the allowed uses are not more expansive than those allowed in the underlying zone.

((F-264)) F-453 ((Except as otherwise provided for in this policy, p))Public sewer service shall be prohibited in the Rural Area or on Natural Resource Lands((-)), except ((a. Public sewer service may be expanded to the Rural Area or to Natural Resource Lands, only: 1. W))where needed to address specific health and safety problems threatening the use of existing structures, and the use of septic or other on-site wastewater systems has been determined by King County to be not feasible; or ((2. F))to serve a new school authorized to be located in the

Rural Area by Policy R-((327))328. An extension may only be approved if:

- ((b. Public sewers may be extended, pursuant to this policy, only if they are)) a. It is tightlined; ((and-only))  
b. ((a))After a finding is made by King County determining that no reasonable alternative technologies are feasible((-)); and  
c. ((Public sewers that are allowed in the Rural Area or on Natural Resource Lands pursuant to this policy shall not be used to)) It does not add pressure to convert Rural Area land or Natural Resource Lands to urban uses and densities or to expand ((permitted)) nonresidential uses.

((Greywater is residential wastewater generated from bathtubs, showers, bathroom sinks, washing machines, dishwashers, and kitchen sinks. It includes sewage from any source in a residence or structure that has not come into contact with toilet wastes. Greywater comprises 50-80% of residential wastewater.

**F-263)) F-454 King County should support((s)) development and implementation of innovative technologies, such as composting toilets and greywater reuse systems, to process wastewater ((greywater for safe use)) on-site in the Rural Area and on Natural Resource Lands. The County should seek regulatory changes at the state level and explore regulatory options to allow use of such technologies, including use of composting toilets to reduce the demand on on-site septic systems for primary and accessory dwelling units.**

## ~~((K.))~~ E. Stormwater Management

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation runs off the landscape and picks up pollutants, including pesticides, fertilizers, pet wastes, oils, metals, and ((many)) other chemicals. These pollutants enter surface and ground waters, disrupt ecosystems, and threaten public health. Runoff can also cause erosion, create higher peak flows in streams and rivers in winter, and((- because of reduced infiltration,)) create lower flows in summer due to reduced infiltration.

((Early King County stormwater management strategies primarily focused on reducing the risk of localized flooding, without concern for potential adverse impacts on receiving water bodies. Over time, experts recognized the harm stormwater runoff was having on receiving waters and regulations have been put into place to address those impacts. Current stormwater management programs and policies focus on protecting the quality and beneficial uses of surface and ground waters and are a requirement of the federal Clean Water Act.

Prevention or mitigation of flooding, erosion, sedimentation, and water quality and habitat degradation is important for both the built and natural environments. Stormwater management activities address the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff entering the natural environment as well as its quality. As described in Chapter 5: Environment, the management of stormwater runoff is generally driven by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit and the County's Stormwater Management Program plan, which can be found online at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/stormwater/pollution-discharge-permit/annual-reports.aspx>)

Untreated stormwater runoff is the largest source of pollution to Puget Sound. The lack of stormwater flow controls in older developed areas is one of the most significant problems impacting receiving water bodies in King County and preventing Puget Sound recovery. Although King County has been developing and applying best

available stormwater controls to new development since the late 1970s, the application of water quality controls and more effective flow controls did not occur until the early 1990s.

Consequently, nearly all development occurring prior to 1990 has little or no flow control and no water quality control. In unincorporated King County, over two-thirds of the developed land was created prior to 1990. This amounts to about 150 square miles of land on which native forest was converted to impervious surfaces (such as roads, parking lots, and rooftops), lawns, and landscape surfaces ~~((, and pasture and crop land surfaces))~~ without stormwater controls to mitigate the increased runoff and pollution generated by these surfaces.

The County ~~((is))~~ also ~~((working to))~~ promotes site development that preserves natural hydrologic processes by protecting and enhancing native vegetation and soils, reducing impervious surfaces, and managing stormwater on-site. This approach, termed ~~((t))low ((t))impact ((t))development~~, is used to reduce impacts on aquatic resources. In the King County Surface Water Design Manual, King County provides a menu of ~~((t))low ((t))impact ((t))development~~ options for individuals planning new or ~~re((=))development~~ projects. King County ~~((will))~~ continues to help minimize new impervious surfaces through code and incentive programs that keep lands in forest and agricultural uses. Implementing ~~((t))low ((t))impact ((t))development~~ satisfies requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, while helping to protect the region's streams, rivers, lakes, and Puget Sound from harmful pollutants.

The County has identified watershed-based management efforts as a strategy that simultaneously integrates floodplain connectivity, salmon recovery, habitat restoration, stormwater flow control and water quality retrofits, economic development, agricultural preservation, and principles of equity and racial and social justice. One strategy that holds promise for reducing pollutants and improving water quality while providing access to new green space for communities is creating "stormwater parks." Stormwater parks, if located strategically, could treat billions of gallons of stormwater a year, significantly reducing stormwater pollution reaching receiving water bodies, which would in turn improve salmon recovery and habitat. The County will leverage alternative funding mechanisms, and engage in various partnerships with groups that include, but are not limited to, the existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitted jurisdictions, Water Resource Inventory Areas, the Puget Sound Partnership, and Local Integrating Organizations to undertake a collaborative watershed-based approach to restoring aquatic ecosystems.

~~((King County has been and will continue to be a leader in developing and implementing state-of-the-art stormwater management strategies including education and outreach, source control programs, basin or sub-basin planning for retrofitting in built out areas with inadequate stormwater controls, and mapping and maintenance of stormwater infrastructure. Strategies for managing stormwater runoff are continuing to evolve. Development of regional, collaborative approaches, including the creation of watershed basin plans across multiple disciplines, will be the next evolution of stormwater management.~~

**F-272)) F-455 To reduce flooding, erosion, and sedimentation, prevent and mitigate habitat loss, enhance groundwater recharge, and prevent groundwater and surface water quality degradation, consistent with the Growth Management Act, King County shall manage stormwater through plans, programs, and regulations developed by ((King)) the County in cooperation with affected jurisdictions and agencies whenever possible.**

1005 ((F-273)) F-456 ((A)) King County shall take a watershed approach ((shall be taken))  
1006 for stormwater management, with responsibility shared between King  
1007 County and affected jurisdictions. This approach should emphasize  
1008 prevention of surface water and groundwater degradation through  
1009 education programs, retrofits of existing stormwater controls or the  
1010 placement of new controls, and implementation of best management  
1011 practices to reduce pollution entering the region's groundwater and  
1012 surface waters, including Puget Sound. This approach should also  
1013 continue to support and build upon regional collaborative stormwater  
1014 management planning including consideration of incentives for  
1015 regional collaboration and identification of supplemental funding  
1016 sources for collaborative stormwater management in the region.

1017  
1018 ((F-274)) F-457 ((In the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, King County shall  
1019 minimize the use of constructed facilities for stormwater management  
1020 and, through Low Impact Development, maximize the use of natural  
1021 systems, provided that the ecological functions of the natural systems  
1022 are not harmed. The County should provide incentives to keep these  
1023 natural systems intact. Low Impact Development is also preferred in  
1024 the Urban Growth Area, but it is recognized that structural systems may  
1025 be needed to realize urban growth and density goals in these areas.))  
1026 King County shall implement stormwater management that protects  
1027 native vegetation and soils, restores disturbed soils, facilitates reuse of  
1028 recycled or harvested water, maximizes the use of natural systems and  
1029 protects the ecological function of natural systems by:  
1030 a. Minimizing grey infrastructure in the Rural Area and Natural  
1031 Resource Lands;  
1032 b. Requiring low impact development to the maximum extent  
1033 feasible, as a part of its strategy to mitigate impacts from new  
1034 development;  
1035 c. Considering additional supportive strategies, such as in-lieu fee  
1036 mechanisms to result in overall benefits to regional stormwater  
1037 management and water quality;  
1038 d. Continuing to support innovative stormwater management  
1039 programs, such as the RainScapes Green Stormwater Infrastructure  
1040 Incentive program for private landowners; and  
1041 e. Incorporate innovative stormwater management techniques into  
1042 the design, construction, and operation of all County facilities and  
1043 County-funded projects to the maximum extent feasible.

1044  
1045 ((F-275)) F-458 King County ((with)) shall plan and manage stormwater by basin or  
1046 sub-basin consistent with Policies E-((463))403 and E-((464))401. To  
1047 accomplish this goal, stormwater runoff should not be diverted from  
1048 one basin or sub-basin into another, unless no other reasonable  
1049 alternative is available for managing run((-))off within the same basin  
1050 and an analysis using evidenced-based science determines cross-basin  
1051 diversion or mitigation actions for unavoidable impacts will have  
1052 greater benefit to regional stormwater management. Where such  
1053 diversions are ((permitted)) allowed, King County ((with)) shall require  
1054 environmental analysis and mitigation adequate to protect surface  
1055 water and groundwater resources from significant adverse impacts.

1056  
1057 ((F-276)) F-459 In the Urban Growth Area, ((regional-and)) shared surface water  
1058 management facilities should be encouraged to support infill  
1059 development to preclude the need for individual on-site facilities,  
1060 provide development incentives, encourage efficient use of land, and  
1061 reduce overall facility maintenance costs. These facilities should be  
1062 planned and financed through public and private partnerships.  
1063



- 1064 ((F-277)) **F-460** Stormwater programs including public education, stormwater  
1065 system mapping, construction of ((regional and)) shared stormwater  
1066 facilities, retrofitting developed areas, and operation and maintenance  
1067 programs should be funded through an adequate and equitable  
1068 funding mechanism. Stormwater facilities required for new  
1069 development, redevelopment, and retrofitting should be designed and  
1070 built to improve regional water quantity and quality to the maximum  
1071 extent possible, as well as for aesthetic value((, as well as for)) and low-  
1072 cost, long-term maintenance.  
1073
- 1074 ~~((F-278) King County shall continue to encourage, support and require the use~~  
1075 ~~of low impact development as a part of its strategy to mitigate~~  
1076 ~~stormwater impacts from new development to the maximum extent~~  
1077 ~~feasible.~~
- 1078
- 1079 ~~F-279 King County should incorporate state-of-the art stormwater~~  
1080 ~~management techniques including Low Impact Development into the~~  
1081 ~~design, construction and operation of all county facilities and~~  
1082 ~~county-funded projects to the maximum extent feasible.))~~
- 1083
- 1084 **F-461** When scoping and designing flood risk reduction, fish passage, park,  
1085 trails, and habitat restoration projects, the County should actively  
1086 review and pursue opportunities to support stormwater retrofit  
1087 projects.  
1088
- 1089 ~~((F-280)) F-462~~ King County shall continue to promote the preservation of native  
1090 vegetation and soils and the restoration of disturbed soils on ((rural  
1091 residential)) Rural Area-zoned parcels to the maximum extent feasible.  
1092 Minimized impervious areas and the dispersion of stormwater runoff  
1093 from impervious surfaces into native vegetation in accordance with the  
1094 Surface Water Design Manual are the preferred methods of stormwater  
1095 management in the Rural Area.  
1096
- 1097 ~~((F-281) King County should work with residential and commercial developers~~  
1098 ~~to incorporate state-of-the art stormwater management techniques,~~  
1099 ~~such as Low Impact Development, that protect native vegetation and~~  
1100 ~~soils, restore disturbed soils by increasing the use of compost, facilitate~~  
1101 ~~reuse of resources such as recycled or harvested water, reduce the~~  
1102 ~~carbon footprint of the project, and minimize impervious surfaces.~~
- 1103
- 1104 ~~F-282 When King County provides technical assistance and incentives for the~~  
1105 ~~use of state-of-the art stormwater management techniques, it shall be~~  
1106 ~~at no cost to any private sector development.))~~
- 1107
- 1108 **F-463** King County should work with regional partners to identify locations for  
1109 stormwater parks, focusing first on communities with the most polluted  
1110 water that lack easy access to green space.  
1111
- 1112 ~~((F-283)) F-464~~ King County shall identify and evaluate potential changes to land  
1113 use development regulations and building codes to support and  
1114 promote state-of-the art stormwater management techniques.  
1115
- 1116 ~~((F-284) King County should work cooperatively with other jurisdictions to~~  
1117 ~~develop and implement plans and programs that address the~~  
1118 ~~appropriate recycling, reuse, reclamation and disposal of the materials~~  
1119 ~~generated from maintenance of stormwater infrastructure.~~
- 1120
- 1121 ~~F-285)) F-465~~ King County shall work with jurisdictions to ensure that storm and  
1122 surface water management facilities are transferred from King County

to the local jurisdiction that annexes or incorporates that portion of King County.

## ~~((E.))~~ G. Floodplain Management

~~((Six major river systems flow through King County – the South Fork Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Sammamish, Cedar, Green and White. These rivers, and their major tributaries, pass through lands ranging in use from forested to agricultural to urbanized cities. Each of these major river systems are unique in their geology and geomorphology as well as the extent in which the hydraulics of the rivers have been altered by dams, levees and bank hardening. All of these rivers are used by federally listed endangered species of salmonid.~~

~~Within unincorporated King County over 61% of the mapped floodplain is within land zoned for agriculture, forest or mining. Another 32% is zoned as rural leaving just under seven percent within the urban area, mainly contained within Potential Annexation Areas around the City of Carnation. Consequently much of the flood risk in unincorporated King County is to natural resource lands, primarily agriculture, and rural lands with a lower relative risk to residential and resource-based commercial activities. Most of these rivers also pass through highly urbanized incorporated cities that are important economic centers for King County and the Puget Sound region. These river segments are often constrained by levee systems that provide varying level of flood risk reduction.))~~

~~Both the Washington State Growth Management Act((Chapter 36.70A)) and Title 86 of the Revised Code of Washington((Flood Control)) require interlocal coordination for effective flood hazard management. Counties are directed to prepare comprehensive flood hazard management plans with participation of the cities. ((Once King County adopts the plan it is binding on all jurisdictions within the county.)) Flooding is a ((countywide)) regional issue impacting public safety, regional economic centers, Agricultural Production Districts, transportation corridors, and public and private properties. As such, King County is a regional service provider for floodplain management.~~

~~((F-286))~~ **F-466** King County shall participate with cities to prepare, update, and implement comprehensive flood hazard management plans that meet or exceed standards established by the National Flood Insurance Program and Washington State Flood Control statutes.

~~((F-287))~~ **F-467** King County shall include equity and racial and social justice principles in ~~((planning))~~ updating and implementing the King County Flood ~~((Hazard))~~ Management Plan ~~((to assure floodplain property owners and residents are given equitable access to flood risk reduction services. Outreach should consider vulnerable populations that may face barriers to accessing services and programs based on age, income, disability, English language proficiency, race and ethnicity, or other factors.))~~ and when assessing flood risks, evaluating impacts of risk reduction actions, and working in partnership with the most impacted communities to develop and prioritize future actions.

~~((In 2011 King County celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King County Flood Warning Program, which is responsible for the collection, analysis and dissemination of flood data and forecasts to individuals and organizations and for coordinating the response to flooding:~~

~~F-288))~~ **F-468** King County shall maintain a regional flood warning program in King County.

((There is now evidence that climate change is resulting in significant changes in temperatures, sea level rise, and timing and magnitude of stream and river flows, resulting in impacts on plant and animal species, water supply and humans. King County's ability to adapt to these changing conditions will likely depend on the policy decisions made today. King County can expect to see more frequent and severe flooding and a shifting of when storm events occur during the winter months.

**F-289)) F-469 King County should continue to assess and revise current flood warning phases based on the most current data on hydrology and climate change ((predictions)) projections and modify the King County Flood Warning Program, as needed, to reflect these revised flood phases.**

**((F-290)) F-470 King County should assess the most appropriate level of service for flood risk reduction along river segments based on existing and predicted development density, land use, and hydrologic conditions, inclusive of climate change impacts.**

**((F-291)) F-471 King County ((will)) shall review available information on the potential impacts of climate change and other natural hazards on ((winter floods)) flood conditions, and consider those potential impacts when updating the flood risk reduction policies and capital improvement projects for the King County Flood ((Hazard)) Management Plan.**

King County works with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct and maintain flood levees along the Lower Green River. Under Public Law 84-99, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is authorized to provide emergency assistance to cost share and construct levee repairs following a flood disaster. However, eligibility for this cost-sharing program requires that levee sponsors (often local jurisdictions) comply with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Law 84-99 program standards as outlined in the Rehabilitation and Inspection Program.

An Interim Policy for Determining Eligibility Status of Flood Risk Management Projects was issued in 2014 and its primary effect was that vegetation no longer served as a criterion for determining a levee's eligibility for the Public Law 84-99 program. So long as vegetation in the vicinity of Public Law 84-99 levees is maintained by local sponsors to support levee inspections, the national levee vegetation standards for risk reduction no longer affect the eligibility of King County's levees.

The Green River System Wide Improvement Framework Vegetation Plan provides recommendations for vegetation planting and maintenance practices, in the vicinity of levees and floodwalls enrolled within the Public Law 84-99 program. These recommendations acknowledge that, while vegetation may pose a risk in some situations, King County has found through many years of experience that vegetation can be incorporated into levee designs and, when properly maintained, contributes to the resiliency of the levee system. King County believes that bioengineered techniques provide a stronger, more sustainable levee and revetment system that will reduce long-term maintenance and repair and contribute toward the recovery of endangered species.

**~~((F-293) King County shall continue to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Puget Sound Partnership, and other regional partners to develop a science-based vegetation management framework that provides for safe and effective levees, functional riparian habitat, and cost-effective use of limited resources.~~**

The September 2008 National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program raises specific concerns about the application of the Corps vegetation management standards in the Puget Sound region. The Biological Opinion directs the Federal Emergency Management Agency to recognize only those vegetation standards that "enable the riparian vegetation to function in support of salmon habitat forming processes."

**~~F-294)) F-472~~ King County ((will)) shall ((assess participation)) participate in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Law 84-99 Program ((to ensure)) on a case-by-case basis, provided that compliance with the National Marine Fisheries Services Biological Opinion on the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Flood Insurance Program standards for levee vegetation, ((as well as)) and cost-effective maintenance and repair of levees.**

~~((The Biological Opinion for the National Flood Insurance Program established "reasonable and prudent alternatives" that may be taken to reduce the adverse effects of development with the 100-year floodplain. Compliance with the Biological Opinion is required in order to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program.~~

**~~F-295)) F-473~~ King County ((will)) shall maintain compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program by:**  
**a. Assessing the projects and programmatic actions recommended in the King County Flood ((Hazard)) Management Plan for compliance with the Biological Opinion prepared for the Program; and**  
**b. Making necessary amendments to the Plan and its implementing development regulations.**

~~((In 2007 King County established the King County Flood Control District to protect public health and safety, regional economic centers, public and private properties and transportation corridors. The Flood Control District adopted the 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan as its comprehensive plan. A private firm, ECONorthwest, was hired to study the economic benefits of implementing the plan. This report, the "Economic Connections Between the King County Floodplains and the Greater King County Economy," estimated that a one-day shutdown of economic activity in the King County floodplain areas would result in at least \$49 million in forgone economic output in the region (2007 dollars). The study also found that, 52,000 people in King County commute into or out of the 100-year floodplain for work.~~

~~Implementation of the 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan has played a significant role in protecting King County's economic base. The 2006 Flood Hazard Management Plan was updated in 2013.~~

**~~F-296)) F-474~~ King County ((will)) shall work cooperatively with Indian tribes, the King County Flood Control District, cities, and other ((stakeholders)) partners to implement the integrated approaches to floodplain management outlined in the Flood ((Hazard)) Management Plan, or successor plans, to protect public safety, prevent property damage, and help protect the greater King County economy, consistent with the Growth Management Act. Actions should advance King County's equity and racial and social justice goals, promote resiliency to the potential impacts of climate change, and provide multiple benefits for the residents of King County.**

**~~((F-297)) F-475~~ Consistent with guidance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, King County's flood risk reduction strategies should focus first on risk avoidance, followed by actions intended to reduce vulnerability in at**

risk areas. New levees and other flood facilities should be the last rather than the first line of defense.

((F-298)) F-476 King County shall continue to ((promote)) encourage the purchase of flood insurance to ((businesses)) owners and tenants of properties located within ((the floodplain)) flood hazard areas, including those ((businesses)) properties located behind accredited levees, to protect the ((economic)) value of the ((business)) properties, and to reduce the economic vulnerability ((to the region's economic activity from a larger but less frequent)) from flood events, and shall, where feasible, participate in programs that keep flood insurance rates as low as possible for community members.

((F-299)) F-477 King County should continue to discourage new((, at-risk)) development in mapped flood hazard areas.

((F-299a)) F-478 King County should seek to site new critical public facilities outside of the 500-year floodplain (except for water-dependent facilities, such as wastewater treatment facilities and associated conveyance infrastructure).

Levee setbacks (moving levees away from the river channel) can provide a higher level of risk reduction, reduce future maintenance costs, enhance habitat, and provide open space benefits. However, levee setbacks require purchase of additional right-of-way and, in some cases, relocation of homes and businesses, which is more costly in urban areas. The ((c))County has purchased homes and relocated ((homes)) residents from high-hazard residential areas along the Tolt, Raging, Snoqualmie, Middle Green, and Cedar Rivers. ((Levee setbacks can be more challenging in urban areas with higher land costs, well established businesses, and more extensive relocation needs.

F-299b)) F-479 King County should work with cities, businesses, and landowners to evaluate the alternatives for levee setbacks that would provide a higher level of risk reduction, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and enhance habitat while promoting long-term economic resilience and vitality.

## H. Water Supply

King County is not a water utility that provides potable water to residents and businesses in the region. ((However, it plays an important)) The County serves a role in the coordination ((or linking)) of water resources and growth and regional protection and management of water resources. This ((regional protection and management)) includes protection of the quantity and quality of groundwater((, stormwater management, flood hazard management, protection of fish and wildlife habitat,)) and commitment to regional water strategies through such efforts as ((the Puget Sound Partnership,)) regional water supply planning((, salmon recovery planning, and multiple groups engaged on)) and climate change mitigation and adaptation. It carries out this role through ((its responsibilities for)) planning, permit issuance, and regulatory oversight. ((The King County Comprehensive Plan must demonstrate that projected needs for facilities and service can be met within the Urban Growth Area and can be served in compliance with the concurrency requirements of the Growth Management Act. Within Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands, the Comprehensive Plan must provide for rural services, including domestic water service, needed to serve permitted densities and uses.))

The Utilities Technical Review Committee((, as authorized in King County Code chapter 13.24, assures)) ensures that water system and water supply planning by water utilities in King County meet the requirements of the Growth Management Act and other



applicable statutory requirements, ~~((as well as determining)) and determines~~  
consistency with the King County Comprehensive Plan. ~~((The Utilities Technical Review~~  
~~Committee is responsible for identifying the elements and provisions of the~~  
~~Comprehensive Plan and development regulations, adopted by the county under the~~  
~~Growth Management Act, with which water system plans must be consistent, as~~  
~~prescribed in Revised Code of Washington 43.20.260. The Utilities Technical Review~~  
~~Committee is also responsible for ensuring that the purposes of chapter 13.24, as~~  
~~provided in King County Code 13.24.005, are carried out. Water system plans are~~  
~~ultimately approved by ordinance by the King County Council and King County~~  
~~Executive.~~

King County has been working with water utility representatives for the last several years  
on refinements to the Utilities Technical Review Committee review process. The intent  
of the refinements has been to clarify the County's interests in reviewing water systems  
plans, create more transparency in the review process, provide clarity on what the  
County does with the information it gets from water purveyors and reduce overall  
processing time. King County will continue coordinating with water utilities to help  
ensure successful implementation of the Utilities Technical Review Committee review  
process refinements:))

Water utility service areas in King County are described in Coordinated Water System  
Plans developed under the Public Water System Coordination Act ~~((e))~~ Chapter 70.116  
Revised Code of Washington) and individual water system plans developed under State  
Board of Health rules adopted under ~~((c))~~ Chapter 43.20 Revised Code of Washington.  
Coordinated Water System Plans describe future service areas for water utilities within  
which they are provided the exclusive right to serve future customers~~((;))~~ and are to  
include the means for meeting those needs in the most efficient manner possible.  
Other service providers may serve within the future service area of a designated water  
utility if the designated water utility is unable to provide service in a timely and  
reasonable manner.

~~((Individual water system plans must include the water utility's retail service area, which~~  
~~includes existing customers and areas where the utility plans future service. Under state~~  
~~law (Revised Code of Washington 43.20.260), the water utility is required to provide~~  
~~service within its retail service area, provided it can meet the conditions prescribed in~~  
~~state law, including the ability to deliver such service in a timely and reasonable manner.~~  
~~The planned provision of service must be consistent with local government~~  
~~comprehensive plans, land use plans, and development regulations:))~~

Washington State laws encourage the development and use of recycled water, require  
consideration of recycled water in wastewater planning, and recognize the importance  
of recycled water as a strategy for water resource management statewide (Chapters  
90.46, 90.48, and 90.82 Revised Code of Washington)~~((;))~~. Recycled water is an  
important mechanism for improving water quality and reducing discharge of treated  
wastewater into Puget Sound and other sensitive areas. Safely reusing non-potable  
water within a building requires sufficient plan review and system inspection capacity.  
~~((Recycled water is an important wastewater management tool that can also be used as~~  
~~a beneficial resource. King County has been producing and distributing recycled water~~  
~~since 1997. Recycled water is used for treatment process water and onsite landscaping~~  
~~at the County's wastewater treatment plants. In addition, some of the recycled water~~  
~~from the South Treatment Plant is used off-site for irrigation purposes and public works~~  
~~uses, such as street sweeping and sewer flushing. Recycled water from the Carnation~~  
~~Treatment Plant is sent to the wetlands at the Chinook Bend Natural Area in accordance~~  
~~with the County's commitment to use the wetlands as its primary discharge location~~  
~~rather than the Snoqualmie River. The Brightwater Treatment Plant started distributing~~  
~~recycled water to the Sammamish Valley for irrigating golf courses, nurseries, farms and~~  
~~for commercial and industrial uses:))~~

((2)) 1. Regional Water Supply Planning

~~((In recent years King County worked cooperatively with many of the larger water utilities in the region to gather information about regional water demand and supply. As a result of potential impacts from climate change on water demand and supply, this effort will become increasingly important in future years. King County would like to use this information to help develop a regional water supply plan.~~

~~F-231)) F-480~~ King County should support((s)) coordination of regional water supply planning, sale((s)) of excess water supplies among municipalities in the region, water quality programs, and water conservation, reuse, and recycled water programs. This regional planning should support King County's goals of focusing growth in the Urban Growth Area and ensuring water availability for resource lands.

~~((F-242)) F-481~~ King County should support((s)) initiation of a water planning process for the development of a regional or subregional water plan. ~~((The planning process should at a minimum cover all of King County, but may include a broader geographic area.))~~ The County ~~((will))~~ shall work in concert with Indian tribes, water utilities, state agencies, and other((s that participate)) key partners. ~~((Key components of this planning process should include:~~  
a. ~~Involvement, oversight and support of elected officials in the region;~~  
b. ~~Meaningful public participation including the involvement of the state and federally recognized tribes; and~~  
c. ~~Recognition of, and making appropriate linkages with, other state, regional, or local planning processes.~~

~~F-243)) F-482~~ King County recognizes that a regional water planning process ~~((will))~~ should be a collaborative process. King County's objectives for the process and a resulting plan are that it:  
a. Be consistent with, and support, growth management objectives and decisions made by local and regional jurisdictions under the Growth Management Act;  
b. Address the need for sufficient in-stream flows to achieve salmon recovery objectives of the approved regional recovery plan for species listed under the Endangered Species Act, and recognize Indian tribal water rights;  
c. Be consistent with and support the approved water quality and quantity strategies adopted by the region, local governments, and other responsible entities (such as water utilities) in compliance with federal requirements under the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and other authorities relevant to water quantity and quality;  
d. Include provisions for the efficient use of water, including recycled water;  
e. Consider the impacts of climate change on water demand and supply;  
f. Address the water needs of other specific sectors of the local economy, including agriculture and other industries with significant water uses;  
g. Include, to the extent possible, assigned accountability for implementing conservation and developing new supplies and related infrastructure; and  
h. Identify, and develop a strategy for, any legislative changes necessary or desirable to implement the plan.

~~((F-243a) Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool will be used as an important consideration to identify and assess the impacts of proposed service changes, and the county's Equity and Social Justice principles should be used to improve residents' access to the determinants of equity.~~

~~F-244 King County shall participate in the development of a regional water supply plan or plans addressing potable water supply service by multiple water purveyors to ensure that uses of recycled water intended to augment or replace potable water supplies will be considered in the development of any such plans, and for such other purposes as are authorized in the underlying authority for such a plan. King County's participation in the development of such plans shall be carried out in accordance with Revised Code of Washington 90.46.120, and pursuant to processes provided in the underlying planning authority.~~

~~F-245 Prior to initiation of any process to develop a regional water plan as described in Policy F-243, King County shall work with utilities to conduct a joint assessment of the state of water planning and coordination in the region. Such an assessment should identify where current planning and coordination efforts by and among water utilities address County interests and where there are gaps. The assessment should be used to guide any efforts related to development of a regional water plan.~~

## ~~4.)~~ 2. Potable Water Systems

Potable water is provided by Group A public water systems having 15 or more connections, Group B public water systems having ~~((three))~~ two to 15 connections, and individual private wells serving one connection. The type of water system required for new development will depend upon whether a proposed development is ~~((or is not located within the Urban Growth Area, is or is not))~~ within an approved service area of an existing public water system, and is or is not able to provide an adequate water supply as required under Revised Code of Washington 19.27.097 and 58.17.110. Exempt wells refer to wells that do not require obtaining a water right permit from the state for withdrawal of water. These exempt wells are subject to all other rules and regulations of the water code other than the requirement to get a permit from the state to withdraw water. ~~((Water withdrawn from an exempt well for individual or group domestic water supply cannot exceed 5,000 gallons per day, nor may the water be used to irrigate more than a half-acre of lawn or noncommercial garden.))~~ Issuance of a building permit or subdivision approval that is interconnected with a permit-exempt well requires the following measures: (a) a fee of five hundred dollars; (b) maximum average withdrawal of groundwater in an amount not exceeding 950 gallons per day per connection and not exceeding 5,000 gallons per day per well; (c) curtailment of withdrawal of groundwater to an amount not exceeding 350 gallons per day per connection for indoor use only upon issuance of a drought emergency order; (d) outdoor use limited to watering of a lawn or noncommercial garden not exceeding one-half acre in area; and (e) management of stormwater runoff on-site to the extent feasible to maximize infiltration, including use of low impact development techniques.

~~((F-232))~~ F-483 Water utilities that obtain water from, or distribute water in unincorporated King County, and water utilities formed as special purpose districts under Title 57 Revised Code of Washington are required to submit water system plans to the ~~((c))~~ County for review and approval and shall describe in their plans how they intend to meet their duty to provide service within their retail service areas, and generally how they plan to meet water service needs in their future service.

1521 ((F-233)) **F-484** In both the Urban Growth Area and Rural Area((s)) of King County,  
1522 all new construction and all new subdivisions shall be served by an  
1523 existing Group A public water system((s)), except in the circumstance  
1524 when no Group A public water system can provide service in a timely  
1525 and reasonable manner per Revised Code of Washington 70.116.060  
1526 and 43.20.260 or when no existing system is willing and able to  
1527 provide safe and reliable potable water with reasonable economy and  
1528 efficiency per Revised Code of Washington 19.27.097.  
1529

1530 ((F-234)) **F-485** In the Urban Growth Area, individual private wells for single  
1531 detached residences are not ((permitted)) allowed unless ((application  
1532 of Policy F-233 to a proposal for a single-family residence on an  
1533 individual lot)) requiring connection would deny all reasonable use of  
1534 the property. In that case, the well would be allowed only as an interim  
1535 facility until service by a public water system can be provided. ((The  
1536 individual well must meet the criteria of the King County Board of  
1537 Health Title 13:))  
1538

1539 ((F-235)) **F-486** In the Urban Growth Area, if an existing Group A water provider  
1540 cannot provide direct or indirect service to new development under  
1541 Policy F-((233))482, a new public water system may be established if it  
1542 is owned or operated by the following, in order of preference:  
1543 a. By a satellite management agency approved by the State  
1544 Department of Health under contract with the Group A system in  
1545 whose service area the system is located, provided that the existing  
1546 Group A water system remains responsible for meeting the duty to  
1547 serve the new system under Revised Code of Washington  
1548 43.20.260; or  
1549 b. By a satellite management agency approved by both the State  
1550 Department of Health and King County.  
1551

1552 **F-487** All new public water systems ((formed in the Urban Growth Area)) shall  
1553 connect to the Group A water system in whose service area the new  
1554 system is located when direct service becomes available. Such a  
1555 connection shall be made by the homeowner or association in a timely  
1556 and reasonable manner.  
1557

1558 ((F-236)) **F-488** In the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, King County land use  
1559 and water service decisions should support the long-term integrity of  
1560 Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands ecosystems. ((Within the Rural  
1561 Area, individual private wells, rainwater catchment, Group B water  
1562 systems, and Group A water systems are all allowed.)) If an existing  
1563 Group A water provider cannot provide direct or indirect service to new  
1564 development per the exceptions in Policy F-233, a new public water  
1565 system ((or private well)) may be established if it is owned or operated  
1566 by the following, in order of preference:  
1567 a. By a satellite management agency approved by the state  
1568 Department of Health under contract with the Group A system in  
1569 whose service area the system is located, provided that the existing  
1570 Group A water system remains responsible for meeting the duty to  
1571 serve the new system under Revised Code of Washington  
1572 43.20.260; ((and))  
1573 b. By a satellite management agency or an existing Group B system  
1574 approved by both the State Department of Health and King  
1575 County; or  
1576 c. By the owners of the lots, which are provided water by a new  
1577 Group A or B system if not within the service area of an existing  
1578 Group A system or not within the area covered by a satellite  
1579 management agency. Approval for any such system shall be  
1580 conditioned for future ownership or management by a satellite

**management agency, when such service becomes available, and for periodic review of system operations, as required by Revised Code of Washington 70.119A.060(2).**

**((If service cannot be obtained by means of the above stated options, then water service may be obtained by creation of a new system, use of private wells or rainwater catchment. All new public water systems formed in the Rural Area shall connect to the Group A water system in whose service area the new system is located when direct service becomes available.))**

**F-489 In the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands, if water service cannot be obtained by the options provided in Policy F-486, then use of private wells or rainwater catchment may be allowed.**

**((F-237 New public water systems established in the Rural Area shall be owned and operated by the following, in order of preference:**  
**a. By the Group A public water system in whose service area the system is located, by direct service or satellite management by the Group A system;**  
**b. By a satellite management agency approved by the State Department of Health and providing service within the county and under contract with the Group A system if it is located in a Group A system service area; or**  
**c. By the owners of the lots, which are provided water by a new Group A or B system if not within the service area of an existing Group A system or not within the area covered by a satellite management agency. Approval for any such system shall be conditioned for future ownership or management by a satellite management agency, when such service becomes available, and for periodic review of system operations, as required by Revised Code of Washington 70.119A.060(2).))**

The State Department of Ecology has determined that the rivers and streams in the major river basins in King County have no water available for further consumptive appropriation without harmfully impacting instream values. ((For that reason, it has by regulation)) The State has closed those basins to the issuance of new water rights((;)) and has directed that the natural interrelationships between surface and ground waters should be considered in future water allocation decisions ((in order)) to avoid adverse impacts to instream flows. The installation and use of wells that are exempt from the Department of ((e))Ecology's water rights permitting process may further harm those rivers and streams when the wells are withdrawing groundwater that is directly connected to the water in the stream. The installation of new exempt wells may also create health and safety problems by interfering with the water supplied by existing wells, and by creating more holes in the ground that can lead to contamination of entire aquifers.

~~((Under King County Code chapter 9.14, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks is to act as lead agency in coordinating the activities of the Department of Local Services - Permitting Division and Public Health - Seattle & King County in order to ensure that groundwater quality and quantity are protected, and facilitate implementation of the plans that have been developed to protect groundwater in five groundwater management areas within King County. In accordance with new water law requirements, King County has an established a hierarchy of water service that restricts the creation of new permit-exempt wells in closed basins, except in very limited circumstances, and as consistent with state law and the in-stream flow rules applicable to permit-exempt wells.~~



~~F-238))~~ **F-490** New subdivisions with more than six single~~((family))~~ detached residential lots on Vashon-Maury Island and in basins with closed streams in the Rural Area (as defined in the Washington Administrative Code ~~((173-507,508, 509, 510, and 515)))~~ may not be served by a potable water system using an exempt well, or a combination of multiple exempt wells. Exempt wells are allowed only in the Rural Area and only under the following circumstances:

- a. ~~((New subdivisions or short subdivisions with six or fewer lots;~~
- b. ~~Except as otherwise provided in subsection c. of this policy only))~~ ~~((o))~~ One exempt well per subdivision or short subdivision ((will be permitted unless more than one exempt well is)) or the minimum number needed to meet the water flow requirements for the subdivision or short subdivision;
- ~~((c:))~~ b. Individual private wells ~~((may be))~~ used in a subdivision or short subdivision when all lots in the subdivision or short subdivision are twenty acres in area or larger; and
- ~~((d:))~~ c. New developments in the Rural Area served by one or more exempt wells shall not exceed one-half acre of irrigation of land area.

~~((F-239))~~ **F-491** King County shall work with water service providers, the State Department of Ecology, and the State Department of Health to ~~((track and measure))~~ ensure groundwater use and to meet the County's obligation to protect groundwater quality and quantity in the Rural Area~~((s))~~, while supporting uses of groundwater that meet public health, resource protection, land use planning, and fish recovery objectives and obligations.

~~((F-240))~~ ~~King County shall require any new or expanding Group B water system to have a totalizing source meter and make information from the meter available upon request of King County:))~~

~~((F-241))~~ **F-492** King County shall encourage the adoption of state or local laws and codes to limit the construction of new exempt wells, and shall encourage abandoning existing exempt wells, within ((existing)) water utility service areas and promote the safe and timely decommissioning of wells no longer in service.

### ~~((3.))~~ Utility System Interties

~~Water utilities obtain water supplies from many varying sources. Some water utilities receive the vast majority of their water supply from wells. Others receive substantial portions from municipal watersheds and reservoirs. The varying water supply sources can differ substantially in terms of dependability of output, so that while one water utility may have excess capacity, a neighboring water utility could be experiencing severe shortages and be unable to adequately serve their customers.~~

~~F-246) King County supports interties that allow the transfer of water resources among water utilities to meet the projected demands for growth where such interties meet the requirements of Revised Code of Washington 90.03.383 and are also consistent with any applicable locally adopted comprehensive plans, regional water supply plans, adopted groundwater management plans, watershed plans, approved Coordinated Water System Plans, Endangered Species Act response requirements and Clean Water Act requirements.~~

**F-247** — ~~King County supports the development of appropriate regional water  
intertie capital projects, subject to approval from appropriate local,  
state, and federal agencies and consistent with Policy F-246.~~

#### 4.)) 3. Water Use Efficiency, Planning, and Management

~~((Water is becoming an increasingly scarce resource, which calls for commitments to  
improved planning, more efficient water use, and better water management. The  
impacts of climate change on water demand and supply adds to the need to make  
efficient use of this scarce resource. As part of its resource management and land use  
planning responsibilities, the King County Utilities Technical Review Committee reviews  
water utility plans for those w))Water utilities serving unincorporated King County or  
otherwise subject to the planning requirements of King County Code ((e))Chapter 13.24  
((and ensures the inclusion of)) are required to include elements related to recycled  
water, water use efficiency, and water conservation in the plans as may be called for  
under state law, the King County Code, or the King County Comprehensive Plan. ((As  
part of its evaluation process, the Utilities Technical Review Committee also encourages  
w))Water purveyors are encouraged to include conservation and reuse measures, where  
applicable, as well as development of new sources to support planned land use with  
reliable service at a reasonable cost.~~

The Reclaimed Water Act of Washington State (Revised Code of Washington 90.46)  
recognizes the value of recycled water in the process to better manage, protect, and  
conserve water resources. In addition, measures to increase water conservation and  
expand the use of recycled water for non-potable uses throughout the county are  
important elements in preparing for potential climate change impacts(;) and ((to))  
addressing water as a recognized limiting factor for Puget Sound and salmon recovery  
efforts. The King County Code also directs ((e))County programs to act as a  
clearinghouse for data related to groundwater quality and quantity ((in order)) to  
facilitate implementation by King County and others of the groundwater management  
plans that have been developed for major portions of King County.

Under Revised Code of Washington 43.20.310, larger water systems that serve more  
than 1,000 connections will be required to address the impacts of climate change in  
future water system plans. These large water systems will be required to include a  
climate resilience element in plans initiated after June 30, 2025. This new plan element  
must 1) determine the types of extreme weather events that would significantly  
challenge the system and build scenarios to identify potential impact, 2) identify critical  
assets and steps necessary to protect the system from the weather events on the  
systems operations, and 3) describe the costs and benefits of system's risk reduction  
strategies and capital project needs.

#### ((6. — Water Availability and New State Laws

In January 2018, the Washington State Legislature approved Engrossed Substitute  
Senate Bill (ESSB) 6091, now codified in c))Chapters 19.27, 58.17, 90.03, and 90.94  
Revised Code of Washington((: The adopted statutes)) clarify the steps building permit  
and subdivision applicants must take to establish that water is "legally available" when  
proposing to obtain water from a new permit-exempt well.

In King County, the ((new water law)) requirements most directly affect development in  
the Rural Area and on Natural Resource Lands where new development may not be  
served by public water systems, and applicants are proposing to use permit-exempt  
wells for a source of water supply. King County has a prioritization for water use that  
intends to limit permit-exempt wells and requires new development to be connected to  
Group A water systems. Consistent with the ((new)) water law requirements, King  
County permitting processes ensure that the hierarchy of water service is fully  
implemented with the Comprehensive Plan policies and the King County Code.

Additionally~~((consistent with new water law)), King County ((will participate)) has participated~~ in the Washington State Department of Ecology's Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee process~~((which may lead to the identification of new water planning provisions in future Comprehensive Plan updates))~~.

**((F-248)) F-493** King County shall partner with utilities to publicize water conservation and encourage best management practices that conserve potable water supply through measures that include use of alternative supplies such as recycled water.

~~**((F-249)) F-494** ((Utilities with more than one thousand service connections required to submit water system plans for approval to King County shall include an evaluation of recycled water use opportunities by completing King County's Water Reclamation Evaluation Checklist:)) Water system plans for large purveyors shall include an evaluation of recycled water use opportunities.~~

**((F-250)) F-495** King County shall encourage local developers with new projects in unincorporated King County to ~~((explore the possibility of using))~~ use recycled water for non-potable purposes when ~~((a plan for))~~ recycled water ~~((has been approved for the area))~~ is available for use.

~~**((F-251)) F-496** ((In its review of water system plans, the Utilities Technical Review Committee shall consider the criteria provided in King County Code 13.24.010, 13.24.060, and 13.24.070, and determine the plan's consistency with the following:~~

- ~~a. Applicable provisions of the King County Comprehensive Plan; land use plans, and development regulations adopted under the Growth Management Act;~~
- ~~b. Approved or adopted regional water resource plans, such as basin plans, groundwater plans, watershed-based conservation and recovery plans developed under Endangered Species Act, salmon recovery plans developed under chapter 77.85 Revised Code of Washington, water resource plans developed under chapter 90.54 Revised Code of Washington, watershed plans developed under chapter 90.82 Revised Code of Washington, and a regional water supply plan or water resource management plan;~~
- ~~c. The county's Regional Wastewater Services Plan; and~~
- ~~d. Other applicable provisions of countywide plans managed by King County, as specified in Utilities Technical Review Committee guidance or checklists:))~~

~~The Utilities Technical Review Committee shall work with state agencies, water utilities, and other parties to develop any necessary rules, policies, or checklists to provide clear information and guidance as to the county's expectations for its reviews. ((For each plan submitted to the county for review, the Utilities Technical Review Committee should have the goal of providing an initial response and comments to the water utility within the same timeframes as the state Department of Health under Revised Code of Washington 43.20.250:~~

**F-252)) F-497** In reviewing proposals for modified and expanded service area boundaries for municipal water suppliers, as defined under Chapter 90.03 Revised Code of Washington, the Utilities Technical Review Committee shall consider~~((in addition to Policy F-251))~~:

- a. Compliance by the water system with its water system comprehensive plan, including water conservation elements;
- b. Whether it can meet its duty to provide service within its service area, as required under ~~((c))~~ Chapter 43.20 Revised Code of Washington; and

- c. Consistency with the service provisions of any applicable Coordinated Water System Plan, as adopted in King County Code Chapter 13.28.

**F-498** ((The c)) King County shall not approve a water system plan with a proposed retail service area where the water system is unable to provide timely and reasonable service for one or more of the reasons identified in Revised Code of Washington 43.20.260. King County accepts and encourages timely and reasonable service by a water utility within its service area through the provision of satellite or remote ownership or management of facilities that are not physically connected with the water utility's other facilities. This does not preclude a modified or expanded service area boundary for the water system ((in order)) to correct problems and provide reliable potable water service to existing water users within the proposed modified service area. The Utilities Technical Review Committee is responsible for making determinations of timely and reasonable service, as provided for under Chapter 70A.100 Revised Code of Washington ((70.116,)) and ((K.C.C.)) King County Code Chapters 13.24 and 13.28.

#### ((5-)) 4. Resource Management and Protection

Water system reservoirs and watersheds often serve a number of functions((These functions can include)) including open space, recreation, forestry, and resource management. ((However, each function must be weighed against t))The primary purpose of ((such)) reservoirs and watersheds((, which)) is to provide and protect supplies of potable drinking water.

**((F-253)) F-499** ~~((Consistent with Countywide Planning Policies, p))~~Public drinking water system surface water reservoirs and their watersheds should:  
a. ((b))Be managed primarily for the protection of drinking water((; but should)); and  
b. ((a))Allow for multiple uses, including recreation, when such uses do not jeopardize drinking water quality standards((P)) and public watersheds ((must be)) are managed to protect downstream fish and agriculture resources.

**((F-254)) F-500** Groundwater-based public water supplies should be protected by preventing land uses that may adversely affect groundwater quality or quantity to the extent that the supply might be jeopardized. The ((c))County shall protect the quality and quantity of groundwater used as water supplies through implementation of Policies E-((493))445 through E-((497))451 where applicable.

#### 1((#)).Energy ((and Telecommunications))

King County's economy and quality of life depend on readily available, affordable, ((and)) clean energy ((and telecommunications)) resources. Energy ((and electronic communications)) systems provide important public services, and their implementation must be coordinated with land use planning. The sustainable development and efficient use of energy resources can ensure their continued availability while minimizing long-term costs, risks, and impacts to public health and safety, air and water quality, and essential public infrastructure and services.

((In order t))To help mitigate global climate impacts resulting from human energy use, King County is planning its energy uses in ways that will improve energy efficiency; increase production and use of renewable energy; reduce risk to public health, safety, critical services, and the environment; and reduce the release of greenhouse gases and

emissions. This includes rigorous and transparent review and regulation of fossil fuel facilities.

~~((The 2015 Strategic Climate Action Plan provides targets for reducing energy usage in operations and increasing the amount of renewable energy that the County produces or uses. These targets are measured for the County government as a whole; divisions are directed to make policies and plans consistent with the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan and implement those as practical, considering the Plan and their other service priorities. Some divisions may exceed the targets, while others may not meet them in given years – but all divisions will use the Strategic Climate Action Plan as the basis for strategic energy planning and direction.~~

~~King County divisions are taking steps to translate countywide energy targets into agency specific plans and action. Agency specific plans are important steps that support progress towards countywide targets.~~

~~The Strategic Climate Action Plan sets the County's long term goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions from government operations, compared to a 2007 baseline, by at least at least 80% by 2050. In order to accomplish this goal, the County is dedicated to reducing its energy use, which is the most cost-effective approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Energy reduction goals are included in the Strategic Climate Action Plan. In its government operations, the County set buildings and facilities normalized energy use reduction goals of five percent reduction by 2020 and 10% by 2025, as measured against a 2014 baseline. In its vehicle operations, the County set a reduction goal of at least 10% of its normalized net energy use by 2020, again measured against a 2014 baseline.))~~

Various local, state, and federal agencies regulate ~~((retail))~~ energy providers in King County. Gas and electric utility resource and conservation plans are approved by the utilities and other agencies through a public process. The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission reviews and accepts plans of investor-owned electric and gas utilities, the Seattle City Council approves the plans of Seattle City Light, and Snohomish Public Utility District is governed by a utility board. Electric and gas utilities operate in King County under franchises with the ~~((c))~~ County for use of the public right-of-way. The Utilities and Transportation Commission also defines the costs that investor-owned utilities can recover, approves rates, sets service standards, and resolves customer complaints.

## ~~((A. Energy))~~

### 1. Consistency with Land Use Plans

~~((State law mandates that electric and gas public service companies provide the same level of service on a uniform basis, regardless of location. (Revised Code of Washington 80.28.110). Policies in this chapter encourage the utilities to prioritize capital improvements in a manner consistent with land use.~~

~~**F-304)) F-501 King County should work to ensure that ((E))energy providers' resource and facility plans ((should)) be consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan and ((should)) provide for a reliable source of energy in the event of natural disaster or other potential threats of disruption to service.**~~

~~((Disruption of traffic due to public and private road projects frequently occurs in King County. Policies in this chapter support existing programs to notify utilities of upcoming projects to build, expand, or maintain county roads so utility and road construction can be coordinated. Distribution systems for gas, electric and telecommunications~~



installation in new construction now have separate permits. Permit consolidation is desirable as a means to expedite review while protecting the environment.

**~~F-302)) F-502~~ King County should coordinate public road construction and maintenance projects with utility construction and maintenance.**

~~((Appropriate planning, such as increased housing density, transit-oriented development and walk-to-work housing can significantly reduce regional energy use over time. Similarly, land use regulation can support increased availability and use of renewable energy. For example, consideration of solar access in land use codes and building siting can increase the potential for solar energy use. Policies in this chapter encourage such energy-conscious development.~~

**~~F-303)) F-503~~ King County ~~((should encourage land uses and development that will improve energy efficiency, and))~~ should support the expansion of renewable energy resources through development regulations~~(( prudent variances))~~ and active incentive programs when the benefits of doing so outweigh the costs.**

**F-504 Results from an equity impact review shall be used as an important consideration to identify impacts and opportunities of new electric transmission lines in regional utility corridors and of new, modified, or expanded gas or hazardous liquid transmission pipelines, fossil fuel facilities, hydroelectric generation facilities, and nonhydroelectric generation facilities. The County's equity and racial and social justice principles should be used to improve residents' access to the determinants of equity.**

**2. Energy Efficiency, Conservation, and Alternative Energy Sources**

~~((King County Countywide Planning Policy CO-6 states that "aggressive conservation efforts shall be implemented to address the need for adequate supply for electrical energy and water resources, protect natural resources, and achieve improved air quality.")) King County has a continued commitment to energy efficiency, conservation, use and production of renewable resources, and quality enforcement of the energy code. ~~((Recent recognition of climate change and other negative impacts of energy infrastructure have brought the need to improve the county's energy use patterns and supplies into the forefront of policy discussions:))~~ King County's current energy use patterns and energy supplies could be modified and improved to reduce air pollution ~~((including))~~ and greenhouse gas emissions~~((?))~~, conserve non-renewable resources important to future generations, and ~~((help to))~~ limit the growth in energy costs.~~

**~~((F-304)) F-505~~ All King County departments and divisions shall use the Strategic Climate Action Plan, or successor plans, as the basis for strategic energy planning and direction, including development and adoption of strategic energy management, efficiency, and conservation programs in their operations.**

~~((The Strategic Climate Action Plan sets the county's long term goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions from government operations, compared to a 2007 baseline, by at least at least 80% by 2050. In order to accomplish this goal, the county is dedicated to reducing its energy use, which most heavily contributes to its greenhouse gas emissions. Included in the Strategic Climate Action Plan were short term goals for energy reduction. For 2015, in its government operations for buildings and facilities, the county set a reduction goal of 15% normalized net energy use as measured against the 2015 baseline. In its vehicle operations, the county set a reduction goal of at least 10% of its normalized net energy use, again measured against a 2007 baseline.~~

To measure its progress in reducing energy consumption, the county uses the process of "normalizing" energy use, which provides a measure of the energy use per unit of service value delivered (units of energy / units of service delivered). Application of this methodology is typically adjusted for weather, with the Wastewater Treatment Division making adjustments according to weather and wastewater flow. Normalization is intended to reflect actual energy use reductions given varying weather conditions compared to the baseline.

Reaching the specified energy reduction targets directly reduces the county's greenhouse gas emissions.

**F-305)) F-506** King County shall plan for further reduction in its energy use from government operations by setting near- and long-term energy use and fossil fuel use reduction targets, consistent with its long-term goals of working to continuously reduce operating costs and environmental impacts, maximizing energy efficiency and minimizing waste.

**((F-306)) F-507** King County shall maximize the ((production)) capture, use and marketing of renewable energy at its wastewater treatment plants and Cedar Hills Landfill, to the extent feasible and consistent with other County goals, and pursue other renewable energy generation projects where cost-effective.

**((F-307)) F-508** King County ((should)) shall provide leadership in, and foster the development and increased use of, clean, renewable, and alternative fuel and energy technologies, such as anaerobic digestion and co-digestion of organic material to create energy sources that result in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel use, with a particular emphasis on creating renewable natural gas.

**((F-308) King County shall:**

- a. ~~Continue to increase the energy efficiency of county buses and vehicles, through adoption and promotion of innovative technology vehicles and greenhouse gas reducing fuels with a focus on electric vehicles, all-electric battery buses and associated infrastructure, where appropriate; and~~
- b. ~~Consistent with policy E-203, collaborate with other local governments regionally, nationally and internationally to develop a common approach to accounting for the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the operation of its public transportation system, for offering carbon offsets or other environmental attributes for purchase and for claiming rights to any greenhouse gas emissions reduction attributes associated with its operation.~~

**F-308a)) F-509** Consistent with Ordinance ((17974)) 18106, King County Metro Transit ((should implement a strategy to sell transit carbon offsets and other environmental attributes to)) shall make carbon offsets or environmental attributes available for purchase by individuals, public entities, and private entities, if doing so is likely to be financially beneficial to the department. ((To reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, the King County wastewater treatment division and solid waste division should consider purchasing transit carbon offsets from King County Metro Transit.)) Revenue from the sale of carbon offsets or environmental attributes shall be used by the department solely for the purposes of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through mobility services or investments that reduce greenhouse emissions from transit operations.

((In support of its environmental, long-term sustainability and energy security goals, King County will provide leadership by shifting to the use of renewable resources. Renewable resources include those sources listed in Revised Code of Washington 19.285.030(20), now and as may be amended, as well as "service by-products", such as including methane gas generated from the operation of the county's landfill and wastewater treatment plants. Although renewable energy sources can be more expensive than traditional power sources on a per unit basis, careful choices of technology and expanded economic considerations including "triple bottom line" life-cycle cost analyses show that in proper applications the benefits of some renewable energy technologies already exceed their costs.

Additionally, subsidies and grants are available for some renewable power systems. For example, solar electric power is cost effective in some applications at county facilities and rapid cost changes in this technology will require regular reconsideration of its use as an addition or alternative to traditionally produced electricity.

**F-309)) F-510 King County shall prioritize efficient energy consumption and conservation and maximize ((practical applications)) production and use of renewable natural gas, electricity, and heat, while ((production from renewable resources)) ensuring that land use decisions regarding siting of renewable energy facilities consider potential impacts to open space, agriculture, and housing needs.**

**((F-310)) F-511 King County shall support the conversion of renewable resources and service by-products to energy for beneficial use ((consistent with E-208)). King County shall claim and/or generate economic benefit for any and all renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction attributes resulting from renewable energy generation.**

((King County, working with its utility partners, has a long and successful history of energy efficiency and conservation projects. The combination of generally increasing energy costs and climate change mitigation goals will require that the county continuously increase its energy efficiency for many years to come.

**F-311)) F-512 King County should encourage its energy utilities to provide energy efficiency services ((and)), renewable energy options, and fossil fuel use reduction strategies to all their customers. Additionally, the County should encourage the state and energy utilities to mitigate the environmental and greenhouse gas emissions impacts of energy and, as conservation and ((alternative energy)) no- and low-carbon sources demonstrate capacity to address energy needs, phase out existing coal and other fossil fuel-based power plants, and replace such facilities with resource efficiency and renewable generation sources.**

((To achieve energy goals already set and more aggressive goals expected in the future, a coordinated, strategic approach to energy management and investment in energy efficiency is being implemented in the county.

**F-312 King County shall develop and adopt strategic energy management, efficiency and conservation programs in its own operations, including:**  
**a. Consolidated energy accounting of county facilities to establish baseline energy performance for the county, benchmarking of facilities against comparable best practices where possible, setting goals for facility efficiency improvements, and measuring and reporting progress toward county energy goals;**  
**b. Energy efficiency audits of all county facilities over 20,000 square feet and the creation of action plans for reducing energy use at such facilities;**

- ~~c. Energy management plans for energy-intensive or special-purpose county facilities such as wastewater treatment plants, correctional facilities and transit bases that focus on least-cost management and that include specific approaches for each facility's use, as well as the production and sale of energy where appropriate;~~
- ~~d. Mandatory energy efficiency and resource use guidelines for operation and maintenance of all county-occupied facilities, while recognizing the unique operating requirements of specialty facilities;~~
- ~~e. Programs to encourage employees to implement energy conserving measures at work; and~~
- ~~f. Incentives, including retaining a portion of energy cost savings, to county agencies and departments for achieving energy efficiency.~~

**F-313)) F-513** King County should benchmark all applicable ((c))County buildings as a basis for measuring energy efficiency improvements, using the Environmental Protection Agency Portfolio Manager Tool, where applicable.

**((F-314)) F-514** King County should purchase only certified energy-efficient appliances and office equipment (such as ENERGY-STAR labeled equipment) when available for specific equipment and shall require consideration of energy efficiency and life-cycle costs in all procurement decisions as an element of determining the lowest responsive bids.

~~((Meeting the County's energy goals will require a commitment to pursuing multiple funding strategies. Grants, loans, and utility rebates provide essential seed money for up-front investments in energy efficiency projects, and the County should seek them aggressively. County departments should use the county's Fund to Reduce Energy Demand loan program to fund cost effective energy and water efficiency projects that cannot otherwise be funded.~~

**F-315)) F-515** King County shall use its Resource Life Cycle Cost Assessment calculator to evaluate ((energy projects)) all capital projects that involve equipment that use energy to determine if the operations and maintenance cost savings over the life of ((an energy)) the project's assets exceed the implementation costs, taking into account all identified costs associated with energy efficiency and renewable energy ((projects)).

**((F-316** ~~Efficient energy consumption, conservation, the use of renewable technologies, and energy responsible land use decisions should be a priority in King County. King County promotes the maximum use of energy conservation and renewable energy resources now, while leaving options for increasing conservation and renewable technologies in the future.))~~

District energy systems provide space and water heating and/or cooling to multiple buildings, through pipes originating from a central heating or cooling source - generally a central energy plant. ((King County government is unique in that it also has the ability to serve as a district heat supplier through the potential for buildings to utilize the energy value of the warmer-than-ambient water in the County's almost 400 miles of wastewater conveyance.)) Centralizing the generation of heat and/or cooling through a district plant and/or delivering energy content to multiple facilities through a distribution network can eliminate the need for equipment in each individual building.

District heating and cooling plants can be constructed with energy efficiency in mind. Central plants that provide combined heat and power can offer increases in energy

efficiency compared to on-site heat generation in individual buildings, by sharing heating and cooling resources, and can be an effective method of cutting carbon emissions.

~~((The t))~~ Technologies used to generate energy from wastewater are emerging, and offer the potential to achieve environmental and economic benefits through the recovery of resources from wastewater. King County government is unique in that it also has the ability to serve as a district heat supplier through the potential for buildings to utilize the energy value of the warmer-than-ambient water in the County's almost 400 miles of wastewater conveyance.

**((F-317)) F-516 King County should pursue district energy opportunities, such as combined heat and power and wastewater heat extraction, to maximize resource recovery efforts, in ways that can offer economic and environmental benefits to the ((c))County and community at large. ((This will be done by pursuing opportunities such as encouraging the use of wastewater for heat extraction and other forms of energy generation in the county's wastewater conveyance system.**

**F-318 King County should pursue combined heat and power district energy opportunities in its own facilities, as well as in partnership with other public and private entities, that result in reduced energy consumption, greenhouse gas reductions and financial savings to the county.**

**F-319 To implement the Countywide Planning Policy of aggressive conservation and promotion of regional air quality, King County should:**

- a. Effectively enforce the energy code as part of the general permit process;**
- b. Provide density incentives through the zoning code for energy-efficient developments;**
- c. Continue to improve the fuel efficiency and emissions of the county-owned fleet of motor vehicles;**
- d. Work with utilities to become a model of energy efficiency in facilities owned or operated by Metropolitan King County; and**
- e. Seek cost-effective ways to capture energy from county operations which other-wise would be lost, such as methane gas from landfills and sewage treatment.**

Methane generated from sewage treatment plants and landfills is a potential source of energy. In addition, methane is a potent greenhouse gas emissions. As a result, capturing methane from these facilities and putting it to a productive use provides a dual benefit:))

**F-517 King County should support new energy resources and technologies that reduce energy use, support a resilient electrical grid, decarbonize energy sources, and electrify energy use in the building and transportation sectors. In supporting these efforts, King County should:**

- a. Allow for siting of green energy and distributed energy resources, while considering appropriate use of land and associated impacts, including protection of designated Natural Resource Lands and open spaces;**
- b. Accommodate the use of green energy and distributed energy resources, such as microgrids, in new and redeveloped properties;**
- c. Reduce barriers to new and upgraded substations, transmission facilities, and the distribution system, for infrastructure that is needed to achieve County greenhouse gas reductions targets;**



- d. Encourage and support the integration of new technologies and fuel sources;**
- e. Minimize negative impacts on and maximize benefits for frontline communities resulting from related projects;**
- f. Support equitable engagement strategies during project planning to actively solicit public participation and input from impacted frontline communities;**
- g. Support equitable opportunities for frontline communities to participate in distributed energy resources;**
- h. Focus especially on areas that are subject to frequent power outages;**
- i. Partner with first responders to ensure adequate safety measures are in place for people and the environment;**
- j. Support efforts by utilities and other entities to advance these outcomes; and**
- k. Review and update development regulations periodically to ensure that they appropriately support new energy resources and technologies and mitigate for associated impacts.**

The moderate climate of the Puget Sound region provides an opportunity for significant use of solar energy. Relatively low heating and cooling needs in much of the county allow for the potential for passive and active solar technologies to meet heating and cooling needs with proper building design. Similarly, the mild climate and available solar energy allows for growing ~~((some))~~ of food year~~((-))~~-round, potentially decreasing the use of fossil fuels for a portion of residents' food needs. This opportunity for local investments in passive and active solar design and ~~((in))~~ local food production can only be realized if building and neighborhood site design provides for solar orientation and through the development of regulations to protect solar access.

~~((Although permit staff attempt to accommodate solar design, c))~~Current regulations do not typically take into account solar orientation or solar access protection from development on neighboring properties. ~~((In addition, regulations, such as b))~~Building height and building setback allowances, road access requirements, and protections for critical areas, stormwater, and native vegetation, may limit suitable locations for providing solar access. Requirements to create and maintain view corridors may or may not provide solar gain. ~~((In order t))~~To protect solar access, landowners or developers enter into voluntary solar easements. As an alternative, some municipalities have incorporated measures to protect solar access in their comprehensive plans and development regulations. King County ~~((should study these measures and))~~ continues to evaluate and implement best practices in this area in support of the ~~((c))~~County's larger sustainability goals.

**((F-324)) F-518 King County should encourage((s)):**

- a. ((the-u))Use of solar energy;**
- b. ((the-s))Siting of roads, lots, landscaping and buildings for improved solar orientation;**
- c. ((the-u))Use of passive solar design and active solar technologies; ((and))**
- d. ((the-p))Protection of solar access; and**
- e. Pursuit and allocation of outside funding to support access to solar energy for frontline communities.**

**((F-322)) F-519 King County should consider passive and active solar energy collection systems in all new facility designs and major rehabilitations. Solar electric generation systems interconnected with local utilities should be employed where cost-benefit analysis shows net benefits, considering emergency power potential and capitalizing on utility net((-))metering and power production credit programs.**

~~((Gas and electric utilities offer low-income energy assistance programs. All feasible actions to increase the availability of conservation measures to low-income residents should be pursued, such as public-private cooperation and combining existing rehabilitation efforts with installation of energy efficiency measures.))~~

### 3. Electric Utilities

The four-state ~~((Seventh Northwest Electric Power and Conservation Plan (also called the 6th Power Plan) produced in 2016))~~ 2021 Northwest Power Plan by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council provides a blueprint for the development of electricity resources in the region. Bonneville Power Administration and other federal agencies, the region's utilities, state and local government, private businesses, and the people of the Northwest all participate in implementing the council's goals. Electric utilities serving unincorporated King County include Bonneville Power Administration~~((, Seattle City Light, Snohomish Public Utility District))~~ and Tanner Electric Cooperative. Puget Sound Energy provides both electricity and natural gas service.

A number of significant events in the past years have influenced the electric power business in King County's power markets. These include:

- 1) Ongoing very large expenditures by hydropower utilities (notably Bonneville Power Administration) to mitigate salmon habitat losses caused by dams;
- 2) The recognition of human-caused climate change, driven mostly by carbon dioxide release – a significant portion of which can be attributed to electric power generation; and
- 3) The passage of ~~((State Initiative 937 codified at))~~ the Energy Independence Act in Chapter 19.285 Revised Code of Washington ~~((chapter 19.285))~~, requiring utilities to acquire an increasing portion of their electric supplies from qualified renewable resources (a ~~((so-called))~~ renewable resource portfolio standard).

Hydropower is the largest single source of ~~((the))~~ existing electrical power, with the county's major electric resources located outside King County. These include the Grand Coulee, North Bonneville, and Ross Dams. No new large-dam sites are available in the region, making hydropower a very small part of ~~((projected))~~ any new regional power-generating resources.

~~((Existing hydropower facilities in King County include Snoqualmie Falls, Cedar Falls, Twin Falls, Weeks Falls, and Black Creek. Proposed projects include new facilities at Hancock Creek and Calligan Creek (both are tributaries of the North Fork Snoqualmie), Martin Creek near Stevens Pass, and Black Canyon on the North Fork Snoqualmie. Few if any additional projects beyond these listed are expected to be built in King County, and some of those listed above, although licensed, may not be built.))~~

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licenses such projects, but in doing so must consider existing plans and policies of public and private jurisdictions. While power generation benefits the public, care must be taken to ensure that small hydroelectric projects are constructed in an environmentally sound manner, directing new, small hydropower facilities, for example, to streams that do not have anadromous fish. Construction and operation must also be consistent with the intended functions and uses of forestlands, where most small hydroelectric projects are located.

The ~~((Northwest Power and Conservation Council's seventh plan))~~ 2021 Northwest Power Plan indicates no significant addition of hydropower resources is projected. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council plan also identifies Protected Areas ~~((to))~~ that protect some streams and wildlife habitats from hydroelectric development where such development would have major negative impacts that could not be reversed. In these areas, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council finds that mitigation

techniques cannot assure that all adverse impacts of hydroelectric development on these fish and wildlife populations will be mitigated; that even small hydroelectric projects may have unacceptable individual and cumulative impacts on these resources; and protecting these resources and habitats from hydroelectric development is consistent with an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply.

Electrical utilities supplying King County are required by Washington State law to plan for their electric power resources in an integrated resource planning process very similar to the process ~~((that the Northwest Power and Conservation Council))~~ used for ~~((its 6<sup>th</sup>))~~ the 2021 Northwest Power Plan. ~~((County suppliers Puget Sound Energy, Seattle City Light and Snohomish County Public Utility District))~~ These are required by state law to regularly assess their power needs, supply strategies, and impacts using Integrated Resource Plans.

~~((The passage of the I-937 renewable resource portfolio standard has increased the demand (and attendant value of) qualified renewable resources. I-937, codified as the Energy Independence Act under 19.285 Revised Code of Washington, specifically excludes new freshwater hydroelectric projects from the definition of renewable for purposes of qualifying energy credits, with the exception of incremental efficiency improvements to certain existing facilities.~~

**~~F-324)) F-520~~ To address the cumulative effects of multiple energy facilities, King County should continue to participate in the state and federal processes for licensing, authorizing, or certifying, and any such renewals, of existing and proposed power generation projects within King County. King County's review of individual projects in the state and federal processes should consider consistency with designated land uses and environmental protection goals. Specifically, power generation projects should:**

- a. Have climate change impacts considered and mitigated to the greatest extent practical;**
- b. Be consistent with, and preferably directly incorporated in, utility integrated Resource Plans;**
- c. Use renewable resources to the greatest extent practical;**
- d. Include public engagement;**
- e. Not significantly interfere with commercial forestry operations;**
- f. Be located and operated in a manner such that impacts to salmonid fish and wildlife are minimized;**
- g. Avoid unstable and erosion-prone areas;**
- h. Include performance bonding to fund erosion control;**
- i. Provide full mitigation for construction and operation impacts;**
- j. Avoid, to the extent ~~((practicable))~~ feasible, diminishing scenic values;**
- k. Incorporate adequate public safety measures; and**
- l. In the case of hydropower, not be located within a Protected Area as designated by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.**

**~~((F-325)) F-521~~ King County ~~((and the))~~ should work with utilities ~~((should))~~ to identify and preserve corridors, consistent with the Growth Management Act goal of focusing growth within the Urban Growth Area, to accommodate future electric power transmission and distribution lines. Corridor designation should include:**

- a. Identification of appropriate shared uses and recognition of the values provided by nonutility uses, such as recreation;**
- b. Recognition of county roads as utility corridors; and**
- c. Evaluation of proposed facility plans on a system-wide basis, rather than project-by-project.**

~~((F-325a) Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool will be used as an important consideration to identify and assess impacts and opportunities of adding, expanding or upgrading transmission and distribution lines and the county's Equity and Social Justice principles should be used to improve residents' access to the determinants of equity.~~

**F-326)) F-522** When new, expanded, or upgraded transmission is required, use of existing corridors that have above-ground utilities should be evaluated first. King County should facilitate appropriate corridor sharing among different utility types and owners.

**((F-327)) F-523** New electrical distribution lines should be installed underground where reasonably feasible and not a health or safety concern. ~~((The county should encourage underground placement of existing distribution lines through such tools as local improvement districts.~~

~~Public concern exists over the potential health effects of electrical power lines. The concern focuses on the effects of extremely low level electromagnetic fields. Seattle-King County Department of Public Health currently responds to inquiries from residents about extremely low level electromagnetic fields and keeps abreast of current research. The following policy recognizes the inconclusive nature of the data concerning extremely low level electromagnetic fields and the need to have an informed citizenry through public disclosure of available research about the potential health risks. Scientific evidence to-date does not support firm conclusions about the existence of adverse health effects related to extremely low level electromagnetic fields.~~

**F-328** ~~King County will monitor scientific research on potential human health effects of extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields. If federal or state agencies promulgate rules to reduce exposure to extremely low level electric and magnetic fields through changes in the use of appliances, construction practices, the location of electrical infrastructure or other activities the county shall inform its residents, in adherence with the Executive Order and other applicable policies on written language and translation processes, and take appropriate actions:))~~

#### 4. Natural Gas

~~((Generally, the most thermally efficient use of natural gas is in "direct applications." The choice of fuel shall be based on market conditions and the prudently weighted greenhouse gas emissions impacts of using natural gas as compared with alternatives, with the customer comparing various fuels:))~~ King County works to reduce fossil fuel natural gas use in the built environment through a combination of energy use reduction, the use of renewable natural gas, and conversion to high-efficiency heating systems (such as heat pumps) that use electricity. Many homes and businesses in King County do not have the choice of natural gas, ((however,)) even within the Urban Growth Area.

King County has by far the largest resource of biologically produced methane in the region, from its wastewater treatment facilities and its solid waste landfills. King County should continue to develop and promote the development of biologically((=)) derived sources of fuel gas ~~((i.e.,))~~ renewable natural gas), research technologies and opportunities to utilize low methane concentration gas from closed landfills for beneficial uses, and support the efficient marketing and use of such gas. Any renewable energy production associated with methane or biologically derived materials should consider other potential uses of relevant resources, such as the use of edible food to reduce hunger.

Because methane gas can serve as a greenhouse gas-reducing substitute for fossil fuel natural gas, and become a feedstock for aviation fuels, maritime fuels, the generation of green hydrogen and for other beneficial purposes to help de-carbonize various industries, several of the energy policies in this subsection relate to this energy source.

**~~((F-329)) F-524~~ King County should work to remove barriers to the availability and efficient use of renewable natural gas.**

**~~((F-330) King County will provide leadership in and promotion of the use of renewable natural gas to minimize climate change impacts, including that from its own sources, as a substitute for fossil-sourced natural gas where practical.))~~**

## **5. Natural Gas Distribution Systems**

Natural gas pipelines fall into two major categories: gas transmission lines that transport natural gas from production fields to ~~((local))~~ distribution companies, and distribution systems that deliver natural gas from transmission pipelines to retail customers. ~~((The federal government may define certain parts of the natural gas distribution system that serve large volume gas users as part of the transmission system.))~~ Distribution systems for transporting natural gas are fundamentally different from transmission gas pipelines~~((,))~~ and should be regulated based on their design, use, and location.

Gas distribution systems ~~((are owned and operated by local distribution utilities. Such systems))~~ consist of the pipelines that deliver natural gas to end users together with intermediate supply lines. The distribution system is constructed incrementally, with the addition of new segments and the upgrading of existing lines occurring in numerous small projects. The distribution system is a network that is primarily located in road rights-of-way, where service is available. ~~((Local))~~ Distribution companies are subject to the comprehensive safety regulations administered by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission under state law and regulations and by the ~~((federal)) United States Department of Transportation's~~ Office of Pipeline Safety under federal law and regulations. The rates and services of investor-owned utilities also are subject to comprehensive regulation by the Utilities and Transportation Commission under state law and regulations.

**~~((F-341)) F-525~~ King County ~~((recognizes that the))~~ shall use the franchise agreements process to require gas distribution ~~((system is primarily located in road rights-of-way))~~ utilities comply with county, state, and federal safety and health regulations.**

**~~((F-342)) F-526~~ In the interest of safety and reliability of the natural gas distribution pipeline systems, the ~~((c))~~County should take steps to protect and preserve the signs that mark pipelines.**

**~~((F-343)) F-527~~ Structures designed for human occupancy ~~((shall))~~ should not be located within gas distribution pipeline rights-of-way and should be set back from the pipeline to protect public health, safety, and property. No structures shall be located over the pipeline.**

**~~((F-344) Permit requirements shall require excavators to ensure adequate protection of any facilities that are encountered during their work. This shall include but not be limited to adhering to the foreign facility owners requirements for separation and backfill, developing joint plans when drilling or boring parallel to foreign facilities, and potholing all facilities that will be crossed by drilling or boring.))~~**



## 6. Hazardous Liquid and Gas Transmission Pipelines

Part of the fossil fuel system is the movement of hazardous liquid and gas by transmission pipelines. Hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines, as defined by Revised Code of Washington 81.88.010 and Washington Administrative Code 480-93-005, respectively, provide a vital service of transporting hazardous materials from one location to another. Long-distance transmission pipelines move a variety of hazardous materials, including crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas, and hazardous liquids such as anhydrous ammonia. Pipeline rupture or failure can result in release of these materials, which are highly flammable, explosive, or toxic. The policies in this chapter identify public values and goals to ((assure)) ensure that the transmission of hazardous materials by pipeline address public health and safety.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulates the location, construction, and operational conditions of interstate natural gas pipelines through its certification process. The state and federal government regulate the location, construction, and operational conditions of hazardous liquid and intrastate gas pipelines through the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council. In its review of pipeline applications, however, the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council must determine whether the pipelines are consistent with ((e)) County land use plans and zoning codes. Thus, King County's authority to regulate the location of pipelines is through the comprehensive plan and development regulations.

**((F-331)) F-528 King County recognizes that federal and state regulatory programs govern the design, construction, and operation of hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines. King County's land use designations, zoning classifications, and development regulations should be focused on increasing safety and reducing environmental impacts of transmission pipelines regulated by the federal and state government. King County shall actively engage in federal and state review processes to identify local impacts and risks and advocate for safety and environmental protections.**

**((F-332)) F-529 Any new, modified, or expanded hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines proposed for construction in King County shall meet the County's development regulations, including but not limited to, King County's zoning code, building code, grading code, and shoreline management code. Proposals for modifications, such as regular maintenance or changes required to address hazards or comply with federal or state safety requirements, shall be clearly distinguished from proposals to modify or expand facility capacity or uses.**

King County anticipates that few new hazardous liquid or gas transmission pipelines will be constructed in the near future. However, as existing pipelines age and the relationship between resources, refineries, and markets changes over time, new pipelines will need to be constructed. Hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines are best constructed away from locations where large numbers of people assemble. King County recognizes ((however)) that under some circumstances ((;)) new gas transmission pipelines may need to locate in densely populated areas as the only practical alternative to meet the demand for service.

**~~((F-332a) Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool will be used as an important consideration to identify impacts and opportunities of siting new gas or hazardous liquid transmission pipelines and the county's Equity and Social Justice principles should be used to improve residents' access to the determinants of equity.~~**

**F-333)) F-530** New hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines should be located away from high-density residential zones, ((Urban)) unincorporated ((A))activity centers, neighborhood business centers, community ((and B))business ((C))centers, ((O))office ((P))parks, sports fields, schools and day((-))care centers, or other land uses where large numbers of people would assemble.

~~((F-334) When new, expanded or upgraded hazardous liquid or gas transmission pipelines are required, use of existing corridors should be evaluated first. King County should facilitate appropriate corridor sharing among different utility types and owners.~~

**F-335)) F-531** Hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines should not be located in areas susceptible to soil disturbance or liquefaction or in aquifer recharge areas. When it is impractical to avoid such areas, special engineering precautions should be taken to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

~~((It is essential to map the location of existing hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines within King County so that developers know where they are and who to call for information before construction begins. Accurate maps will assist King County in reviewing land use applications for land uses located near pipelines.~~

**F-336) King County should map the location of existing and new hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines. Maps shall not substitute the one-call locating system and shall not be used for any construction or maintenance activity:**

~~Risks to life and property can be minimized by keeping land uses a safe distance from hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines. Pipelines transport a variety of materials, some of which flow under the force of gravity. While standard setbacks do not assure protection from materials that have the ability to migrate, setbacks may protect life and property from hazardous materials that are highly flammable, explosive or toxic. Limiting the allowable uses within pipeline rights-of-way can further reduce risks to life and property.~~

**F-337)) F-532** Structures designed for human occupancy ((shall)) should not be located within hazardous liquid or gas transmission pipeline rights-of-way and should be set back from the pipeline to protect public health, safety and property. No structures shall be located over the pipeline. Land uses shall be restricted within hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipeline rights-of-way. Passive recreational uses, such as hiking trails, may be allowed if the risk to life and property is assessed and determined to be minimal.

~~((F-338) Land uses shall be restricted within hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipeline rights-of-way. Passive recreational uses, such as hiking trails, may be allowed if the risk to life and property is assessed and determined to be minimal.~~

~~Pipeline failure can result from damage caused by excavation near existing pipelines. Many existing pipelines initially were constructed in less-populated areas with little development. As demand for land grows, the risk of conflict between existing pipelines and land development increases.~~

~~F-339~~ King County should promote the safety and reliability of the hazardous liquid and natural gas transmission pipeline systems by requiring developers, contractors, and excavators to notify the state, pipeline operators and utilities through the one-number locator service, before beginning excavation or construction.

~~F-340)) F-533~~ In the interest of safety and reliability of the hazardous liquid and natural gas interstate transmission pipeline systems, the ((c))County should take steps to protect and preserve the signs that mark pipelines.

## 7. Crude Oil Transport by Rail, Truck and Vessel

Part of the fossil fuel system is the transport of crude oil by rail, truck, and vessel. King County and local governments across the United States are facing rapid and significant increases in train traffic carrying crude oil. ((According to the Washington State Department of Ecology's 2014 Marine and Rail Oil Transportation Study, the volume of crude oil transported by rail across the US increased 42-fold from 2008 to 2013:

In Washington State, shipments increased from zero in 2011 to approximately 19 unit trains a week in 2014, each carrying as much as 3 million gallons of Bakken crude, mostly destined to refineries in Washington and California. If the proposed facilities and refinery expansions to accommodate rail imports are permitted and fully built over the next few years, the weekly unit train number could jump to 137 or more. Congress's repeal of the export ban on U.S.-produced oil in 2015 has the potential to further increase transportation of Bakken crude through our state:))

Oil trains travel through densely populated areas of King County and pass through a century-old tunnel under downtown Seattle. Many of the trains carry highly volatile Bakken ((c))crude oil, creating risks for catastrophic explosions and loss of life and property in the event of a derailment. The passage of mile-long unit trains delay traffic and emergency vehicle access at numerous at-grade crossing.

Oil train routes cross numerous rivers, streams, and aquifers and trace the Puget Sound shoreline, putting aquatic resources and Endangered Species Act-listed salmon at risk. Despite facing impacts and risks from oil transport by rail((;)) and burdens for emergency planning and response, local governments like King County have almost no authority to require disclosure of hazards, establish safety standards for trains passing through their jurisdiction, or require railroads and shipper to pay for mitigation of impacts.

King County Office of Emergency Management acts as a regional convener of public and private emergency management entities to plan for, mitigate, and respond to oil train spills and explosions. Additionally, King County convenes and leads a coalition of ((more than 160 elected)) Indian tribal, state, and local leaders known as the Safe Energy Leadership Alliance to advocate for assessment of the full costs and risks of oil and coal transport and coal export on our regional, local and Indian tribal economies, environment, health, and cultural resources.

~~((F-344a)) F-534~~ King County ((Office of Emergency Management)) shall convene local emergency managers, first responders, railroads, and others to prepare for and mitigate the increasing risk of oil spills, fire, and explosions posed by oil transport by rail, truck, and vessel. This work should consider potential risks from related fossil fuel facilities.

((F-344b)) F-535 King County should advocate for environmental reviews of proposed oil terminals and other related fossil fuel facilities in Washington State to assess and mitigate for area-wide, cumulative risks and impacts to public safety, infrastructure, traffic, health, water supplies, and aquatic resources from increased oil transport by rail, truck, and vessel.

((F-344c)) F-536 King County should collaborate with ((local and)) Indian tribal and local governments to jointly advocate for stronger federal and state disclosure requirements for hazardous materials being transported by rail, safety requirements and speed limits for tank cars, minimum liability coverage for railroads and oil shippers, and financial support for increased local emergency planning and response to oil spills, fires, and explosions.

((F-344d)) F-537 King County land use policies, development regulations, and permitting and environmental review processes related to fossil fuel facilities shall be designed to:

- ((p))Protect public health, safety, and welfare;
- ((m))Mitigate and prepare for disasters;
- ((p))Protect and preserve natural systems;
- ((m))Manage impacts on public services and infrastructure; and
- ((r))Reduce impacts of climate change.

((F-344e)) ~~King County shall thoroughly review the full scope of potential impacts of proposals for new, modified, or expanded fossil fuel facilities. Fossil fuel facilities include commercial facilities used primarily to receive, store, refine, process, transfer, wholesale trade, or transport fossil fuels, such as but not limited to bulk terminals, bulk storage facilities, bulk refining, and bulk handling facilities.~~

F-344f)) F-538 When reviewing proposals for new, modified or expanded fossil fuel facilities, King County shall require comprehensive environmental assessment, and early and continuous public notice and comment opportunities. King County shall only approve proposals for new, modified, or expanded facilities when:

- The proposed facility can confine or mitigate all operational impacts;
- The facility can adequately mitigate conflicts with adjacent land uses;
- The full scope of environmental impacts, including life cycle greenhouse gas emissions and public health, have been evaluated and appropriately conditioned or mitigated as necessary, consistent with the County's substantive State Environmental Policy Act authority;
- The applicant ((must comply)) can comply with applicable federal and state regulations, including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Endangered Species Act;
- The applicant has demonstrated early, meaningful, and robust consultation with Indian tribes, the public, and surrounding property owners((, and with Indian tribes)) to assess impacts to Indian tribal treaty-protected cultural and fisheries resources; and
- Risks to public health and public safety can be mitigated.

~~((F-344g) Results from the King County Equity Impact Review Tool shall be used as an important consideration to identify and mitigate impacts of new, modified, or expanded fossil fuel facilities. The Equity Impact Review should take into consideration the potential effects of a new, modified or expanded fossil fuel facility on the health of a population, and how those effects may be different within a population.~~

~~F-344h King County shall establish a periodic review process for fossil fuel facilities. The periodic review shall be a part of King County's ongoing enforcement and inspections of fossil fuel facilities, and to assure compliance with applicable conditions, mitigations, and the most up-to-date safety and public health standards. The periodic review process should, subject to applicable law:~~

- ~~a. Provide opportunities for public review and comment;~~
- ~~b. Evaluate whether the facility is in compliance with current federal, state, and County regulations and implementation of industry-standard best management practices; and~~
- ~~c. Allow King County to modify, add or remove permit conditions to address new circumstances and/or unanticipated fossil fuel facility-generated impacts.~~

~~F-344i) F-539 King County shall require ((t))local distribution companies that convey fossil fuels in King County ((shall)) to prepare and submit a greenhouse gas impact analysis when applying for a new utility franchise agreement or an extension or renewal of an existing utility franchise agreement.~~

## ~~((B)) J. Telecommunications~~

### ~~((1. Telecommunications))~~

~~Various companies provide telecommunications services throughout unincorporated King County, including voice, data, and video on various mediums such as wire, fiber optic, or radio wave. Effective telecommunications services promote and enhance individual information exchange, contribute to a robust regional economy, and afford numerous public services, including delivery of emergency services, education, and opportunities for community involvement.~~

~~Telecommunication networks are privately owned, publicly regulated entities that are driven by market forces more than statutory requirements. The County has limited regulatory control of telecommunication service providers, except in rights-of-way and associated franchise agreements with those companies that help ensure technical quality, protect customer rights, and support public services.~~

~~Telecommunications systems will need to grow to continue to support government, business, resident, education, health, service sector, and mobile communication needs, as well as to respond to new technologies. Telecommunication technologies ((are changing)) change rapidly and will continue to change during the horizon of this plan. The future telecommunication system ((may make little distinction between cable, telephone and cellular)) will build off of the existing telecommunication infrastructure, while utilizing an expanded range of radio frequencies transmitted through antennas to improve capacity and access. ((Telecommunication services include voice, data, video and other communication services on various mediums including, but not limited to, wire, fiber optic or radio wave. Effective telecommunications services are critical to residents in several ways. They promote and enhance individual information exchange, contribute to a robust regional economy, and afford numerous public services, including delivery of emergency services, education and opportunities for community involvement.))~~



Telecommunications services are regulated by several entities, including the Federal Communications Commission and the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. King County has some regulatory authority over telecommunications services through franchises and the development approval process.

~~((F-345)) F-540 King County shall encourage ((F))telecommunication services ((are to be encouraged as a means)) to mitigate the transportation impact of development and growth, including ((G))greenhouse ((G))gas ((E))emissions.~~

~~((F-346)) F-541 King County should encourage((s-the)) telecommunication service providers to engage in long-term planning for telecommunications construction, reconstruction, and facility upgrades, including provisions to ensure that the system's capacity, design, and equipment will allow users to take advantage of innovative uses, services, and technology.~~

~~((F-347)) F-542 Telecommunication companies and the ((c))County should coordinate activities when facilities are being installed or road construction projects are scheduled.~~

~~((F-348)) F-543 ((Long-term planning for telecommunications systems by the)) King County regulations should encourage telecommunication service providers ((should allow)) to plan and provide for uninterrupted service during natural disasters.~~

~~((F-349)) F-544 ((Co-location)) Collocation of telecommunication facilities is encouraged to reduce the unnecessary proliferation of individual, single-user towers. ((Co-location)) Collocation shall be required unless an applicant can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the ((c))County that collocation on an existing tower is not feasible and not consistent with service quality and access.~~

~~((F-350)) F-545 Although visual impacts are always an important consideration in the decision to approve or deny a proposal, King County shall give greater weight to the visual impacts of telecommunication facilities proposed to be located on residentially((-))zoned lands or in the Rural Area or Natural Resource Lands. In addition, the visual impacts of proposals for an individual tower with a single user shall be given greater weight than proposals to collocate facilities.~~

~~((F-351)) F-546 King County considers the placement of telecommunication facilities within street rights-of-way as the preferred alternative to the construction of facilities on private property. Regulatory standards shall require placement in street rights-of-way, especially within residential neighborhoods and the Rural Area((s)), unless such a location is not feasible or not consistent with service quality and access.~~

## ~~((2-)) 1. Cable Services~~

~~((King County Ordinance 10159 dictates current policy for cable services. It states in part: "it is the County's policy to promote the widespread availability of cable service and diverse information to County residents and to encourage the development of cable systems and cable technology as a means of communication between and among members of the public and public institutions." The county's cable-related needs are expressed in the following policies:)) King County regulates companies using County rights-of-way for providing cable television services to customers in unincorporated areas via franchise agreements. As of 2023, King County has franchise agreements with two cable companies, Comcast and WAVE Broadband.~~

~~((F-352)) Long-term planning for cable systems should include service to all areas of the county which meet the minimum density established in the cable company's franchise agreement and the county's Cable Television Ordinance.~~

**F-353)) F-547 Cable companies should provide services that meet the cable-related needs and interests of all segments of the community, taking into account the cost of meeting such needs and interests.**

**~~((F-354)) F-548 King County should encourage ((€))cable companies ((should)) to take proactive steps to ensure that there is widespread availability of and equitable access to cable service. Cable companies should ensure information is culturally((-)) appropriate and made available to ((residents of the county, especially low-income and limited-English proficient communities)) county residents, especially households at or below 80 percent of area median income and/or that speak languages other than English.~~**

**~~((F-355)) F-549 ((The goal of))Long-term cable planning should ((be)) support:~~**  
**~~a. ((a))A high-capacity, state-of-the-art system((-));~~**  
**~~b. Installation and activation of ((F))two-way capacity ((should be installed and activated:))~~**  
**~~c. Interconnection of ((€))cable systems ((should be interconnected)) to other communications systems((- They should be designed to be)); and~~**  
**~~d. (("open"; that is, the systems should be)) Open systems, usable by many, for a variety of purposes.~~**

**~~((F-356)) F-550 Public uses of the cable system should be expanded as the system is upgraded.~~**

## **~~((3:)) 2. Internet Access~~**

~~Increased high-speed (or broadband) internet access and ((R))rapidly changing technologies ((are providing)) provide opportunities for alternative work environments and lifestyles ((as more people transmit and receive information through the internet)). ((Although there is a growing interest in the use of computer technologies, few new developments are including high-speed internet access lines or home cabling. King County encourages private partnering between developers, builders and communication providers to expand the opportunities for access to the internet:)) In King County and nationwide, people without broadband internet service are at a growing disadvantage when it comes to education, health care, access to government services, the job market, and civic and cultural engagement. Equal access to technology can help improve the quality of everyone's life.~~

~~In 2020, the King County Broadband Access Study was completed, which evaluated the availability and accessibility of broadband internet services for King County residents. The study:~~

- ~~1. Assessed the broadband infrastructure and services available and accessible to the community;~~
- ~~2. Identified unserved locations (a location that does not have a broadband connection available) and underserved populations (residents who have broadband service available to them, but they cannot afford to buy it, or they have some other barrier to using broadband, such as lack of digital literacy or lack of access to broadband-enabled devices); and~~

3. Included data collection, analysis, findings, and recommended solutions across multiple demographics.

King County is exploring and implementing actions to enable expansion of internet and broadband access to more county residents. For example, King County's Institutional Network (I-Net) provides broadband to eligible government agencies such as schools, libraries, courts, public safety groups, and public health facilities. King County's Institutional Network (I-Net) has over 2,000 miles of fiber installed, connecting to approximately 300 public facilities. I-Net is expanding access to broadband to ensure all nonprofits, community, and educational organizations have the information technology capacity needed to deliver government services to effectively serve all communities so they can have full participation in society, democracy, and the economy. Focusing on advancing Best Start for Kids and healthier communities, I-Net also continues working with nonprofits, government, and educational institutions to bring "last mile" connectivity, which typically refers to the final leg of infrastructure connecting the provider's network to a home or building and which continues to be a barrier to broader broadband access.

In addition, the County understands the importance of state and other local organizations and their initiatives to expand broadband access within King County. The County is creating partnerships with these entities to help make high-speed broadband a reality for everyone in King County.

~~((F-357) Developers should collaborate with major employers to create developments that facilitate and encourage telecommuting by installing high-speed internet lines during construction of the project.~~

~~F-358 Builders and architects should work with the telecommunication industry to design and retrofit state-of-the art cable-ready homes and offices and community centers, social service agencies, community health clinics, and other buildings that serve low-income residents.))~~

F-551 King County shall support opportunities to increase access to broadband internet services where needs are greatest, prioritizing areas where there are educational and economic needs. Examples of these opportunities may include expanding the I-Net network, pursuing grant funding to support infrastructure investments, partnering with service providers to expand coverage, considering fiber optic cable installation in trail corridors, and marketing to underserved communities.

((Wireless internet connections, also referred to as "hotspots," first conceived in 1993, now number over 300,000 nationally. A hotspot is a location (park, coffee shop, airport, office building, etc.) that offers Wi-Fi access. Hotspots allow the public to use laptop computers, Wi-Fi phones or other suitable portable devices to access the Internet. Ninety percent of the hotspots in the nation are free. Of the estimated 150 million laptops and 14 million personal digital assistants sold annually, most include Wi-Fi capability.))

F-552 King County should increase wireless capabilities at County-owned facilities and sites, such as County parks, for public access.

~~((F-359))~~ F-553 King County should encourage((s)) public and private organizations to create wireless internet ((connections where)) access for the public ((can access the Internet)), including in community centers, social service agencies, community health clinics, libraries, schools, and other buildings that serve ((low-income residents)) households at or below 80 percent of area median income.





## CHAPTER 10

# ECONOMIC

# DEVELOPMENT



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The foundation for a vibrant and sustainable economy starts with providing livable communities and a high quality of life; these are among the principles that guide the Comprehensive Plan. Other elements of that foundation include, but are not limited to a favorable business climate with consistent and predictable regulations, an educated and trained workforce, adequate public infrastructure, land supply, research and advancing technology, affordable housing, available capital, recreational and cultural opportunities, a healthy natural environment and greater equity and opportunity for all

The policies in this chapter are designed to continue King County's long-term commitment to a prosperous, diverse, and sustainable economy. They do so by promoting public programs and actions that support a successful economy, one in which the private, nonprofit, and public sectors can thrive and create jobs, is compatible with the environment, and contributes to a strong and stable tax base and a high quality of life for all residents. The policies also recognize businesses and the workforce as customers of an economic development system; and they support actions and programs that promote the strength and health of both groups.))

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## I. ((Overview)) Introduction

### A. The State of the Economy

King County's labor market and economy ((is)) are the largest((;)) and most diverse((; and most significant economy)) in Washington State. Sectors with the highest employment in King County include: agriculture; manufacturing; construction; retail; trade and transportation; utilities; professional and business services; information, education, and health services; and leisure and hospitality. ((In 2014, King County's economic base included:

- ~~1,285,000 nonagricultural jobs. This represents 67% of the Central Puget Sound Region's (King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties) 1,923,000 nonagricultural jobs and 42% of the state's 3,070,400 nonagricultural jobs;~~
- ~~An \$87.4 billion payroll. This represents 74% of the region's \$118.5 billion payroll and 52% of the state's \$167.4 billion payroll; and~~
- ~~79,500 business firms, excluding sole proprietorships. This represents 63% of the region's 125,000 firms and 36.4% of the state's 219,000 firms.~~

The last fifteen years have been characterized by two major recessions and three periods of recovery and growth. Nonagricultural employment in King County peaked in 2000 at 1,187,000 jobs, but as the dot-com recession took hold, declined 7% to 1,109,000 jobs in 2003. Employment began to rise again in 2004, and by the job peak in 2008, employment had exceeded 2000 levels, growing to a total of 1,216,000 jobs. During the Great Recession, employment decreased by 7% again to 1,134,000 jobs in 2010, 4% below levels of a decade before. However, as the Great Recession ended employment began to grow again reaching more than 1,285,000 in 2014, a 13% increase over 2010 levels.

King County employment in 2014 was comprised of the following sectors:

- ~~Trade, Transportation and Utilities was the largest sector, with 238,000 employees primarily in retail trade, wholesale trade, and transportation services.~~
- ~~Professional and Business Services was the second-largest sector with 211,000 jobs. This sector includes legal services, engineering services, computer software design, company management and administration.~~
- ~~Two sectors each had about 166,000 employees: Government at all levels including public education, and Health Services/Private Educational Services. Another sector, Leisure and Hospitality, which includes hotels and restaurants, had 129,000 employees.~~
- ~~Four other sectors are smaller but vital in terms of bolstering the county's economic base with substantial payroll. They include Manufacturing (108,000 jobs); Information (software publishing and tele-communications, 88,000 jobs); Financial Activities (banks, insurance, real estate, 71,000 jobs); and Construction with 62,000 jobs.~~
- ~~Other Services had the remaining 47,000 jobs, in repair and maintenance, personal services, religious, professional and civic organizations.~~

~~In 2014, unincorporated King County had 252,000 residents and about 38,000 jobs.)~~  
Within the unincorporated jurisdiction are ((two)) three broad ((geographic types)) geographies, designated by King County under the Growth Management Act and the Comprehensive Plan:

- Urban unincorporated ~~((King County, within the Urban Growth Area))~~ areas;
- The Rural Area~~((s))~~; and
- Natural Resource Lands ~~((outside the Urban Growth Area))~~.

Covering only 45 square miles, urban unincorporated King County contains ~~((a number of residential communities and business centers with))~~ about half of the unincorporated population~~((, 127,000 people))~~ with a number of residential communities and a small number of business centers. ~~((Major c))~~Communities within ~~((this urban jurisdiction))~~ the urban unincorporated area include North Highline, Skyway-West Hill, Fairwood, East Renton, and Lakeland South/East Federal Way. ~~((The urban unincorporated communities together had about 17,600 jobs in 2014.))~~

The largest job sector within the urban unincorporated geography is services, ~~((with about 6,000 jobs throughout urban unincorporated King County.))~~ followed by ~~((E))~~education and government. ~~((is the second largest sector with 5,000 jobs.<sup>†</sup>))~~ Other large job sectors include construction and resources, wholesale-transportation, retail, and manufacturing. ~~((In addition to its jobs – i.e., people working in urban unincorporated job centers –,))~~ While much of the urban unincorporated area is residential, its residents and the people working in the urban unincorporated job centers ~~((and includes))~~ make up a skilled labor force. ~~((About 70,000 urban unincorporated residents are in King County's labor force, and approximately 63,000 were employed in 2014, contributing significantly to the county's economy.))~~

The Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands ~~((portions of the county's economic base plays))~~ play a significant role in helping the county maintain a diversity of economic sectors, thus contributing to the county's overall economic health. Evaluation and discussion of the rural economy includes the Rural Area, Natural Resource Lands, and the Cities in the Rural Area, which include Black Diamond, Carnation, Duvall, Enumclaw, North Bend, Snoqualmie, and Skykomish.

~~((Information on the rural economy is as follows:~~

- ~~In 2014, about 8.3% (168,000) of the county's total population of 2,017,300 lived in the Rural Area, Resource Lands, and Cities in the Rural Area.~~
- ~~However, only 2.7% (34,200) of the total 1.2 million jobs in the county are located within the Rural Area, Resource Lands, and Cities in the Rural Area (2014 data).~~
- ~~About sixty percent of the rural jobs (20,400) are located in the rural unincorporated area, with the remainder located in the Cities in the Rural Area, especially in Enumclaw, North Bend and Snoqualmie.~~
- ~~The Service Sector, which caters to both rural households and businesses, comprises 34% of rural employment.~~
- ~~The Construction and Resources sector, including agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining, accounts for 16% of rural jobs.~~
- ~~Farming in King County is changing in response to increased demand by urban residents to purchase locally grown foods. Farms are becoming smaller with increased crop diversity. In 2012 there were 1,837 farms in the county, with an average farm size of 25 acres. According to the 2012 United States Agricultural~~

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~~((<sup>†</sup>This 2014 data does not reflect that Klahanie was annexed to Sammamish in 2016. Updated figures are not currently available.))~~

Census, farm acreage decreased slightly from 49,000 acres in 2007 to 48,000 acres in 2012. Farm product sales totaled nearly \$120 million in 2012.

- Sales at county farmers markets in 2014 generated over \$35 million in direct sales for Washington farmers.
- The timber industry experienced wide fluctuations in timber harvest volumes between 2004 and 2014 in response to economic conditions. During that period King County saw an overall 23% decline in timber harvest volume on private and public lands from 138 million board feet to 106 million board feet, while the value of that timber rose 11% from \$34 million in 2004 to \$37.8 million in 2014, according to the Washington State Department of Revenue.
- The equestrian industry plays a role in the rural economy. In 2005, there were about 3,200 persons directly employed in the equestrian industry and 945 persons employed in jobs related to the industry countywide. Additionally, equestrian industry sales totaled \$227 million based on 2005 numbers, which included direct, indirect, and induced sales.))

## B. General ((Economic Development)) Policies

King County provides infrastructure, business, and workforce development services as part of its regional responsibilities. King County also partners with ~~((businesses,)) business;~~ economic development, workforce development, community-based, industry trade, and labor organizations~~((;))~~; boards and commissions; and other jurisdictions ~~((in efforts))~~ to support and grow the regional economy ~~((to ensure the elements for a prosperous and successful economy are provided. The county also provides infrastructure, business, and workforce development products and services as part of its regional responsibilities; and it makes many other contributions to sustain the quality of life that makes the region a desirable place to live and work. General King County economic development policies include:))~~.

According to the United States Department of Labor, in 2021, women, on average, are paid 84 percent of what men are paid for working full-time, year-round. This wage gap persists across races and ethnicities. This gap is worsened when considering "job segregation," or overrepresentation or underrepresentation of women and people of color in certain occupations and sectors of the economy. The Department of Labor further reports that:

- Women must complete at least one additional educational degree to earn as much as men with less education;
- The wage gap is larger for mothers and results in employment-related losses of more than \$295,000 over a lifetime; and
- Discrimination remains a likely leading cause of the gender wage gap. The federal government has recovered over \$20 million in monetary relief for women who have experienced pay discrimination in the workplace just between 2022 and 2024.

**ED-101 King County ~~((has a long-term commitment to))~~ shall support sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic development throughout the county.**

**~~((ED-101a)) ED-102 King County ~~((is committed to promoting))~~ shall prioritize equity and racial and social justice ~~((and equality of opportunity))~~ in all economic development policies and programs~~((, and to integrating these as factors into decision and policy-making efforts))~~.~~**

**ED-103** King County shall engage with the public to inform County economic development plans, policies, and programs. This includes fostering opportunities for the public, especially communities with limited access to economic opportunity and those with the highest needs, to be involved in associated decision-making.

~~((ED-102))~~ **ED-104** ~~((The))~~ King County shall focus ((for)) significant economic growth ((will remain within)) in the Urban Growth Area, concentrated in cities and in a network of regionally designated growth centers, ((while within the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, the focus will)) and shall focus rural economic development ((be)) on sustaining and enhancing prosperous and successful rural and resource-based businesses, ((as well as)) and on encouraging new businesses that support and are compatible with the rural economy((ic clusters)), particularly in Rural Towns.

~~((ED-103))~~ **ED-105** King County policies, programs, and strategies shall recognize the importance of((:)) and ((place special emphasis)) focus on((:)) growing new businesses, such as start-up companies and small local businesses, ((as well as retaining)) and expanding ((homegrown firms in basic)) existing businesses in industries that ((bring income into the county and increase the standard of living of the County's residents)) create middle-wage jobs and share the County's values of racial equity, environmental sustainability, and workers' rights.

**ED-106** King County's plans, policies, programs, and strategies shall recognize the role and importance of small businesses and locally owned businesses in fostering community stability and creating opportunity in historically underrepresented and underinvested communities.

~~((ED-104))~~ **ED-107** King County ((policies, programs, and strategies shall recognize the importance of a)) shall take actions that support diversified employment opportunities ((economic base to provide)) toward providing a continuum of skills ((training opportunities to meet the skill level needs of industry)) in support of middle-wage jobs. King County shall direct resources to reduce inequities and build economic resiliency for those communities most negatively impacted by asset poverty, beyond income or wages.

~~((ED-105))~~ **ED-108** King County ((recognizes)) shall protect the natural environment as a key economic ((value that must be protected)) asset and should support businesses that can be developed in environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient ways.

~~((ED-106))~~ **ED-109** King County shall ((protect cultural resources and)) promote expanded cultural opportunities for its residents and visitors ((in order)) to enhance the region's quality of life and economic vitality.

~~((King County's role in economic development is implemented at several levels. At all levels, King County seeks to coordinate, partner, and engage with private and public organizations to pursue mutually beneficial outcomes.~~

~~ED-107))~~ **ED-110** ~~((At the multicounty level,))~~ King County should partner with other counties, regional entities, and the state~~((, as appropriate,))~~ to devise and implement economic development policies, programs, and strategies to ~~((provide for))~~ achieve sustainable, inclusive, and equitable growth throughout the Puget Sound region.

~~((ED-108))~~ **ED-111** ~~((At the countywide level,))~~ King County should partner with other jurisdictions, economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, the Port of Seattle, and others~~((, as appropriate,))~~, to develop and implement policies, programs, and strategies that set the general framework for economic development within the county.

~~((ED-109))~~ **ED-112** Within the unincorporated areas, King County should partner and engage with Indian tribes, ((local)) businesses, chambers, farms, the Agriculture and Rural Forest Commissions, ((community service areas, adjacent)) cities, ((other organizations)) and residents((, as appropriate)), to develop and implement policies, programs, and strategies that promote ((compatible)) sustainable, inclusive, and equitable local economic development.

**ED-113** King County shall prioritize funding for community and economic development projects that:  
a. Benefit households at or below 80 percent area median income;  
b. Create equitable opportunities for economic prosperity, good health, safety, and connection to community;  
c. Reflect an equitable countywide distribution of funding; and  
d. Meet the needs of historically underinvested communities facing economic pressures and disparate health and economic outcomes.

## II. Business Development

~~((King County has long supported a growing and diversified economy, one that provides business development opportunities throughout the county.))~~ To support business development, King County's policies, plans, ~~((and))~~ programs, and strategies should support a ~~((positive and healthy))~~ business-friendly climate that ~~((enables all local firms to stay globally competitive, quality-oriented, technologically advanced, and able to pay good wages))~~ is conducive to the domestic and global competitive environment.

Homegrown businesses are those that started in the region. ~~((Local and national research over the last 25 years has concluded that h))~~ Homegrown, small to medium-size businesses create the majority of new jobs in a local economy. ~~((Industries and firms))~~ Businesses that export their products and services outside King County bring income into the county ~~((and are considered basic, in economic terms. Jobs in basic industry))~~ and generally pay better than ((non-basic)) jobs that are dependent on the local economy. ~~((and))~~ These businesses can help support the ((non-basic or secondary part of the)) county's local economy. ~~((As of 2012, 37% of the jobs in King County are basic and support the 63% non-basic jobs, such as retail and personal services. Roughly one of every four jobs in the Puget Sound region is dependent on international trade.))~~

The county's leading export sectors are:

- Information ~~((S))~~ services, ~~((with 16.4% of all export jobs. Software Publishing is the principal factor in this sector, accounting for over 50% of the sector's basic jobs and 9.3% of total basic employment))~~ led by the software development industry.



- Manufacturing, ~~((with 14% of all basic employment,))~~ led by the aerospace industry ~~((; with 9% of total basic jobs)).~~
- Business ~~((S))~~services, such as banking, insurance, accounting, legal, architectural, engineering, research and development, and computer services industries~~((; with 13.8% of export jobs)).~~

King County has also identified the creative sector as a critical segment of the regional economy that requires additional support and renewed focus. King County's creative sector includes, but is not limited to, the film, music, arts and culture, festival, and events, videogaming, and fashion industries. These industries are predominantly driven by small businesses, entrepreneurs, and gig workers. Supporting creative sector development that is compatible with surrounding land uses contributes to the region's regional reputation, drives tourism, and creates a desirable environment for business development of other sectors.

## A. Working Collaboratively in the Region

King County partners with the Puget Sound Regional Council's Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board: ((serving King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties) adopted a "Regional Economic Strategy for the Central Puget Sound Region" in 2005, updated it in 2012, and then adopted an updated version entitled "Amazing Place: Growing Jobs and Opportunity in the Central Puget Sound Region" in 2017. Amazing Place was developed by the Puget Sound Regional Council to sustain economic vitality and global competitiveness:)) Greater Seattle Partners; King County Associate Development Organization; Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County; other economic development organizations and local jurisdictions in the region, to grow and sustain regional economic vitality and global competitiveness.

~~((In order to accomplish this, Amazing Place identifies 14 industrial clusters that, based on regional economic analysis, offer the best opportunities for business growth and job creation in the Central Puget Sound region for the next several years.~~

~~Clusters are concentrations of industries that export goods and services that drive job creation and import wealth into the region. An industry cluster differs from the classic definition of an industry sector because it represents the entire horizontal and vertical value-added linkages from suppliers to end producers, including support services, specialized infrastructure, regional universities' research and development, and other resources. Clusters are supported by the economic foundations such as workforce training, infrastructure, quality education, a stable and progressive business climate, and more. The clusters are Aerospace, Architecture and Engineering, Business Services, Clean Technology, Food and Beverage, Information and Communication Technology, Life Sciences and Global Health, Maritime, Materials Manufacturing, Military and Defense, Recreational Gear, Tourism, Transportation and Logistics, and Wood Products. Amazing Place identifies specific strategies and actions to help support the growth of each cluster.~~

~~The County is also working with several other regional business development efforts such as the Trade Development Alliance, Workforce Councils, Chambers of Commerce, and other partners to create opportunities for new business development, help retain and expand existing companies, and recruit new firms into the county:))~~

**ED-201     King County shall partner with Indian tribes, federal, state, and ((local)) city governments, economic development organizations, schools, educational and research institutions ((and)), the private sector, and other organizations to foster ((an)) innovative and ((entrepreneurial**

~~environment and support programs and strategies that promote))~~  
~~sustainable business development and job creation((. Programs that~~  
~~provide technical and financial assistance to businesses include, but are~~  
~~not limited to:~~

- ~~a. Financial, marketing, expansion, and general operations~~  
~~assistance for small businesses to help them become competitive~~  
~~in the private sector;~~
- ~~b. Technological, efficiency, and managerial assessments to help~~  
~~manufacturers reduce costs and use smaller footprints for existing~~  
~~or expanded production; and~~
- ~~c. Assessment and/or remediation of contaminated property~~  
~~(Brownfields) in order to continue or expand operations to help~~  
~~individual small businesses or jurisdictions impacted by~~  
~~Brownfields)).~~

**ED-202** King County shall ~~((emphasize continued))~~ prioritize support for the  
aerospace, green economy, creative economy, and information  
technology ~~((industrial)) clusters; agriculture and forestry clusters; ((as~~  
~~well as industrial clusters offering))~~ and emerging sectors that offer the  
best opportunities for business development, job creation, and  
economic growth ~~((including those identified in the Puget Sound~~  
~~Regional Council's Regional Economic Strategy, the Local Food~~  
~~Initiative and the King County Rural Economic Strategies Plan)).~~

**ED-203** King County shall proactively support and participate in programs and  
strategies that help create, retain, expand, and attract businesses that  
export their products and services. ~~((Exports bring income into the~~  
~~county that increases the standard of living of residents.))~~

**ED-204** King County shall encourage redevelopment of and reinvestment in  
industrial and manufacturing properties by collaborating with other  
jurisdictions and the private sector to remove, revise, or streamline  
regulatory or other redevelopment barriers without compromising  
environmental standards or quality. This includes assessment and/or  
remediation of contaminated properties.

~~((ED-205) King County shall support programs and strategies to promote and~~  
~~market Foreign Direct Investment opportunities in the county.~~

~~ED-206))~~ **ED-205** King County shall promote and help position small and mid-size  
businesses to gain greater participation in the supply chains of large  
~~((companies))~~ businesses and the military located in the region.

~~((ED-207))~~ **ED-206** King County shall provide opportunities for small businesses to  
compete for and obtain contracts on ~~((c))~~ County-funded construction,  
consulting, and goods and services projects. King County shall also  
collaborate with other jurisdictions to promote public-contracting  
opportunities for small businesses and to develop and maintain  
common standards, a common application, and a common directory for  
small contractors and suppliers seeking contracts on publicly~~((r))~~  
funded projects.

((ED-208)) **ED-207** King County shall assist businesses, property owners, and other jurisdictions in preserving and enhancing historic properties, including historic business districts, through incentives and economic development measures. County programs and incentives for land and resource preservation and economic development shall support and be coordinated with preservation of historic properties.

((ED-209)) **ED-208** King County shall foster the development and use of public/private partnerships to implement economic development projects and programs. At a minimum, these projects ((must)) shall demonstrate that they:

- a. Cannot be accomplished solely by either sector and would be greatly enhanced by working together;
- b. Have an experienced and proven private partner(s);
- c. Do not unduly enrich the private partner(s);
- d. Provide tangible and measurable public benefits in terms of tax and other revenue, construction and permanent jobs, livable wages with benefits and a wage-progression strategy, and public amenities; and
- e. ~~((Will use the King County Jobs Initiative, or other entities with similar programs, as their first source of referral for training and employing low-income, low-skill residents in entry-level and semi-skilled jobs))~~ Share decision-making power with and spread benefits to community groups.

((ED-210)) **ED-209** King County should support programs and strategies to expand international trade, including those that:

- a. Promote, market, and position the county for increased export((,)) and import, and foreign investment opportunities;
- b. Promote the health and viability of the region's export and import gateways through active collaboration with the Northwest Seaport Alliance and the Port of Seattle;
- c. Provide technical assistance, training, and opportunities for local firms wishing to export; and
- d. Partner with regional trade groups to promote assistance, opportunities and partnerships to connect current and potential exporters with international markets.

**ED-210** King County shall seek to support business programs and strategies that contribute to a more circular economy to reduce demand for materials; keep materials in use as long as possible; regenerate natural systems by reusing waste products, materials, or byproducts of manufacturing; promote recycling; or otherwise improve processes to be more efficient.

**ED-211** King County should support programs and strategies to preserve and plan for an adequate supply of industrial and commercial land capacity, including but not limited to:

- a. ~~((Complying with the State of Washington Buildable Lands Program - RCW 36.70A.215 - and, in cooperation with the cities, inventorying and monitoring the use of industrial, commercial, and residential lands every five years;~~
- b. ~~Partnering with other jurisdictions and the private sector, to advocate for development and maintenance of a regional Geographic Information System to track the supply of land))~~ Participating in the Puget Sound Regional Council's Industrial Lands Analysis;

- ((c.)) **b.** Actively applying for federal, state, and other resources to help defray the costs of assessment, remediation, and redevelopment of private and/or public ((B))brownfields;  
((d. Selling county-owned surplus industrial and commercial lands for development by the private sector;  
e.)) **c.** Promoting the redevelopment and infill of industrial and commercial areas and exploring the feasibility of using incentives to achieve this goal; and  
((f.)) **d.** Preventing the encroachment of non((-))industrial uses on industrially((-))zoned land and the rezoning of industrial land to other uses.

**ED-212** King County shall encourage and support community((-))-based and community((-))-led efforts to ((support)) develop and retain existing small and local businesses. These efforts may include:  
**a. Implementing the Contracting Opportunities Program in historically underinvested communities;**  
**b. Ensuring public investment decisions protect culturally significant economic assets and community anchors; and**  
**c. Engaging communities directly affected by economic development activities in planning, decision making, and implementation.**

**ED-213** King County should help stabilize and prevent the displacement of small or culturally or ethnically diverse businesses and business clusters during periods of growth, contraction, and redevelopment.

**ED-214** King County shall perform outreach about the existing King County priority hire program to increase residents' connections to economic opportunities and to aid in anti-displacement efforts.

((ED-213)) **ED-215** King County shall coordinate with a broad range of partners, organizations, businesses, and public sector agencies to support the development of business innovation districts and ((related)) other community stabilization initiatives ((in)) to help prevent the displacement of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color; immigrants; refugees; LGBTQIA+ people; and households at or below 80 percent of area median income ((lower income communities, with an emphasis on food innovation districts, in particular)).

### III. Workforce Development

King County provides programs and participates in partnerships to address the new and ongoing regional workforce opportunities and challenges ((of the Puget Sound region and within the county)). The current ((economic climate)) economy has created more opportunity, and yet there is an ((ever-greater)) increasing divide between those who are benefitting from a strong economy and those who are not. For this reason, King County has an even greater need to ensure ((access by)) all residents have access to information about local workforce development programs and opportunities, especially for those residents ((of the County)) who are not benefitting equitably from the strong economy.

((While many low-income people in isolated communities may have difficulties gaining access to quality education, training, and support services to help them secure living wage jobs, many displaced workers also need access to re-training opportunities to obtain employment.)) Meeting these challenges successfully ((will)) requires the ((c))County to continue and to strengthen strategies and working relationships across

sectors and ~~((between))~~ among business, government, labor, communities, advocacy organizations, education and training institutions, and human services providers.

~~((Jobs that pay wages sufficient to support families are vital to the quality of life. However, training, education, skill levels, and abilities vary from person to person. As such, it is important for King County to support job training and job opportunities for all residents at a range of entry levels so that all people have the opportunity to be self-reliant.))~~

King County's Green Jobs Strategy emphasizes connecting frontline communities to middle-wage employment opportunities to build a skilled and diverse workforce across the career spectrum. The County utilizes its resource network to promote and meaningfully connect local workers to middle-wage jobs by developing high-quality workforce partnerships to diversify and add climate-informed skills building into existing sectors such as construction, transportation, manufacturing, professional services, and technology, while preparing for the clean energy future. The Strategy emphasizes integrating workforce development into County climate and clean energy initiatives, while collaborating with regional partners to grow green jobs through sectors essential to clean energy deployment. The Strategy outlines the recipe for high-road workforce partnerships based on building trusted relationships with job seekers, connecting to partners providing skills training and industry-recognized credentials, and clear employment on-ramps developed with employers and labor partners.

- ED-301** King County should support workforce development programs that are integrated with the ~~((c))~~ County's overall economic strategies, including but not limited to:
- a. Apprenticeship opportunities, such as priority hire, on ((c))County public works projects to ensure a continual pipeline of skilled, local construction trades workers and to encourage ((family)) middle-wage job opportunities((-)); and
  - b. ((Development and growth of clean technology "green" jobs linked to the preservation and sustainability of the natural environment, including jobs in pollution prevention, Brownfields cleanup, energy efficiency, renewable energy industries, natural resource management, and other technologies that address climate change.)) Providing frontline communities accessible training and skill building for jobs that support a middle wage, particularly for green jobs and identified high growth sectors
- ~~((c. Training in skills (job clusters) that apply to and are in demand across multiple industry clusters)).~~

- ED-302** ~~((King County should support the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County, authorized by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, and composed of high-level representatives from business, local government, labor, education and training institutions, advocacy organizations, and human service providers. The purpose of the Workforce Development Council is to coordinate and improve employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs to meet the needs of workers and employers.))~~ King County ~~((will work with the Workforce Development Council to))~~ shall emphasize the needs ((in and highlight)) and opportunities for communities ((that have)) with the highest unemployment rates in the region, including the potential for development of training opportunities in these areas. King County should support the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County to coordinate and improve employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs to meet the needs of workers and employers.



- ED-303 King County policies, programs, strategies, and partnerships shall recognize the importance of worker training and retraining, especially for ~~((low-income and low-skilled residents;))~~ workers in low-wage and low-barrier industries and communities with the highest unemployment rates, to provide the skilled workers needed by local businesses and industry. King County shall support and partner with other jurisdictions, educational institutions, and industry to promote programs that align with community needs, such as:
- a. Programs that retrain dislocated workers for jobs in growing industries;
  - b. Training for jobs in growing industries that require post-technical or post-secondary training and credentials and provide a career pathway to self-sufficiency;
  - c. Programs that facilitate employer involvement in hiring workers with limited experience and skills and provide successful strategies for skills training, job placement, and worker retention;
  - d. Programs that reduce recidivism by helping residents exiting the criminal ~~((justice))~~ legal system gain access to training and employment services;
  - e. Alignment of ~~((homeless))~~ housing and employment systems to ~~((assure))~~ ensure people who are experiencing homelessness have access to both housing and employment opportunities;
  - f. Food-related, creative economy, and green technology workforce development activities and opportunities;
  - g. School-to-work programs and effective alternatives for out-of-school youth to provide a clear pathway to self-sufficiency through career options and applied learning opportunities;
  - h. Summer youth employment programs for ~~((at-risk))~~ historically underserved youth;
  - i. Access to alternative modes of transportation by providing transportation information, ~~((financial assistance programs))~~ income-based discount programs such as ORCA LIFT, and services to jobseekers and workers; ~~((and))~~
  - j. Access to childcare by increasing the availability and affordability of quality childcare for low-income families;
  - k. Initiatives aimed at facilitating skills training and on-ramps to middle-wage employment for frontline communities connected to identified high growth industry sectors as outlined in King County's Green Jobs Strategy; and
  - l. Connecting veterans with targeted programs and resources to achieve and sustain their career goals or transition into the civilian workforce.
- ~~((ED-304 King County shall continue to increase equity in jobs and career opportunities for youth through programs such as the Education Engagement Strategy launched by Public Health in 2013, and others. These efforts may include:~~
- ~~a. Partnering with private businesses, community organizations and educational institutions to provide job shadowing, internship and summer job opportunities for King County youth; and~~
  - ~~b. Partnering with Maritime and Manufacturing industry businesses, and other business sectors, to engage high school students in vocational programs that offer training for living wage industry jobs, and working with these businesses to engage schools in promoting regional opportunities for apprenticeships and internships for high school students.~~

- ED-305)) ~~ED-304~~ King County shall help promote and develop opportunities for ~~((limited English proficiency populations))~~ communities that speak languages other than English, including:
- a. Partnering and investing in community organizations that represent ~~((limited English proficiency populations))~~ linguistically diverse populations;
  - b. Improving translation and interpretation services;
  - c. Partnering with ~~((private business))~~ employers to promote the hiring of ~~((limited English proficiency populations))~~ people that speak languages other than English; and
  - d. Partnering with regional educational institutions to develop methods for recertification for limited English proficiency professionals with credentials from other countries, and partnering with community organizations to promote and increase access to recertification programs.
- ((ED-306)) ~~ED-305~~ King County shall work with regional workforce development organizations and regional educational institutions, especially community colleges, to promote greater alignment between educational programs and workforce needs.
- ((H-159)) ~~ED-306~~ King County should support programs and projects that provide apprenticeship and employment training in the building trades through affordable housing development. King County should explore ways to partner with non((-))profit housing developers in offering pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and employment training opportunities.

## IV. Infrastructure Development

Adequate and well-maintained public infrastructure is crucial to a strong economy and attracting new industry and economic development. Basic public services that maintain a high quality of life in an area support employment growth and increased productivity, and influence business location decisions.

- ED-401 ~~((King County recognizes that adequate infrastructure is essential to support existing economic activity and to attract new industry and development. The county therefore))~~ King County shall support((s)) and partner((s)) on programs and strategies to maintain existing infrastructure and construct new infrastructure and facilities (including, but not limited to, transportation, utilities, schools, information, communications, ((including)) and an adequate supply of housing), prioritizing historically underinvested areas, and as necessary to accommodate current and future economic demand, in locations and at a size and scale that is consistent with other policies in the Comprehensive Plan.
- ED-402 King County ~~((will))~~ shall partner to support programs, ~~((and partnerships))~~ and infrastructure, including electrification, to facilitate the efficient movement of freight and to promote global competitiveness for business and industry.
- ED-403 King County shall partner, where feasible, with Indian tribes, cities, ((jurisdictions and other stakeholders)) and organizations to develop ~~((subarea))~~ targeted economic development strategies to promote

development and redevelopment in areas that can accommodate growth.

**ED-404** ~~((Through local subarea planning and partnerships with other agencies and organizations;))~~ King County should use planning initiatives, zoning, incentives, partnerships, or other measures to capitalize on the economic benefit of infrastructure projects in locations and at a size and scale that is consistent with other policies in the Comprehensive Plan.

**ED-405** King County should support programs and partnerships to facilitate the development of adequate technology infrastructure, to meet growing technological demand, and to ensure high-quality infrastructure for the regional economy.

## V. Sustainable Economic Development ~~((in the Private Sector))~~

~~((It is the goal of))~~ King County ~~((to work toward becoming))~~ seeks to become a model sustainable community ~~((where both the public and private sectors seek to))~~ that balances urban growth with natural resource protection while addressing climate change. Sustainable economic development ~~((seeks))~~ aims to achieve this goal by addressing the environmental impacts of the built environment in which people live and work. Sustainable economic development is implemented through planning, design, and construction methods, including green building and ~~((L))~~low ~~((H))~~impact ~~((D))~~development that promotes environmental quality, economic vitality, and healthy communities.

~~((King County also works to increase the sustainability awareness of its residents. The county offers a Localize Sustainability tool, which help residents track and develop strategies for increasing their own sustainability profile. Transportation is also key element of sustainability. Public transportation will play an important role in protecting the environment by reducing emissions and supporting more compact land use patterns;))~~ King County seeks to foster innovative design and development techniques in the private sector that reduce the negative impacts of site development and building construction while maintaining ~~((affordability and economic development))~~ a favorable business climate.

**ED-501** King County should encourage, support, and promote the application of sustainable economic development practices in all private sector development within the county, through adopting development codes that support green building and partnering with other cities and the private sector to foster sustainable development. ~~((This may be accomplished through working with residential and commercial developers to use Low Impact Development principles and practices, including minimized impervious surface areas, protect ground and surface water within a watershed, ensure that habitat protection needs are incorporated into development proposals to the extent possible, incorporate greater use of green building materials, eliminate, to the extent possible, the use of materials that pose health hazards, and utilize systems that conserve or reuse resources, including those that use energy more efficiently. When King County provides technical assistance and incentives for the use of sustainable development practices, it shall be at no cost to any private sector development. King~~

County shall collaborate with the private sector on potential future regulatory tools:

ED-501a King County shall strive to promote green building and smart building practices throughout private, public and residential uses and support programs that foster this type of development through collaboration with jurisdictions and other sectors:

ED-503 King County shall identify and evaluate potential changes to land use development regulations and building codes to support and promote sustainable development:

ED-504 King County should participate in the development and use of national standards for measuring sustainability at the community scale and the breadth and effectiveness of county policies and practices that improve community-scale sustainability:))

## VI. The Rural Economy

((King County values its entire Rural Area and the Natural Resources Lands and recognizes the traditional economic activities that support rural communities and a rural lifestyle. A healthy and sustainable rural economy is necessary to ensure rural residents can continue to both live and work throughout the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. The farm, livestock, and forestry operations, the many entrepreneurial home-based businesses, the Rural Towns, Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, and the Cities in the Rural Area all provide rural residents with goods, services, and employment.))

Within unincorporated rural King County, economic activities include, but are not limited to, farming, livestock raising, equestrian uses, forestry, resource value-added businesses, and home-based businesses. The Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center((s are designed to)) land use designation provides for a limited array of goods and services to local rural residents on a small scale. ((The)) Rural Towns provide a wider range of goods, services, and jobs for rural residents, including retail, restaurants, and services. ((The designated)) Natural Resource Lands support the long-term commercial aspects of agriculture and forestry and potential resource value((d))-added products.

The County also recognizes that the land areas, economies, and natural beauty of the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands ((designations)) benefit all county residents. The agriculture sector provides a ((safe)) high-quality and reliable local food source((= keeping costs low and quality high=)) to restaurants, ((and households, the majority of which are in urban areas, and regionally to farmers markets and specialty stores)) institutions, farmers markets, and individual consumers. The Rural ((King County)) Area and Natural Resource Lands provide((s)) many diverse recreation and tourism opportunities, including scenic vistas; trails for hiking, bicycling, off-road, and equestrian use; ((harvest festivals,)) open space and wildlife habitat; and working farms and forest lands, all within a short distance from ((the)) urban centers.

A vibrant and sustainable rural economy depends on several factors, including, but not limited to, preserving and enhancing the businesses within traditional rural economic ((clusters)) sectors, ensuring that new commercial enterprises are of a size and scale that is consistent with and retains the rural character of the surrounding area, and changes in regulations to reflect and respond to the differing needs and emerging trends of rural economic activity while protecting the natural environment.

((In 2004, the King County Comprehensive Plan was amended to include a policy that directed the county to develop and implement a rural economic development strategy. To comply with this policy, the county developed an annual Rural Economic Strategies Report in 2005 and began implementing the identified strategies and actions in 2006. Annual reporting occurred through 2008. Ordinance 17485, which adopted the 2012 Comprehensive Plan, called for an update to the Rural Economic Strategies to build upon the work done previously. In response to this, a Rural Economic Strategies Plan was adopted in 2014 via Ordinance 17956.

The mission of the Rural Economic Strategies Plan is to advance the long-term economic viability of the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, with an emphasis on farming, forestry, and other rural businesses consistent with the unique character of rural King County. The mission is accomplished by initiating and implementing specific strategies and actions to support and enhance rural economic viability. Rural businesses generally fall into six rural economic clusters and each cluster is supported by specific strategies and actions to strengthen and/or enhance it. The clusters are: Agriculture, Forestry, Equestrian, Home-Based Businesses (i.e., those home occupations that are allowed on lands designated Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Area), Recreation and Tourism, Commercial and Industrial Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, Rural Towns, and Cities in the Rural Area. Consistent with CP-539, found in Chapter 11, Community Service Area Subarea Planning, no expansion of industrial land use or zoning is allowed within the Rural Town of Fall City.

The specific strategies and actions are intended to be flexible in order to respond to evolving rural business needs and changes within any of the economic clusters. Periodically, the county evaluates the actions accomplished to date, introduces new actions to be initiated, and discusses proposed actions for the following year. This ensures the process stays flexible and is current with evolving trends in the rural economy. It is anticipated that this procedure will become part of the Annual Work Plans developed for each of the Community Service Areas.

The rural economic policies are designed to establish and maintain a long-term commitment to a sustainable and vibrant rural economy. They support implementation of the Rural Economic Strategies Plan; continued evaluation of county codes to support the evolving agriculture, forestry, and other rural economic clusters; and support for programs and strategies that foster a diversified rural economy, compatible with existing rural character, while maintaining the natural environment.))

The ability to bring rural, agricultural, forestry, and value-added products into the urban area and the ability of urban residents to utilize the Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands for education, open space, scenic vistas, and a diversity of out((=))door recreation options encourage((s)) the urban/rural interdependence and linkage, thus enhancing the county's ((economic base)) economy.

**ED-601** King County is committed to a sustainable and vibrant rural economy that allows rural residents to live and work throughout the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. County policy, regulations, and programs should be reviewed and developed in partnership with cities, chambers of commerce, rural businesses, the Agriculture and Rural Forest Commissions, ((the Community Service Area)) community groups, and others to support the preservation and enhancement of traditional rural economic activities and lifestyles, while supporting evolving compatible commercial uses and job opportunities.



- ED-602 King County should identify and implement ~~((the Rural Economic Strategies Plan to guide future))~~ rural economic development ~~((and will modify and add))~~ strategies ~~((as needed to))~~ that reflect the evolving nature of the rural economy, while protecting the traditional rural economic clusters.
- a. King County recognizes the value of the agriculture and forestry clusters for both their economic contribution and for their natural, educational, and recreational benefits to the county as a whole. The ~~((c))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall work with the Agriculture Commission, Rural Forest Commission, and other related organizations on strategies and programs to strengthen and enhance the economic viability of these clusters and the evolving value-added industry that helps sustain the county's legacy of raising crops and livestock and managing and harvesting forestlands.
  - b. King County recognizes the value of home-based business, recreation and tourism, and commercial and industrial clusters for their ability to provide job opportunities in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, and help sustain the rural economic base. The ~~((c))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall continue to work with chambers of commerce and other organizations that support these rural businesses to help ensure the continued viability and economic health of new and existing businesses in these clusters.
  - c. King County recognizes the importance of the equestrian cluster for its diversity of business and recreation-related operations ~~((which))~~ that combine to provide jobs and income opportunities within the rural economy. The ~~((c))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall continue to work with equestrian-related organizations on business and recreation aspects of the equestrian cluster and with organizations that represent the various trail user groups to help ensure the continued viability and economic health of equestrian and related recreation businesses.
  - d. As a means and in support of protecting rural character and Natural Resource Lands, King County recognizes the value of the partnership with Cities in the Rural Area to act as local urban centers for employment and centers of commerce that provides goods and services for the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands. The ~~((c))~~County ~~((will))~~ shall work with the cities and other organizations to support economic development for Cities in the Rural Area, at a size and scale consistent with the Growth Management Act.
  - e. King County is committed to ensuring that all economic development, including the provision of infrastructure, within the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands shall be compatible with the surrounding rural character, be of an appropriate size and scale, and protect the natural environment.
  - f. King County ~~((will))~~ shall continue to support and partner on programs and incentives to ensure the economic vitality of rural historic resources to help maintain the character of the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands.

- g. King County ((will)) shall explore opportunities to support agricultural tourism and value-added program(s) related to the production of food, flowers, and specialty beverages (including beer, distilled beverages, and wine) in the county. Partnership venues should be educational and include information on the diversity of products available in the county and the importance of buying local, should seek to unify regional tourism efforts, and should encourage development of new markets for agricultural products and value-added goods.
- h. King County ((will)) shall continue to review existing and proposed regulations to ensure they are relevant and effective in accommodating the differing needs and emerging trends of the compatible businesses that comprise the rural economy.
- i. King County should continue to identify the infrastructure needs of the rural economic clusters, including transportation, drainage, and information technology needs, and provide support for these needs, including identification of other funding sources.
- j. King County should continue to identify and encourage businesses to take advantage of incentives and technical assistance programs that promote economic viability of existing and new businesses in the Rural Area and Natural Resources Lands, particularly in the Agricultural and Forest Production Districts.

~~((ED-603) King County should partner with other Puget Sound counties and businesses to analyze the need and possible sites for regional agricultural (such as beef and poultry) and forest product processing. King County recognizes the importance of food and forest processing for the regional economy and should partner with regional communities, governments and residents to ensure that the challenges and opportunities within this industry are analyzed and addressed as needed.~~

ED-604)) ED-603 King County ((will continue to)) shall partner with organizations that support programs and strategies that strengthen the interdependence and linkage between the rural, resource-based, and urban economies((, such as the Regional Food Policy Council and Puget Sound Fresh)).

~~((ED-605) King County recognizes the value of open and green space in promoting social and economic health and wellness throughout the county. The county will continue to invest in public lands and partner with organizations that support and strengthen the linkages between rural, resource and urban communities' use and maintenance of these open spaces.~~

ED-606)) ED-604 King County ((will)) shall encourage ((economic analysis and)) economic development of the local food system ((as called for in the Local Food Initiative)). The County shall seek funding to analyze barriers to growing the local food economy; make food system infrastructure improvements, including related to commercial kitchens, storage, aggregation and packing, and meat processing; and increase access to farmland.



A photograph of a parade taking place on a city street. In the foreground, a person is wearing a large, orange, lobster-like costume with yellow accents and is walking. Next to them, a man in a pink shirt and a grey baseball cap is walking, holding a large white umbrella. In the background, there are other people, some sitting on the ground, and a brick building with a sign that says "FRESH BAGELS". A red sign with the word "CAFFE" is also visible at the top right.

## CHAPTER 11

# SUBAREA PLANNING



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King County had a robust community planning program that occurred in two distinct periods=1973 through 1984 to implement the 1964 Comprehensive Plan, and 1985 through 1994 to implement the 1984 Comprehensive Plan. Since then, here have only been minor updates to community plans that were processed through updates to the Comprehensive Plan.

After nearly two decades of aging plans and significant growth King County leadership renewed its interest in more detailed long-range planning for unincorporated rural and urban communities in 2014 by providing funding to re-initiate a subarea planning program. The policies in this chapter are based on these historical adopted Community Plans and will be updated as part of the community planning process in coming years.

7

8

## A.)) I. Subarea Planning Framework ((and Geography))

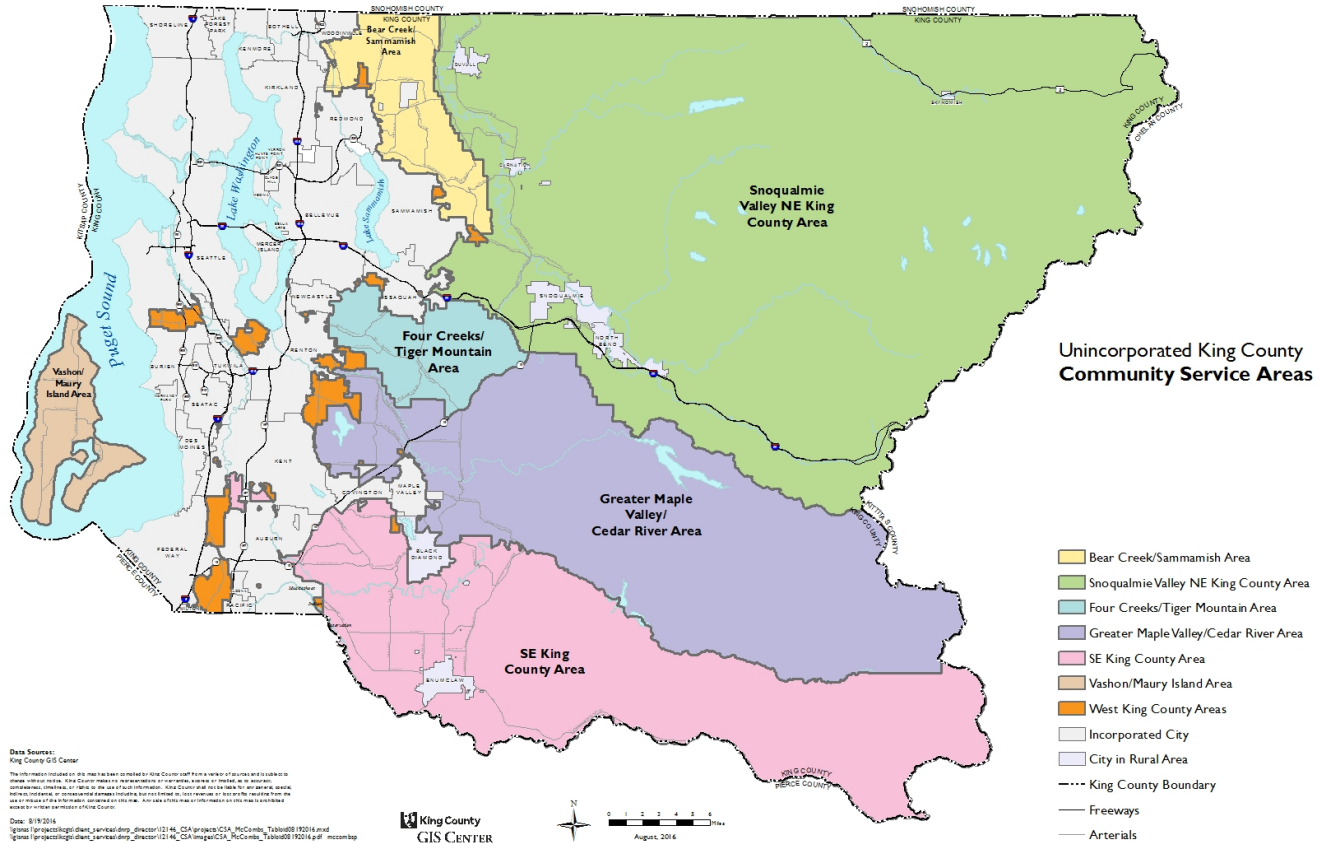
### A. Introduction

((Beginning with the 2016 Comprehensive Plan t))The geographical boundaries of the County's seven Community Service Areas ((will be)) is used as the framework for creation and amendment of subarea plans ((created and amended from that point forward)). Subarea plans will be developed for the six rural Community Service Areas, and for the five remaining large urban unincorporated ((p))Potential ((a))Annexation ((a))Areas. The focus of subarea plans will be on locally((=))specific issues in these subarea geographies.

((There are a number of key benefits to defining subarea planning boundaries to be coterminous with the Community Service Area boundaries. This structure organizes the County's unincorporated planning area into fewer and more manageable territories so that updates of the plans can occur within a shorter time horizon. Using the Community Service Area boundaries also aligns land use planning with other county services and programs thereby increasing consistency between planning and public service delivery. Finally, since the last round of subarea planning in 1994 there have been numerous major annexations and incorporations which mean some subareas are now largely within the jurisdiction of cities and thus the County now has just a regional, rather than local, planning role in those areas.

**Figure: Community Service Areas Map))**





While there are differences among the Community Service Areas in terms of their boundaries, range of land uses, annexation issues, and more, using ~~((this accepted geography with))~~ these geographies ensures the entire unincorporated portion of the County receives ~~((some level of))~~ locally focused planning on a regular cycle. This includes development of each ~~((Community Service Area's))~~ subarea plan. Each plan will establish ~~((goals;))~~ a community vision statement, guiding principles, and policies ~~((; and))~~ focused on addressing each community's needs and priorities. The plans will be developed using information such as population changes, employment targets, and similar demographic and socioeconomic indicators. ~~((To address the unique issues in each geography, Community Service Area subarea plans may also have more refined focuses on rural town centers, urban neighborhoods, business districts, or corridor approaches;))~~ Each plan will also establish performance measures to monitor the implementation of the plan.

The high-level review along with more detailed land use planning will be guided by a series of considerations such as community interest, ~~((social equity;))~~ funding, and new development. Equity and racial and social justice principles will also play a particularly key role during subarea plan development and public engagement activities. The County will use the tools and resources developed by the Office of Equity and Racial and Social Justice to develop the scope of work and the plans so that Black, Indigenous, and other ((p))People of ((c))Color((-); ((low-income residents)) households at or below 80 percent of area median income((-); and ((populations with limited English proficiency will be informed and)) people speaking languages other than English are offered equitable and culturally((-))appropriate opportunities to ((participate in its)) work with the County throughout the planning process.

60  
61 ((To the extent practicable, s)) Subarea plans ((in unincorporated King County should  
62 be)) are developed in close coordination between the community and ((e)) County staff  
63 ((that may have a lead or partial role in implementing the plans)) to ensure clearer  
64 expectations on how and whether community recommendations in a subarea plan are  
65 feasible for implementation and within what type of timeframe. This type of  
66 coordination, supported by the financial analysis noted in the following policy, is critical  
67 to all subarea ((and functional)) plans ((in order)) to evaluate the resources required and  
68 the time((-))frame necessary for full implementation. Plan alternatives and costs should  
69 be clearly understood and plans should be financially achievable.  
70

71 **CP-100 King County shall implement a ((Community Service Area)) subarea**  
72 **planning program. This program shall include((s)) the following**  
73 **components for the development and implementation of each subarea**  
74 **plan:**

75 a. **A subarea plan ((shall be)) developed and adopted for each of the**  
76 **six rural Community Service Areas and five large urban Potential**  
77 **Annexation Areas ((consistent with the scheduled established in**  
78 **the Comprehensive Plan and King County Code Title 20. Each**  
79 **subarea plan shall be)), streamlined to be focused on locally((-**  
80 **)specific policies that address long-range community needs((-),**  
81 **and including consideration of land use tools to help plan for and**  
82 **accommodate housing needs for all income levels;**

83 b. **A consideration of the financial costs and public benefits of the**  
84 **proposed subarea plan prior to adoption to ensure that**  
85 **implementation can be appropriately prioritized;**

86 c. **((The County shall adopt and update on an ongoing basis, a)) A list**  
87 **of services, programs, facilities, and capital improvements,**  
88 **updated on an ongoing basis, that are identified by the community**  
89 **for each geography, known as a community needs list, to**  
90 **implement the vision and policies in the subarea plan and other**  
91 **County plans and to build on the strengths and assets of the**  
92 **community((-));**

93 ((c-)) d. **((The County should dedicate)) Dedicated resources**  
94 **toward implementation of the subarea plans and community needs**  
95 **lists in coordination with each community so the highest priorities**  
96 **are addressed where the needs are greatest((-));**

97 ((d-)) e. **Implementation of each subarea plan and community**  
98 **needs list ((shall be)) monitored on an ongoing basis via**  
99 **established performance metrics((-));**

100 ((e-)) f. **Community engagement for development, review,**  
101 **amendment, adoption, and implementation of each subarea plan**  
102 **((shall use)) using the Office of Equity and Racial and Social**  
103 **Justice's equity toolkit and centering engagement with historically**  
104 **underrepresented groups((-); and**

105 ((f-)) g. **The King County Council shall have an established role in**  
106 **the ((Community Service Area)) subarea planning process,**  
107 **including in the development, review, amendment, adoption, and**  
108 **monitoring the implementation of each subarea plan and**  
109 **community needs list.**

## 110 B. Planning Schedule

111 Below is the schedule for subarea planning using the Community Service Area  
112 geography. ((Reviewing all six rural Community Service Area subareas and five large  
113 urban Potential Annexation Areas over the next decade at both the broad, policy level  
114 and at the local, community level with detailed planning will facilitate a more equitable

**((2016)) 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan - ((updated December 6, 2022)) Adopted TBD Attachment A to Ordinance ((18427, as amended by Ordinances 18623, 18810, 19034, 19146, and 19555)) xxxxx (Proposed Ordinance 2023-0440)**

planning process. The plan sequencing was determined by subarea plans already underway, the ability to partner with other jurisdictions, anticipated community needs within a Community Service Area, and striving for a countywide geographic balance in alternating years.) The anticipated duration of each subarea planning process will be three years, which includes time for community engagement, plan development, and Council review and adoption.

**Schedule of ((Community Service Area)) Subarea Plans**

Planning	Transmittal	Adoption	Geography	Other Planning
<del>((2021-2023))</del>	December 2023	December 2024	Snoqualmie Valley/NE King CSA	Eight-Year Update))
<del>((2023-2025))</del> 2024-2026	June <del>((2025))</del> 2026	June <del>((2026))</del> 2027	Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River CSA	
<del>((2024-2026))</del> 2025-2027	June <del>((2026))</del> 2027	June <del>((2027))</del> 2028	Fairwood Potential Annexation Area (PAA)	
2026-2028	June 2028	June 2029		Potential Midpoint Comprehensive Plan Update
<del>((2025-2027))</del> 2028-2030	June <del>((2027))</del> 2030	June <del>((2028))</del> 2031	Bear Creek/Sammamish CSA	Potential update for "Implementation Progress Report Work Plan"
<del>((2026-2028))</del> 2029-2031	June <del>((2028))</del> 2031	June <del>((2029))</del> 2032	Southeast King County CSA	<del>((Potential Midpoint Update))</del>
2031-2033	June 2033	June 2034		10-year Comprehensive Plan Update
<del>((2027-2029))</del> 2033-2035	June <del>((2029))</del> 2035	June <del>((2030))</del> 2036	Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain CSA	
<del>((2028-2030))</del> 2034-2036	June <del>((2030))</del> 2036	June <del>((2031))</del> 2037	East Renton PAA	
<del>((2029-2031))</del> 2035-2037	June <del>((2031))</del> 2037	June <del>((2032))</del> 2038	Federal Way PAA	<del>((Eight-Year Update))</del>
2036-2038	June 2038	June 2039		Potential Midpoint Comprehensive Plan Update
TBD(( <sup>2</sup> )) <sup>1</sup>		TBD	Vashon-Maury Island CSA	
TBD(( <sup>2</sup> )) <sup>1</sup>		TBD	Skyway-West Hill PAA	
TBD(( <sup>2</sup> )) <sup>1</sup>		TBD	North Highline PAA	
<u>TBD<sup>1</sup></u>		<u>TBD</u>	<u>Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King CSA</u>	

Note: Planning for each geography is anticipated to take two years, beginning in July of the first year and ending in June two years later. Council adoption anticipated to occur in June of the following year.

1. ~~((The Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County subarea planning process began later in 2021 than anticipated. Therefore, the schedule was adjusted to provide necessary time for community engagement and plan development.~~  
2.)) The Vashon-Maury Island, Skyway-West Hill, ~~((and)) North Highline, and Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County~~ subarea plans have been adopted and will be updated following completion of the other ~~((Community Service Area))~~ Subarea Plans. The timelines for these updates will be determined in future updates to the King County Comprehensive Plan.

~~((For each of the Community Service Area subarea planning, the subarea plans and their scope of work shall include:~~

<del>Study</del> in <del>Motion</del> <del>14351</del> <del>Legislative Direction</del>	<del>Community Service Area</del>
<p>Snoqualmie Pass Subarea Plan:</p> <p><del>Initiate a subarea plan for Snoqualmie Pass rural town and ski area. The subarea plan should be developed in collaboration with Kittitas County, evaluate and address the current and future housing and economic development needs of this growing community, and include outreach with the local community in its development.</del></p>	Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County CSA
<p>Cedar Hills/Maple Valley Subarea Plan:</p> <p><del>Initiate a subarea plan for the "Cedar Hills/Maple Valley" area. Review land use designations and implementing zoning on parcels 2823069009, 2923069019, 2923069080, 2923069082, 2923069083, 2923069084, 3223069001, 3223069003, 3223069068, 3323069027, 3323069030, and 3323069042 and the surrounding area, which has long-standing industrial and resource material processing uses. Study and make recommendations on the potential long-term land uses for this area, including coordination with the County's planning on future closure of the adjacent Cedar Hills landfill. Include evaluation of options for land uses other than mining, including residential uses, non-residential uses; whether a four-to-one proposal is appropriate for this area; and outreach with the local community in its development.<sup>4</sup></del></p>	Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain CSA
<p>Snoqualmie Interchange:</p> <p><del>Initiate a land use and zoning study for the Snoqualmie Interchange, and area north of I-90 impacted by the new Interstate 90/Highway 18 interchange. The study should include, at a minimum, review and recommendation of the appropriate zoning for properties abutting the urban growth area boundary. The study should</del></p>	<del>Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County (CSA))</del>

~~((<sup>4</sup> Motion 14351))~~

Study in Motion 14351 Legislative Direction	Community Service Area
<p><del>include the properties west of Snoqualmie Way along SE 99th that could have access to urban services, should recognize and protect the forested visual character of the Mountains to Sound National Scenic byway on Interstate 90 as well as provide appropriate conservation mitigation for any newly allowed development. The area land use and zoning study, subarea plan and land use designations and zoning classifications should focus on solutions for the northwest corner while planning a vision for the properties on the northeast portions abutting the urban growth area. The plan should also ensure potential trail connections for regional trails and adhere to current King County policies. The Executive should collaborate with the City of Snoqualmie, affected Tribes, Washington state DOT, DNR, property owners, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, regional partners and the community.</del></p>	

The schedule above ensures that subarea plan goals and objectives are up-to-date and relevant based on current and future needs. Within this larger structure, if a property owner has an interest in a land use change outside of this planning cycle, they are able to use the existing land use processes. Property owners can submit for a Site Specific Land Use Amendment or Zone Reclassification, per King County Code 20.18.050 and Chapter 20.20, respectively. ~~((If a significant land use issue arises in a Community Service Area outside of the planning cycle, the cycle may be adjusted.~~

~~In consideration of the restructure of the subarea planning program adopted in 2018 and 2020, the County will evaluate initiating a performance audit of the program once the restructure has been implemented, by adding a requirement to the King County Auditor's work plan during the 2023-2024 biennium. Additionally, f)Following the completion of the first subarea planning cycle, the subarea planning schedule for developing and adopting updates to the subarea plans moving forward will be reviewed as part of the ((2032-eight)) next midpoint or 10-year Comprehensive Plan update. This review will include evaluation of whether the subarea plan update schedule and process can be condensed from its current planning cycle.~~

## C. ~~((Background))~~ Subarea Planning History

Between 1973 and 1994 King County prepared community plans for 12 ~~((subareas))~~ areas of unincorporated King County. The first generation of community plans, ~~((substantially completed by))~~ from 1973 to 1984, were used to implement the ~~((c))~~County's 1964 Comprehensive Plan, and consisted of detailed land use policies, area zoning, and lists of capital projects (primarily roads and parks) for each planning area. The second generation of community plans, from 1985 to 1994, implemented many concepts of the 1985 King County Comprehensive Plan (for example low-density zoning for the Rural Area(s)), Natural Resource Lands and ~~((environmentally sensitive))~~ areas with critical areas, higher urban residential densities, and development guidelines for major urban activity centers such as Kenmore) that were carried over to the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan.



Under King County's pre-Growth Management Act planning system, if a community plan conflicted with the comprehensive plan, the community plan governed. Under the Growth Management Act, ~~((the comprehensive plan prevails over<sup>u</sup>))~~ subarea~~((s))~~ plans ((Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.080((2))) are required to be consistent with the comprehensive plan. The 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan spelled out the relationship between the comprehensive plan and community plans and directed the ~~((e))~~ County to review community plans and repeal or revise them to eliminate conflicts. The ~~((c))~~ County ~~((has))~~ reviewed the community plans adopted between 1973 and 1994 and determined that, while most community plans' policies are redundant (or, in a few cases, in conflict with the 1994 Comprehensive Plan), some are area-specific or issue specific and should be readopted as part of the ~~((e))~~ Comprehensive ~~((p))~~ Plan.

The following table illustrates how the Community Service Area geography aligns with the former Community Planning Area geography; this is provided to identify how the existing policies are re-assigned into the current geographic structure.

<b>Community Service Area</b>	<i>Includes parts of the following former <b>Community Planning Areas</b></i>
Bear Creek / Sammamish Area	Bear Creek, Northshore, East Sammamish
Four Creeks / Tiger Mountain Area	Tahoma Raven Heights, Snoqualmie
Greater Maple Valley / Cedar River Area	Tahoma Raven Heights, Soos Creek, East King County, Snoqualmie
Southeast King County Area	Enumclaw, Tahoma Raven Heights, East King County, Soos Creek
Snoqualmie Valley / NE King County Area	Snoqualmie, East King County, East Sammamish
Vashon - Maury Island	Vashon
West King County Areas (unincorp. urban)	Portions of 10 Community Planning Areas

Although ~~((the majority))~~ none of the community plans are ~~((no longer))~~ still in effect ~~((as separately adopted plans))~~, in many cases the published plan documents contain valuable historical information about King County's communities and other information that provides background for the policies listed below and for the portions of the local pre-Growth Management Act area zoning that remain in effect. ~~((The only separately adopted community plan from these previous planning efforts currently in effect is the Fall City Subarea Plan:))~~

The following sections of this chapter will be updated~~((, as appropriate,))~~ to reflect the ~~((new Community Service Area))~~ subarea plans as they are adopted. The subarea plans that have been adopted under the new subarea planning framework include: the Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan, the Skyway-West Hill Community Service Area Subarea Plan, ~~((and))~~ the North Highline Community Service Area Subarea Plan, and the Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County Subarea Plan.

## II. Bear Creek / Sammamish ((Area))

The Bear Creek/Sammamish Community Service Area consists of portions of the following former Community Planning Areas: Bear Creek, Northshore and East Sammamish. Large sections of this area have been annexed into the cities of Bothell and Redmond and have incorporated into the cities of Kenmore, Sammamish and Woodinville. The Urban Planned Developments east of the City of Redmond were controlled through development agreements; however, those agreements were expiring and, in 2020, King County established land use and zoning for these areas. King County will not permit additional similar urban-scale development outside the Urban Growth Area. The policies listed below pertain to areas within the Community Service Area that are still within unincorporated King County.

In 2014, the estimated population in the Bear Creek/Sammamish CSA was 44,000. Of this total, 9,000 people were estimated to live in the Redmond Ridge Urban Planned Development and 34,900 people were estimated to live in the CSA rural portion. In 2010, there were a total of 15,850 housing units in the CSA. Of this total, 3,540 were in the Redmond Ridge Urban Planned Development and 12,300 were in the CSA rural portion.

### A. Background

**Bear Creek.** The Bear Creek Community Plan became effective in February 1989, and directed most forecast growth into a concentrated area near the City of Redmond Watershed, first referred to as the "Novelty Hill Master Planned Developments." The rest of the Bear Creek Plateau was designated for a mixture of suburban and rural residential development. The 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan redesignated most of the planning area as Rural Area. In 1995, some of the Bear Creek Community Plan's policies relating to the Novelty Hill Master Planned Developments (MPDs) were amended by Ordinance 11954. Also, the 1994 Comprehensive Plan refers to MPDs as Urban Planned Developments.

After the 1994 Comprehensive Plan's urban designation of the Urban Planned Developments sites was appealed and remanded to the county, the sites in question were redesignated for Fully Contained Communities as defined in the Growth Management Act, as well as Urban Planned Developments ((See policy U-178)). The readopted policies for the most part address Novelty Hill and some area-specific transportation and trail issues.

**East Sammamish.** The East Sammamish Community Plan was adopted in December 1992. The East Sammamish Community Plan Update became effective in June 1993. Most of the planning area was designated for urban development, but important Rural Areas included Happy Valley, Grand Ridge and the eastern edge of the Sammamish Plateau. For the most part, the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan reaffirmed the land use designations of the East Sammamish Community Plan Update. The major changes from the community plan occasioned by the 1994 Comprehensive Plan were replacement of the "urban reserve" approach to growth phasing with the service and finance strategy outlined in the 1994 Comprehensive Plan and the designation of a portion of Grand Ridge for urban growth.

**Northshore.** The first "Northshore Communities Development Plan" began in 1972-1973 and was adopted in August 1977. Almost immediately the Northshore Community Plan Revision Committee was established, and the "Revised Northshore Community Plan" was adopted in 1981.

The latest Northshore Community Plan Update began in July 1988 and was adopted in February 1993. During 1993, the newly incorporated City of Woodinville assumed jurisdiction within its territory. Portions of the planning area have been annexed by Bothell, Kirkland and Redmond. Kenmore, a significant unincorporated activity center, became a city in August 1998.

## B. Bear Creek Policies

**CP-101** To provide a range of housing opportunities and accommodate a fair share of growth in Bear Creek, the Novelty Hill subarea should be designated an urban planned development (UPD) and fully contained community (FCC). This designation will be implemented by urban planned development. (BC-3)

**CP-102** Urban planned development will be permitted in the Novelty Hill subarea only when the following planning policies are met:

- a. To protect existing wetlands, streams and wildlife habitat, urban planned development shall be consistent with the intent of King County ordinances, King County Comprehensive Plan policies, and sensitive areas regulations. The design of the proposed development shall protect and preserve existing wetlands, streams and wildlife habitat by several methods including (but not limited to) minimizing alterations to the natural drainage features, maintaining water quality, preserving storage capacity, providing undisturbed unique/outstanding wetlands and undisturbed or enhanced buffers, restricting the number of stream crossings, and minimizing erosion and sedimentation. To achieve the intent of this policy it may be necessary to exceed the requirements of the King County wetland guidelines.
- b. A master drainage plan for the Novelty Hill subarea shall be approved by King County.
- c. New development adjacent to a unique/outstanding or significant wetland should preserve or enhance the wetland and provide an undisturbed buffer around the wetland adequate to protect its natural functions. Encroachments into significant wetlands may be allowed when no feasible alternative exists and enhancements are provided to replace the lost wetland functions; and
- d. Groundwater recharge areas should be identified and protected to ensure that groundwater resources are protected from potential pollution.
- e. To ensure that the existing road system in both King County and Redmond is not adversely affected, on-site and off-site traffic impacts shall be mitigated consistent with the Integrated Transportation Program (K.C.C. chapter 14.65).
- f. A project environmental impact statement (EIS) shall be required for all property proposed for urban planned development within the Urban Planned Development area. The project EIS shall address the full range of public services necessary to serve urban development on Novelty Hill. The EIS shall include the cost of these services, the financial responsibility of the developer(s) and affected jurisdictions, and the method of phasing development to coincide with availability of these public services.
- g. Since the remainder of residential land in Bear Creek will either be recognized as existing one-acre neighborhoods or designated as Rural Areas, all improvements to public facilities, including but not limited to road construction and sewers, shall be financed by the

Urban Planned Development developers provided the impacts are the result of UPD developments or according to a fair-share formula agreed to by affected parties.

- h. A full range of housing densities, types and prices including housing for low-, moderate-, and medium-income groups shall be included in the Urban Planned Development. The mix of single-family and multifamily housing in the Urban Planned Developments shall approximate the existing county housing stock mix.
- i. Urban planned development shall maintain and keep open for public use identified major equestrian and hiking trails.
- j. Urban planned development shall provide active recreation facilities that adequately serve the needs of future residents and employees.
- k. Urban planned development shall provide a minimum of 25% open space in addition to the preservation of all surveyed wetlands.
- l. The Novelty Hill urban planned development area shall contain an urban activity center, which includes a commercial center to provide for the everyday shopping needs of the planned Urban Planned Development population.
- m. The activity center shall also contain a business park of sufficient size to provide a diversity of employment opportunities and a balance of jobs and households for the Urban Planned Development area.
- n. In order to preserve opportunities for a variety of employment types in the business park areas, retail development in freestanding buildings should be excluded. Up to 10% of gross floor area in business park buildings may be planned for retail uses, such as restaurants and business services, to serve business park employees.
- o. Development conditions for the shopping and business park areas should encourage high quality development and site design.
  - The area will revert to rural if UPD development is denied or not pursued. If the UPD area reverts to rural, the zoning shall be RA-5. (BC-4)

**CP-103** Sewer facilities necessary to serve urban planned development on Novelty Hill are planned, designed and constructed to serve only such development and are prohibited from serving nearby surrounding low-density urban and Rural Areas. Proposals to extend sewer service or expand urban development outside the Novelty Hill subarea are not appropriate and are inconsistent with the purpose of the King County Comprehensive Plan. (BC-5)

**CP-104** The Novelty Hill urban planned development or fully contained community shall contain a commercial area of sufficient size to serve the future residents and employees. (BC-17)

**CP-105** The natural drainage systems of Bear, Evans, and Patterson Creeks should be restored, maintained, and enhanced to protect water quality, preserve existing aquatic habitat, reduce public costs, and prevent environmental degradation. Public improvements and private developments should not alter natural drainage systems without mitigating measures which eliminate increased risk of flooding and erosion, negative impacts on water quality, and loss on aquatic or riparian habitat. (BC-32)

- CP-106** An undisturbed corridor wide enough to maintain the natural biological and hydrological functions of streams should be preserved in all new development in the Bear Creek Planning Area. (BC-34)
- CP-107** Bear, Evans, and Patterson Creeks and their tributaries should be protected from grazing animal access in order to: 1) reduce water quality degradation from animal wastes, 2) reduce bank collapse due to trampling, and 3) allow shading vegetation to reestablish along stream banks. (BC-35)
- CP-108** Streams channeled in the Bear, Evans, and Patterson Creek drainages should not be placed in culverts unless absolutely necessary for property access. To reduce disruption to streams and their banks, bridges should be used for stream crossings, and crossings should serve several properties. When culverts are required, oversized culverts with gravel bottoms that maintain the channels' width and grade should be used. (BC-38)
- CP-109** New development should rehabilitate degraded stream channels and banks in the Bear, Evans, and Patterson Creek drainages to prevent further erosion and water quality problems. Where conditions permit, the banks and channels should be restored to a natural state. (BC-39)
- CP-110** Unique or significant wildlife should be identified and preserved. Development plans should identify significant wildlife habitat and should locate buildings, roads, and other features on less sensitive portions of the site. These considerations may result in a reduction in density from that otherwise allowed by zoning. (BC-40)
- CP-111** The Bear and Evans Creeks' watersheds have been designated as critical areas for protection of the aquatic resources and human health. The following surface water management activities should be promoted.
- a. Appropriate and reasoned changes in land use policies and regulations may be evaluated during the preparation of the Bear/Evans Creeks Basin Plan.
  - b. Ensure adequate field inspection of land development activities.
  - c. Implement a public information program to promote water resources and stream channel protection.
  - d. The Bear and Evans Creeks Basin Plan shall develop recommendations for water quality monitoring and recommended methods for citizen input and evaluation to assess the success of the county's policies and regulations pertaining to this planning area. (BC-41)



- CP-112** Mitigation of traffic impacts to the City of Redmond arterial system will be accomplished through the interlocal agreement process. The Avondale arterial corridor study recommendations shall be used as a basis for traffic mitigation requirements for both city and county development affecting the corridor.
- a. Mitigation shall preserve the operational integrity of the corridor and maintain existing local access. The primary arterial corridor between the Novelty Hill urban area and SR-520 should be located and designed to encourage transit and ride-sharing alternatives to single-occupant vehicle travel.
  - b. Transportation planning of new facilities and management of the transportation system should be coordinated with current and forecast needs of the East Sammamish and Northshore planning areas, adjacent areas of Snohomish County, and with the cities of Redmond and Kirkland, and should be a cooperative effort of the affected jurisdictions. Phasing of Bear Creek and Redmond development should be strongly linked to the provision of adequate transportation facilities and travel demand management programs. (BC-45A)
- CP-113** Establishment of new rights-of-way and acquisition of additional right-of-way in existing corridors should emphasize protection of natural systems and adequate buffering of existing and potential residential development. (BC-47)
- CP-114** Road improvements in Cottage Lake, Ring Hill, Ames Lake, Union Hill, and the Rural Areas should incorporate design features such as grass lined swales to minimize surface water disruption and to protect and enhance water quality. (BC-49)
- CP-115** 196th Avenue Northeast ("Red Brick Road") between Union Hill Road and Redmond-Fall City Road (SR-202) is a historic road and should be preserved by restoring its brick surface, limiting vehicular loads and speeds, and prohibiting access to commercially-zoned properties to the west. Access to these properties should be provided by other existing roads and by a new north-south road connecting Union Hill Road and 185th/187th Avenues Northeast. (BC-50)
- CP-116** Park-and-ride and park-and-pool lots should be developed in Redmond, Cottage Lake, Ring Hill, Ames Lake, and Union Hill to provide focal points for transit and ride sharing. Park-and-pool lots should be located in Rural Areas along major commuting corridors such as SR-202, Redmond-Fall City Road, Novelty Hill Road, and Woodinville Duvall Road. (BC-52)
- CP-117** The Northwest Gas Pipeline and Puget Sound Power Line should be established as regional trails in Bear Creek to tie in with other planning areas and to connect with the King County Tolt Pipeline Trail and the Snoqualmie Valley Trail. (BC-61)
- CP-118** When the development of property occurs in Bear Creek, adequate rights-of-way should be provided for trail use. Trails should connect to existing and proposed schools, parks, riding stables, and recreation areas. (BC-62)

## C. East Sammamish Policies

- CP-119** For all new development, increased standards for retention/detention, water quality facilities, and monitoring shall be considered, adopted and implemented as appropriate within the areas identified in surface water management basin planning and reconnaissance study areas. (NE-1)
- CP-120** As new roads are built and existing roads widened, special consideration shall be taken to create or retain the aesthetic character of the area through the use of vegetated buffers that utilize native vegetation. (NE-3)
- CP-121** Control mechanisms equal to or more effective than those adopted by Ordinance 9365 limiting or removing phosphorus and other non-point source pollutants from water bodies should be established and implemented as special requirements in area-specific basins plans to provide added protection to streams, lakes, wetlands. The Lake Sammamish Water Quality Management Project Report and, upon their adoption, the Issaquah Creek and East Lake Sammamish Basin and Non-point Source Control Plan, the Pine Lake Management Plan and the Beaver Lake Management Plan recommendations should be implemented to protect water bodies from non-point source pollution. (NE-7)
- CP-122** Development shall protect wildlife through site design and landscaping. New development within or adjacent to the wildlife habitat network should incorporate design techniques that protect and enhance wildlife habitat values. (NE-10)
- CP-123** All golf course proposals shall be carefully evaluated for their impacts on surface and groundwater quality, sensitive areas, and fish and wildlife resources and habitat. (NE-11)
- CP-124** Water used for irrigating golf courses should come from nonpotable water sources wherever possible. Use of natural surface water sources, such as streams, should be avoided due to impacts on fish and other wildlife habitat. A water conservation plan shall be submitted with golf course applications which should address measures such as the use of drought-tolerant plant species. (NE-12)
- CP-125** The Patterson Creek Basin currently provides highly-productive aquatic habitat. Urban development within this basin should be conditioned to protect this resource by minimizing site disturbance, impervious surfaces and disturbances of wetlands and streams. (No Community Plan Policy Number)
- CP-126** The Northwest Pipeline office and maintenance shop is an existing use and is recognized by this plan as providing a needed service to the area. This 6.5 acre site may redevelop for pipeline utility and/or school bus base uses exclusive of major maintenance functions that are compatible with the surrounding rural development and agricultural uses. The existing construction and trade, trucking and courier service, and heavy equipment and truck repair uses on the site are recognized as legal nonconforming uses and allowed to continue in their current footprint and at their current intensity. Redesignation of additional properties in the immediate vicinity of Northwest Pipeline for

manufacturing park uses or other urban uses shall not be permitted.  
(CI-13)

**CP-127** New developments should be designed and constructed with an internal road system which includes a Neighborhood Collector linking with existing or planned adjacent developments, creating a complete Neighborhood Collector circulation system and such linkage should be designed to ensure safety of local streets. Through traffic on local access streets should be discouraged. (T-9)

**CP-128** Metropolitan King County Government should establish park-and-ride facilities in the East Sammamish Community Planning area. Park-and-ride facilities should be built along 228th Avenue and/or adjacent to I-90 and SR-202. The park-and-ride lots should be sited adjacent to and connect with existing or proposed community or neighborhood centers or within the employment center located around the intersection of E. Lake Sammamish Parkway and SE 56th Street. Establishment of a site near, but to the north of, I-90 should be high priority response to current and anticipated I-90 access problems. (T-13)

**CP-129** Consistent with the King County Open Space Plan, the county shall encourage establishment of an open space system in East Sammamish and give priority to protecting recreational, cultural and natural and sensitive areas such as shorelines, aquifer recharge areas, wildlife habitat, historic properties, archaeological sites, scenic vistas and community separators or greenbelts. The county may require lot clustering within or adjacent to open space areas; linkages between open spaces and may provide density bonuses or incentives to developers who preserve significant open space or establish trails beyond usually applied mitigation. (P-11)

**CP-130** Urban separators should be established to provide visual relief from continuous development, provide important linkages for wildlife habitat, and maintain a visual separation between distinct communities. (P-17)

**CP-131** There are areas within the urban separators that are especially suitable for trail connections for recreational use by present and anticipated population. King County should develop a trail and/or parks system utilizing the preserved open space within the urban separators. (P-18)

**CP-132** When the development of properties occurs in the East Sammamish planning area, public access or easements should be required to complete the development of a local trail system for those areas where existing trails have historically been used by the public, or where the King County Open Space Plan identifies proposed trail alignment for regional and local trails. The Parks Division shall review the application during the development review process. (P-23)

## D. Northshore Policies

**CP-133** The north and east slopes of Norway Hill have an established neighborhood character and limited future development potential. They are, therefore, designated low density urban, 1 home per acre. King County recognizes that extensive steep slopes and erosive soils at

the top of Norway Hill (above the 300-foot elevation mark) warrant lower residential densities. (E-10)

**CP-134** The undeveloped area to the south of Metro's Brickyard Park and Ride lot should retain its office-only designation in recognition of its proximity to a major transportation corridor and the need for increased employment opportunity in proximity to planned high-density residential areas. (E-13)

**CP-135** King County, Snohomish County, the City of Bothell, and the City of Woodinville should work on specific areas of mutual concern, such as the Swamp Creek and Daniels Creek drainage basins, the SR-527 transportation corridor, the proposed regional facilities of the University of Washington, and the future expansion of the City of Bothell. (E-25)

**CP-136** Significant vegetation is a diminishing resource in the Northshore community. Significant vegetation contributes significantly to environmental quality, neighborhood character, and the quality of life in Northshore. All new residential development shall retain significant existing vegetation. Native vegetation should be utilized wherever possible. (R-17)

**CP-137** New development must provide pedestrian connections to off-site facilities such as existing trails, walkways, community facilities and services, transit, schools and surrounding residential neighborhoods. Pedestrian links should be provided internally in all new residential development. Bicycle and equestrian links should be provided where possible. (R-19)

**CP-138** King County recognizes the importance of existing mobile home parks in providing affordable housing options. Mobile home parks outside of the Woodinville and Kenmore commercial core areas are designated for mobile home park uses, and shall be zoned appropriately.

- a. King County shall continue to examine the feasibility of funding and developing a replacement mobile home park in north King County for displaced mobile homes on county-owned or privately owned sites.
- b. King County should develop interlocal agreements with the cities of Bothell, Redmond, Kirkland, Woodinville and Kenmore for joint development of replacement parks to accommodate mobile home owners if they are displaced from mobile home parks within cities. (R-21)

**CP-139** Roadway improvements addressing the transportation needs in the Sammamish Valley from the South Woodinville bypass to Northeast 124th Street should carefully preserve the rural character of the valley as indicated by this and other adopted land use plans. Incorporating roadway design characteristics, such as tree windbreaks and shoulders instead of curb and gutter, will enhance this rural atmosphere. Access from adjacent properties to the proposed Willows Road extension shall be discouraged. Where access is necessary from adjacent properties, access shall be consolidated. (T-11)

**CP-140** Transportation projects in Northshore should incorporate bicycle friendly design, utilizing a variety of design techniques appropriate to the particular project and right-of-way characteristics, including, but not limited to, bicycle lanes, wide outside travel lanes, paved

shoulders, bicycle sensitive signal detectors, and appropriate signing. Existing bicycle facilities should be preserved or enhanced when general road improvements are made. Secure parking for bicycles should be provided at activity centers throughout Northshore. (T-33)

**CP-141** Pedestrian and bicycle linkages are encouraged and should be planned. There should also be a link for equestrian uses from Hollywood Hill and NE 171st Street to the Sammamish River trail in the vicinity of the South Woodinville CBD bypass. (W-14)

**CP-142** Protection of natural vegetation coverage at levels sufficient to moderate surface water runoff and erosion and to protect the integrity of stream channels should be required through special zoning requirements, critical drainage basin requirements, or countywide ordinance. When revegetation is required, appropriate native vegetation should be used. (NR-4)

**CP-143** Unique geologic conditions in Northshore have resulted in hillsides that have a high risk of large scale erosion. Increased on-site retention/detention requirements in areas drainage over steep and erosive slopes should be adopted and implemented as special zoning requirements. (NR-9)

**CP-144** A community-wide trail system for pedestrians, equestrians, and bicyclists should be developed. This trail system should connect regional trails with local trails and walkways. (P-6)

**CP-145** When the development of properties occurs in the Northshore Planning Area, public access or easements should be required to complete the development of a local trail system. Adequate right-of-way should be provided for trail use. To ensure that the provision of trail corridor right-of-way does not result in a reduction in the number of permitted building lots, the area within the trail right-of-way, not otherwise credited as part of a road right-of-way dedication, should also be credited toward the lot area of any proposed development. Trails should connect to existing and proposed schools, parks, riding stables, recreation areas and neighborhoods. (P9)

**CP146** King County should work closely with other jurisdictions and public agencies to seek appropriate trail links between elements of the open space system including, but not limited to the Burke-Gilman trail, Sammamish River trail, and the Tolt Pipeline Trail. (P10)

**CP-147** Existing public access points to the Sammamish River should be maintained and additional access points acquired and developed to ensure the use of this river as trail corridor and fishing area. (P-11)

### III. Four Creeks / Tiger Mountain ((Area))

#### A. Background

The Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain Community Service Area consists of portions of the following former Community Planning Areas: Newcastle, Tahoma Raven Heights, East Sammamish and Snoqualmie. A large portion of the area incorporated as the City of Newcastle and annexed in to the City of Issaquah. The Klahanie Annexation expanded the City of Sammamish in 2016.



In 2014, the estimated population in the Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain CSA was approximately 13,000. In 2010, there were 4,870 housing units in the CSA.

The Newcastle Community Plan commenced in 1978 and was adopted in May 1983. The final adopted plan designated three sites for Master Planned Developments (MPDs), but stipulated that only two MPDs could occur without an update of the community plan. One MPD was approved by the county in the late 1980s. Bellevue annexed Factoria and Newport Hills in 1993 and the City of Newcastle was incorporated in 1994, so the noncity portion of the planning area's population fell 13 percent between 1990 and 1994 even though the whole planning area was forecasted to grow almost 18 percent between 1994 and 2010. The planning area also included some areas designated Rural Area by either the 1985 or 1994 King County Comprehensive Plans.

## **B. Newcastle Policies**

**CP-201 King County supports the nomination of the Odd Fellows Cemetery and counterbalance right-of-way to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. (N-33)**

**CP-202 Limit grazing animal access to May Creek and its tributaries in order to 1) reduce water quality degradation from animal wastes, 2) reduce bank collapse due to animals' hooves, and 3) allow shading vegetation to reestablish along stream banks. (N-41)**

**CP-203 May Creek is acknowledged as a regional asset and should be protected. Thus, King County shall not increase zoning density on lands that drain into May Creek (i.e. the May Valley Basin) without first determining and implementing stormwater runoff mitigation necessary to control flooding and siltation in May Creek.**

## ~~((III.))~~ **IV. Greater Maple Valley / Cedar River ((Area))**

The Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River Community Service Area encompasses portions of the following former Community Planning Areas: Soos Creek, Tahoma Raven Heights, Snoqualmie and East King County.

In 2014, the estimated population in the Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River CSA was approximately 17,000. In 2010, there were 6,700 housing units in the CSA.

## **A. Background**

The first Soos Creek Plateau Communities Plan (SCCP) commenced during the fall of 1975, and was adopted in November 1979. The process was controversial, partly because Soos Creek served as a laboratory for several emerging planning concepts, including a Rural Area land use designation implemented with zoning limiting residential density to one home per five acres.

The Soos Creek Community Plan Update commenced in March 1988 and was adopted in December 1991. In 1995 the City of Kent initiated annexation of a very large area

between it and Lake Meridian, intended to encompass most of its Potential Annexation Area (PAA) within the planning area. The cities of Maple Valley and Covington have commenced operating and assumed jurisdiction within their territories. The Panther Lake annexation to the City of Kent occurred in 2010.

The Tahoma/Raven Heights Communities Plan (T/RH) commenced in August 1979 and was adopted in October 1984. T/RH continued to apply the Growth Reserve and Rural Area designations and zoning that emerged during the Soos Creek planning process. The planning area is mostly unincorporated Rural Area or Forest Production District. In the years prior to the Growth Management Act (GMA) the City of Black Diamond completed one large annexation. A final Urban Growth Area for Black Diamond was adopted as part of amendments following the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan.

The planning area was affected by the incorporation of the City of Maple Valley in 1997. The city includes most of the Urban Growth Area in the planning area.

In response to data and recommendations emerging while the Soos Creek Basin Plan was being prepared, interim five acre zoning was applied to portions of the Jenkins and Covington Creek watersheds in July 1989. An update to the plan covering about one-fifth of the planning area was initiated in March 1991, and adopted in December 1991. The area zoning was changed in some cases, but this action was based on the 1985 King County Comprehensive Plan and applicable basin plan policies, and did not result in any changes to the 1984 plan's policies.

## B. Soos Creek Policies

**CP-301 The continued viability and health of the Soos Creek planning area's stream systems and the fisheries resources dependent upon them should be assured through zoning, special zoning conditions and development regulations. The intent of this policy is to control densities along stream corridors identified by the Soos Creek Basin Plan. This policy will be implemented through the Area Zoning by placing rural and urban densities within 1/4-mile of significant stream systems identified as Types 1, 2, and 3 waters according to the Sensitive Areas Ordinance. (NR-1)**

**CP-302 Lot coverage limitations for building shall be applied in all stream corridors in urban designated areas of the Soos Creek basin and classified R-1, urban stream protection special district overlay. Total impervious surface should not exceed 8%, and total clearing of forested vegetation should not exceed 30%. Reforestation to achieve sites that are 70% forested should be required. (NR-1A)**

**CP-303 New development should rehabilitate degraded wetlands and stream channels and banks in the Soos Creek planning area's drainage's to prevent further erosion and water quality problems. These areas include, but are not limited to, May Creek, Garrison Creek, Molasses Creek and Olsen Creek. Where conditions permit, the banks and channels should be restored to a natural state. Where it has been determined that additional standards may be appropriate to control volume, these should be required for new development. (NR-3)**

**CP-304 Within the Soos Creek basin, bare ground associated with clearing, grading, utility installation, building construction, and other development activity should be covered or revegetated between October 1 and March 31 each year. Earth-moving and land-clearing**

activity should not occur during this period within the Soos Creek basin except for regular maintenance of public facilities and public agency response to emergencies that threaten the public health, safety and welfare. Landscaping of single-family residences, existing permitted commercial forestry and mining activities and development sites with approved and constructed drainage facilities that infiltrate 100 percent of stormwater runoff should be exempt from these restrictions. (NR-8)

**CP-305** For new subdivisions in the Soos Creek basin Rural Area, a minimum of 20% of the property should be retained as a separate tract of undisturbed indigenous vegetation. (NR-9)

**CP-306** All development within 660 feet of the top of the Cedar River Valley and the Green River Valley walls, particularly along the bluffs south and west of the Lea Hill plateau and within the Lake Heights area, should be conditioned to avoid adverse impacts on the environment and risks to life and property. (NR-14)

**CP-307** The Soos Creek Community Plan recognizes the importance of existing mobile home parks in providing affordable housing options. Mobile home parks in the urban areas of Soos Creek are designated for mobile home park uses, and should be zoned appropriately. King County should continue to examine the feasibility of funding and developing a replacement mobile home park in south King County for displaced mobile homes on county-owned or privately-owned sites. King County should develop intergovernmental agreements with the cities of Renton, Kent and Auburn for joint development of replacement parks to accommodate mobile home owners if they are displaced from mobile home parks within cities. (R-23)

**CP-308** Significant vegetation is a diminishing resource in the Soos Creek community. Significant vegetation contributes significantly to environmental quality, neighborhood character, and the quality of life in Soos Creek. All new residential development shall retain significant existing vegetation. Native vegetation should be utilized wherever possible. (R-33)

**CP-309** Multifamily zoned land should not be converted to institutional and commercial/office uses within the Soos Creek Planning Area. (C-5)

**CP-310** Equestrian crossings of arterials should be permitted only where they do not greatly disrupt traffic. Where possible, these crossings should be combined with pedestrian and bicycle crossings. There should be no at grade equestrian crossings of SR-516, except at Lake Meridian. (T-29)

**CP-311** Crest Airpark is an important local facility and should continue operation at current levels of use. (F-15)

**CP-312** Because of noise and public safety concerns, low-density, single-family development should be the primary land use allowed within Crest Airpark's north flight path within 1/2-mile of the airport runway. (F-16)

- CP-313** All new subdivisions within 1/4-mile of Crest Airpark should include a covenant. The covenant should state that the property owner and/or resident recognize the existence of Crest Airpark, its value to the community, and the noise and public safety aspects of living in proximity to the airpark. (F-17)
- CP-314** The operation of Pacific Raceway is expected to continue indefinitely. The area authorized for racetrack use shall be confined to maximize protection of Soosette Creek and its riparian area. Any future consideration of permits for its operation should be consistent with the spirit and intent of the 1991 rules and conditions which regulate operation of the facility. (F-18)
- CP-315** King County should give high priority to expanding the Big Soos Creek trail by linking the City of Covington to the south and Fairwood Center to the north to the existing trail system. (P-15)
- CP-316** King County should give high priority to linking the Green River and Cedar River corridors. (P-16)
- CP-317** King County should coordinate with the City of Seattle, WSDOT, and other jurisdictions to link major elements of the open space system including the Cedar River, Lake Desire, Big Soos Creek, SR-18 and the Green River trail systems. (P-18a)

## C. Tahoma/Raven Heights Policies

- CP-318** Resource activities should be encouraged in areas where such activities are not inconsistent with a rural atmosphere. In order to ensure continued development of natural resources prior to the development of the land for other purposes, extractive industries should be allowed to locate in areas known to have deposits of minerals. Premature urban/ suburban development should not be approved which forecloses the opportunity to use the resources. (T/RH-28)
- CP-319** The demand from surrounding land uses and densities should not exceed the capacity of the area's groundwater resources nor otherwise cause deterioration of its quality. (T/RH-45)
- CP-320** Existing businesses which qualify as legal uses located at Highway 169 and Cedar Grove Road should be given the same land use map designation as surrounding Rural Area or Natural Resource Land properties, but recognized as Rural Businesses with neighborhood-scale business zoning. Any such development should not be expanded beyond the limits of the existing zoning of the specific parcel on which it is currently located, and if the use is abandoned the zoning should be redesignated to a Rural Area zone consistent with that applied to surrounding properties.
- CP-321** King County supports annexation of the lands within the City of Black Diamond's Urban Growth Area subject to the requirements of the Black Diamond Urban Growth Area Agreement as adopted by Ordinance 12534. If the agreement is terminated, the affected lands under King County jurisdiction shall be treated as follows:
- Land within the designated Urban Growth Area shall be redesignated to Rural and reclassified to the rural zoning in place prior to the effective date of Ordinance 12534. This zoning shall

continue for a period of at least five years from the date of reclassification.

- b. The areas identified in the agreement as county open space shall be maintained at the rural zoning in place prior to the effective date of Ordinance 12534. This zoning shall continue for a period of at least five years after the date of termination of the agreement.

**CP-322** King County supports expansion of the network of regional trails and conservation of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas through community efforts such as the Rock Creek Valley Conservation Plan and the Friends of Rock Creek.

**CP-323** King County supports efforts to protect and enhance open space and ensure long-term habitat health and passive recreation opportunities in the Middle Green River through community efforts such as the Middle Green River Coalition.

## ~~((t))~~V. Southeast King County ~~((Area))~~

### A. Background

The ~~((SE))~~ Southeast King County Community Service Area consists of the former Enumclaw Community Planning Area and portions of the former Tahoma Raven Heights, East King County and Soos Creek Community Planning Areas. The City of Enumclaw is located within this CSA and the City of Black Diamond is surrounded by it on three sides. The majority of this CSA is Rural Area and forested resource lands.

In 2014, the estimated population in the SE King County CSA was approximately 29,000. Of this total, 300 people were estimated to live in the Lower Green River area and 28,000 people were estimated to live in the main CSA area. In 2010, there were a total of 11,020 housing units in the CSA. Of this total, 102 were in the Lower Green River area and 10,918 were in the main CSA area.

The Enumclaw Community Plan and Area Zoning were commenced in 1986-87 and adopted in June 1990. The community plan refined boundaries between the Enumclaw Plateau's Agricultural Production District and abutting Rural Areas and Forest Production District, and designated the Urban Growth Area agreed to by King County and the City of Enumclaw. The 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan reaffirmed the Enumclaw Community Plan's land use designations.

### B. Enumclaw Policies

**CP-401** All development within 660 feet of the top of the Green River valley walls should be conditioned to avoid adverse impacts on the environment and risks to life and property. (EN-12)

**CP-402** King County should work with landowners on either side of SR-410 east of the City of Enumclaw to protect the scenic qualities of this highway corridor. (EN-22)

**CP-403** King County should work with Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and landowners on either side of the Green River Gorge to protect the scenic qualities of the Green River Gorge conservation area. (EN-23)



Enumclaw's expansion area, like that of other Cities in the Rural Area, is shown on the  
((King County Comprehensive Plan)) Land Use Map.

**CP-404** King County should work with the City of Enumclaw to establish an agreement guiding future annexations, including but not limited to the following elements:

- a. Commitment from the city to extend and maintain public services to the area, including police, fire, transportation, sewer, water, storm water management and general government services.
- b. Commitment from the city to provide a variety of residential development at an overall density for unconstrained land of at least four to eight units per acre.
- c. Commitment from the city that the extension of public services to meet the needs of future residents will maintain service levels to existing city residents.
- d. Commitment that the city will continue environmental protection for sensitive areas, (including but not limited to flood plains, steep slopes, wetlands, seismic and landslide hazard areas) at or above King County standards.
- e. Commitment from the city to use measures to buffer or protect abutting forest or agriculture resource lands.
- f. Commitment that the city will provide protection of historic sites and areas equal to the county's Historic Preservation Ordinance.
- g. Commitment by King County to consult with the city on public improvement standards, such as local road standards, drainage control requirements and transportation standards that will apply to development in expansion areas.
- h. Commitment by King County to notify the city of development proposals in the expansion area and to consult with the city to condition development approvals to mitigate adverse impacts on city services and to implement city plans, policies and standards.
- i. Commitment by King County to notify the city of development proposals in an impact area, which includes all lands within a one-mile radius of the expansion area, and to consult with the city where applicable to condition development approvals to mitigate adverse impacts on city services.
- j. Agreement on which jurisdiction will have responsibility for parks, roads, storm water or other public facilities after annexation.  
(EN-40)

**CP-405** Access to state park lands should be designed to minimize adverse traffic impacts on the Southeast Green Valley Road. (EN-56)

**CP-406** Any expansion of aircraft runway or hangar capacity in the Enumclaw planning area should be concentrated on or near the existing Enumclaw airport. Existing legally approved landing strips associated with low-density residential developments, such as Evergreen Sky Ranch, shall not be expanded. (EN-60)

**CP-407** Redevelopment of the Enumclaw landfill site should be subject to studies to assure public health and safety. If these studies determine that there is no threat to public health and safety the site's Rural Area designation may be changed to accommodate a public use such as a park or other facility without an amendment to the King County Comprehensive Plan. (EN-71)

## VI. Snoqualmie Valley((-/-)) Northeast King County ((Area))

((The Snoqualmie Valley/NE King County Community Service Area includes the Snoqualmie Community Planning Area as well as portions of the East Sammamish, Fahoma Raven Heights and East King County Community Planning Areas. It surrounds the Cities of Snoqualmie, North Bend, Carnation, Duvall and Skykomish and their Potential Annexation Areas. These cities are within Urban Growth Boundaries while the vast majority of the CSA is Rural Area, Natural Resource Lands and unincorporated areas. Fall City is a Rural Town within this CSA.

In 2014, the estimated population in the Snoqualmie Valley/NE King County CSA was approximately 26,000. In 2010, there were 11,050 housing units in the CSA. East Sammamish policies are included in Section I. Bear Creek/Sammamish Area in this chapter.

### Background

The Snoqualmie Valley Community Plan was initiated in April 1984, and adopted in August 1989. The process resulted in designation of the Snoqualmie Ridge Urban Growth Area for the City of Snoqualmie. The area was annexed by the City of Snoqualmie, and development is proceeding under an interlocal agreement as directed by the community plan. The 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan largely reaffirmed the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands land use map designations of the community plan. Additionally, in this area, the Fall City Town Plan was updated in 2012 through a planning process that involved members of the Fall City community.

### Snoqualmie Policies

**CP-501**—King County, in cooperation with the Valley cities, and state and federal agencies, should conduct a study of baseline conditions and cumulative impacts of development on the Snoqualmie River's water quality, and identify methods of equitably controlling these impacts. (SQP-1 through SQP-6)

**CP-502**—Wildlife populations in the Snoqualmie Valley planning area are recognized as a regionally important resource and an important characteristic of the area's rural character. Special studies should be undertaken, in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Wildlife, to identify wildlife populations at risk due to the land uses allowed by the King County Comprehensive Plan and to develop mitigation measures to protect the continued viability of the area's wildlife populations. Should these studies indicate unmitigatable impact affecting wildlife populations due to the land uses allowed by the plan, a comprehensive plan amendment study will be undertaken to provide for the continued existence of this valuable resource. (SQP-17)

**CP-503**—Properties in erosion-prone drainage basins are subject to special development conditions applied to protect the safety and property of county residents through reducing or eliminating the occurrence of gully formation and sever erosion. These conditions may include:

- a. A drainage control plan;

- ~~b. Installation of drainage control features prior to any land clearing, vegetation removal, site grading, road construction, or utility installation; and~~
- ~~c. Runoff control requirements. (SQP-21)~~

~~CP-504 King County will oppose annexations to Snoqualmie Valley cities that currently contain designated floodplain lands until interlocal agreements have been enacted to advance the policies and standards set forth in the comprehensive plan. (SQP-27)~~

~~CP-505 The Shoreline Environment designations of the King County Shoreline Management Program should be consistent with comprehensive plan land use map designations and zoning. King County should initiate the shoreline redesignation process consistent with K.C.C. 25.32.130. (SQP-32)~~

~~CP-506 Until expansion areas are annexed, zoning for the expansion areas shall be urban reserve at five acre densities with the exception of the existing commercial/industrial area in the SE North Bend Way expansion area, and the existing industrial area in the Snoqualmie expansion area. (SQP-57)~~

~~Community plan policies SQP 58 to 61 referred to "expansion areas one and two," reflecting the Snoqualmie Community Plan's attempt to phase growth of the valley cities. These phasing approaches were embodied in the interlocal agreement the county signed with the City of Snoqualmie; they may be reflected in the cities' comprehensive plans. The King County Comprehensive Plan simplifies the designations into one expansion area for each city.~~

~~CP-507 King County will support development within the Snoqualmie Valley cities of Duvall, Carnation, Snoqualmie and North Bend and annexation and development of lands within their expansion areas, when each city demonstrates that its wastewater and storm water treatment systems for the existing and proposed city jurisdiction will not degrade the water quality of the Snoqualmie River and its tributaries. (SQP-58)~~

~~CP-508 King County will not support Snoqualmie Valley cities' annexations into expansion areas until each city has adopted mechanisms to reduce flood and channel migration hazards within its jurisdiction. (SQP-59)~~

~~CP-509 King County shall initiate an amendment to the King County Comprehensive Plan if the cumulative impact of development of the cities' expansion areas will reduce the quality of the Snoqualmie River and its tributaries below the current "A and AA" standards. (SQP-61)~~

~~CP-510 King County shall support annexation of the expansion area only when Carnation implements a long-term, nonstructural program to reduce flood damages on floodplains land within its jurisdiction. (SQP-68)~~

~~CP-511 Achieving a long-term solution to flood damages within the City of Snoqualmie is one of King County's highest priorities for this planning area. (SQP-70)~~

~~CP-512 King County intends to assist the City of Snoqualmie to develop a long-term solution and an implementation program which will reduce the risk from flooding and channel migration in the city. (SQP-73)~~

CP-513 — ~~If the long-term solution to reducing the risk from flooding in the City of Snoqualmie is determined to have basin-wide impacts, these impacts shall be reviewed by the King County River and Floodplain Management Program or its equivalent to identify any additional mitigations that may be required. If the long-term solution to reducing the risk from flooding is demonstrated to not have basin-wide impacts, it should be implemented as soon as possible and would not require a second, basin-wide, review of impacts and mitigations. (SQP-74)~~

CP-514 — ~~King County urges a public/private resource commitment to implement a long-term solution to flooding in the City of Snoqualmie. (SQP-75)~~

~~Policies SQP-76 through 78 have been and continue to be implemented through an interlocal agreement. Most of the annexations referenced have taken place and are reflected in the expansion area boundaries for the City of Snoqualmie adopted in the King County Comprehensive Plan's Land Use Map.~~

CP-515 — ~~Until a long-term solution to preventing flood damages in the City of Snoqualmie is agreed to by King County and the City of Snoqualmie, King County will support annexations in expansion areas when consistent with all appropriate policies herein and when higher residential densities can be achieved, municipal services can be provided, and river water quality will not be degraded. (SQP-77)~~

CP-516 — ~~Annexations of lands within the Phase 1 and Phase 2 additions to the City of Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area shall not occur until completion of detailed planning, preparation and review of project-level Environmental Impact Statement(s), and a determination of required mitigations and amenities. The range of land uses to be allowed and the mitigations and amenities to be required shall be embodied in a binding Development Agreement between the City of Snoqualmie and the owners of proposed annexation lands.~~

CP-517 — ~~The project-level Environmental Impact Statement(s) for lands within the Phase 1 and Phase 2 additions to the City of Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area shall address aquifer recharge issues, and potential impacts to the water quality and quantity of Lake Alice, private wells in the Lake Alice and Snoqualmie Hills neighborhoods, and all streams that flow off-site.~~

CP-518 — ~~Based on the findings of the Environmental Impact Statement(s), the Development Agreement between the City of Snoqualmie and the owners of proposed annexation lands in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 additions to the City of Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area shall establish a program for long-term monitoring of the water quality and quantity of Lake Alice and the private wells in the Lake Alice and Snoqualmie Hills neighborhoods, and of all streams flowing off-site.~~

- CP-519—The Development Agreement shall also outline the remedies necessary if the monitoring program leads to findings that development activities on the annexation lands are the cause for adverse impacts to the water quality and/or quantity of Lake Alice and the private wells in the Lake Alice and Snoqualmie Hills neighborhoods, and of streams flowing off-site. The owners of the annexation lands shall be responsible for the monitoring program and correction of any impacts determined to have been caused by their development activities. Remedies may include connection to the public water system, or construction of alternative wells.
- CP-520—The project-level Environmental Impact Statement(s) for lands within the Phase 1 and Phase 2 additions to the City of Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area shall address traffic safety issues, with a focus on safety concerns for rural homeowners dependent upon the southern stretch of the Snoqualmie Parkway for access to their homes. A range of alternatives to improve safety at the intersection of the Snoqualmie Parkway and SE 96th Street, including signalization, road widening and turn lanes shall be explored.
- CP-521—Annexations of lands within the Phase 1 and Phase 2 additions to the City of Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area shall be subject to updated Comprehensive Water and Sanitary Sewer Plans to determine the full range of improvements landowners within the annexation will be required to provide.
- CP-522—A Drainage Master Plan shall be required for any new development of lands within the Phase 1 and Phase 2 additions to the City of Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area. Stormwater facility design shall adhere to the standards in the most recent update of the King County Design Manual, or of the Snoqualmie Storm Drainage Plan, whichever is the most stringent.
- CP-523—There shall be no road connections between the Phase 1 addition to the City of Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area and 356th SE in the Snoqualmie Hills Planning Area, unless future analysis determines a restricted emergency access is necessary for safety purposes.
- CP-524—There shall be no road connections between the Phase 2 addition to the City of Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area and Lake Alice Road, unless future analysis determines a restricted emergency access for Lake Alice residents is necessary for safety purposes.
- CP-525—To protect the rural character of the neighborhoods surrounding the Phase 1 and Phase 2 additions to the City of Snoqualmie's Urban Growth Area, the Phase 1 and Phase 2 areas shall include buffers to all rural lands along their perimeter. The size and structure of each buffer area shall be determined based on the characteristics of the land and existing vegetation, and its ability to perform the following functions: visual screening; noise reduction; and minimization of blow down. Buffers may include constructed berms and new plantings if deemed necessary and appropriate to perform the required functions.
- CP-526—King County supports the continued industrial use of Weyerhaeuser's Snoqualmie Mill site and its annexation to the City of Snoqualmie. (SQP-79)



~~CP-527 — King County will support annexations of land in North Bend's expansion area when higher residential densities can be achieved, municipal services can be provided, and river water quality will not be degraded. (SQP-81)~~

~~CP-528 — Commercial and light industrial land uses are appropriate along SE North Bend Way subject to special development conditions to mitigate impacts. (SQP-82)~~

A map is included in Appendix A to Ordinance 12824 (p-suffix conversion ordinance) showing the application of p-suffix conditions to commercial and industrial properties on SE North Bend Way.

~~CP-529 — Commercial and industrial zoned land (including potential commercial or potential industrial zoned land) within the City of North Bend's Urban Growth Area (UGA) are planned for nonretail, resource-based and highway-oriented uses. These uses shall be served by public sewers.~~

~~CP-530 — The area between Tanner and the Edgewick Interchange, south of SE 140th and north of I-90, is appropriate for nonretail commercial and light industrial land uses. Commercial and light industrial uses shall be limited to uses that do not impact ground water and are related to resource-based shipping, distributing and trucking-related industrial development. (SQP-84)~~

~~CP-531 — Land uses adjacent to the Edgewick Interchange shall be limited to highway-oriented commercial uses that do not impact ground water, and serve the traveling public. (SQP-85)~~

~~CP-532 — The area north of the Edgewick Interchange is appropriate for resource-based, shipping, distributing and trucking related industrial uses that do not impact ground water. (SQP-86)~~

The Fall City policies in this section were revised through a subarea planning process involving members of the Fall City community in 1998 and 1999. Through this planning process, the Citizens Advisory Committee identified the following elements that local residents value about their town:

- It is surrounded by agricultural and forest lands that are entirely rural;
- It has a pattern of development that has evolved over more than a century, which includes historic buildings and landmarks, an open spacing of streets and buildings, and locally owned businesses in a small-scale downtown;
- It is located in a unique geographic area formed by the confluence of two important salmon-bearing rivers, the Raging River and the Snoqualmie River, in an agricultural valley containing a number of other salmonid streams that are also important to the ecology of King County;
- It includes compatible home occupations and small-scale animal husbandry in harmony with residential neighborhoods;
- It provides rural-level street improvement (e.g., no traffic lights, no sidewalks outside the business district, and no street lights except as needed for public safety);
- It offers scenic vistas, open space, and rural and resource uses surrounding Fall City; and
- It has a small rural town identity.

- CP-533 — ~~Fall City is an unincorporated rural town which shall have overall residential densities of one to four dwelling units per acre.~~
- CP-534 — ~~All property within the downtown Fall City business district is zoned Community Business (CB) and is included within a designated Special District Overlay (SDO). Development within the SDO is permitted using an on-site septic system approved by the Seattle-King County Health Department. Development is also permitted using either an alternative wastewater disposal system approved by the Seattle-King County Health Department (such as a community drainfield) or a self-contained sewage conveyance and treatment system approved by the Department of Ecology, provided that:~~  
~~a. The selected system shall be designed and constructed to serve only properties located within the designated SDO;~~  
~~b. The business and commercial property owners in the SDO are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the selected system;~~  
~~c. The County's role should be to provide technical assistance in the development and implementation of the selected system;~~  
~~d. If the selected system fails, and to prevent a potential health hazard, requires connection to the King County regional wastewater system, any such sewer conveyance shall be tight-lined and shall under no circumstance be used to provide sewage disposal service to residential properties in Fall City, except as provided by policy R-508; and~~  
~~e. No costs to implement the selected system or to connect to the County's regional wastewater system shall be borne by properties outside the SDO. Funding from grants, loans and other outside sources may be used to help fund the system, and the County may assist in the pursuit of this additional funding.~~
- CP-535 — ~~The zoning for Fall City adopted in the 1999 Fall City Subarea Plan reflects the community's strong commitment to its rural character, recognizes existing uses, provides for limited future commercial development, and respects natural features. Additionally, it recognizes the current and long-term foreseeable rural level of utilities and other public services for the area. The land use implications of a major change in the water supply or a public health requirement for community-wide wastewater collection and treatment may be evaluated in a new community-based planning process; however this does not mean that zoning will change to allow more intense development beyond that adopted in the 1999 Fall City Subarea Plan. The rural character of Fall City should be preserved.~~
- CP-536 — ~~Within the residential area of Fall City, compatible home occupations and small-scale agricultural pursuits or similar rural land uses can continue.~~
- CP-537 — ~~King County should work with the State of Washington and the Fall City community to continue to make transportation improvements in Fall City that will favor safe and pleasant pedestrian and other nonmotorized links between downtown businesses, the residential areas, and nearby King County Parks, and safe walkways to schools, rather than rapid through traffic.~~
- CP-538 — ~~King County should expand the soft surface pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle trail opportunities serving the Fall City area. Trail route options serving the community shall be reviewed to include a route along the left bank levee easement directly adjacent to the Raging River,~~

historically used by the public as a pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle trail. This historically used trail generally follows the "wildlife corridor" along the bank of the Raging River from 328th Way SE approximately NE to the Preston Fall City Road. The selected trail system for the Fall City area shall be identified in the King County Parks and Recreation trail system plan.

**CP-539** — Zoning for the existing industrial and office areas adopted in the 1999 Fall City Subarea Plan should be maintained but not expanded.

**CP-540** — Land uses at freeway interchanges without existing commercial or industrial development, and outside rural neighborhoods and Cities in the Rural Area, are designated rural residential to support development in rural neighborhoods and Cities in the Rural Area, and to preserve the scenic nature of the corridor. (SQP-98)

**CP-541** — New development at the Exit 22 Interchange shall not expand beyond the area designated in this plan and shall not adversely impact surrounding rural residential areas. All uses should be planned and sited to use long-term onsite waste disposal systems. (SQP-99)

**CP-542** — The existing two acres of land currently zoned for commercial use at Preston (Exit 22) is recognized, but no additional land for commercial uses is designated. (SQP-100)

**CP-543** — The presence of the Snoqualmie Tribe in the planning area has important historic and cultural significance for the Puget Sound region. The following places, recognized by the tribe as historically, culturally and archeologically important, should be considered for inclusion in the King County historic sites survey, and designation to local and/or national register of historic places. The tribe recognizes the following areas as culturally significant:

- a. Snoqualmie Falls;
- b. The banks of the Snoqualmie River between the falls and the three forks confluence area;
- c. Fall City Indian Cemetery;
- d. Banks at the confluence of Snoqualmie and Raging Rivers;
- e. Banks at the confluence of Snoqualmie and Tolt Rivers;
- f. Fall City Park (site of John Sanawa's Council House and the first white school);
- g. Mt. Si; and
- h. Granite outcropping used as a quarry between North Bend and the City of Snoqualmie on SR-202. (SQP-122)

**CP-544** — King County recognizes the spiritual, historic, cultural and recreational value of the Snoqualmie Falls. Any development adjacent to Snoqualmie Falls shall be designed and sited to protect these values. (SQP-123)

**CP-545** — Because of the spiritual significance of the area at the base of the falls to the various tribes in the Puget Sound region, this area of the falls should remain free of development and open for public access. (SQP-124)

- CP-546—The community of Preston is a significant cultural and historic reminder of the planning area's roots in the logging industry. The existing land use designation shall be maintained, and new development should respect the existing character of the community. (SQP-125)
- CP-547—The industrial area adjacent to the Rural Neighborhood of Preston shall be recognized with appropriate zoning for industrial uses. This area is designated for industrial uses to recognize existing industrial use and vested applications for new industrial development.
- The boundaries of this industrial area are permanent. No expansion of the designated industrial area will be permitted, and any effort to expand its boundaries is recognized as contrary to the Growth Management Act, including the 1997 amendments.
- Any industrial development or redevelopment in the designated industrial area (excluding reconstruction in the event of accidental damage or destruction, or tenant improvements entirely within the building structures) shall be conditioned and scaled to maintain and protect the rural character of the area as defined in RCW 36.70A.030(14) and to protect sensitive natural features.
- New industrial development or redevelopment (excluding structures and site improvements that existed or are vested by applications as of May 24, 1996, or tenant improvements entirely within building structures), on lots not subject to restrictions and conditions consistent with those reflected in Recording No. 9708190805 must be dependent upon being in the Rural Area and must be compatible with the functional and visual character of rural uses in the immediate vicinity and must not encourage or facilitate conversion or redesignation of nearby Rural and Rural Neighborhood lands to commercial, industrial or urban uses.
- The boundaries of this industrial area shall be those properties within the Preston Industrial Water System, as set by King County Ordinance 5948, with the exception of parcel #2924079054.
- CP-548—King County supports efforts of the community of Preston to achieve recognition of its historical and cultural significance. Its historic character should be maintained through designation as an historic area. (SQP-126)
- CP-549—The King County Historic Sites Survey should be updated to include additional sites identified by the Preston Heritage Committee. (SQP-127)
- CP-550—The development of a regional railroad museum in the Snoqualmie area is encouraged to promote understanding of the regional significance of railroads in the settlement and development pattern of Washington State. (SQP-128)
- CP-551—King County shall put high priority on the acquisition and development of a regional trail system linking the Snoqualmie Valley planning area to other parts of the county. (SQP-143)

- 1431 ~~CP-552 King County supports designation of the Middle Fork of the~~  
1432 ~~Snoqualmie River under either the national or state Wild and Scenic~~  
1433 ~~River program. (SQP-151)~~  
1434  
1435 ~~CP-553 King County supports evaluation of the North Fork of the Snoqualmie~~  
1436 ~~River and the main stem of the Tolt River under either the national or~~  
1437 ~~state Wild and Scenic River program. (SQP-152)~~  
1438  
1439 ~~CP-554 King County shall assist the City of North Bend, when requested, to~~  
1440 ~~develop a long-term solution and an implementation program which~~  
1441 ~~will reduce the risk from flooding and channel migration in the city:))~~

## 1442 A. Plan History

1443 The history of prior plans for Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County is as follows:

- 1444
- 1445 • **Snoqualmie Valley Community Plan (1989).** The Snoqualmie Valley Community  
1446 Plan, initiated in April 1984 and adopted in August 1989, was developed with the  
1447 assistance of an advisory committee composed of local residents and property  
1448 owners, in addition to representatives of the cities of Duvall, Carnation, Snoqualmie,  
1449 and North Bend.<sup>2</sup> The Snoqualmie Valley planning area covered 400 square miles  
1450 (south of Snohomish County, east of Bear Creek and East Sammamish areas, north  
1451 of Tiger Mountain and Rattlesnake Ridge, and west of the Cascade Mountains). The  
1452 plan was rescinded almost a decade later, in 1998, due to the passage of the  
1453 Washington State Growth Management Act in the early 1990s.<sup>3</sup> At that time, some  
1454 key policies from the 1989 plan that were consistent with the Growth Management  
1455 Act were incorporated into the King County Comprehensive Plan. These policies  
1456 remained in this chapter of the Comprehensive Plan through 2024 but, with the  
1457 adoption of the Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County Subarea Plan, they have  
1458 since been removed from the chapter.  
1459
  - 1460 • **Fall City Subarea Plan (1999).** From August of 1998 through March of 1999, an  
1461 eleven-member advisory committee of community members helped develop  
1462 recommendations for the Fall City Subarea Plan, which was adopted by the County  
1463 in 1999.<sup>4</sup> The Fall City Subarea Plan revisited land use designations, town  
1464 boundaries, and Comprehensive Plan policies regarding Fall City that grew out of  
1465 the 1989 Snoqualmie Valley Community Plan, which included Fall City.  
1466
  - 1467 • **Amendments to the Fall City Subarea Plan (2012).** The 1999 Fall City Subarea  
1468 Plan was updated in 2012<sup>5</sup> through a planning process that involved members of  
1469 the Fall City community. The Fall City Subarea Plan was repealed in 2024 and  
1470 replaced by the Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County Subarea Plan, which  
1471 includes the Fall City community.  
1472

1473 In December 2024, the County adopted the Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County  
1474 Subarea Plan, which replaces the policies in the 1999 Fall City Subarea Plan. The 2024  
1475 subarea plan (bound as a separate document) is adopted as an element of the King  
1476 County Comprehensive Plan.

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<sup>2</sup> Ordinance 9118

<sup>3</sup> Ordinance 13273

<sup>4</sup> Ordinance 13875

<sup>5</sup> Ordinance 17485



## B. Vision & Guiding Principles

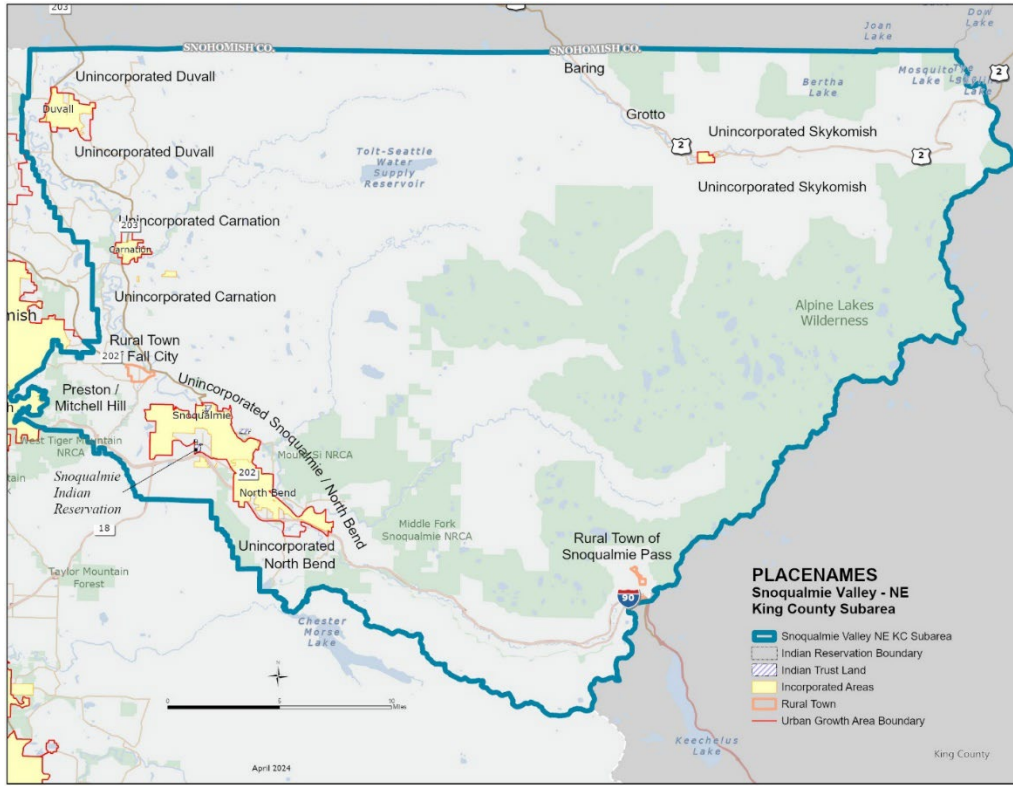
### Community Vision Statement

Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County are characterized by strong rural communities with distinct cultures and histories, where people and businesses are thriving, the natural environment and agricultural lands are conserved and protected, farms are preserved, the community is resilient to climate change, and services and programs are accessible to residents in a way that preserves each community's unique rural character.

### Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles support the community vision and were used by the County to inform and direct the development of the Subarea Plan. These guiding principles express the community's sentiments around a range of community issues discussed during the planning process.

- a. Conserve and protect forests, rivers, lakes, and open spaces.
- b. Conserve and protect the subarea's working farmlands by protecting agricultural lands and supporting local farmers, farmworkers ranchers, and growers.
- c. Encourage and protect a range of housing choices for all.
- d. Promote economically and environmentally sustainable local businesses and organizations across the subarea and support the business districts of the Fall City and Snoqualmie Pass Rural Towns.
- e. Preserve cultural and historic resources and landmarks.
- f. Enhance the relationship between King County and the Tribes by centering Tribal needs, land stewardship, and treaty rights.
- g. Preserve the unique rural character across the subarea in commercial areas and residential communities in a manner that increases quality of life for residents
- h. Support transit and transportation options, including active transportation and recreation, consistent with rural levels of service.
- i. Support programs, organizations, and services for youths, people aged 55 years and older, veterans, and others to build community connections.
- j. Promote communities that are resilient to natural hazards and climate change, and support communities affected by related disasters.



## VII. Vashon-Maury Island ((Community Service Area))

### A. Plan History

In 2016, the Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan was initiated as King County's first plan developed under its reconfigured subarea planning program. The recent history of prior Vashon-Maury Island community plans is as follows:

- **1986 Vashon Community Plan.** This Island-wide plan was adopted in 1986,<sup>6</sup> but was then rescinded over a decade later, in 1998,<sup>7</sup> due to the passage of the Washington State Growth Management Act in the early 1990s. At that time, some key policies from the 1986 plan that were consistent with the Growth Management Act were incorporated into the King County Comprehensive Plan. These policies remained in this chapter of the Comprehensive Plan through 2016 but, with the adoption of the 2017 Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan, they have since been removed from the chapter.
- **1996 Vashon Town Plan.**<sup>8</sup> This plan focused on a smaller geography, the Rural Town, and was developed consistent with the Growth Management Act. The 1996

<sup>6</sup> Ordinance 7837

<sup>7</sup> Ordinance 13273

<sup>8</sup> Ordinance 12395

Town Plan remained active through 2017 but, with the adoption of the 2017 subarea plan, it has since been repealed.

The Island-wide 2017 Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan updates these prior policies and consolidates them into a single document that aims to retain community priorities while eliminating outdated and/or accomplished items. Policies and actions that are carried forward are re-assessed and re-prioritized for implementation. The 2017 subarea plan (bound as a separate document) is adopted as an element of the King County Comprehensive Plan.

## B. Vision & Guiding Principles

### *Vashon-Maury Island Vision*

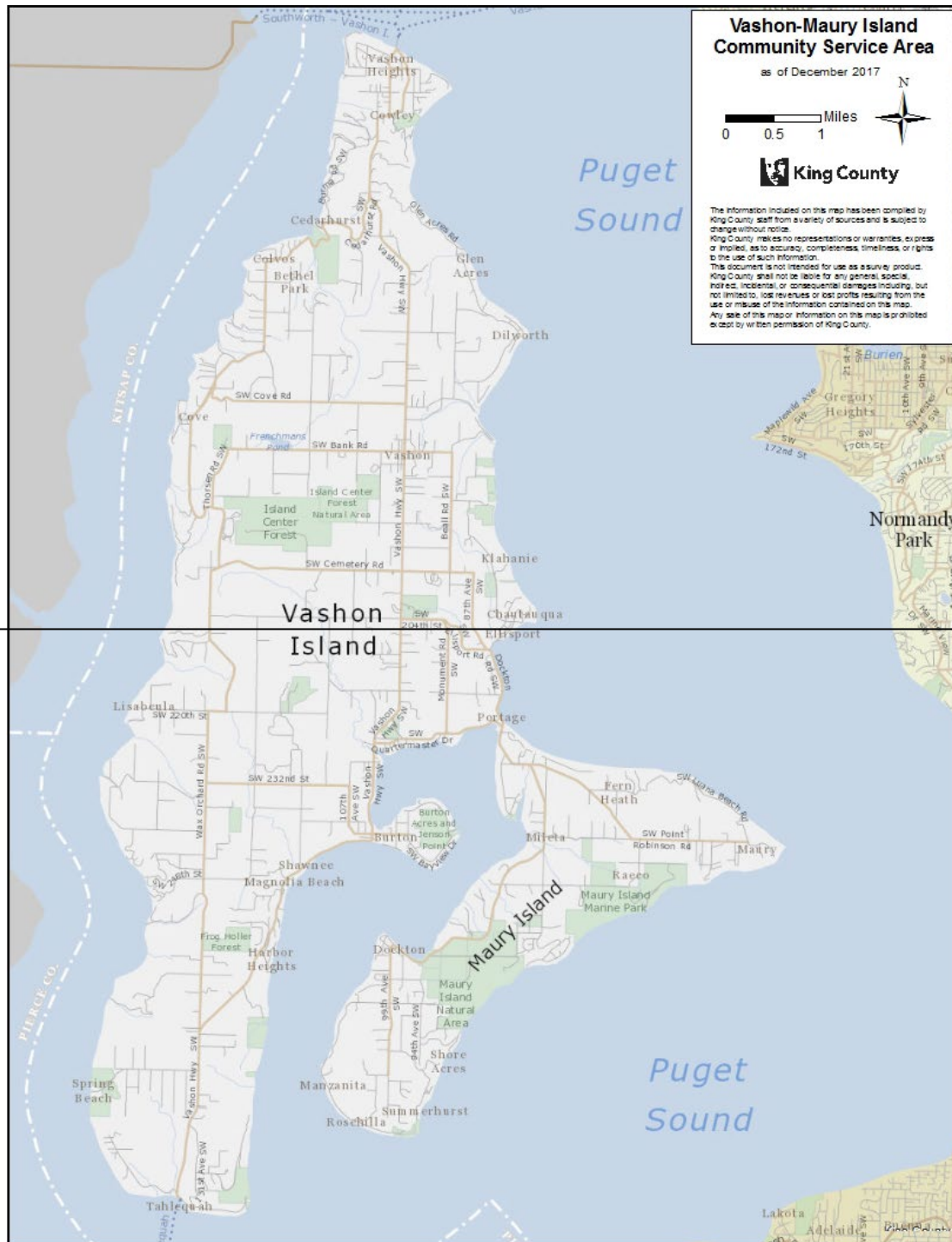
The Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan envisions a healthy, rural environment and reflects the following values identified by the community during plan development:

- Independence and self-sufficiency
- Natural environment
- Equity and diversity
- Island history
- Creativity and self-expression
- Sustainable local employment
- Community collaboration

These values are exhibited and sustained through ten guiding principles:

- Maintain the rural character of Vashon-Maury Island
- Encourage and protect the diversity of neighborhoods and affordable housing choices for all
- Guide limited growth on Vashon-Maury Island and ensure development does not over-extend basic services, public safety, and infrastructure
- Plan the Rural Town of Vashon as the mixed-use and vibrant center of the community
- Preserve and protect native habitats, groundwater, shorelines, open space and sensitive areas for present and future generations
- Protect agricultural lands and support Island farmers and growers
- Provide a balanced and integrated multimodal transportation system that reflects environmental, economic, and social considerations
- Preserve historic, archeological, and cultural resources
- Promote an environment where all people can be physically active, eat nutritious food, and live in safe and healthy places
- Support and foster a diverse, dynamic, and sustainable rural economy

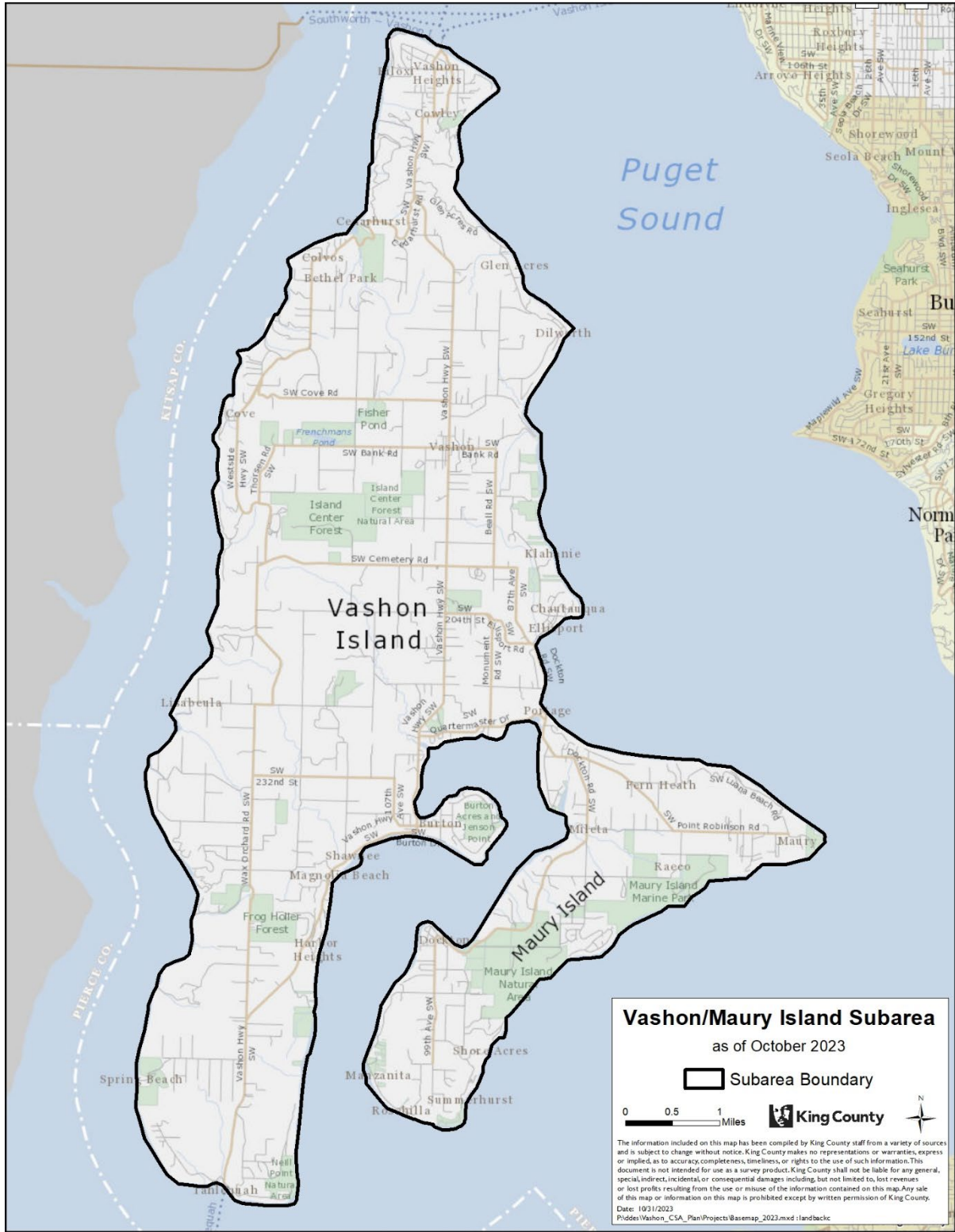
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## VIII. West King County Area

### A. Background

As noted on the Community Service Areas map at the beginning of this chapter, the West King County Area is comprised of approximately five separate major unincorporated areas within the Urban Growth Area ~~((B))~~ boundary; these are all Potential Annexation Areas for several cities, including Federal Way, Seattle, and Renton. In addition, there are over *one hundred* other smaller areas that are affiliated with or adjacent to Kent, Auburn, Issaquah, Sammamish, Redmond, Kenmore, and others.

King County's approach is that all of these areas annex into the affiliated cities or, for those areas not affiliated, the most logical adjacent city. As subarea planning occurs, adjacent cities will be encouraged to participate. Policies guiding these areas are found both in Chapter 2~~((+))~~, Urban Communities (in the Potential Annexation Area section), as well as in other annexation policies found in chapters throughout the Comprehensive Plan. For the areas at the edge of the ~~((+))~~ Urban ~~((g))~~ Growth ~~((boundary))~~ Areas, policies in other parts of this chapter may be relevant since the historical Community Plans often included these edge communities. This is further described below.

### ~~((Background))~~

The estimated population in this CSA in 2014 was approximately 113,000. The West King County CSA consists of separate unincorporated areas that were once part of larger areas with their own community plans. Today's fragmented pattern of unincorporated urban areas is the result of incorporations and piecemeal annexations since the community planning process began in the mid-1980s.

## ~~((A.))~~ IX. East Federal Way Potential Annexation Area

Work on the Federal Way Community Plan and/or amendments occurred from 1972 to 1975, 1977 to 1980, and 1984 to 1986. Federal Way was part of the first generation of community plans in the county that were adopted separately from their implementing area zoning. After these experiences, the county decided to adopt both together to avoid going through essentially the same decisions twice for each community. The City of Federal Way incorporated in 1990, removing most of the planning area from the county's jurisdiction. None of the Federal Way Community Plan or its amendments are readopted.

## ~~((B.))~~ X. Fairwood and East Renton Potential Annexation Areas

Fairwood and East Renton are adjacent to the City of Renton and are within the city's potential annexation area. Over the past decade, small portions (typically at the subdivision scale) have annexed to the city in a piecemeal fashion. The Fairwood area has approximately 23,000 residents. The Fairwood area was completely within the historical Soos Creek Planning Area, which is now part of both the Greater Maple

Valley/Cedar River and the West King County Community Service Areas. This means that the general annexation policies in the comprehensive plan, as well as the Greater Maple Valley/Cedar River area policies are relevant to this area.

The East Renton area has approximately 6,500 residents. The East Renton area was completely part of the historical Newcastle Planning Area, which is now part of both the Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain and West King County Community Service areas. This means that the general annexation policies in the comprehensive plan, as well as the Four Creeks/Tiger Mountain area policies are relevant to this area.

## ~~((€.))~~ XI. North Highline Potential Annexation Area~~((§))~~

### A. Plan History

The history of prior plans for the North Highline subarea is as follows:

- **1976 SeaTac Communities Plan.** The adoption of the SeaTac Communities Plan pre-dated adoption of the Growth Management Act.
- **1977 Highline Community Plan and 1981 Area Zoning.** In 1977, King County adopted the Highline Community Plan,<sup>9</sup> which covered a large area of then-unincorporated King County that today includes the Cities of Burien, Des Moines, Normandy Park, and SeaTac in addition to the currently unincorporated North Highline neighborhoods of White Center and Glendale. The plan was supplemented in 1981 by an Area Zoning Plan,<sup>10</sup> which implemented zoning consistent with the land use policies of the Highline Community Plan.
- **1994 White Center Community Action Plan and Area Zoning.** In 1994, King County augmented the Highline Community Plan with the adoption of the White Center Community Action Plan and Area Zoning (Action Plan),<sup>11</sup> a community planning document that implemented new zoning for White Center, in addition to establishing goals in the areas of health and human services, economic and community development, and environmental protection. The Action Plan was designed as a six- to ten-year plan for the area and incorporated as part of the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan.<sup>12</sup>

In December 2022, the County adopted the North Highline Community Service Area Subarea Plan, which replaces the policies in the 1994 White Center Community Action Plan. The 2022 subarea plan (bound as a separate document) is adopted as an element of the King County Comprehensive Plan.

### B. Vision and Guiding Principles

#### *North Highline Vision*

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<sup>9</sup> Ordinance 3530

<sup>10</sup> Ordinance 5453

<sup>11</sup> Ordinance 11568

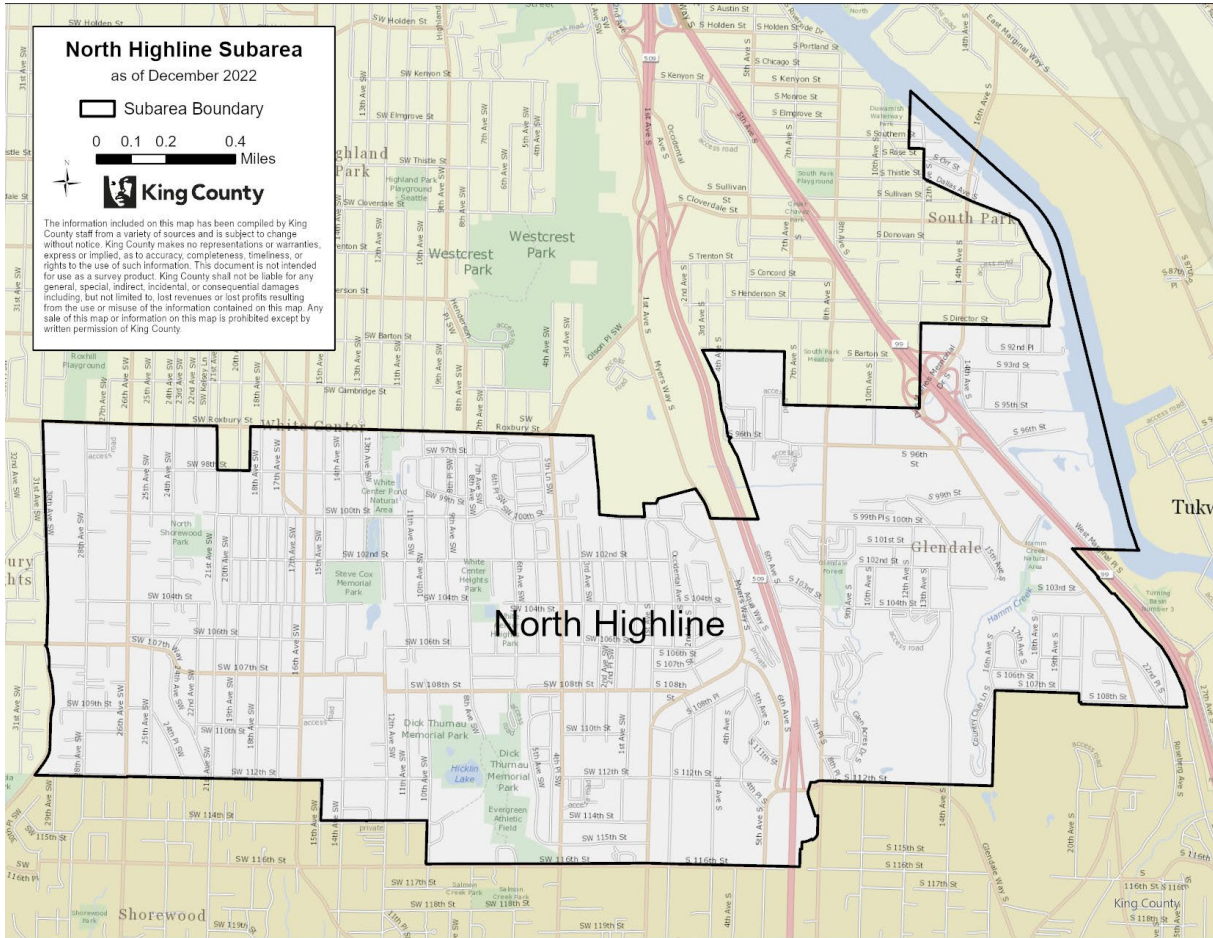
<sup>12</sup> Ordinance 13273 removed references to community plans, including the Highline Community Plan, which in effect repealed the Community Plan; however, the Action Plan remained active.

Residing on the traditional land of the Duwamish people, North Highline celebrates its ethnic diversity, intergenerational roots, and our ongoing inclusivity of diverse families and individuals, especially those most isolated and vulnerable. We call out race and place-based inequities and are committed to dismantling systems of power, privilege, and racial injustice. With mutual support and respect, we value and live out our brilliance and power through community-led initiatives, creating thoughtful development without displacing longtime residents and small business owners, forming and owning the policies that impact us, and building our individual and collective wealth, health, and ~~((well-being))~~ wellbeing.

#### *Guiding Principles*

The following guiding principles support the community vision and were used by the County to inform and direct the development of the Subarea Plan. The guiding principles were developed based on several years of dialogue and work with the community on the Subarea Plan, drawing from other community-led or focused efforts in North Highline. They express the community's sentiments around a range of community issues discussed during the planning process.

- a. We are proud of our community and continue to share our collective history with others and to invest in this place, our home for current residents and their future generations.
- b. We support community investments and programs that reduce the risks and mitigate the impacts, of residential, economic, and cultural displacement.
- c. We live in thoughtfully designed housing and commercial spaces where inter-generational households and legacy businesses can stay and where affordability and ownership are realized.
- d. We support a thriving and equitable economy, with racially and ethnically diverse, community-minded small business owners, entrepreneurs, and employers.
- e. We support residents, especially children, youths, and young adults, with services and resources they and their families need to succeed.
- f. We promote the development of community-desired amenities to improve aesthetics, enrich the community's diverse physical and cultural assets, and support gathering together as a community.
- g. We support regulations and investments that result in a safe, secure, and healthy community and compatible development.
- h. We support residents growing their work interests, skills, and wages.
- i. We enjoy neighborhoods with accessible and safe streets, roads, and alleyways, with well-connected hiking and biking trails.
- j. We can access jobs and amenities in the region and in our community without relying on automobiles.



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## ((D:)) XII. Skyway-West Hill Potential Annexation Area

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### A. Plan History

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The history of prior plans for the subarea is as follows:

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- **1994 West Hill Community Plan.** The West Hill Community Plan was adopted by King County in 1993. While prepared in conformance with the Growth Management Act it predated the adoption of the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan.

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- **Community-led Skyway-West Hill Action Plan.** In 2014 and 2015, the County provided technical assistance to a community-led effort to update some elements of the Community Plan. This community-led effort resulted in the development of the Skyway-West Hill Action Plan, or SWAP. The SWAP was proposed as an addendum to the existing Community Plan as part of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update, but the County ultimately did not adopt the SWAP. Instead, the County, reinitiated its Subarea Planning Program, and committed to work with the community to complete a ((Community Service Area)) Subarea Plan.

- **Skyway-West Hill Land Use Strategy, Phase 1 of the Skyway West Hill Subarea Plan.** As part of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update, the County adopted a Land Use Strategy, Phase 1 of the Skyway-West Hill Subarea Plan, that outlined the potential policy and implementation steps for land use development in Skyway-West Hill. The Land Use Strategy called for the County to continue working with the community to develop the Skyway-West Hill Community Service Area Subarea Plan.

In December 2022, the County adopted the Skyway-West Hill Community Service Area Subarea Plan, which replaces the West Hill Community Plan and the Land Use Strategy. The 2022 subarea plan (bound as a separate document) is adopted as an element of the King County Comprehensive Plan.

## **B. Vision & Guiding Principles**

### *Skyway-West Hill Vision*

Skyway-West Hill will grow into a vibrant, walkable neighborhood where housing is affordable and local, community-based businesses are thriving. Skyway-West Hill will be an ethnically diverse and civically engaged community where the collective voice, wisdom, and expertise of its residents and business owners are vital in ongoing civic decision-making.

### *Guiding Principles*

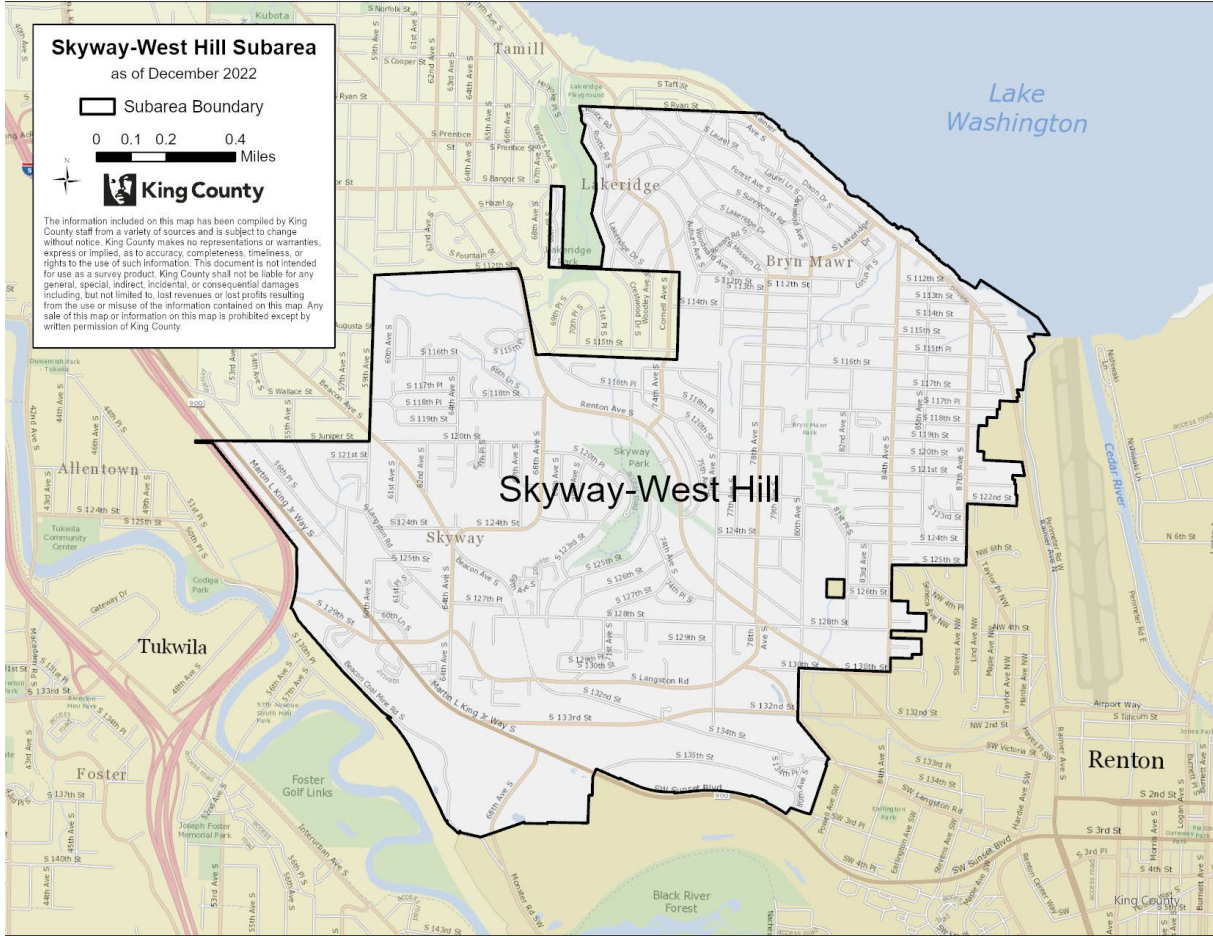
The following guiding principles support the community vision and were used by the County to inform and direct the development of the Subarea Plan. The guiding principles were developed based on several years of dialogue and work with the community on the Subarea Plan, drawing from prior community planning efforts, such as the Skyway-West Hill Action Plan, and other community conversations. They express the community's sentiments around a range of community issues discussed during the planning process.

- a. Support community health by providing opportunities to access fresh foods, as well as routes and trails for walking and bicycling.
- b. Create healthy connected neighborhoods where residents have safe and adequate means to connect with their neighbors, schools, community services and programs, and local businesses.
- c. Encourage equitable development by promoting access to a variety of housing choices, incentivizing the creation of public amenities, addressing displacement, encouraging economic opportunity, and cultivating neighborhood character.
- d. Create sustainable, vibrant, and walkable business districts that provide opportunities for local businesses to succeed and jobs for area residents.
- e. Protect existing and create new affordable housing that focuses on preventing displacement and providing options and opportunities for Skyway-West Hill residents to remain in their community.
- f. Ensure the community grows in a well-planned and sustainable way and that it has the resources necessary for all its residents to thrive and enjoy a high quality of life.
- g. Ensure Skyway-West Hill's youth are thriving and engaged in local decision-making so they can advocate for and receive the services and resources they and their families need to succeed.
- h. Promote the development of community-desired amenities and enrich the community's diverse physical and cultural assets.
- i. Inform all policies, regulations, and County actions affecting Skyway-West Hill with



the principles of equity and social justice.

- j. Protect and enhance the existing character of the community's residential neighborhoods and enhance connections between these areas and business districts.





A large crowd of people is gathered on a grassy field for an outdoor movie screening at dusk. A large inflatable screen is set up in the background, and people are sitting on blankets and chairs, watching the movie. The scene is illuminated by the warm light of the setting sun and some artificial lights from the event.

## CHAPTER 12

# **IMPLEMENTATION, AMENDMENTS, ((AND)) & EVALUATION**



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The Comprehensive Plan policies, development regulations and countywide policy framework have been adopted to achieve the County and region's growth management objectives. This chapter describes the tools, processes and procedures used to implement, review and amend the Comprehensive Plan.

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The chapter explains the relationship between planning and zoning, lists the incentives programs, identifies actions that will be undertaken between eight-year updates to implement or refine provisions within the Comprehensive Plan, and outlines and distinguishes between annual updates, midpoint updates, and eight-year updates.

## I. Regulations

The Comprehensive Plan guides land use over the long term by applying specific land use designations throughout the unincorporated portion of King County and by providing guidelines for implementing regulations used to evaluate specific development proposals. To ensure that these implementing regulations are effective and warrant a high degree of public trust and confidence, the regulations must be equitable, reasonable, and responsibly administered.

Siting public and private uses in communities can at times lead to concerns and objections from neighbors resulting from the real or perceived impacts of proposed uses. There is also a risk that objections to these “locally unwanted land uses” (LULUs) can lead to some uses becoming overly-concentrated in some communities, particularly in historically disadvantaged areas. In response, governments should evaluate the potential equity and social justice implications, including the beneficial and/or adverse impacts, of policies and regulations involving such uses.

King County wishes to create an equitable relationship with all its residents who own or control potential development or redevelopment of property with critical or significant resource areas. King County provides options that offer property-specific technical assistance and tailored applications of critical areas regulations through Rural Stewardship, Forest Stewardship, and Farm Management Plans. By participating in these programs, property owners may qualify for state tax programs that will reduce the assessed value of their property. However, it is the property owner's choice to participate in these programs.

**I-102 King County property owners are entitled to have their property assessed at the true and fair value of real property for taxation purposes so that those portions of the property that are not developed or redeveloped due to physical or environmental constraints shall be assessed to reflect the presence of such constraints. Property appraisals shall be consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan, development regulations, zoning, and any other governmental policies or practices in effect at the time of appraisal that affect the use of property, as well as physical and environmental influences as required by RCW 84.40.030.))**

## ((H.)) I. Comprehensive Plan Amendments

((In the process of implementing the Comprehensive Plan, there may be a need for amendments to address emerging land use and regulatory issues. The County has established the Comprehensive Plan update process to enable individual residents, businesses, community groups, cities, county departments and others to propose changes to existing Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations. This process provides for continuous and systematic review of Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations in response to changing conditions and circumstances that could affect growth and development throughout King County.))

The Comprehensive Plan update process includes ((the annual update, the midpoint update, and the eight-year update)) annual, midpoint, and 10-year updates. The annual update generally is limited to those amendments that propose technical changes and adoption of ((CSA)) subarea plans. The ((eight)) 10-year update is designed to address amendments that propose substantive changes. The midpoint update is an optional

process that allows for consideration of a smaller range of substantive changes, ~~((but only))~~ if initiated by motion. This update schedule provides the measure of certainty and predictability necessary to allow for new land use initiatives to work. By allowing annual and midpoint updates, the process provides sufficient flexibility to account for technical adjustments or changed circumstances. The process requires early and continuous public involvement and necessitates meaningful public ~~((dialogue))~~ engagement.

King County has established a docket process to facilitate public involvement and participation in the Comprehensive Plan update process in accordance with Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.470. Parties interested in proposing changes to ~~((existing))~~ Comprehensive Plan policies, development regulations, land use designations, zoning, or other components of the Comprehensive Plan can ~~((obtain and complete))~~ submit a docket ~~((form))~~ request outlining the proposed amendment. ~~((Docket forms are available via the King County website.~~

~~I-201~~ **The update process shall provide continuing review and evaluation of Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations.**

~~I-202))~~ **I-101 Through the update process, ((King County)) Comprehensive Plan policies and ((supporting)) implementing development regulations shall be subject to continuing review, evaluation, and amendment according to the annual, midpoint, and ((eight)) 10-year update schedule in accordance with Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.130 ((1) and (2)) and the King County Code.**

**I-102 Except as provided in Policy I-103, ((P)) proposed amendments to the King County Comprehensive Plan, including the Land Use Map, shall be considered by the King County Council only once each calendar year in accordance with the State Growth Management Act and so that the cumulative effect of the proposals can be determined.**

**I-103 After appropriate public participation, amendments may be considered more than once each calendar year as follows:**

- a. For initial adoption of a subarea plan;**
- b. Adoption or amendment of the Shoreline Master Program;**
- c. Amendment of the capital facilities element of the Comprehensive Plan that is part of the adoption or amendment of the County budget;**
- d. To resolve an appeal of the Comprehensive Plan filed with the Growth Management Hearings Board or with the court; or**
- e. For an emergency amendment, after public notice is provided, and the amendment follows the emergency ordinance provisions of Section 230.30 of the King County Charter.**

~~((I-203))~~ **I-104 Except as otherwise provided in this policy, the annual update shall not consider proposed amendments to the ((King County)) Comprehensive Plan that require substantive changes to Comprehensive Plan policies ((and development regulations)) or that alter the Urban Growth Area ((B)) boundary. Substantive amendments may be considered in the annual update only to consider the following:**

- a. Changes required by existing Comprehensive Plan policies;**
- b. Changes to technical appendices and any amendments required thereby;**
- c. Adoption of subarea plans;**
- d. Changes required by amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies or state or federal law;**



- ~~e. Amendments resulting from the comprehensive plan implementation progress report required by Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.130;~~
- ~~f. Land Use Map or shoreline master program map amendments resulting from a site-specific application or an area zoning and land use zoning study, provided that the amendments do not require substantive change to policy language or alter the Urban Growth Area boundary, except to correct mapping errors;~~
- ~~g. Amendments to add or remove lands from the Agricultural Production District under policy R-761 and/or R-762 for King County safety, preservation, and/or fish passage road projects that are in the adopted six-year Capital Improvement Program;~~
- ~~h. ((A)) Four-to-One proposals ((that changes the Urban Growth Area Boundary));~~
  - ~~((b. An amendment regarding the provision of wastewater services to a Rural Town. Such amendments shall be limited to policy amendments and adjustments to the boundaries of the Rural Town as needed to implement a preferred option identified in a Rural Town wastewater treatment study;~~
- ~~c)) i. Amendments necessary for the conservation, protection, and recovery of threatened and endangered species;~~
- ~~((d. Adoption of Community Service Area subarea plans;~~
- ~~e)) j. Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan ((w))Work ((p))Plan to change deadlines((; or~~
- ~~k. Amendments related to the next long-term solid waste disposal option; or~~
- ~~l. Amendments to update critical area policies in 2025.~~
- ~~((f. Amendments to update the Comprehensive Plan schedule to respond to adopted ordinances to improve alignment with the Growth Management Act, multicounty and countywide planning activities.))~~

~~((1-204)) 1-105~~ The ~~((eight)) 10-year~~ update shall make changes required as part of the Growth Management Act statutory update, consider proposed amendments that could be considered in the annual update ~~((and also those outside the scope of the annual update))~~, proposed amendments relating to substantive changes to Comprehensive Plan policies ~~((and development regulations;))~~ and proposals to alter the Urban Growth Area ~~((B))~~ boundary in accordance with applicable provisions of Countywide Planning Policies.

~~((1-204a)) 1-106~~ The midpoint update is an optional process that allows for consideration of a smaller range of substantive policy changes and amendments to the Urban Growth Area boundary at the ~~((four)) five-year~~ point of the ~~((eight)) 10-year~~ update schedule. Midpoint updates are only authorized by a motion that establishes the scope of work. ~~((A smaller range of substantive changes to policies and amendments to the Urban Growth Area boundary may be considered as part of the midpoint update.))~~ Work ~~((p))~~ Plan action items may be added or amended if related to a topic identified in the scope of work.

((I-205)) I-107 ((In accordance with RCW 36.70A.140 and the State Environmental Policy Act, as applicable;)) King County shall use equitable engagement strategies to ensure public participation in the update process for Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations, particularly from populations historically underrepresented or excluded from planning processes. King County shall disseminate information regarding public involvement in the Comprehensive Plan update process, including, but not limited to, the following: description of procedures and schedules for proposing amendments to Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations; guidelines for participating in the docket process; public meetings to obtain comments from the public or other agencies; provision of public review documents; and dissemination of information relating to the Comprehensive Plan update process on the Internet or through other methods.

((The following policies guide the preparation of amendments and their review by King County:

I-207)) I-108 ((Proposed amendments to the King County Comprehensive Plan, including the Land Use Map, shall be considered by the King County Council only once each calendar year in accordance with the State Growth Management Act and so that the cumulative effect of the proposals can be determined.)) All Executive proposed Comprehensive Plan policy amendments ((should)) shall include the following analysis:

- a. Rationale and effect: a detailed statement of ((what is proposed to be changed and why;
- b. Effect: a statement detailing the anticipated outcome of the change on the geographic area affected, populations affected, and environment;
- c. Compliance: a statement confirming compliance with the:
  1. Growth Management Act, including statutory references where applicable;
  2. Countywide Planning Policies, including policy references where applicable;
  3. King County Strategic Plan, including policy, objective or strategy references where applicable; and
- d. Public Review: an indication that the proposed policy amendment was included in the executive's public review draft or a statement of the public review process used to solicit comments on the proposal):
  1. Whether the proposed change is a new policy, a substantive policy change, clarification of existing intent, or technical with no policy change intended;
  2. The rationale for the proposed change; and
  3. The anticipated outcome of the proposed change, including effects on the geographic area(s) and populations affected; and
- b. Implementation: a description of the anticipated implementation of the proposed change, including:
  1. Whether implementation of the proposed change is regulatory, programmatic, or a capital project, or a combination;
  2. If the change is regulatory, a description of the development regulations transmitted with the Comprehensive Plan update that implement the proposed change, in conformance with Policy I-109;
  3. If the change is programmatic or a capital project, whether it needs additional resources to implement the proposed change; and

225 **4. If the change is programmatic or a capital project, the**  
226 **anticipated timing for implementation.**  
227

228 **((1-208)) I-109 Proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan policies**  
229 **((should)) shall be accompanied by any changes to development**  
230 **regulations, ((as well as modifications to capital improvement**  
231 **programs, subarea, neighborhood, and functional plans required for**  
232 **implementation so that regulations will be consistent with the**  
233 **Comprehensive Plan)) when necessary to implement the policy change.**  
234

235 **I-110 Adopted Comprehensive Plan policy changes shall be integrated into**  
236 **future regularly scheduled updates to the Capital Improvement**  
237 **Program, subarea plans, and functional plans, when necessary to**  
238 **implement the change.**

239 **((III.)) II. Review and Evaluation**

240 King County uses performance measurement to evaluate Comprehensive Plan  
241 implementation to ensure Growth Management Act and County goals are being met,  
242 improve transparency and accountability with the public, increase use of data to support  
243 decision-making, and identify where improvements can be made.  
244

245 Long-term indicators provide insight into whether the goals of the Comprehensive Plan  
246 are being achieved or if revisions are needed. The framework is structured around how  
247 well the County is meeting the aspirations of the Guiding Principles policies in the Plan,  
248 as consistent with the planning goals of the Growth Management Act. The performance  
249 measures are primarily analyzed at a countywide scale, with additional geographic  
250 detail for relevant Growth Management Act geographies (incorporated cities,  
251 unincorporated urban area, the Rural Area, and Natural Resource Lands), as appropriate  
252 and feasible given the dataset used. Wherever possible, disparate impacts are also  
253 analyzed. Many of the Comprehensive Plan performance measures overlap with the  
254 Determinants of Equity indicators used for internal equity performance monitoring.  
255 Performance measure reports are issued in advance of 10-year Comprehensive Plan  
256 updates to inform the scope of work for the update.  
257

258 Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.130 also requires King County to provide the state  
259 a report detailing the progress achieved in implementing the Comprehensive Plan  
260 ("implementation progress report") five years after adoption of a 10-year update. The  
261 report must include information about:

- 262 • Implementation of previously adopted changes to the housing element of the Plan,  
263 and any effect those changes have had on housing affordability and availability  
264 within the jurisdiction;
- 265 • Permit processing timelines;
- 266 • Progress toward implementing any actions required to achieve reductions to meet  
267 greenhouse gas and vehicle miles traveled requirements in the Growth  
268 Management Act; and
- 269 • Identification of any outstanding actions needed to implement the previous 10-year  
270 update, such as specifically identified regulations, zoning, and/or land use changes  
271 or other legislative or administrative actions. In such cases, the County must adopt  
272 a work plan to take any necessary implementing actions identified in the report and  
273 complete all work necessary for implementation within two years of submission of  
274 the report.  
275

Additionally, ~~((t))~~in accordance with the Growth Management Act, King County and ~~((its))~~ cities ~~((with))~~ work together to employ an established review and evaluation program, as provided by the King County Countywide Planning Policies. The purpose of the program ~~((will be))~~ is to determine whether the ~~((c))~~County and ~~((its))~~ cities (1) have sufficient capacity for targeted growth and housing needs and (2) are achieving urban densities within urban growth areas by comparing growth and development assumptions, targets, housing needs, and objectives contained in the Countywide Planning Policies and the ~~((c))~~County and city comprehensive plans with actual ~~((growth and))~~ patterns of development in the county and cities.

Additional monitoring, review, and reporting occurs under Policy H-100 to (1) ensure alignment with Countywide Planning Policies Housing Chapter goals and policies and (2) progress towards meeting countywide and jurisdictional housing growth targets, housing needs, and eliminating disparities in access to housing and neighborhood choice.

### ~~((Buildable Lands Program~~

~~Section)) Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.215 ((of the Growth Management Act, commonly called Buildable Lands,)) requires six western Washington counties (including King County) and ((their)) the cities in those counties to evaluate their capacity to accommodate forecasted growth of housing units and jobs within the current Urban Growth Area. ((The purpose of the program is to determine whether the county and its cities are achieving urban densities within urban growth areas by comparing growth and development assumptions, targets, and objectives contained in the Countywide Planning Policies and the county and city comprehensive plans with actual growth and development in the county and cities.)) Objectives relating to this review and evaluation include:~~

- Determining whether a county and ~~((its))~~ the cities in that county are achieving urban densities within urban growth areas by comparing growth and development assumptions, targets, and objectives contained in the Countywide Planning Policies and the county and city comprehensive plans with actual growth and development in the county and cities;
- Determining whether there is sufficient suitable land to accommodate applicable countywide population projections, including evaluation of impacts of approved actions to amend the Urban Growth Area;
- Determining the actual density of housing constructed within the Urban Growth Area since the adoption of, or since the most recent evaluation of, the Comprehensive Plan;
- Determining the actual amount of land developed for commercial and industrial uses within the Urban Growth Area since the adoption of, or since the most recent evaluation of, the Comprehensive Plan;
- Reviewing commercial, industrial, and housing needs by type and density range to determine the amount of land needed for commercial, industrial, and housing for the remaining portion of the 20-year planning period used in the ~~((2012 adopted))~~ Comprehensive Plan; and
- ~~((Adopting and implementing))~~ Identifying measures intended to promote consistency between estimates of available land capacity, measures of actual development by type, and goals and objectives of city and county comprehensive plan policies, development regulations, and Countywide Planning Policies. Such measures include, but are not limited to, possible amendments to Countywide Planning Policies as determined necessary by the county and the cities.

~~((In collaboration with its cities, King County prepared Buildable Lands Reports in 2002, 2007 and 2014, to implement this portion of the Growth Management Act.~~

## Conclusions of 2014 King County Buildable Lands Report

The *King County Buildable Lands Report - 2014* reported on development densities and capacity as required by the Growth Management Act. The report concluded that King County does have sufficient capacity to accommodate forecasted housing-unit and job growth through 2031 and beyond. Under existing Comprehensive Plans and zoning, the county's Urban Growth Area has a generous surplus of planned capacity: more than double the housing target through 2031 and 160% of the jobs target. Almost all of this development capacity is contained within the county's 39 cities. Unincorporated King County within the Urban Growth Area has sufficient capacity for its residential target, but technically has a slight shortfall of capacity for job growth.

Under the Growth Management Act, *VISION 2040* and the Countywide Planning Policies, cities are designated and intended to accommodate almost all employment growth. Prior to planning under the Growth Management Act, unincorporated King County absorbed a large share of the county's residential and job growth. Since beginning to plan under the Growth Management Act, the county's growth has shifted almost entirely into the cities. However, a commensurate share of urban unincorporated growth targets did not shift into cities. Annexations transferred more capacity than target into the annexing cities, leaving residual unincorporated targets that are out of balance with actual capacity. Bearing in mind that the Urban Growth Area as a whole does have sufficient capacity for commercial and industrial growth, the small shortfall in urban unincorporated King County is a technical issue that will be addressed as further annexations occur. No action need be taken now, as urban unincorporated areas undergo transition into cities.

In partnership with the King County Growth Report, the King County Buildable Lands Report and supplementary monitoring of the)) To develop the Urban Growth Capacity Report and King County Comprehensive Plan Performance Measures, the County and ((its)) the cities ((will)) partner to review information relating to and including, but not limited to, the following:

- Urban densities;
- Remaining land capacity;
- Growth and development assumptions, targets, and objectives;
- Residential, commercial, and industrial development;
- Transportation;
- Affordable housing need and supply;
- Economic development; and
- Environmental quality.

### ~~((1-301))~~ **I-201 King County shall:**

- a. Monitor ((and benchmark)), measure, assess, and report on the progress of the ((Countywide Planning Policies and King County)) Comprehensive Plan toward achieving ((their)) its objectives, inclusive of those relating to growth targets, the environment, development patterns, housing needs, the economy, transportation, ((and)) the provision of public services, and health and social equity outcomes of residents((-));
- b. Use results of such monitoring, measurement, assessment, and reporting to ((encourage)) identify implementation actions and inform policy revisions, as appropriate, to achieve the planning objectives found within the Growth Management Act, Countywide Planning Policies, and ((King County)) Comprehensive Plan((-)); and
- c. Incorporate data on critical areas and other constrained lands into analysis on developable capacity to accommodate growth targets and housing needs.



- ~~((E-708))~~ **I-202** King County should implement a monitoring and adaptive management framework ~~((for))~~ to:
- a.** Evaluate the effectiveness ((monitoring of critical areas)) of County policies, regulations, and programs in achieving no net loss of critical areas functions and values; and
  - b.** ~~((use monitoring data to i))~~ Inform ((the)) future ((review and updates of its critical areas policies and regulations)) regulatory updates.

### ~~IV.))~~ III. Land Use Designations and Zoning Classifications ~~((and Codes))~~

The application of zoning classifications on specific properties is the first step towards implementing the land use designations of the Comprehensive Plan. Boundaries between different zone classifications may follow property lines, natural features, or other dividing lines such as roads. A land use designation is implemented by one or more specific zone classification, as indicated on the following table ~~((below)).~~

Comprehensive Plan Land Use Designations	Zoning Classifications*
Unincorporated Activity Center (ac)	R-12, R-18, R-24, R-48, NB, CB, O, I
Community Business Center (cb)	NB, CB, O
Neighborhood Business Center (nb)	NB, O
Commercial Outside of Centers (co)	NB, CB, RB, O, - this is the range of existing zoning in place when the Comprehensive Plan was adopted
<del>((Urban Planned Development (upd)))</del>	<del>((R-1, R-4, R-6, R-8, R-12, R-18, R-24, R-48, NB, CB, RB, O, I))</del>
Urban Residential, High (uh)	R-18, R-24, R-48
Urban Residential, Medium (um)	R-4, R-6, R-8, R-12
Urban Residential, Low (ul)	R-1
Urban Growth Area <del>((s))</del> for Cities in Rural Area (rx)	UR <del>((The following two zones were in place in the North Bend Urban Growth Area when the comprehensive plan was adopted in 1994: I, RB))</del>
Rural Town (rt)	R-1, R-4, R-6, R-8, R-12, R-18, R-24, R-48, NB, CB, <del>((RB,))</del> O, I
Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center (rn)	NB
Rural Area (ra)	RA-2.5, RA-5, RA-10, RA-20
Industrial (i)	I
Forestry (f)	F, M
Agriculture (ag)	A-10, A-35
Mining (m)	M
Greenbelt/Urban Separator (gb)	R-1
King County Open Space System (os)	All zones
Other Parks/Wilderness (op)	All zones

\* This is the range of zoning that may be allowed within each comprehensive plan land use designation~~((s))~~ subject to ~~((c))~~Comprehensive ~~((p))~~Plan and subarea plan policies. Actual zoning on a specific property is determined through the area~~((wide))~~ zoning process or through ~~((a quasi-judicial))~~ site-specific rezone application.

Abbreviation	Zoning Classifications
A	Agricultural <del>((10 or 35-acre minimum lot area))</del>
F	Forest <del>((80-acre minimum lot area))</del>
M	Mineral
RA	Rural Area <del>((2.5-acre, 5-acre, 10-acre or 20-acre minimum density))</del>
UR	Urban Reserve
R	Urban Residential <del>((base density in dwelling units per acre))</del>
NB	Neighborhood Business
CB	Community Business
RB	Regional Business
O	Office
I	Industrial

Note: Areas without a land use designation or zoning classification include mainly railroad rights-of-way, road rights-of-way, and open water. Other such areas may relate to certain access tracts, mapping that doesn't align with current property configurations, and, less frequently, ambiguous information related to historical planning processes.

~~((The Zoning Code (Title 21A) establishes precise rules for each zoning classification such as permitted residential densities and activities or allowed commercial and industrial development activities, and striving for separation between incompatible uses. This code includes standards relative to bulk (i.e. lot size and coverage, building heights and setbacks, landscape standards):~~

## ~~V. Other))~~ IV. Implementing King County Codes

The Comprehensive Plan guides land use over the long term by applying specific land use designations throughout the unincorporated portion of King County and by providing guidelines for implementing regulations used to evaluate specific development proposals. To ensure that these implementing regulations are effective and warrant a high degree of public trust and confidence, the regulations must be equitable, reasonable, and responsibly administered.

~~((In addition to the Zoning Code,))~~ King County regulates land development and construction based on the Comprehensive Plan through a variety of technical code standards resulting in permits and approvals for specific projects. This includes, but is not limited to, elements of the King County Code that control development or land use activities, such as the zoning code, shoreline master program, subdivision ordinances, surface water management, and construction codes.

~~((In terms of land use regulation, the most important of these other implementing codes are Land Segregation (K.C.C. Title 19A) and Shoreline Management (K.C.C. Title 25). The Land Segregation code regulates division of a parcel of land into smaller lots for transfer of ownership. The Shoreline Management code regulates the issuance of substantial development permits for lands abutting waters governed by the Washington State Shoreline Management Act.~~

~~Other development approvals include commercial or industrial construction permits. Review of land segregation, substantial development permits and other development proposals are key parts of the development process for making sure facilities and services to support potential development are adequate and for evaluating environmental impacts.~~

### ~~I-101))~~ **I-301 King County's regulation of land use should:**

- a. **Protect public health, safety and general welfare, and property rights;**
- b. **Protect consumers from fraudulent practices in land use, land sales, and development;**
- c. **Implement and be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and other adopted land use goals, policies, and plans;**
- d. **Be expeditious, predictable, clear, straightforward, and internally consistent;**
- e. **Provide clear direction for resolution of regulatory conflict;**
- f. **Be enforceable, efficiently administered, and provide appropriate incentives and penalties;**
- g. **Be consistently and effectively enforced;**
- h. ~~((Create public and private benefits worth their cost;~~
- i.) **Be coordinated with timely provision of necessary public facilities and services;**
- ~~((j:))~~ i. **Encourage creativity and diversity in meeting ((c))County goals and policies;**
- ~~((k:))~~ j. **Be coordinated with cities, special purpose districts, and other public agencies to promote compatible development standards throughout King County;**
- ~~((l:))~~ k. **Be responsive, understandable, and accessible to the public;**
- ~~((m:))~~ l. **Provide effective public notice and reasonable opportunities for the public ((t)), especially those directly affected((t)), to be heard and to influence decisions;**

~~((n:))~~ **m.** Avoid intruding on activities involving constitutionally protected freedoms of speech, petition, expression, assembly, association, and economic competition, except when essential to protect public health, safety and welfare ~~((t))~~, and then the restriction should be no broader than necessary~~((t))~~;

~~((o:))~~ **n.** Treat all members of the public equitably. Base regulatory decisions wholly on the applicable criteria and code requirements, including application of the ~~((c))~~ County's ~~((E))~~ equity and racial and ~~((S))~~ social ~~((J))~~ justice goals;

~~((p:))~~ **o.** Make development requirements readily accessible to the public through up-to-date codes, technical assistance materials, and other relevant documents; and

~~((q:))~~ **p.** Provide for relief from existing regulations when they would deprive a property of uses allowed to similar properties with the same zoning or environmental or other constraints, and when such relief would neither endanger public health and safety nor conflict with adopted use policies. This policy is not intended for relief from rules governing the subdividing of land.

~~((1-401))~~ **I-302** The King County ~~((Zoning))~~ Code's ~~((zone))~~ zoning classifications and development standards ~~((and the official zoning maps))~~ shall be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan ~~((and functional plans))~~.

~~((1-501))~~ **I-303** When needed infrastructure and facilities are not available in a timely manner, development approvals shall ~~((either))~~:

**a.** ~~((b))~~ Be denied ~~((or))~~;

**b.** ~~((d))~~ Divided into phases ~~((, or the project proponents should))~~; or

**c.** ~~((p))~~ Provide the needed facilities and infrastructure to address impacts directly attributable to their project ~~((, or as may be provided by the proponent on a voluntary basis))~~.

~~((1-502))~~ **I-304** King County's permitting systems should provide for expeditious review of projects consistent with zoning and adopted policies.

~~((1-503))~~ **I-305** Subdivision, short subdivision, and other development approvals, including those requiring detailed environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act, shall be reviewed for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, zoning, ~~((community,))~~ subarea plans, functional plans, and capital improvement programs.

~~((1-504))~~ **I-306** King County shall enforce its ~~((land use and environmental))~~ development regulations by pursuing code enforcement complaints and by providing ~~((oversight))~~ inspection services during the process of site development on all sites for which it issues permits.

~~((1-505))~~ King County shall develop, as a part of the buildable lands analysis, a zoning yield and housing production monitoring program to determine whether housing capacity is being lost in the context of compliance with the Endangered Species Act, and shall propose revisions to the Countywide Planning Policies to implement such a program.)

Siting public and private uses in communities can at times lead to concerns and objections from neighbors resulting from the real or perceived impacts of proposed uses. There~~((se))~~ is also a risk that objections to these "locally unwanted land uses" ~~((LULUs))~~ can lead to some uses becoming overly~~((=))~~ concentrated in some communities, particularly in ~~((historically disadvantaged areas))~~ those communities with higher populations of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color; people with low-incomes; immigrants; and refugees. In response, governments should evaluate the

potential equity and racial and social justice implications, including the beneficial and((for)) adverse impacts, of policies and regulations involving such uses.

**((1-101a)) I-307 Equity and racial and social justice principles ((will)) shall be used by King County as an important consideration in developing zoning and development regulations governing public and private uses, in siting public facilities, and in evaluating land use decisions. Results from ((the E))equity ((I))impact ((R))reviews ((Foot-will)) shall be used where appropriate.**

## ((VI.2016)) V. Comprehensive Plan ((Workplan)) Work Plan

((A new feature of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan is this Workplan section. While Workplan tasks have accompanied the Comprehensive Plan as part of the adoption process by the County Council, these tasks were historically included with the Ordinance rather than inside of the Comprehensive Plan. In the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, these tasks will be included in the body of the document.)) The Comprehensive Plan ((Workplan tasks)) Work Plan identifies additional actions the County will take after adoption of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan to: (1) further implement and refine the plan, and/or (2) continue work on issues that arose during plan development but there was not sufficient time or resources to complete the work prior to adoption. The action items work in conjunction with the other implementation tools discussed in this chapter, such as regulations, incentive programs, and other core regional planning and implementation activities. Each ((Workplan)) Work Plan action item includes a summary description, general timeline, and anticipated outcomes. ((In the 2018 update to the 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan, as part of the restructure adopted in Ordinance 18810 and Motion 15142, the County modified the structure of the King County Comprehensive Plan update process to include a comprehensive update every eight years, as well as potential annual and midpoint updates. As part of this review, Workplan items were amended to reflect this restructure, and to add direction for future updates to the Comprehensive Plan, including a 2020 update. Consistent with policies I-203 and I-204a, modifications and additions to the Workplan were included in the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update.)) Completion of Work Plan actions are dependent on future grant awards and/or budget decisions. Should funding be unavailable to complete the work, the timelines and/or deliverables may need to be reassessed.

When transmitting to the Council the required report, study, ordinance, and/or motion in any of the ((items)) Work Plan deliverables outlined below, the transmittal shall be ((in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy)) electronically filed with the clerk of the Council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all Councilmembers, the Council chief of staff, ((the policy staff director)) and the lead staff for the ((planning, rural service and environment committee, or its successor)) committee charged with oversight of the Comprehensive Plan.

**((Action 1: Implementation of the Community Service Area Subarea Planning Program.** Under the direction of the Department of Local Services - Permitting Division, King County has launched a new regular subarea planning program. While this is described in greater detail in Chapter 11: Community Service Area Subarea Planning, launching and implementing this effort will be a major activity following the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan. For each plan, the County shall comply with Policy CP-100 and K.C.C. 2.16.055.

- ~~Timeline:~~ Ongoing, the Executive will propose a subarea plan for each area based on planning schedule in Chapter 11.



- ~~●—Outcomes: A proposed subarea plan for each Community Service Area for Council consideration and possible adoption. Each subarea plan shall be transmitted by the Executive to the Council in the form of an ordinance that adopts the subarea plan, at a time consistent with King County Code Chapter 20.18. A Public Review Draft of each subarea plan shall be made available to the public and the Council for comment prior to finalizing the plan for transmittal.~~
- ~~●—Lead: Department of Local Services - Permitting Division, in coordination and collaboration with the Office of Performance Strategy and Budget. Executive staff, including the Department of Local Services - Permitting Division, the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, or other appropriate agencies, shall update and coordinate with the Councilmember office(s) representing the applicable study area throughout the community planning process.~~

**Action 2: Develop a Performance Measures Program for the Comprehensive Plan.**

The purpose of the program is to develop longer-term indicators to provide insight into whether the goals of the Comprehensive Plan are being achieved or if revisions are needed. Given the longer-term nature of the issues addressed in the Comprehensive Plan, this program will be implemented on an eight-year update schedule. Reports are to be released in the year prior to the initiation of the eight-year update in order to guide the scoping process for the update. Additionally, to the extent practicable for each dataset, indicators will be reported at the level most consistent with the major geographies in the Growth Management Act and Comprehensive Plan – incorporated cities, unincorporated urban areas, Rural Areas, and Natural Resource Lands.

- ~~●—Timeline: The motion adopting the program framework shall be transmitted by June 1, 2017. A 2022 Comprehensive Plan Performance Measures Report released by March 1, 2022, will inform the 2022 Scope of Work for the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update.~~
- ~~●—Outcomes: The 2017 framework for the program shall be transmitted by the Executive to the Council by June 1, 2017, in the form of a motion that adopts the framework. The 2022 Comprehensive Plan Performance Measures Report shall be completed as directed by the 2017 framework motion adopted by the Council. The Executive shall file with the Council the 2022 Comprehensive Plan Performance Measures Report. The 2022 Scope of Work for the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update shall be informed by the 2022 Performance Measures Report. The Executive's transmitted 2024 Comprehensive Plan shall include updated references to the new Performance Measures Program.~~
- ~~●—Lead: Office of Performance Strategy and Budget. Executive staff shall work with the Council's Comprehensive Plan lead staff in development of the 2017 framework for the program.~~

**Action 3: Implement a Transfer of Development Rights Unincorporated Urban Receiving Area Amenity Funding Pilot Project.**

The County's Transfer of Development Rights Program has been very effective in implementing Growth Management Act goals to reduce sprawl and permanently protect open space. This Workplan item is to conduct a pilot project to determine the process for providing amenities to unincorporated urban Transfer of Development Rights receiving area communities. The focus of the pilot project will be the East Renton Plateau – an area of urban unincorporated King County that has received a substantial number of Transferrable of Development Rights. The East Renton Plateau Transfer of Development Rights Receiving Area Pilot Project will: develop a process for engaging the community to determine the type of amenities the community desires; assess the type and amounts of funding available for providing amenities; and establish an amount of amenity funding to be provided for each Transferrable of Development Rights (both past and future Transferrable of Development Rights).

- ~~●—Timeline: 2017-2018; (18-month process). The Transfer of Development Rights~~

Amenity Funding Pilot Project Report on the results of the pilot project shall be transmitted to the Council by June 1, 2018, so as to inform the King County 2019-2020 Biennial Budget.

- ~~Outcomes:~~ The Executive shall file with the Council the Transfer of Development Rights Amenity Funding Pilot Project Report recommending process and funding levels relative to Transferrable of Development Rights used in development projects. The report shall include identification of any necessary recommended amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and King County Code. The Executive shall transmit to the Council any recommended amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and King County Code as part of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update.
- ~~Leads:~~ Department of Natural Resources and Parks. Executive staff shall update and coordinate with the Councilmember office(s) representing the pilot project community throughout the process.

**Action 4: Transfer of Development Rights Program Review.** The County's Transfer of Development Rights Program has been very successful in protecting Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands by transferring development potential into cities and unincorporated urban areas. Typically the Transfer of Development Rights Program advances two primary policy objectives: conserving Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands, as well as focusing new growth in urban areas.

This Workplan item will do the following:

A.—Prepare a Transfer of Development Rights Program Review Study that addresses:

- 1) ~~Tax revenue impacts of the Transfer of Development Rights Program for both sending and receiving sites.~~
- 2) ~~Analysis of potential Transfer of Development Rights Program changes that build on existing program objectives while considering other policy objectives, such as making investments in economically disadvantaged areas, promoting housing affordability, incentivizing green building, and providing for Transit Oriented Development. The analysis should take into consideration the economic feasibility of and market interest in these other policy objectives, as well as opportunities for providing amenities to communities that receive Transfer of Development Rights. This analysis will be achieved through implementation of a pilot project that utilizes such incentives and provides amenities to the community receiving increased density associated with the Transfer of Development Rights. If possible, the pilot project should be undertaken in Skyway West Hill and help implement the Skyway West Hill Action Plan.~~
- 3) ~~Consider possible performance criteria.~~

B.—Produce an annual report to the Council on the Transfer of Development Rights Program and associated bank activity.

- ~~Timeline:~~ The annual report to the Council shall commence with a report due on December 1, 2017. The Transfer of Development Rights Program Review Study, and an ordinance making Comprehensive Plan and/or King County Code changes if applicable, shall be filed with the Council by September 30, 2019 as part of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update.
- ~~Outcomes:~~ The Executive shall file with the Council the Transfer of Development Rights Program Review Study and the annual report. The Study shall outline policy and implementation options, if applicable. If Comprehensive Plan and/or King County Code changes are recommended, an ordinance implementing those changes shall also be transmitted to the Council with the Study.

- ~~Leads: Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Office of Performance Strategy and Budget. Executive staff shall update and coordinate with the Councilmember office(s) representing the pilot project community throughout the process.~~

**Action 5: Review 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan Implementation Needs.**

~~The 2016 Comprehensive Plan includes new policy direction that may need updates in the King County Code in order to be implemented before the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update. The County will utilize an interbranch team to review the 2016 Comprehensive Plan and any necessary code updates. This analysis will result in a report that identifies the areas of the code in need of updating and subsequent legislation to address the areas of inconsistencies. The legislation will also include code changes to K.C.C. 16.82.150 and 16.82.152, and associated references, to reflect court rulings and current case law.~~

- ~~Timeline: An Implementation Report shall be filed with the Council by July 31, 2017. The Report will inform a code update ordinance(s), which shall be transmitted to the Council no later than December 31, 2021.~~
- ~~Outcomes: The interbranch team shall prepare, and the Executive shall file with the Council, the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Implementation Report and the code update ordinance(s).~~
- ~~Leads: Interbranch team comprised of staff from at least the: King County Council, Office of Performance Strategy and Budget, Department of Local Services – Permitting Division, and Prosecuting Attorney’s Office.~~

**Action 6: Alternative Housing Demonstration Project.** ~~There is considerable interest to explore temporary and permanent alternative housing models to address the issues of homelessness and affordable housing in the Puget Sound region. King County is currently exploring microhousing pilot projects across the region that can inform a larger demonstration project under King County Code on alternative housing models in unincorporated King County. Based on what the County learns from the experience of pilots across the region, the County should pursue a larger demonstration project that looks at a broader range of temporary and permanent alternative housing models under its land use authority.~~

~~This work plan item will utilize an interbranch team to analyze the potential for a demonstration project under K.C.C. chapter 21A.55 for one or more temporary or permanent alternative housing projects, such as single and/or multi-family microhousing (i.e., very small units clustered around a shared kitchen and other similar models) or tiny houses, modular construction, live/work units, and co-housing projects. A demonstration project will allow the County to test development regulations and other regulatory barriers related to alternative housing models before adopting or amending permanent regulations. Such regulations could include amendments to or establishment of regulations related to permitted uses or temporary uses, building and fire codes, water and sewer supply requirements, setbacks, landscaping screening, location requirements, light and glare requirements, public notice, and mitigation of impacts to the surrounding area. This work plan item should also analyze potential funding sources and funding barriers for projects that may or may not require public funding, including funds managed by the King County Housing and Community Development Division of the Department of Community and Human Services.~~

- ~~Timeline: Two phases. Phase One – Issuance of a request for proposals to identify a project or projects in unincorporated King County that will participate in an Alternative Housing Demonstration Project. While a project or projects are being chosen, a Demonstration Project ordinance package that pilots necessary regulatory flexibilities will be developed for approval by the Council. Such a Demonstration Project shall be transmitted to Council by December 31, 2019. Phase II – An Alternative Housing Demonstration Project Report, including~~

proposed regulations and/or amendments to implement the recommendations of the report shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration within two years from the final certificate of occupancy for buildings developed under the Demonstration Project Ordinance:

- ~~Outcomes:~~ The interbranch team shall prepare, and the Executive shall file with the Council, the Alternative Housing Demonstration Project Report, which shall include analysis of the issues learned in the Demonstration Project(s), and identification of recommended amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and King County Code. The Executive shall also file with the Council an ordinance adopting updates to the Comprehensive Plan and/or King County Code as recommended in the Report.
- ~~Leads:~~ The King County Council will convene an interbranch team comprised of staff from at least: King County Council, Department of Community and Human Services, Department of Local Services - Permitting Division, Public Health, and Office of Performance Strategy and Budget.

**Action 7: Agricultural Related Uses Zoning Code Updates.** As part of the transmitted 2016 Comprehensive Plan, the Executive included recommended code changes related to agricultural uses in unincorporated King County. In order to give the Council additional time to consider these proposed changes and to address the identified policy issues, the transmitted code changes will not be adopted in 2016. Instead, the code changes will be further developed through this work plan item:

The Council identified several policy issues through review of the code changes as part of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update. Through use of an interbranch team, this work plan item aims to resolve these policy issues, draft a new ordinance, and complete outreach to affected stakeholders such as the King County Agriculture Commission, ag-related business owners, and/or Community Service Areas. If the results of the winery study, currently being reviewed by the Executive, are not complete in time to incorporate into the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, then this work plan item should also address the recommendations of that study:

- ~~Timeline:~~ Six to nine month process. An Agricultural Related Uses Zoning Code Updates Report and proposed regulations to implement the recommendations in report shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration by September 30, 2017.
- ~~Outcomes:~~ The interbranch team shall prepare, and the Executive shall file with the Council, the Agricultural Related Uses Zoning Code Updates Report, which shall include identification of recommended amendments to the King County Code. The Executive shall also file with the Council an ordinance adopting updates to the King County Code as recommended in the Report.
- ~~Leads:~~ The King County Council will convene an interbranch team comprised of at least King County Council staff, the Department of Permitting and Environmental Review, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and the Office of Performance Strategy and Budget.

**Action 8: Cottage Housing Regulations Review.** Cottage housing is a method of development that allows for multiple detached single-family dwelling units to be located on a commonly owned parcel. In unincorporated King County, cottage housing is currently only permitted in the R-4 through R-8 urban residential zones, subject to certain conditions in the King County Code, such as in K.C.C. 21A.08.030 and 21A.12.030, which includes being only allowed on lots one acre in size or smaller. This work plan item will review Comprehensive Plan policies and development code regulations for the potential for expanded allowances for cottage housing in unincorporated King County, including in Rural Areas, and recommend policy and code changes as appropriate. The review will include evaluation of encouraging: close proximity of garages to the associated housing unit, and development of units with a

799 wide variety of square footages, so as to address various needs and a diversity of  
800 residents:

- 801 ~~• *Timeline:* A Cottage Housing Regulations Report shall be transmitted to the~~  
802 ~~Council by December 31, 2018. Any proposed policy or code changes to~~  
803 ~~implement the recommendations in the report shall be transmitted to the~~  
804 ~~Council for consideration by September 30, 2019 as part of the 2020~~  
805 ~~Comprehensive Plan update.~~
- 806 ~~• *Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council the Cottage Housing~~  
807 ~~Regulations Report, which shall include identification of any recommended~~  
808 ~~amendments to the King County Code and/or Comprehensive Plan. The~~  
809 ~~Executive shall also file with the Council an ordinance adopting updates to the~~  
810 ~~King County Code and/or the Comprehensive Plan, if recommended in the~~  
811 ~~Report.~~
- 812 ~~• *Leads:* The Department of Local Services - Permitting Division and the Office of~~  
813 ~~Performance Strategy and Budget.~~

814  
815 **Action 9: Carbon Neutral King County Plan.** ~~The 2016 Comprehensive Plan includes~~  
816 ~~a new policy F-215b which directs the County to “strive to provide services and build~~  
817 ~~and operate public buildings and infrastructure that are carbon neutral.” To support~~  
818 ~~implementation of this policy, this work plan item directs the Executive to develop an~~  
819 ~~Implementation Plan for making King County government carbon neutral. The~~  
820 ~~Implementation Plan shall address existing and new County buildings, as well as all~~  
821 ~~County operations and services, and shall identify the actions, costs and schedule for~~  
822 ~~achieving carbon neutral status. This Implementation Plan will help inform the 2020~~  
823 ~~update of the Strategic Climate Action Plan, through which existing county targets for~~  
824 ~~carbon neutrality and greenhouse gas emissions reduction will be updated consistent~~  
825 ~~with the F-215b and the Implementation Plan.~~

- 826 ~~• *Timeline:* A Carbon Neutral King County Implementation Plan and a motion~~  
827 ~~adopting the Implementation Plan shall be transmitted to the Council for~~  
828 ~~consideration by February 28, 2019. A Progress Report on development of the~~  
829 ~~Implementation Plan shall be transmitted to the Council by December 31, 2017.~~
- 830 ~~• *Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council for review and potential~~  
831 ~~approval the Carbon Neutral King County Implementation Plan and a motion~~  
832 ~~adopting the Implementation Plan.~~
- 833 ~~• *Leads:* Department of Natural Resources and Parks.~~

834  
835 **Action 10: Green Building Handbook Review.** ~~The 2016 Comprehensive Plan~~  
836 ~~includes policy direction in Policies U-133, R-336a, F-215a, and ED-501a that~~  
837 ~~encourages green building practices in private development. To support these~~  
838 ~~implementation of these policies, and consistent with direction in the 2015 Strategic~~  
839 ~~Climate Action Plan, the County will soon be in the process of reviewing potential green~~  
840 ~~building code requirements and/or encouraged standards for private development for~~  
841 ~~possible adoption. In the meantime, the County intends to continue to use the~~  
842 ~~Department of Permitting and Environmental Review’s existing “Green Building~~  
843 ~~Handbook” to help encourage private green building development, which is referenced~~  
844 ~~in the 2016 Comprehensive Plan. This work plan item directs the Executive to transmit~~  
845 ~~to the Council the Green Building Handbook for review and potential approval.~~

- 846 ~~• *Timeline:* The Green Building Handbook and a motion approving the~~  
847 ~~Handbook shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration by March 1,~~  
848 ~~2017.~~
- 849 ~~• *Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council for review and potential~~  
850 ~~approval the Green Building Handbook and a motion adopting the Handbook.~~
- 851 ~~• *Leads:* The Department of Permitting and Environmental Review.~~



**Action 11: Bicycle Network Planning Report.** The Puget Sound Regional Council has identified a regional bicycle network, for both the existing network and the associated gaps and needs, in its Active Transportation Plan, which is an element of *Transportation 2040*. King County also identifies local bicycle network needs throughout its planning, such as in the Transportation Needs Report and the Regional Trail Needs Report.

This Workplan item directs the King County Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Department of Natural Resources and Parks and the Department of Permitting and Environmental Review, to evaluate and report on how to enhance the bicycle network within unincorporated King County and address identified regional and local bicycle infrastructure needs (such as standards for bicycle lanes, tracks and trails; plans and financing for capital improvements; bicycle racks and parking; air filling stations; etc). This report will include:

a. Evaluation of existing King County planning efforts and possible areas for improvement, such as addressing bicycle facility provisions in:

- roadway designs and standards, including lighting standards;
- plat approvals;
- commercial developments;
- parks & trails planning; and
- transit planning and access to transit.

b. Evaluation of bicycle and/or active transportation plan elements of other jurisdictions, including the City of Seattle, for opportunities to connect to King County planning and active transportation facilities:

c. Working with stakeholders for identification of needs and areas for possible improvements:

- Timeline:* The Bicycle Network Planning Report and a motion approving the report shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration by December 31, 2017.

- Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council for review and potential approval the Bicycle Network Planning Report and a motion adopting the Report.

- Lead:* Department of Transportation.

**Action 12: Update Plat Ingress/Egress Requirements.** State law gives King County the responsibility to adopt regulations and procedures for approval of subdivisions and plats. The Department of Local Services - Permitting Division reviews ingress and egress to subdivisions and plats during the preliminary subdivision approval process using the Department of Local Services - Road Services Division's "King County Road Design and Construction Standards - 2007" (Roads Standards). In recent years, subdivision layouts have included one entry/exit (or ingress/egress) point and a looped road network within the subdivision:

Utilizing one entry/exit point can cause access issues if the roadway were to be physically impeded (such as due to: a fire, debris, flooding, ice, snow, etc.). This configuration may also cause traffic backups while waiting for the ability to turn in to or out of the development. Sometimes, this one access point may also be located too close to other intersecting roadways to the roadway that the development intersects; this can contribute to traffic back-ups.

This Workplan item directs the Executive to transmit legislation to update the code, (such as K.C.C. Title 21A), and the King County Department of Local Services - Road Services Division's Road Standards to address these access issues. This code update will include requiring two entry/exit points for plats and subdivisions over a certain size; requiring sufficient distance between the two entry/exit points so as to not impact traffic

flows; addressing access for emergency vehicles, including requiring adequate roadway width to accommodate emergency vehicles; and increasing the distance between adjacent intersecting streets. The transmittal letter for the ordinance(s) shall indicate the rationale for the chosen size threshold for when the County will require two entry/exit points:

- ~~Timeline:~~ The proposed amendments to the King County Code and the King County Roads Standards shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration by June 30, 2020.
- ~~Outcomes:~~ The Executive shall file with the Council an ordinance(s) adopting updates to the King County Code and the King County Roads Standards.
- ~~Lead:~~ Department of Local Services.

**Action 13: Water Availability and Permitting Study.** The recent Washington State Supreme Court decision in *Whatcom County v. Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board (aka, Hirst)* held that counties have a responsibility under the Growth Management Act to make determinations of water availability through the Comprehensive Plan and facilitate establishing water adequacy by permit applicants before issuance of development permits. *Hirst* also ruled that counties cannot defer to the State to make these determinations. This case overruled a court of appeals decision which supported deference to the State. The Supreme Court ruling will require the County to develop a system for review of water availability in King County, with a particular focus on future development that would use permit exempt wells as their source of potable water. This system will be implemented through amendments to the King County Comprehensive Plan and development regulations. The County will engage in a Water Availability and Permitting Study to address these and related issues. This study will analyze methods to accommodate current zoning given possible water availability issues and will look at innovative ways to accommodate future development in any areas with insufficient water by using mitigation measures (e.g. water banks). This study will not include analysis of current water availability.

- ~~Timeline:~~ Eighteen month process. Initial report will be transmitted to the Council by December 1, 2017; final report, with necessary amendments, will be transmitted to the Council by December 31, 2018. This report may inform the scope of work for the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update.
- ~~Outcomes:~~ Modifications, as needed, to the Comprehensive Plan, King County Code and County practices related to ensuring availability of water within the Comprehensive Plan and determining the adequacy of water during the development permit process.
- ~~Leads:~~ Performance, Strategy and Budget. Work with the Department of Local Services - Permitting Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Department of Public Health, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and King County Council. Involvement of state agencies, public, local watershed improvement districts, and non-governmental organizations.

**Action 14: 2020 Comprehensive Plan Update.** In 2018, the County restructured its comprehensive planning program and associated Comprehensive Plan update process. This restructure includes moving to an eight-year update schedule. As part of the transition to this new update schedule and given that the next eight-year plan update will not be completed until 2024, there is a need to make substantive changes in the interim. The scope of the update proposed by the Executive in the motion shall include any changes as called for by applicable Workplan Action items, any policy changes or land use proposals that should be considered prior to the 2024 update, review and inclusion of changes related to docket proposals that were recommended to be reviewed as part of the next eight-year update, aligning the language in the Comprehensive Plan and Title 20 regarding what is allowed during annual, midpoint

and eight-year updates, and reviewing and updating the terminology to consistently describe the various updates:

- ~~Timeline:~~ A motion authorizing the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration by January 2, 2019. The Council shall have until February 28, 2019 to adopt the motion. The 2020 Comprehensive Plan update shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration by September 30, 2019. The Council shall have until June 30, 2020 to adopt the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update.
- ~~Outcomes:~~ The Executive shall file with the Council a motion authorizing the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update. The Council shall have until February 28, 2019 to adopt the motion, either as transmitted or amended. In the absence of Council approval by February 28, 2019, the Executive shall proceed to implement the scope as proposed. If the motion is approved by February 28, 2019, the scope shall proceed as established by the approved motion. The Executive shall then file with the Council the proposed 2020 Comprehensive Plan update by September 30, 2019. The Council shall have until June 30, 2020 to adopt the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update.
- ~~Leads:~~ Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, in coordination and collaboration with the Department of Local Services-Permitting Division.

**Action 15: Annual DLS Briefing at Local Services Committee.** In order to better serve the residents of unincorporated King County, the Council adopted Ordinance 18791 to establish a new Department of Local Services effective January 1, 2019, following guidance for the creation of the Department adopted in Motion 15125. The Department will be evaluating processes, procedures, and policies to identify areas of improvement in the delivery of unincorporated services. In addition to this evaluation, the Department will report at least annually to the Local Services Committee or its successor on key issues related to unincorporated areas:

- ~~Timeline:~~ The Department will report to the Local Services Committee or its successor at least annually.
- ~~Outcomes:~~ The Department of Local Services shall coordinate with the Regional Planning Unit and other departments to inform the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update, and will brief the Local Services Committee at least annually.
- ~~Leads:~~ Department of Local Services, in coordination with the Regional Planning Unit of Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget.

**Action 16: Streamlining the Comprehensive Plan.** Public participation, as expressed in Policy RP-103, is to be actively sought out throughout the development, amendment, and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan, and various iterations before final adoption, are posted online in order to be accessible to the public, and active outreach efforts during plan updates seek to reach a wide range of County residents. However, such a lengthy document with many complex regulatory requirements can be difficult to navigate and understand. To make the Comprehensive Plan and relevant sections in King County Code Title 20 more reader-friendly and accessible to a wider audience, redundancies and excess detail should be minimized. This workplan item will initiate the process of streamlining the 2016 Comprehensive Plan and portions of King County Code Title 20 over the next several years, with the goal of becoming shorter, easier to understand, and more accessible to the general public. This review will consider: removal of text or policies that are redundant and/or repetitive within the plan; removal of text or policies that are redundant to other existing plans and policy documents; removal of outdated text or policies; removal of text or policies that are at a level of detail that is more appropriate for functional plans, implementation plans, development regulations, etc.; increasing readability and conciseness; clarifying the process for amending the plan; and making the document and sections of the Code more streamlined, user friendly, and accessible for the public.

- ~~● *Timeline:* A streamlined version of the Comprehensive Plan and relevant sections of King County Code Title 20, including but not limited to KCC 20.08, 20.12, and 20.18 shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration by June 30, 2023.~~
- ~~● *Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council an ordinance adopting a streamlined version of the Comprehensive Plan and associated code changes as part of the Executive's proposed 2024 eight-year Comprehensive Plan update.~~
- ~~● *Leads:* Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, in coordination and collaboration with the Council's Comprehensive Planning lead staff and the Department of Local Services - Permitting Division.~~

~~**Action 17: Update the Residential Density Incentive Code.** As part of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update, the King County Executive included a code study regarding the County's Residential Density Incentive (RDI) regulations in K.C.C. Chapter 21A.34. This code study included recommendations for updating the RDI regulations, but ultimately the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update did not include any updates with the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update. The code study states that the "key factors identified and recommendations should be considered as the Affordable Housing Committee seeks to develop model ordinances or provide technical assistance to other jurisdictions interested in implementing inclusionary housing policies." As part of this Work plan Action, the King County Executive will update the County's RDI regulations. This work can be coordinated with the Affordable Housing Committee of the Growth Management Planning Council, which has been established to implement the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force Five Year Action Plan and will recommend action and assess progress toward implementing the Plan.~~

- ~~● *Timeline:* A proposed ordinance modifying the Residential Density Incentive Code shall be transmitted to the Council by June 30, 2023.~~
- ~~● *Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council a proposed ordinance as part of the Executive's proposed 2024 eight-year Comprehensive Plan update.~~
- ~~● *Lead:* Department of Local Services - Permitting Division, in coordination with the Department of Community and Human Services and the Affordable Housing Committee of the Growth Management Planning Council.~~

~~**Action 18: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation.** As part of the 2020 update to the 2016 Comprehensive Plan, policies and regulations related to some aspects of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions were adopted. More work is needed to address resiliency for the natural and built environment, and to mitigate impacts from climate change, including avoiding or sequestering greenhouse gas emissions. The loss of carbon sequestration capacity resulting from the conversion of forestland to non-forest uses is one area where the County can make a difference in addressing these impacts. In order to implement the policy direction in the 2020 update related to sea level rise, climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and fossil fuel facility impacts, this Workplan item directs:~~

~~A. Preparation of a Forest Conversion Review Study that includes and evaluates the following information:~~

- ~~1. The current process and standards for reviewing and approving Class-IV General Forest Practices relating to forest conversion, and for reviewing and approving Conversion Option Harvest Plans.~~
- ~~2. The number of forest conversions permitted in unincorporated King County since August 10, 1999, regardless of whether a separate Class-IV General Forest Practice permit was issued, and the average and total acreage of forest removed.~~

3.—The number of Conversion Option Harvest Plans approved since August 10, 1999, and the number of participating properties that were not subsequently replanted:

4.—An estimate of sequestered carbon lost and reduced future carbon sequestration potential due to clearing under Class-IV General Forest Practice permits and Conversion Option Harvest Plans:

5.—Potential pathways to achieving zero net loss carbon sequestration capacity from future forest conversions, including, but not limited to, off-site replanting, payment into a mitigation bank, and purchase of carbon credits. This should include both standard forest conversions and properties with Conversion Option Harvest Plans that are subsequently converted to non-forest uses:

B.—Drafting and transmittal of a proposed ordinance that establishes or modifies regulations, and if necessary, Comprehensive Plan policies, that will result in zero net loss of carbon sequestration capacity from future forest conversions, based on the recommended strategies in the Forest Conversion Review Study:

- ~~Timeline:~~ The Forest Conversion Review Study report and a proposed ordinance making Comprehensive Plan and/or King County Code changes shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration by June 30, 2022.
- ~~Outcomes:~~ The Executive shall file with the Council the Forest Conversion Review Study report and a proposed ordinance with recommended code and/or policy updates.
- ~~Leads:~~ Department of Natural Resources and Parks and Department of Local Services—Permitting Division.

**Action 19: Skyway-West Hill and North Highline Anti-Displacement Strategies:**

King County will complete an Anti-Displacement Strategy for Skyway-West Hill and North Highline. In the context of Motion 15539, the work done by the County's Regional Affordable Housing Task Force and the ongoing work by the Affordable Housing Committee of the Growth Management Planning Council, this strategy will evaluate tools, programs, and regulations to retain and create affordable housing and prevent residential displacement. The strategy, at minimum, shall consider the following: mandatory inclusionary zoning, preservation for manufactured housing and manufactured housing communities; residential community benefit agreements; relocation assistance; redevelopment assistance; right to return programs; community preference programs; and other tools, programs, and regulations identified in Motion 15539. The report will be informed by best practices, research, other ongoing efforts in King County, and a robust community engagement process:

- ~~Timeline:~~ A Skyway-West Hill and North Highline Anti-Displacement Strategies Report and proposed legislation to implement the recommendations in the report shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration by September 30, 2021. This deadline supersedes the deadlines adopted in Motion 15539.
- ~~Outcomes:~~ The Executive shall file with the Council the Skyway-West Hill and North Highline Anti-Displacement Strategies Report, which shall include recommended strategies and tools and identification of recommended legislation, if appropriate. The Executive shall also file with the Council legislation as recommended in the Report. These outcomes supersede the deliverables adopted in Motion 15539.
- ~~Leads:~~ Department of Community and Human Services, Department of Local Services, the Office of Equity and Social Justice, and the Office of Performance Strategy and Budget. Executive staff shall update and coordinate with the Councilmember offices representing the area on at least a quarterly basis throughout the planning process.



**Action 20: Fossil Fuel Facilities Risk Bonds.** As part of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update, policies and regulations related to fossil fuel facilities were adopted. More work is needed to address the potential impacts of fossil fuels and fossil fuel facilities and related uses on the environment and human health. To accomplish this, this Workplan Action item directs:

A.—Preparation of a Fossil Fuel Risk Bond evaluation, that will include, at a minimum:

1.—An economic risk assessment of fossil fuel facilities and related uses, and climate change. The assessment shall include recommended policy language or development regulations that directs an update to this evaluation on a periodic basis when significant new information is available, and shall quantify the expected annualized costs to County finances, the County's economy, and County households over the next fifty years associated with several categories of risks:

a.—For fossil fuel facilities and related uses, the assessment shall address risks associated with catastrophic explosions of storage and transfer facilities, refineries, oil and gas train derailments, gas pipeline ruptures and explosions, fuel tanker spills and explosions, pollution of air and water, brownfields, and abandoned infrastructure.

b.—For climate change, the assessment shall address economic risks associated with changes in the frequency and severity of wildfires, floods, storms, drought, infestations of exotic diseases and pests, and other natural hazards. The assessment shall also address costs associated with the implementation of climate action policies and plans, as well as investing in adaptation measures.

2.—An evaluation of the adequacy of existing financial assurance mechanisms in reducing the County's economic and financial risks associated with fossil fuel facilities and related uses, and climate change. Title 27A of the King County Code, "Financial Guarantees" already contains mechanisms for obtaining financial assurances before attempting potentially dangerous development activity. However, there is currently no language in Title 27A that requires financial assurances specifically for fossil fuel facilities and related uses. Such measures could include surety and performance bonds, letters of credit, third party trust funds, insurance, corporate guarantees, and others. The evaluation shall compare risk exposure for the County, with the maximum likely coverage of that risk by these mechanisms, and shall include recommendations for additional financial assurances or other measures that need to be adopted to minimize risks.

B.—Drafting and transmittal of any necessary legislation that establishes or modifies Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations, that will implement the recommendations of the Fossil Fuel Risk Bond evaluation:

- Timeline:* The Fossil Fuel Risk Bond evaluation and any necessary legislation making Comprehensive Plan and/or King County Code changes shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration by June 30, 2022.
- Outcomes:* The Executive shall file with the Council the Fossil Fuel Risk Bond evaluation and, if warranted, a proposed ordinance(s) with recommended code and/or policy updates.
- Leads:* Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and Department of Local Services - Permitting Division.

**Action 21: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation.** As part of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update, policies and regulations related to fossil fuel facilities and resident and business resiliency to climate change impacts were adopted. However, further work is necessary to reduce climate impacts, by mitigating the greenhouse gas emissions that drive those

impacts. Policy E-215 of the Comprehensive Plan requires all projects being evaluated under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) to be evaluated for greenhouse gas emissions, and also allows the County to exercise its substantive authority to mitigate for these emissions, but only after mitigation standards have been adopted by ordinance. In order to establish standards to begin mitigating emissions from development, this Workplan Action item directs:

A. ~~Updating the county's greenhouse gas emissions worksheet to include best available emissions factors and other data, and to be able to evaluate emissions from a wide range of project types. The worksheet shall, at a minimum, be capable of evaluating induced demand and all scope one and scope two emissions from the construction and use, as well as embodied scope three emissions from construction materials such as cement, asphalt, and steel.~~

B. ~~Completion of a study evaluating options for implementing greenhouse gas mitigation from all development projects requiring SEPA review, as allowed in Comprehensive Plan Policy E-215.~~

C. ~~If warranted, drafting and transmittal of a proposed ordinance(s) that adopts the updated greenhouse gas worksheet and establishes or modifies Comprehensive Plan policies and development regulations to implement standards for greenhouse gas mitigation in accordance with Policy E-215.~~

- ~~Timeline: The updated greenhouse gas emissions worksheet and the greenhouse gas mitigation study, and a proposed ordinance(s) making Comprehensive Plan and/or King County Code changes shall be transmitted to the Council for consideration by June 30, 2022.~~

- ~~Outcomes: The Executive shall file with the Council the updated greenhouse gas worksheet, greenhouse gas mitigation study and, if warranted, a proposed ordinance(s) with recommended code and/or policy updates.~~

- ~~Leads: Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and Department of Local Services – Permitting Division.~~

#### **Actions Related to the Growth Management Planning Council**

The Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) is a separate formal body consisting of elected officials from King County, Seattle, Bellevue, other cities and towns in King County, special purpose districts, and the Port of Seattle. The GMPC developed the Countywide Planning Policies, providing a countywide vision and serving as a framework for each jurisdiction to develop its own comprehensive plan, which must be consistent with the overall vision for the future of King County. The GMPC is chaired by the King County Executive; five King County Councilmembers serve as members. Recommendations from the GMPC are transmitted to the full King County Council for review and consideration.

The GMPC develops its own independent work program every year; this section of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Workplan identifies issues the County will bring forward to the GMPC for review, consideration and recommendations. King County will submit these Workplan items to the GMPC for consideration at its first meeting of 2017, with a goal of completing the GMPC review and recommendations by December 31, 2018. The Executive will work with the Council to determine whether the amendments are appropriate for inclusion in the annual or midpoint Comprehensive Plan update prior to the next eight-year update.

**Action GMPC-1 (Was Action 17): Develop a Countywide Plan to Move Remaining Unincorporated Urban Potential Annexation Areas Toward Annexation.** The GMPC has authority to propose amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies, and a unique defined role related to recommending approval or denial of Urban Growth Area expansions. In order to move remaining unincorporated areas, which vary in size and complexity, towards annexation, the GMPC would reconsider the Potential Annexation

Areas map and the "Joint Planning and Annexation" section of the Countywide Planning Policies. This effort would include an evaluation of how to address Potential Annexation Areas that have been previously unsuccessful in annexation and/or where annexation does not appear feasible in the near future. The report shall include review of tax revenue impacts to the County resulting from annexations, evaluation of requirements regarding annexation of roadways within Potential Annexation Areas, and identification of current orphaned roads and potential methods to transfer ownership to cities. Deadline: December 31, 2019.

**Action GMPC-2 (Was Action 18): Review the Four-to-One Program.** The County's Four-to-One Program has been very effective in implementing Growth Management Act goals to reduce sprawl and encourage retention of open space. This is done through discretionary actions by the County Council, following a proposal being submitted by a landowner(s) to the County. Over time, there have been proposals that vary from the existing parameters of the program; these have included possible conversion of urban zoning for lands not contiguous to the original 1994 Urban Growth Area, allowing the open space to be non-contiguous to the urban extension, use of transfer of development rights, providing increased open space credit for preserved lands with high ecological value (such as lands that could provide for high value floodplain restoration, riparian habitat, or working resource lands), and consideration of smaller parcels or parcels with multiple ownerships. Allowing these changes have the potential for increasing the use of the tool, with attendant risks and benefits. The Growth Management Planning Council would review the Four-to-One program and determine whether changes to the existing program should be implemented that will strengthen the program and improve implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, including evaluation of the proposals listed above.

**Action GMPC-3 (Was Action 19):** As required by the Growth Management Act, King County and the 39 cities participate in the Buildable Lands Program to evaluate their capacity to accommodate forecasted growth of housing units and jobs. The program, administered by the Washington State Department of Commerce, requires certain counties to determine whether the county and its cities are achieving urban densities within urban growth areas by comparing assumptions and targets regarding growth and development with actual growth and development in the county and cities. Since issuance of the first Buildable Lands Report in 2002, jurisdictions and stakeholders have expressed the potential for possible refinements of the methodology used by King County and the cities. The Growth Management Planning Council would work with stakeholders to review the methodology, including testing the accuracy of the Buildable Lands Report model and results, for potential refinements.))

#### **Action 1: Comprehensive Plan Performance Measures Framework Update**

In 2017, Motion 15014 established a Performance Measures Program for the Comprehensive Plan. The Program is intended to monitor Comprehensive Plan implementation and to help inform whether plan amendments are needed to better achieve the plan's goals, as reflected in the Comprehensive Plan Guiding Principles. As established in the reporting timelines in King County Code Chapter 20.18, Program reporting occurs in advance of, and with the intent of informing, establishing the scope of work for 10-year Comprehensive Plan updates.

The Executive issued the first Performance Measures Report under the new program in 2022 via Report 2022-RPT0045. In developing the report, department staff indicated that the measures could be further refined to show a more accurate picture of plan performance. The approved framework also does not align with the current Comprehensive Plan update cycle. As required by Motion 15014, any changes to the performance measures framework must be approved via a motion that is passed by the Council.

Further, during review of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan, it became clear that: 1) more frequent reporting was needed, 2) there is overlap with the Implementation Progress Report required by the Growth Management Act, and 3) more rigorous reporting for the Housing element is needed. This Action will include updates to the Performance Measures Program:

- a. Address department staff-identified refinements;
- b. Align the reporting with the requirements in RCW 36.70A.130 for the Housing element of the Comprehensive Plan and the monitoring requirements of the Countywide Planning Policies for housing data and implementation strategies; and
- c. More frequent official reporting transmitted to Council, to be not less than every five years.

The Performance Measures report will also be completed in consultation and collaboration with the Council.

- **Deliverables:** The Executive should file with the Council a motion updating the Performance Measures Program Framework.
- **Timeline:** The Performance Measures Program Framework Motion should be filed with the Council by October 1, 2025. Council review, refinement, and possible approval of the Motion should be completed by January 30, 2026, to allow for completion of the next Performance Measures Report that is due by June 30, 2026, to inform scoping for the midpoint Comprehensive Plan update.
- **Lead Agency:** Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget.
- **Support Agency:** Comprehensive Planning Interdepartmental Team.

#### **Action 2: Comprehensive Plan Public Participation Code Update**

The public participation requirements for updates to the King County Comprehensive Plan and development regulations are guided by state law, adopted Comprehensive Plan policies, and King County Code Chapter 20.18. The majority of the requirements in code have not been amended since they were first adopted in 1998. The 2024 Comprehensive Plan made some code changes to align with current state law, reflect current practice, and provide clarity. However, additional work is needed to ensure the code reflects and supports equitable engagement goals and outcomes.

Equitable engagement process improvements were integrated into the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update process.

Those 2024 engagement efforts were not inconsistent with the current code; however, the code could be strengthened to further support this work in the future. Additionally, there are more opportunities to improve the engagement process to make it more equitable and more accessible to all people consistent with County's equity and racial and social justice values and goals, to include trusted messengers in the process, and to establish performance measures to ensure accountability in achieving equitable engagement. Given this, additional updates to the public participation code in Chapter 20.18 work are warranted. This work would be disingenuous without thoughtful community engagement on the changes, especially with the Equity Work Group or successor group, and communities that have been historically underrepresented. This Work Plan action directs that work to occur outside of a major Comprehensive Plan update to allow for focused engagement on these important issues.

The changes proposed are expected to lead to community engagement at a level of at least "County and Community work together" for development of midpoint and 10-year

updates. The timing of the work plan action is proposed in order for the new engagement requirements to be in place prior to the start of development of the 2029 midpoint update, if it is authorized.

The current docket process is unclear. This Work Plan action will include updates to the docket process to make it more accessible to the general public, and to make it clear what will happen with docketed items during midpoint and 10-year updates.

- Deliverables: The Executive should file with the Council an ordinance updating the public participation elements of King County Code Chapter 20.18.
- Timeline: The ordinance should be transmitted to the Council by June 30, 2028. If there is a Comprehensive Plan midpoint update authorized at that time, the code changes should be part of the midpoint transmittal package.
- Lead Agency: Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget.
- Support Agencies: Office of Equity and Racial and Social Justice, and Department of Local Services.

### **Action 3: Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and Community Preference Review**

In 2022, the County adopted inclusionary housing regulations for Skyway-West Hill and North Highline, which included: (1) mandatory inclusionary housing in the commercial cores of both communities, (2) voluntary inclusionary housing in the remaining areas of those communities, and (3) a requirement for a community preference program for any inclusionary housing development. The 2024 Comprehensive Plan expanded the voluntary inclusionary housing provisions to other geographies (all of urban unincorporated King County and the Rural Towns of Vashon and Snoqualmie Pass).

The 2024 Comprehensive Plan Equity Work Group, as well as other public input received during development of the 2024 plan, expressed support for also expanding the mandatory inclusionary housing and community preference provisions to some or all of the new geographies that the voluntary provisions in the 2024 changes would apply to. Additional time and resources are needed to review how or if these elements could successfully be implemented in additional communities without unintended consequences.

Given this, this Work Plan action directs evaluation of whether it would be appropriate to potentially expand mandatory inclusionary housing and/or community preference regulations to the other geographies that currently have voluntary inclusionary housing, including consideration of displacement risk, market conditions, and public engagement with potentially affected communities.

- Deliverables: The Executive should file with the Council a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and Community Preference Review report and a proposed ordinance implementing the recommendations in the report.
- Timeline: The Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and Community Preference Review report and ordinance, if recommended, should be filed with the Council by December 31, 2027.
- Lead Agency: Department of Community and Human Services.
- Support Agency: Department of Local Services.

### **Action 4: Old Growth Corridors Strategies**

Mature forests with broad range of native tree species and age classes – key characteristics of what are commonly referred to as “old growth” forests – provide a wealth of ecological and social benefits including, but not limited to: healthy habitat; clean and cool water; water storage to mitigate downstream flooding, providing summer flows to rivers and streams, and supplying drinking water; wildfire resilience;



diversity of flora, fauna, fungal, and microbial communities; and recreation. Old growth forests in western Washington are also of enormous cultural importance to sovereign Indian tribes. In addition to providing ecological, social, and cultural benefits, mature forests in the Pacific Northwest also sequester carbon and are more resilient to the effects of climate change than younger or less diverse forests.

The 2024 Comprehensive Plan includes policies directing King County to identify and implement strategies to protect forests in ways that build resilience and maximize social and ecological values while carefully considering any effects of changes to forestland management on the timber resource economy. The Plan directs King County to identify opportunities to establish and maintain large blocks of forest, particularly in upper watershed areas and along major river corridors given the importance of contiguous forest cover in these areas for preventing flooding, improving water quality, and protecting salmon and other wildlife habitat.

This work plan action directs review of scientific literature and recommendation of potential strategies and tactics to accelerate establishment of “old growth corridors” in upper watersheds and along major river corridors, especially in areas with a predominance of existing public ownership, in support of habitat for salmon and other wildlife.

This work should include identifying and analyzing: appropriate geographies; feasible programmatic and project actions King County has control to implement such as acquisitions, incentive programs, and regulatory changes; potential partnerships with Indian tribes as sovereign governments, public and private landowners, and land managers; carbon sequestration value; revenue impacts from changing forestry practices; and existing and potential funding sources. The work should also build on and align with the Mature Forests Report being developed in accordance with Motion 16437.

The approaches should promote establishment of a broad mix of native tree species and age classes, including eventual establishment of forests with old growth characteristics in areas prioritized as having high conservation value, and should consider the effect of conservation acquisitions on the viability of the timber resource economy in King County.

- **Deliverables:** The Executive should file with the Council an Old Growth Corridors Strategies report outlining scientific findings, geographies of relevance, and potential strategies for establishing old growth corridors, and the other information outlined above.
- **Timeline:** The Old Growth Corridors Strategies report should be transmitted to the Council by June 1, 2026.
- **Lead Agency:** Department of Natural Resources and Parks.

#### **Action 5: Vashon-Maury Island Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Response Plan**

Properties and infrastructure along the Vashon-Maury Island shoreline are potentially at risk to damage from coastal flooding, tsunamis, landslides, and sea level rise. The extent to which these hazards affect specific locations will vary depending on site-specific factors, including topography, the proximity of infrastructure to the shoreline, and the ability to implement adaptive measures in any given location. Existing studies have not gotten to this level of specificity for these hazards, however. This makes it difficult to determine where and what specific hazard mitigation approaches may be needed and how to sequence that work.

King County will conduct a detailed assessment of the Vashon-Maury Island shoreline inclusive of public and private infrastructure and natural systems to better understand which locations face a higher risk from coastal flooding, tsunamis, landslides, and sea level rise due to site constraints or other factors. Results from the study will inform long-range planning for these hazards and the development of additional actions, policies, development regulations, and/or zoning changes, as needed, to address these risks. These changes would be included in future updates of the Comprehensive Plan and/or King County Code.

The study will draw on available data and studies, as well as a new coastal storm surge model for the King County shoreline being developed by the U.S. Geological Survey (due summer 2024). The County intends to apply for grant funding to complete this work.

- **Deliverables:** The Executive should file with the Council the Vashon-Maury Island Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Response Plan. If policy and/or code changes are recommended by the Assessment, they should be transmitted to the Council in the next appropriate update to the Comprehensive Plan and/or the King County Code.
- **Timeline:** The Vashon-Maury Island Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Response Plan should be transmitted to the Council by December 31, 2026.
- **Lead Agency:** Executive Climate Office.
- **Support Agencies:** Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Department of Local Services, and Public Health - Seattle & King County.

#### **Action 6: Wildfire Risk Assessment**

Large wildfires across the Pacific Northwest over the last decade, combined with recent local fires in King County and increasing concern about the impacts of climate change on wildfire potential, have contributed to a growing awareness of the need to prepare for an increased risk of wildfire in or adjacent to the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

The King County Executive issued the county's first Wildfire Risk Reduction Strategy in 2022 and has since been working to develop and implement the identified actions. This includes adopting a wildfire risk policy and code changes in the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. However, additional information is needed to better understand wildfire risks in unincorporated King County and whether additional regulatory measures are needed to further reduce wildfire risk. Additionally, King County partners with cities on coordinated emergency response. Where the WUI is adjacent to or crosses a border between unincorporated King County and a city, the risk is shared by both jurisdictions.

This work plan action will include completing a wildfire risk assessment for unincorporated King County to better understand where and how communities and critical infrastructure are vulnerable to wildfire; the degree to which current codes and policies address the risk; and what additional actions, policy, development regulation, or zoning changes, if any, may be needed to reduce wildfire risk. Where the WUI is adjacent to or crosses a border between unincorporated King County and a city, King County should partner with the city to share approaches, incorporate local concerns, and support consistency in wildfire risk reduction. Potential additional external partners for the study include King County fire districts, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and utilities. The results of this work will inform future updates of the Comprehensive Plan and/or King County Code. The County intends apply for grant funding to complete this work.

- **Deliverable:** The Executive should file with the Council the Wildfire Risk Assessment report. If policy and/or code changes are recommended by the

report, they should be transmitted to the Council in the next appropriate update to the Comprehensive Plan and/or the King County Code.

- Timeline: The Wildfire Risk Assessment report should be transmitted to the Council by December 31, 2026.
- Lead Agency: Executive Climate Office
- Support Agencies: Department of Natural Resources and Parks; King County Office of Emergency Management; Department of Local Services - Permitting Division.

#### **Action 7: Rural Economic Strategies Update**

The County adopted the Rural Economic Strategies in Ordinance 17956 in 2014. Ordinance 17956 built on work that had been done in 2008 and 2012. This Work Plan action directs an update to this work, to reflect that changes in the rural economy that have occurred in the last decade, including those due to COVID-19, technological changes, creation of the Department of Local Services, and more.

This action will include:

- a. Evaluation and description of implementation of the strategies adopted in Ordinance 17956;
- b. Review of how the rural economy has changed since 2014, and is anticipated to change in the next two decades;
- c. Policy changes made with the 2024 Comprehensive Plan;
- d. Evaluation of the existing strategies at creating a sustainable and vibrant rural economy;
- e. Evaluation of the housing needs for permanent and temporary farmworkers and whether the current Code meets those needs;
- f. Evaluation of tourism and economic development associated with scenic, historic, and recreational resources along the designated Washington Scenic and Recreational Highways;
- g. Evaluation of ways to support unique local businesses, to aid in their marketing and visibility needs;;
- h. Recommendation of any changes to strategies, policies, or Code;
- i. Potential partners for the action include cities that serve the Rural Area, chambers of commerce, community groups, the Agriculture and Rural Forest Commissions, and the community. Community engagement, at a level of "County and Community work together," will be done as part of this action.

- Deliverable: The Executive should file with the Council the Rural Economic Strategies report. If policy and/or code changes are recommended by the report, they should be transmitted to the Council in the next appropriate update to the Comprehensive Plan and/or the King County Code.
- Timeline: The Rural Economic Strategies report should be transmitted to the Council by June 30, 2028.
- Lead Agency: Department of Local Services.
- Support Agency: Department of Natural Resources and Parks.

#### **Action 8: Communication Facilities Code Update**

The County regulates cellular towers and similar facilities as "minor communication facilities" under K.C.C. Title 21A. The majority of the code relating to communication

facilities was written more than two decades ago, with the last substantive updates occurring in 2014. In the intervening years, technology, as well as the federal regulatory landscape, have changed. Work is therefore needed to modernize the County's communication facility regulations. This work should include:

- a. Review of how federal regulations, case law, and technologies for communication facilities have changed since the communication facility standards were initially adopted in 1998, and whether additional changes are expected in the coming two decades;
  - b. Review of how jurisdictions within and adjacent to King County regulate communication facilities; and
  - c. Recommendation of any changes to the County code to align the code with federal law and with best practices.
- **Deliverables:** The Executive should file with the Council a Communication Facilities Code update report containing the information described above, and, if recommended by the report, an ordinance implementing the recommendations of the report.
  - **Timeline:** The Communication Facilities Code update report should be transmitted to the Council by June 30, 2028.
  - **Lead Agency:** Department of Local Services.

#### **Action 9: Surface Water Management Code Update**

The King County Surface Water Design Manual is adopted by public rule every five years, most recently in 2021. The 2021 update did not include updates to the County's surface water management code in K.C.C. Title 9. Prior to adoption of the 2026 Surface Water Design Manual, it is necessary to update K.C.C. Title 9 to ensure consistency between the County's regulations and the Surface Water Design Manual.

This work will be done in two phases:

The first phase will include a full review of K.C.C. Title 9 to ensure that the code reflects current requirements and terminology, and that any changes necessary to align with the 2026 Surface Water Design Manual update are incorporated into the code.

- **Deliverables:** The Executive should file with the Council a proposed ordinance updating K.C.C. Title 9.
- **Timeline:** The proposed ordinance and report should be transmitted to the Council by April 30, 2026.
- **Lead Agency:** Department of Natural Resources and Parks.

The second phase will include a review of the Surface Water Design Manual and associated code provisions in K.C.C. Title 9 for opportunities to streamline regulations to reduce unnecessary regulatory barriers and process.

- **Deliverables:** The Executive should file with the Council a report detailing how the surface water design manual and code provisions were evaluated and streamlined, and a proposed ordinance with any recommended changes.
- **Timeline:** The proposed ordinance and report should be transmitted to the Council by December 31, 2029.
- **Lead Agency:** Department of Natural Resources and Parks.

**Action 10: Fish Passage Restoration**

In March 2024, the King County Auditor's Office released an audit of King County's Fish Passage Restoration program. The audit found that the program's sequencing of low-impact projects before high-impact projects was not in alignment with the County goal of opening the best habitat as quickly as possible, and puts more impactful projects at risk if there are funding or staffing shortages later. The audit also found that the program does not consider the impact of non-county-owned barriers to fish passage when reporting the number of miles of restored habitat, thereby overstating the reported impact of the program. Work is needed to address the issues raised by the Auditor's Office.

This work should include:

- a. Development of a strategic plan clarifying the goals and objectives of the Fish Passage Restoration program, in conjunction with staff working on the Clean Water Healthy Habitat initiative, and including a plan to ensure completion of habitat-focused projects if delays occur, costs increased, or funding becomes otherwise constrained and performance measures that accurately reflect program outputs and outcomes for restoring fish passage, including the impact of non-County-owned barriers on program outcomes;
- b. A review and update to the Fish Passage Restoration Program's ten-year work plan to ensure it is aligned with County goals and with the goals of the strategic plan developed in accordance with subsection a.;
- c. An update to the program's public-facing materials to ensure that they accurately reflect the decision-making considerations and tradeoffs involved in its workplan development and the resulting schedule of projects.
  - Deliverables: The Executive should file with the Council the strategic plan, the ten-year work plan, and a summary of the changes made to public-facing materials, along with a motion accepting the plans. If policy and/or code changes are recommended by the report, they should be transmitted to the Council in the next appropriate update to the Comprehensive Plan and/or the King County Code.
  - Timeline: The deliverables should be transmitted to the Council by March 31, 2025.
  - Lead Agency: Department of Natural Resources and Parks.
  - Support Agency: Department of Local Services.

**Action 11: Remove Barriers to Affordable Housing**

The policies in Chapter 4, Housing and Human Services, support investment, collaboration, and a variety of tools to address the housing needs of King County's residents. However, nearly one-third of households in King County are currently cost-burdened, meaning that they pay over 30 percent of their income on housing costs.

Recent changes in state law have authorized the use of the Multifamily Housing Tax Exemption program in unincorporated areas. These programs allow local governments to waive property taxes for new construction, conversion, and rehabilitation of multiunit residential buildings with at least four units. Changes to the State Environmental Policy Act also allowed for additional categorical exemptions for residential infill development. In addition to these opportunities, the Housing Needs Assessment in Appendix B also identifies several key barriers to housing development, including:

- a. Increased time and risk from applying for a Conditional Use Permit.
- b. Delays and increased costs to comply with requirements related to the State Environmental Policy Act, and



- c. Permitting timelines and staffing challenges.
- This Work Plan Action directs the evaluation of additional tools and strategies for expediting affordable housing development in unincorporated King County, including:
- a. Allowing Multifamily Housing Tax Exemption program in unincorporated King County, including an analysis of:
- i. Potential program design that would incentivize affordable units;
  - ii. Impacts of a tax exemption, and whether that financial impact is sustainable;
  - iii. Potential program administrative needs, including monitoring, oversight, and reporting;
  - iv. Ongoing program updates to ensure sufficient incentive to maximize public benefits; and
  - v. Public input received during engagement on this action item.
- b. Reducing permitting timelines for affordable housing development, including consideration of:
- i. Prioritizing affordable housing projects in permit review;
  - ii. Providing dedicated permit review resources for County-funded affordable housing development applications;
  - iii. Updating the permit application screening process;
  - iv. Making code updates to reduce barriers to affordable housing development;
  - v. Implementing new electronic review management software;
  - vi. Seeking additional staffing; and
  - vii. Seeking grant funding to provide technical assistance to applicants.
- c. Reducing or waiving permit application and inspection fees for affordable housing;
- d. Developing pre-approved plans for accessory dwelling units;
- e. Aligning the King County Code with recent changes to the State Environmental Policy Act, including the categorical exemption for housing development; and
- f. Encouraging owners of derelict and unoccupied buildings and vacant land to redevelop their property so that it does not become a health or safety concern for the neighborhood, including consideration of:
- i. Registering vacant foreclosure properties and commercial spaces;
  - ii. Developing a vacant building monitoring program; and
  - iii. Establishing a temporary caretaker program so that buildings remain occupied until redevelopment.
- **Deliverables:** The Executive should file with the Council an Expediting Affordable Housing report and, if recommended, proposed ordinance(s) implementing the recommendations in the report.
- **Timeline:** The Expediting Affordable Housing report and any implementing ordinances should be transmitted to the Council by December 31, 2027.
- **Lead Agency:** Department of Local Services.
- **Support Agencies:** Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget, and Department of Community and Human Services.

### Action 12: Short-Term Rental Regulations

Short-term rentals are regulated by Chapter 64.37 RCW and are defined as a lodging use that is not a hotel or motel or bed and breakfast, in which a dwelling unit, or portion thereof, is offered or provided to a guest by a short-term rental operator for a fee for fewer than thirty consecutive nights. Short-term rental operators may need a business license through the Department of Revenue and are required to pay retail sales tax and B&O tax on rental charges, as well as lodging and convention and trade center taxes, as applicable. Additionally, state law outlines various consumer safety provisions, requires short-term rental platforms to be registered with the state, and requires liability insurance of at least \$1 million to be held either by the operator or the rental platform.

Currently, the County does not regulate the short-term lodging industry beyond regulations identified in state law.

This Work Plan Action directs King County to explore whether to adopt regulations beyond state law regulating the short-term lodging tax industry. The report should include:

- a. An analysis of how other jurisdictions in the state are regulating the short-term lodging industry;
  - b. A recommended regulatory framework, including any additional licensing requirements, unit count restrictions, owner occupation requirements, or any other recommended provisions;
  - c. Potential program administrative needs, including monitoring, oversight, and reporting;
  - d. An estimate on the impacts of the proposed regulations on the County's short-term lodging tax collection; and
  - e. Public input received during engagement on this action item.
- **Deliverables:** The Executive should file with the Council a Short-term Rental Regulations report and a proposed ordinance implementing the recommendations in the report.
  - **Timeline:** The Short-term Rental Regulations report and ordinance, if recommended, should be filed with the Council by June 30, 2027.
  - **Lead Agency:** Department of Local Services.
  - **Support Agency:** Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget.

### Action 13: Vashon-Maury Island Groundwater Protection Special District Overlay

The Vashon-Maury Island Groundwater Protection Special District Overlay, known as SO-140 and codified in K.C.C. 21A.38.150, was adopted in 1997 to limit land uses that have the potential to severely contaminate groundwater supplies and to provide increased areas of permeable surface to allow for infiltration of surface water into ground resources, in light of Vashon-Maury Island's sensitive aquifer. Since the overlay's creation, King County adopted the critical aquifer recharge area (CARA) code in 2005, which includes regulations for areas that have a high susceptibility to ground water contamination. The entirety of the island is governed by this code. A comparative analysis of the overlay with K.C.C. Title 21A found several overlapping regulations and inconsistencies in the mapping of risk levels to groundwater resources. Furthermore, a review of Best Management Practices found limited risk potential in many of the uses restricted by the overlay.

No changes to the mapping were recommended as part of the Executive's proposed 2024 Comprehensive Plan. However, the Executive noted that further work is needed,

including further review of the overlay's boundaries, possible incorporation into the CARA code, and review of the CARA mapping and code.

- Deliverables: The Executive should file with the Council a Vashon-Maury Island Groundwater Protection Special District Overlay report and any recommended policy and code changes as part of the 2034 Comprehensive Plan transmittal package.
- Timeline: Vashon-Maury Island Groundwater Protection Special District Overlay report and ordinance, if recommended, should be filed with the Council by June 30, 2033.
- Lead Agency: Department of Local Services.
- Support Agency: Department of Natural Resources and Parks.

#### **Action 14: Vashon-Maury Island Water Systems Comprehensive Analysis Report**

Groundwater quality and supply is one of the most important factors in planning for Vashon-Maury Island. With a sole source aquifer that relies exclusively on rainwater to replenish reserves, and provides nearly all drinking water for the island, Vashon-Maury Island is one of four areas in unincorporated King County declared a Critical Water Supply Area, a designation that triggers additional review and regulation by both King County and the Washington State Department of Ecology. The island is served by 23 Group A water purveyors, as well as over 130 smaller, privately managed Group B systems and over 1,000 private, exempt wells. King County Water District 19 is the largest purveyor on the island and encompasses the Vashon Rural Town.

To better plan for the long-term resiliency of Vashon-Maury Island's water resources and ensure equitable access to water resources, the County should undertake a comprehensive analysis of water systems on Vashon-Maury Island, in partnership with the Island's water districts and groundwater protection committee. The study should include, but not be limited to:

- a. Analysis of the anticipated impacts of climate change on Vashon-Maury Island's water supply, and actions that can be taken in the short- and long-term to increase the resilience of water systems to anticipated impacts and to mitigate associated risks to public health and safety;
- b. Actions that can be taken to further encourage the use of greywater systems on the island and remove barriers to installation of such systems;
- c. Analysis, using the best available scientific techniques, of whether there is sufficient groundwater capacity to support creation of additional water shares; and
- d. Methods to prioritize any additional water shares for culturally welcoming affordable housing.

- Deliverables: The Executive should file with the Council a Vashon-Maury Island Water Systems Comprehensive Analysis report and any recommended policy and code changes.
- Timeline: Vashon-Maury Island Water Systems Comprehensive Analysis report and ordinance, if recommended, should be filed with the Council by June 30, 2033.
- Lead Agency: Department of Natural Resources and Parks.
- Support Agency: Department of Local Services.

#### **Action 15: Legacy Business Program**

Small businesses face many challenges, such as increased competition, technological changes, shifting consumer preferences, narrow profit margins, exposure to rent increases, encroaching gentrification, and changing labor costs. Because many of these businesses have also been family-owned for generations, they often must also grapple with the challenges of succession planning, as younger family members may gravitate toward other career paths. A legacy business program could foster economic empowerment by encouraging patronage of participating legacy businesses.

The County will evaluate the needs of legacy businesses and ways to reduce displacement of such businesses. This work will include, analyzing existing legacy business programs, defining a legacy business (which at a minimum should include long-standing businesses that have cultural and historical significance in a community), and setting the maximum size of the business) through a community-selected community advisory committee, describing legacy businesses in unincorporated King County, and evaluating what types of assistance legacy businesses need. This could include, but is not limited to, technical assistance, financial assistance, marketing assistance, and/or a program to help legacy businesses navigate government bureaucracy.

- Deliverables: The Executive should file with the Council the report and, if recommended by the report, a proposed ordinance implementing the recommendations outlined in the report.
- Timeline: The deliverables should be transmitted to the Council by September 31, 2027.
- Lead Agency: Department of Local Services.

## ((VII.)) VI. Incentives

To ensure that the vision, goals, objectives, and policies of ~~((this))~~ the Comprehensive Plan become a reality, it will require adjusting policy and budget priorities by King County government. It will require individuals to reconsider their daily decisions and choices relating to the management or development of their lands. The decisions and choices of large scale public/private partnerships during the development of major projects will be critical factors contributing to the effective implementation of ~~((this))~~ the Comprehensive Plan. Incentives, ~~((like))~~ such as the Transfer of Development Rights Program, must encourage the types of growth and development patterns desired by King County and its residents.

- ~~((1-601))~~ **I-401** King County should develop incentives for the Urban Growth Area that encourage the development industry to provide a broad range of housing affordable to all income levels and ~~((business))~~ commercial space, including areas of the county with the most disparate outcomes in health, economic prosperity, and housing conditions, where residents may be at high risk of displacement. Incentives could include:
- a. ~~((Identification of geographic areas with infill opportunities, granting budget priority status and allowing more flexible development standards;~~
  - b. ~~Density bonuses for site designs which provide public benefits (for example, grid roads that connect with other developments and limit impacts on arterials);~~
  - c. ~~Incentives which lower financial development risk;~~

- 1846                    ~~d.))~~ **Density bonuses and/or other regulatory flexibilities for**  
1847                    **inclusionary housing;**  
1848                    **b.** **Joint development opportunities at ((c))County-owned or operated**  
1849                    **facilities, utilization of air rights on ((c))County-owned or operated**  
1850                    **facilities, and the establishment of transit-supportive design**  
1851                    **guidelines and regulations; and**  
1852                    **~~((e.))~~ c. County ~~((capital improvement))~~ funding for public urban amenities,**  
1853                    **including transportation, parks, open space, cultural, and other**  
1854                    **facilities, for cities participating in the King County Transfer of**  
1855                    **Development Rights Program.**





# GLOSSARY



# GLOSSARY ((& FREQUENTLY USED ACRONYMS))

## A

### Active Recreation ((Site))

Active recreation ((sites recognize a higher level of public use and will require developed areas for organized or intense recreation. An active recreation site includes both the active recreation uses and all necessary support services and facilities:)) refers to sites characterized by organized, scheduled activities, and/or a variety of recreation uses, such as highly developed athletic field complexes with lights and extensive support facilities.

### Active Transportation

Active transportation means pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian travel and also includes, but is not limited to, the use of wheelchairs and personal assistive mobility devices powered by electricity that are used by persons with physical impairments, skateboards and scooters, and micromobility devices such as motorized foot scooters and electric assisted bicycles. Any moped, motorcycle, or, except as otherwise provided for in this definition, personal assistive mobility device, are considered motorized transportation.

### Adaptive management

Adaptive management ((is a systematic approach for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of operational programs)) means modifying management actions based on ongoing monitoring and data analysis.

### Agricultural activities

((Agricultural activities means agricultural uses and practices including, but not limited to: producing, breeding, or increasing agricultural products; rotating and changing agricultural crops; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie fallow in which it is plowed and tilled but left unseeded; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie dormant as a result of adverse agricultural market conditions; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie dormant because the land is enrolled in a local, state, or federal conservation program, or the land is subject to a conservation easement; conducting agricultural operations; maintaining, repairing, and replacing agricultural equipment; maintaining, repairing, and replacing agricultural facilities, provided that the replacement facility is no closer to the shoreline than the original facility; and maintaining agricultural lands under production or cultivation:)) Except for the purposes of Chapter 6, Shorelines, agricultural activities means those agricultural uses and practices that pertain directly to the commercial production of agricultural products, including, but not limited to:

- a. Tilling, disking, planting, seeding, fertilization, composting, and other soil amendments and harvesting;
- b. Grazing, animal mortality management, and on-site animal waste storage, disposal, and processing;
- c. Soil conservation practices including dust control, rotating and changing agricultural crops, and allowing agricultural lands to lie fallow under local, state or federal conservation programs;
- d. Maintenance of farm and stock ponds, agricultural drainage, irrigation systems canals and flood control facilities;

- e. Normal maintenance, operation and repair of existing serviceable equipment, structures, facilities or improved areas, including, but not limited to, fencing, farm access roads and parking; and
- f. Processing, promotion, sale, storage, packaging and distribution.

(See Chapter 6, Shorelines, for agricultural activities in the shoreline jurisdiction.)

### **Agricultural Production Districts ((APD))**

The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to designate, where appropriate, agricultural lands that are not characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other agricultural products. The comprehensive plan designates Agricultural Production Districts ~~((where the principal land use should be agriculture))~~ in accordance with this requirement. ~~((Lands within Agricultural Production Districts should remain in parcels large enough for commercial agriculture.))~~ (See Chapter 3((:)), Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands.)

### **Agricultural products**

Agricultural products include, but are not limited to: horticultural, viticultural, floricultural, ~~((vegetable, fruit, berry, grain, hops, hay, straw, turf, sod, seed,))~~ and apiary products; livestock, livestock products, and other animal products including, but not limited to, upland finfish, dairy products, meat, poultry, and eggs; feed or forage for livestock; Christmas trees; and hybrid cottonwood and similar hardwood trees grown as crops and harvested within ((twenty)) 20 years of planting; ((and livestock, including both the animals themselves and animal products including, but not limited to, meat, upland finfish, poultry and poultry products, and dairy products.))

### **Annexation**

Annexation is the process of adding or incorporating an area into a city's jurisdiction.

### **Applicant**

An applicant is a property owner, a public agency or a public or private utility that owns a right-of-way or other easement or has been adjudicated the right to such an easement under Revised Code of Washington 8.08.040, or any person or entity designated or named in writing by the property or easement owner to be the applicant, in an application for a development proposal, permit, or approval.

### **Area Median Income**

Area median income is the midpoint income for King County, where half of the households earn more than the median, and half of the households earn less, as established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development adjusted for household size.

### **Area Zoning and Land Use Study**

An area zoning and land use study is a study that reviews the land use designations and zoning classifications for a specified set of properties. Area zoning and land use studies are typically focused on a ~~((broader set of policies than a subarea study))~~ specific set of possible land use and zoning changes, and do not look at the larger range of issues that a subarea plan would include. Area zoning and land use studies consider specific potential changes to land use or zoning, or both, and analyze such requests based on surrounding land use and zoning, current infrastructure and potential future needs, and consistency with the King County Comprehensive Plan, ~~((c))~~ Countywide ((p)) ~~Planning~~ Policies, and the ~~((g))~~ Growth ((m)) ~~Management ((a))~~ Act.

### **Arterial Functional Classification**

Arterial functional classification is the ~~((division of a road system into a number of categories according to the function of each road))~~ categorization of roadways based on

their function. The degree to which ~~((the))~~ a road serves movement of traffic or access to adjacent properties is the basis for its classification. Principal arterials provide for movement across large areas, serving predominantly "through traffic." Minor arterials generally serve smaller areas than principal arterials and provide ~~((movement))~~ greater access to abutting properties ~~((and to arterials within large areas bound by principal arterials))~~. Collector arterials serve smaller areas by "collecting" traffic ~~((to or))~~ from local roads and abutting properties and funneling it to ~~((and from))~~ the ~~((transportation system))~~ arterial network.

#### **Asset Poverty**

Asset poverty is a socioeconomic condition that describes a person or household's lack of wealth-building property, possessions, or financial holdings. It is a broader concept than poverty, which is traditionally defined based on income or wages, and can measure or describe stability or precarity amid unexpected life events.

## **B**

#### **Biodiversity**

Biodiversity, or biological diversity, is the variety of living organisms considered at all levels, from genetic diversity through species, to higher taxonomic levels, and includes the variety of habitats, ecosystems, and landscapes in which the species are found.

#### **Brownfields**

Brownfields are defined as vacant or underdeveloped industrial/commercial sites with real or perceived contamination.

#### **Buffer**

A buffer, ~~when referring to critical areas,~~ is a designated area adjacent and contiguous to a ~~((steep slope or landslide hazard area intended to protect slope stability, attenuation of surface water flows and landslide hazards, or a designated area contiguous to and))~~ critical area that is intended to protect ~~((and be an integral part of an aquatic area or wetland))~~ the functions and values of the critical area and reduce impacts from adjacent land uses.

## **C**

#### **Capital Improvement Program ((CIP))**

The ~~((A))~~ adopted Capital Improvement Program budget allocates funds from various revenue sources to improve cultural and recreational opportunities for King County residents, build needed transportation facilities, protect the County's investment in existing buildings, protect the health of residents, enhance the management of natural resources, and provide necessary capital resources for the law, safety, and ~~((justice))~~ criminal legal system.

#### **~~((Channel migration hazard area, moderate~~**

~~A portion of the channel migration zone, as shown on King County's Channel Migration Zone maps, which lies between the severe channel migration hazard area and the outer boundaries of the channel migration zone.~~

#### **Channel migration hazard area, severe**

~~A portion of the channel migration zone, as shown on King County's Channel Migration Zone maps, which includes the present channel. The total width of the severe channel migration hazard area equals one hundred years times the average annual channel migration rate, plus the present channel width. The average annual channel migration~~

rate as determined in the technical report is the basis for each Channel Migration Zone map:))

### **Channel Migration Zone**

Channel migration zones are those areas along a river channel within which the channel(((s))) can be reasonably predicted, based on best available science, to migrate over time as a result of natural and normally occurring hydrological and related processes when considered with the characteristics of the river and its surroundings. In areas located in King County's shoreline jurisdiction, the channel migration zone includes areas shown on King County's Channel Migration zone maps, including both the severe channel migration hazard area and the moderate channel migration hazard area, and areas not shown on King County's Channel Migration Zone maps but located within the floodplain.

### **Circular Economy**

Circular economy means a system that keeps products and materials in a cycle of use for as long as possible, thereby lessening the need to extract virgin materials, like trees, metals, and oil, from the earth. Actions that promote a circular economy include recycling, reusing, repairing, and reducing.

### **Cities**

For the purposes of the Comprehensive Plan, the term "cities" includes incorporated towns.

### **Cities in the Rural Area**

~~((King County's))~~ Cities in the Rural Area are incorporated areas ~~((within))~~ substantively surrounded by the Rural Area, and whose local governments are involved in the region's planning processes on an equal legal basis with ~~((the suburban cities))~~ Seattle, Bellevue, and the other King County cities ((Seattle)). The ~~((incorporated))~~ Cities in the Rural Area are Black Diamond, Carnation, Duvall, Enumclaw, North Bend, Skykomish, and Snoqualmie. (See Chapter 3((:)), Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands)

### **Clearing**

Clearing includes cutting, killing, grubbing, or removing vegetation or other organic plant material by physical, mechanical, chemical, or any other similar means. For the purpose of this definition ~~((of clearing))~~, cutting means the severing of the main trunk or stem of woody vegetation at any point.

### **Clustering**

Clustering means ~~((developing))~~ development of a subdivision at the existing zoned density that reduces the size of individual lots ((areas to)) and creates permanent open space for the preservation of critical areas or ((a reserve for future development while it maintains the zoned residential density)) resource land for forestry or agriculture.

### **Community Business Centers**

These are primarily retail developments designed to serve a nearby market area of 15,000 to 40,000 people. (See Chapter 2((:)), Urban Communities.)

### **Community-Driven Development**

Community-driven development includes equitable development actions that advance the following principles:

- a. advances economic mobility and opportunity for residents;
- b. prevents displacement;
- c. builds upon and protects local cultural assets that anchor communities;
- d. supports organizational capacity building;
- e. promotes transportation mobility and connectivity; and
- f. enables equitable access for all communities.



## **Community Service Areas ((CSA))**

Community Services Areas refers to the geographic framework that organizes the unincorporated areas of King County into seven territories for the purposes of the Community Service Area Program. (See Chapter 11, Community Service Area Subarea Planning.)

### **Community Service Areas Program**

The ((CSA)) Community Service Areas Program is housed in the Department of ((Natural Resources and Parks)) Local Services. This program promotes robust public engagement that informs, involves, and empowers people and communities in unincorporated ((urban areas and in the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands of)) King County to take an active role in County decision-making related to programs, services, and capital projects within each Community Service Area.

### **((Community Service Area Subarea Plan**

With King County's initiation of the subarea planning program, the new plans will be called Community Service Area Subarea Plans. These will apply the countywide goals of the Comprehensive Plan to smaller geographic areas. Each one of King County's six rural CSAs and each of the five large Potential Annexation Areas has or is scheduled to have its own CSA Subarea Plan. CSA Subarea Plans focus on land use issues in the smaller geographies, as well as community identified implementation activities while recognizing the parameters of County funding and revenue sources. These plans implement and are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's policies and development regulations:))

### **Comprehensive Plan**

The ((state of Washington's)) Growth Management Act requires certain cities and counties of the state to adopt comprehensive land use plans. A comprehensive plan is a generalized, coordinated land use policy statement of the governing body of a county or city that is adopted pursuant to the Growth Management Act. A comprehensive plan consists of a map or maps; descriptive text covering objectives, principles, and standards used to develop the comprehensive plan; and a plan, scheme, or design for land use, housing, capital facilities, utilities, the rural area((s)), natural resource lands, and transportation. Optional components include elements relating to conservation, solar energy, recreation, and subarea plans.

### **((Concurrency Management System**

The Growth Management Act requires jurisdictions to adopt and enforce ordinances that prohibit development approval if the development causes the level of service on a transportation facility to decline below the standards adopted in the comprehensive plan, unless transportation improvements or strategies to accommodate the impacts of development are made "concurrent" with the development. Concurrent with development means that transportation improvements or strategies are in place at the time of development or that financial commitment is made to complete the improvements or strategies within six years. The Concurrency Management System of King County establishes a process to manage new development based on transportation impacts on levels of service and the concurrency of needed improvements or actions. (See Chapter 8: Transportation:))

### **Congestion Pricing**

Congestion pricing is a strategy to manage traffic congestion by charging drivers a fee for using designated lanes or roadways during congested periods. Congestion pricing encourages drivers to use other modes of transportation, other routes, or other travel times. By removing a fraction of vehicles from the roadway during peak travel times, the transportation system operates more efficiently.

## Coordinated Water System Plans

Four Critical Water Supply Service Areas have been designated in King County in accordance with the Public Water System Coordinated Act of 1977 ((c))Chapter ((70.116)) 70A.100 Revised Code of Washington: East King County, Skyway, South King County, and Vashon Island. The Coordinated Water System Plan for each area provides an assessment of water supply and a program to meet future demand. Planning areas, within which a water purveyor is obligated to provide service consistent with ((c))County land use plans and regulations, were assigned for major purveyors.

## Countywide Planning Policies ((CWP))

((The Growth Management Act requires that counties, as regional governments within their boundaries, prepare countywide planning policies which establish a countywide framework from which county and city comprehensive plans are to be developed and adopted. This framework is to ensure that city and county comprehensive plans are consistent. The King County Countywide Planning Policies were developed and recommended by the Growth Management Planning Council and are to serve as a blueprint for how King County and its cities should grow over the next 20 years. The Metropolitan King County Council adopted these policies in 1992. Since this time, amendments called "Phase II Countywide Planning Policies" have been made to the sections pertaining to affordable housing, economic development and rural character. The County Council has adopted these Phase II amendments.)) The Countywide Planning Policies create a shared and consistent framework for growth management planning for all jurisdictions in King County in accordance with RCW 36.70A.210, which requires the legislative authority of a county to adopt a countywide planning policy in cooperation with cities located in the county. The comprehensive plan for King County and the comprehensive plans for cities and towns in King County are developed from the framework that the Countywide Planning Policies establish. The Growth Management Planning Council is the formal body charged with developing the Countywide Planning Policies. (See Chapter 1((:)), Regional Growth Management Planning.)

## Creative Economy

Creative economy means industries, artists, educators, entrepreneurs, vendors, policymakers, and funders that produce and distribute creativity- and artistic-based goods and services.

## Critical Areas

((The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to designate, where appropriate, critical areas which include: 1) wetlands, 2) areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, 3) fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, 4) frequently flooded areas, and 5) geologically hazardous areas.)) Any area that is subject to natural hazards or a land feature that supports unique, fragile, or valuable natural resources including fish, wildlife, or other organisms or their habitats or such resources that carry, hold, or purify water in their natural state. "Critical area" includes the following areas:

- a. Critical aquifer recharge areas;
- b. Frequently flooded areas, regulated as Flood Hazard Areas;
  1. Floodplain;
  2. Special flood hazard area, as shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps;
  3. Zero-rise flood fringe;
  4. Zero-rise floodway;
  5. FEMA floodway; and
  6. Channel migration zones;
- c. Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas:
  1. Aquatic areas;
  2. Riparian areas;
  3. Wildlife habitat conservation areas; and

- 328 4. Wildlife habitat networks;  
329 d. Geologically hazardous areas:  
330 1. Alluvial fan hazard areas;  
331 2. Channel migration zones;  
332 3. Coal mine hazard areas;  
333 4. Erosion hazard areas;  
334 5. Landslide hazard areas;  
335 6. Seismic hazard areas;  
336 7. Steep slope hazard areas;  
337 8. Tsunami hazard area; and  
338 9. Volcanic hazard areas; and  
339 e. Wetlands.

#### 341 **Critical Habitat**

342 Critical habitat includes specific areas that possess physical or biological features, which  
343 are essential to the conservation of a listed species.

#### 345 **Cultural Resources**

346 Cultural resources include performing and visual arts events, programs, and facilities;  
347 public art; heritage events, programs, and facilities; Indian tribal celebrations and  
348 cultural events; and historic properties.

#### 350 **Cumulative ((i))Impacts**

351 Cumulative impacts, for the purposes of Chapter 6, Shorelines, are the sum total of the  
352 current, plus any reasonably foreseeable future, disturbances to ecological functions,  
353 which can be impacted by both development subject to shoreline permits and by  
354 development that is not subject to permits.

## 356 **D**

#### 357 **~~((Deficiency~~**

358 ~~Deficiency in a comprehensive plan or development regulation refers to the absence of~~  
359 ~~required or potentially desirable contents of a comprehensive plan or development~~  
360 ~~regulation:))~~

#### 362 **Debris Flow**

363 Debris flow means a moving mass of rock fragments, soil, and mud, with more than half  
364 of the particles being larger than sand size.

#### 366 **Density**

367 Density is the quantity of structures or buildings per unit area. Density is typically  
368 expressed as housing units per acre or square mile.

#### 370 **Density Incentives/Bonuses**

371 Density incentives, or density bonuses, are programs that allow more dwelling units  
372 than the number permitted on a site by zoning (sometimes referred to as "base density")  
373 in exchange for public benefits provided by the developer. ~~((King County has~~  
374 ~~incorporated use of density incentives with standard urban subdivision, mobile home~~  
375 ~~park, and multifamily development projects. (King County Code, Title 21A))~~

#### 377 **Development**

378 For purposes of the shoreline master program, development means a use consisting of  
379 the construction or exterior alteration of structures; dredging; drilling; dumping; filling;  
380 removing sand, gravel, or minerals; bulkheading; driving of piling; placing of  
381 obstructions; or any project of a permanent or temporary nature which interferes with

the normal public use of the surface of the waters overlying lands subject to any state of water level.

### **Development regulations**

Development regulations means the controls placed on development or land uses by a county or city, including, but not limited to: zoning ordinances, critical areas ordinances, all portions of a shoreline master program other than goals and policies approved or adopted under ~~((c))~~Chapter 90.58 Revised Code of Washington, ~~((planned unit development ordinances,))~~ subdivision ordinances, and binding site plan ordinances together with any amendments thereto.

### **Displacement**

Displacement means the involuntary relocation of current residents or businesses from their current or previous home, neighborhood, or community. This is a different phenomenon than when property owners voluntarily sell their interests to capture an increase in value. Physical displacement is the result of eviction, acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition of property, or the expiration of covenants on rent- or income-restricted housing. Economic displacement occurs when residents and businesses can no longer afford escalating costs. Cultural or ethnic displacement occurs when people choose to move because their neighbors and culturally related businesses have left the area.

### **Docket**

A list of suggested changes to a comprehensive plan or development regulations maintained by the department.

### **Docket Process, The**

The docket process specifies that dockets are not just to note deficiencies, but also to suggest changes and make written comments. These suggested changes are reviewed by the ~~((c))~~County and made available for review by the public. Information provided to the public ~~((will))~~ includes the ~~((c))~~County's response. ~~((An Internet docket process is available and can be found at:~~  
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/executive/performance-strategy-budget/regional-planning/king-county-comprehensive-plan/amend/docket.aspx>.

### **Docketing**

~~Docketing means compiling and maintaining a list of suggested changes to the comprehensive plan or development regulations in a manner that will ensure such suggested changes will be considered by the county and will be available for review by the public:))~~

### **Drainage Basin**

A drainage basin, like a watershed, is an area that drains to a common outlet or an identifiable water body such as a river, stream, lake, or wetland. In King County, 72 drainage basins are contained within six major watersheds. These drainage basins in turn contain numerous individual water bodies with small drainages.

### **~~((Dredging~~**

~~Dredging is the removal, displacement, or disposal of unconsolidated earth material such as sand, silt, gravel, or other submerged materials, from the bottom of water bodies, ditches, or natural wetlands. Maintenance dredging and/or support activities are included in this definition:))~~

### **Dwelling unit**

A dwelling unit consists of one or more rooms designed for occupancy by a person or household for living and sleeping purposes, containing kitchen facilities and rooms with internal accessibility, for use solely by the dwelling's occupants. Dwelling units include

((but are not limited to efficiency and)) studio apartments, factory-built housing, and  
manufactured and mobile homes.

## E

### Ecological Function

An ecological function refers to physical, chemical, and biological processes or attributes at some level of biological organization. For example, the ecological functions of wetlands include food chain support, water quality maintenance, flood storage, and wildlife habitat.

### Ecoregions

Ecoregions are land areas that contain a geographically unique set of species, communities, and environmental conditions.

### Ecosystem

Ecosystem means the complex of a community of organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit.

### Ecosystem-wide processes

Ecosystem-wide processes means the suite of naturally occurring physical and geologic processes of erosion, transport, and deposition; and specific chemical processes that shape landforms within a specific shoreline ecosystem and determine both the types of habitat and the associated ecological functions.

### ((Emissions Trading

Emissions trading means the transfer in ownership of emission reductions. Emission trading occurs when a source of air pollution reduces its emissions and then transfers ownership of the emission reduction to another party. Markets for emission reductions can be created by regulation (the market for sulfur dioxide allowances for example) or voluntarily (the current market for greenhouse gases:))

### Endangered Species

Endangered species means any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range and which has been designated as such in regulations issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the state of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

### Endangered Species Act ((ESA))

The Endangered Species Act is an act that was adopted by the U.S. Congress in 1973 to provide a means to conserve ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend and to provide a program for the conservation for such endangered and threatened species.

### ((Endemic Species

Endemic species (or habitats or ecosystems) are those that are native to, and occur only in, a particular area or locale. Endemic species generally have very specific adaptive requirements that are linked to particular habitat or ecosystems that are rare (e.g., Townsend's big-eared bats and caves). Even small changes in the ecosystem are likely to cause localized extinctions of these species:))

### Enhancement

For the purposes of critical area regulations, ((E))enhancement means ((to increase or)) an action that improves ((one or more of the functions, attributes, or values that an ecosystem or environmental feature possesses)) the processes, structures, and functions



of ecosystems and habitats associated with critical areas or their buffers. (See Chapter 5((:)), Environment).

#### **Environmentally Sensitive Areas**

Environmentally sensitive areas include: coal mines; areas that are prone to erosion, floods, landslides, or seismic activity; steep slopes; volcanic hazard areas; and streams, wetlands and protection buffers.))

#### **Equitable Development**

Equitable development refers to public and private investments, programs, and policies in communities characterized by high levels of chronic and recent displacement, a history of racially driven underinvestment, and populations impacted by structural racism and discrimination. This work is conducted in partnership with community members to meet the needs of the community and reduce disparities, taking into account history and current conditions, so that quality-of-life outcomes such as access to quality education, living-wage employment, healthy environment, affordable housing, and transportation are equitably distributed for the people currently living and working there, as well as for new people moving into the community.

#### **Equitable Neighborhood**

An equitable neighborhood is a neighborhood where people are healthy, safe, culturally connected, and can access resources to meet their needs. All members of the community, regardless of background, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, or abilities, can thrive in equitable neighborhoods, engage with local decisionmakers to inform how their community is served, and access opportunities such as affordable housing or homeownership, healthcare, education, and employment.

#### **Equity Impact Review**

An equity impact review is a process to identify, evaluate, and communicate the potential impact - both positive and negative - of a policy or program on equity using tools from the King County Office of Equity and Racial and Social Justice.

## **F**

#### **Fair Housing Ordinance**

King County's Fair Housing Ordinance prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, marital status, parental status, use of Section 8 subsidy, sexual orientation, disability or the use of a trained guide dog.

#### **Family-Wage Jobs**

Family-wage jobs are jobs that pay more than the average annual wage for King County in a given year and therefore enable a worker to support a family.))

#### **Feasible**

Feasible means, for the purpose of ((this)) the Shoreline Master ((p))Program, that an action, such as a development project, mitigation, or preservation requirement, meets all of the following conditions:

((a)) a. The action can be accomplished with technologies and methods that have been used in the past in similar circumstances, or studies or tests have demonstrated in similar circumstances that such approaches are currently available and likely to achieve the intended results;

((b)) b. The action provides a reasonable likelihood of achieving its intended purpose; and

~~((c))~~ c. The action does not physically preclude achieving the project's primary intended legal use.

In cases where these guidelines require certain actions unless they are infeasible, the burden of proving infeasibility is on the applicant. In determining an action's infeasibility, the reviewing agency may weigh the action's relative public costs and public benefits, considered in the short- and long-term ~~((time frames))~~ timeframes.

#### **FEMA floodway**

A FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) floodway is the channel of the stream ~~((and that portion of the adjoining floodplain that is necessary to contain and discharge the 100-year flood flow without increasing the base flood elevation more than one foot))~~ or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height at any point. The FEMA floodway is delineated on the Flood Insurance Rate Map, as well as on, but not limited to, King County Surface Water Design Manual major floodplain or floodway studies.

#### **Fill**

For the purposes of the Chapter 6, Shorelines, Fill means the addition of soil, sand, rock, gravel, sediment, earth retaining structure, or other material to an area waterward of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), in wetlands, or on shorelands in a manner that raises the elevation or creates dry land.

#### **~~((Flood Hazard Management Plan~~**

~~The King County Flood Hazard Management Plan contains policies and program and project recommendations that guide floodplain use and development throughout King County:))~~

#### **Floodplain**

Floodplain is the total area subject to inundation by the 100-year flood.

#### **~~((Floodway, zero-rise~~**

~~Floodway zero-rise is the channel of a stream and that portion of the adjoining floodplain that is necessary to contain and discharge the base flood flow without any measurable increase in base flood elevation:~~

~~A. For the purpose of this definition, measurable increase in base flood elevation means a calculated upward rise in the base flood elevation, equal to or greater than 0.01 foot, resulting from a comparison of existing conditions and changed conditions directly attributable to alterations of the topography or any other flow obstructions in the floodplain. Zero-rise floodway is broader than that of the FEMA floodway but always includes the FEMA floodway:~~

~~B. Zero-rise floodway includes the entire floodplain unless a critical areas report demonstrates otherwise:~~

#### **Food Innovation District**

~~A district of food-related activities supportive of healthy, affordable local food. Food innovation districts may encompass food retail, anchor food businesses, small food business incubation, food industry education and training, markets and food hubs, urban agriculture, food programs and partnerships with urban and rural food growers and cooperatives, and food aggregation and processing:))~~

#### **Forest practice**

Forest practice is any forest practice as defined in Revised Code of Washington 76.09.020.

### **Forest Production Districts ((FPD))**

The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to designate, where appropriate, forest lands that are not characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of timber. The Comprehensive Plan designates Forest Production Districts where the primary use should be commercial forestry. Lands within the Forest Production District ~~((shall))~~ remain in large parcels and in ownership conducive to forestry. (See Chapter 3~~((+))~~, Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands).

### **Frontline Communities**

Frontline communities are those that are disproportionately impacted by climate change due to existing and historical racial, social, environmental, and economic inequities, and who have limited resources and/or capacity to adapt. These populations often experience the earliest and most acute impacts of climate change, but whose experiences afford unique strengths and insights into climate resilience strategies and practices. Frontline communities include Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities; immigrants; refugees; households at or below 80 percent of area median income; communities experiencing disproportionate pollution exposure; women and gender non-conforming people; LGBTQIA+ people; people who live and/or work outside; those with existing health issues; people speaking languages other than English; and other climate-vulnerable groups.

### **Fully Contained Community ((FCC))**

A fully contained community is a site-specific development project consisting of conceptual site plan(s), development standards, processing and other elements. ~~((It is also consistent with the criteria provided in RCW 36.70A.350 which states that Fully Contained Communities should be located outside of the initially designated Urban Growth Area.))~~

### **Functional Classification**

See "Arterial Functional Classification"

### **Functional Planning**

Functional plans are detailed King County plans for facilities and services and action plans and programs for other governmental activities. Some functional plans are operational or programmatic, which means they guide daily management decisions. Others include specific details of facility design and location and must be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations. ~~((Functional plans are prepared by King County, independent special purpose districts or other public and private agencies. (See Chapter 12: Implementation Amendments and Evaluation)))~~

## **G**

### **Geotechnical report or geotechnical analysis**

Geotechnical report or geotechnical analysis means a scientific study or evaluation conducted by a qualified expert that includes: a description of the ground and surface hydrology and geology; the affected land form and its susceptibility to mass wasting, erosion, and other geologic hazards or processes; conclusions and recommendations regarding the effect of the proposed development on geologic conditions; the adequacy of the site to be developed; the impacts of the proposed development; alternative approaches to the proposed development; and measures to mitigate

potential site-specific and cumulative geological and hydrological impacts of the proposed development, including the potential adverse impacts to adjacent and down-current properties. Geotechnical reports shall conform to accepted technical standards and must be prepared by qualified professional engineers or geologists who have professional expertise about the regional and local shoreline geology and processes.

#### **Global Warming**

Global warming is an increase in worldwide atmospheric temperature and resulting alterations in climate.)

#### **Grading**

Grading is any excavation, filling, or removal of the duff layer or any combination thereof.

#### **Green Jobs**

Living wage positions providing environmental benefits (such as clean energy deployment) in high-demand industry sectors such as construction, manufacturing, transportation, and professional services.

#### **Groundwater Management Plans**

King County has five Groundwater Management Areas ~~((GWMA))~~ for which residents and technical experts are addressing groundwater issues. For each ~~((GWMA))~~ Groundwater Management Area, a Groundwater Management Plan ~~((GWMP))~~ has been developed per ~~((c))~~Chapter 173-100 Washington Administrative Code ~~((c))~~Chapter 90.44 Revised Code of Washington). Each ~~((GWMP))~~ Groundwater Management Plan describes the area's groundwater resource, contains a detailed exploration of groundwater protection issues, and proposes solutions to perceived threats. These plans identify Sensitive Aquifer Areas to receive a special level of protection.

#### **Growth Management Act ((GMA))**

In 1990 and 1991, the Washington State Legislature passed the Growth Management Act. The Growth Management Act calls for urban counties and cities in the state to develop comprehensive plans to guide growth management decisions. Amendments to the Act in 1991 require that counties, working with the cities within their boundaries, develop Countywide Planning Policies to provide a common vision of the future to serve as the framework for all comprehensive plans throughout the county. (See Chapter 1((+)) Regional Growth Management Planning)

#### **Growth Management Planning Council ((GMPC))**

The Growth Management Planning Council, which was established by an interlocal agreement, is a council of elected officials from Seattle, Bellevue, ~~((suburban))~~ other King County cities, special purpose districts, the Port of Seattle, and King County. The Growth Management Planning Council is responsible for the preparation and recommendation of the Countywide Planning Policies to the Metropolitan King County Council, which then adopts the policies and sends them to the cities for ratification.

#### **((Urban)) Growth Target**

The Growth Management Act and the Countywide Planning Policies require King County and ~~((its))~~ the cities in the county to plan for a 20-year population and employment growth target for urban areas in each jurisdiction, based on designation of the Urban Growth Area, Urban Centers, and the criteria of the Countywide Planning Policies. (See Chapter 2((+)) Urban Communities)

## H

### Habitat

Habitat is the area where wildlife normally lives and grows. Habitat components include food, water, cover (security, breeding, thermal) and space.

### Habitat Network

Habitat network is a system of fish and wildlife habitat ~~((where connections between))~~ that link large habitat blocks and open spaces with critical areas and their buffers, priority habitats, trails, parks, and other areas that ~~((are necessary for the support of))~~ provide for fish and wildlife through their life cycles and alleviate habitat fragmentation.

### Healthy Community

Healthy community (communities) means a community that makes it ~~((easier))~~ easy for people to live healthy lives by ~~((+))~~ encouraging ~~((mixed))~~ a land use ~~((and greater land density))~~ pattern to shorten distances between housing, workplaces, schools, and recreation so people can walk or bike more easily to them; incorporating ~~((good))~~ complete pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, including sidewalks and bike paths that are safely removed from ~~((automobile))~~ vehicle traffic; providing opportunities for people to be physically active and socially engaged as part of their daily routine; including access to open space and parks; allowing people, if they choose, to age in place and remain in their community as their lifestyle changes or they face changing physical capabilities; and ensuring access to affordable and healthy food, especially fruits and vegetables.

### Healthy Housing

Healthy housing means housing that is sustainable and protects all residents from exposure to harmful substances and environments, reduces the risk of injury, provides opportunities for safe and convenient daily physical activity, and ~~((assures))~~ ensures access to healthy food and social connectivity.

### ~~((High-Capacity Transit Facilities~~

~~These include all of the elements of a system, including the rails, stations, vehicle infrastructure and associated supportive facilities:))~~

### Historic Properties

Historic properties include historic buildings, sites, objects, districts, and landscapes, prehistoric and historic archaeological resources, and traditional cultural places.

### Historic Property, Significant

Significant historic properties are those properties that meet the criteria for designation as County landmarks and/or listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

### Historically Underrepresented

Historically underrepresented groups or populations are communities of people whose experiences, opinions, and life outcomes have intentionally or indirectly not been sought out or reflected in planning processes. Historically underrepresented groups often include Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities; immigrants; refugees; households at or below 80 percent of area median income; people speaking languages other than English; women and gender nonconforming individuals; LGBTQIA+ people, and people with special housing needs.

### Historically Underinvested

Historically underinvested groups or populations are communities that have experienced a long-term pattern of lacking investment in public services and amenities relative to neighboring communities or an expected standard. Historically



underinvested groups often include Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities; immigrants; refugees; households at or below 80 percent of area median income; people speaking languages other than English; women and gender nonconforming individuals; LGBTQIA+ people; and people with special housing needs.

### **Housing Needs**

Housing needs refers to the number of housing units needed in unincorporated King County by the end of the planning period to ensure sufficient and attainable housing for all households.

## **I**

### **Impervious surface**

((An-))Impervious surface ((is)) means a nonvertical surface artificially covered or hardened ((that)) so as to prevent((s, retards, or otherwise alters)) or impede the ((entry)) percolation of water into the soil mantle ((as compared to)) at natural ((conditions prior to development, and/or a hard surface area that causes water to run off the surface in greater quantities or at an increased rate of flow from the flow present under natural conditions prior to development). Common impervious surfaces include)) infiltration rates including, but are not limited to, roofs ((tops)), swimming pools and areas that are paved, graveled, or made of packed or oiled earthen materials such as roads, walkways, ((patios, driveways,)) or parking ((lots and gravel roads)) areas. "Impervious surface" does not include landscaping and surface water flow control and water quality treatment facilities.

### **Income, Extremely Low-**

Extremely low-income means households earning less than or equal to 30 percent of area median income for their household size.

### **Income, Low-**

Low-income means households earning greater than 50 percent to less than or equal to 80 percent of area median income for their household size.

### **Income, Moderate-**

Moderate-income means households earning greater than 80 percent to less than or equal to 120 percent of area median income for their household size.

### **Income, Very Low-**

Very low-income means households earning greater than 30 percent to less than or equal to 50 percent of area median income for their household size.

### **Incorporated Areas**

Incorporated areas are those areas within a city or a city's jurisdiction. King County contains the entirety of ((39)) 35 incorporated cities and parts of ((two)) four others.

### **Infill**

Infill means development or redevelopment on small properties or groups of properties within existing built-up areas.

### **((Initial Project Needs**

Initial project needs are road improvement projects needed to address the impacts of a specific development. The projects must be concurrent with the development.))

## J

## K

### **Keystone Species**

Keystone species are those that exert a significant effect on the structure of the biological community of which they are a part. These species often prevent dominance by a single species and thereby maintain diversity in the community.)

## L

### **Landfill**

Landfill is a disposal site or part of a site at which refuse is deposited.

### **Landslide Hazard Areas**

An area subject to severe risk of landslide, such as:

((A:)) a. An area with a combination of:

1. Slopes steeper than fifteen percent of inclination;
2. Impermeable soils, such as silt and clay, frequently interbedded with granular soils, such as sand and gravel; and
3. Springs or ground water seepage;

((B:)) b. An area that has shown movement during the Holocene epoch, which is from ten thousand years ago to the present, or that is underlain by mass wastage debris from that epoch;

((C:)) c. Any area potentially unstable as a result of rapid stream incision, stream bank erosion or undercutting by wave action;

((D:)) d. An area that shows evidence of or is at risk from snow avalanches; or

((E:)) e. An area located on an alluvial fan, presently or potentially subject to inundation by debris flows or deposition of stream-transported sediments.

### **Land Use Map**

The land use map adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan designates the general location and extent of the uses of land for agriculture, timber production, housing, commerce, industry, recreation, open spaces, public utilities, public facilities, and other land uses as required by the Growth Management Act. A representation of the Land Use Map is included at the end of Chapter 1((:)). Regional Growth Management Planning.

### **Level of Service - Transportation ((LOS))**

Transportation ((LOS)) level of service is a qualitative measure describing the operational conditions of the transportation system as experienced by travelers.

### **LGBTQIA+**

LGBTQIA+ means people that are Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Plus. As an evolving acronym, the plus symbol includes all other identities on the gender and sexuality spectrum not included already.

### **Locally Significant Resource Areas (LSRAs)**

LSRAs Locally Significant Resource Areas contribute to the aquatic resources within a specific basin, when compared to aquatic and terrestrial systems of similar size and structure elsewhere in the basin. They also provide wetland and stream habitat that is

important for wildlife and salmonid diversity and abundance within the basin. (See Chapter 5: Environment))

#### **Long-term commercial significance**

Long-term commercial significance is defined in Washington Administrative Code 365-190-030~~((11))~~ to include the growing capacity, productivity, and soil composition of the land for long-term commercial production, in consideration with the land's proximity to population areas, and the possibility of more intense uses of land. Long-term commercial significance means the land is capable of producing the specified natural resources at commercially sustainable levels for at least a twenty-year planning period, if adequately conserved. Designated mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance may have alternative post-mining land uses, as provided by the Surface Mining Reclamation Act, comprehensive plan and development regulations, or other laws.

#### **Low Impact Development ((LD))**

~~((LD))~~ Low impact development is an approach to land development that works to match a site's natural hydrologic function by protecting native vegetation and soils, reducing impervious surface and managing stormwater at the source.

## **M**

#### **Master Planned Resorts**

~~RCW 36.70A.360 defines a Master Planned Resort as a self-contained and fully integrated planned unit development, in a setting of significant natural amenities, with primary focus on destination resort facilities consisting of short-term visitor accommodations associated with a range of developed on-site indoor or outdoor recreation facilities. A master planned resort may include other residential uses within its boundaries, but only if the residential uses are integrated into and support the on-site recreational nature of the resort:))~~

#### **May**

~~((See definition for "shall"))~~ To guide King County, the use of the terms "shall," "should," and "may" in policies determine the level of discretion the County can exercise in making future and specific land use, budget, development regulation, and other decisions. "May" in a policy means that the action is allowed and/or it is in the County's interest to carry out the policy, but the County has total discretion in making decisions.

#### **Median Household Income**

~~The median household income is the income level at which half of all households has higher income and the other half has lower income:))~~

#### **Middle Housing**

Middle housing includes moderately scaled multiunit attached or detached housing types that are compatible in residential areas developed with predominantly single detached residences. Middle housing typically includes more housing units than single detached developments, but less than large apartment buildings. These housing types typically include, but are not limited to, duplexes, houseplexes, townhouses, courtyard buildings, cottage houses, and live-work buildings.

#### **Middle-Wage Jobs**

Jobs that can support a household or family without significant educational requirements. Given the barriers in access throughout the educational, banking, and other institutional systems, these middle-wage jobs provide key avenues for financial self-sufficiency and wealth building and play a unique role in advancing equity. Jobs in

this range predominate in more locally owned, smaller- and medium-sized businesses and manufacturers, such as accountants, machinists, or technicians.

### **Mineral Resource Sites**

The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to designate, where appropriate, mineral resource lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the extraction of minerals. The comprehensive plan designates as Mineral Resource Sites existing, approved mineral extraction sites, and also designates as Potential Surface Mineral Resource Sites properties on which King County expects some future mines may be located. (See Chapter 3((+)), Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands)

### **((Mitigation Bank**

A mitigation bank is a property approved by the appropriate county, state and federal agencies for restoration, creation, or enhancement to compensate for adverse impacts to wetlands caused by the development of public agency facilities and utility facilities.

### **Mitigation Payment System**

This impact fee system establishes a requirement that new growth and development pay a proportionate share of the cost of needed transportation improvements. The mitigation payment system is authorized by state growth management legislation. (See Chapter 8: Transportation))

### **Mixed-Use**

Mixed-use refers to a development with combined commercial and residential uses.

### **((Mode Split**

Mode split is the percentage of a specific mode's use from among all modes of travel. For example, if 25 trips out of 100 total trips are made by bus, the bus mode split is 25 percent. Modes of travel include single-occupant vehicles, transit, carpooling, bicycling, walking, and other modes.

### **Multifamily)) Multiunit Housing**

((Multifamily)) Multiunit housing structures are those with more than one unit. ((Multifamily)) Multiunit housing includes ((duplexes)) middle housing, townhouses, apartments, and condominiums.

### **Must**

See definition for "shall"

## **N**

### **Natural Area**

Natural areas are ((those)) properties or tracts ((in the county's natural lands inventory)) whose primary purpose is to conserve and restore ecological value. They may not be completely natural and undisturbed but may be important in preserving rare or vanishing flora, fauna, geological sites, or features of scientific, traditional, cultural, or educational value. These sites may allow public use in was that ((does not)) avoid and minimize harm to the ecological resources of the site to the maximum extent feasible. ((Also referred to as Ecological Lands or Ecological sites.))

### **Natural Resource Lands((,-designated))**

Natural Resource Lands means lands designated under ~~((F))~~the Growth Management Act ~~((requires cities and counties to designate natural resource lands which include the following:))~~ as 1) agricultural lands that have long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other agricultural products; 2) forest lands that have long-term significance for the commercial production of timber; ~~((and))~~ or 3) mineral resource lands that have long-term significance for the extraction of minerals. ~~((The Comprehensive Plan designates))~~ This designation includes Agricultural Production Districts, Forest Production Districts, and Mineral Resource Sites. (See Chapter 3~~((:))~~, Rural Area~~((s))~~ and Natural Resource Lands)

### **Neighborhood Business Centers**

Neighborhood Business Centers are shopping areas that offer convenience goods and services to local residents. They primarily contain retail stores and offices. (See Chapter 2~~((:))~~, Urban Communities)

### **~~((New Growth~~**

~~New growth is growth that occurs subsequent to pipeline development for which no application is currently pending review/approval in the King County permitting process, but which is forecasted to occur over the next 20 years in this comprehensive plan.~~

### **Nondegradation**

Nondegradation means to prevent the decline to a lower state, to keep from reducing the complexity, functions, or integrity of ecological processes or values.

### **Nonmotorized Transportation**

~~Nonmotorized transportation refers to pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian travel, and the facilities needed to support such travel. For purposes of this Comprehensive Plan, wheelchairs, personal assistive mobility devices or scooters powered by electricity and used by physically impaired persons shall be considered nonmotorized transportation. Any motorized foot scooter, motor-driven cycle, moped, motor-powered bicycle, a motorcycle or, except as provided above, personal assistive mobility device shall be considered motorized transportation:))~~

### **Non~~((=))~~point Source Pollution**

Non~~((=))~~point source pollution is pollution that enters any waters of the state from any dispersed land-based or water-based activities, including but not limited to atmosphere disposition, surface water runoff from agricultural lands, urban areas, or forest lands, subsurface or underground sources, or discharges from boats or marine vessels.



### **Open Space System, King County**

King County's Open Space System ~~((is a regional system of county-owned parks, trails, natural areas, working agricultural and forest resource lands, and flood hazard management lands. This regional network of open spaces))~~ includes regional parks and recreation amenities, natural areas, forests, regional and backcountry trails, and local parks in unincorporated areas. The system provides benefits to county residents including recreation, conservation of natural and working lands, flood hazard management, wildlife habitat, and connection of critical areas. (See Chapter 7~~((:))~~, Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Resources)

### **Opportunity Area**



An opportunity area is a location with high-quality schools, jobs, transit, access to parks, open space, clean air, water, and soil, and other key determinants of social, economic, and physical wellbeing.

### ~~((Opportunity Mapping~~

~~Opportunity mapping assesses the conditions present in neighborhoods across a region by examining indicators of opportunity in areas such as education, economy, transportation, housing, environment, and health. Opportunity mapping provides a comprehensive analytical framework to measure opportunity in the region and to determine who has access to opportunity-rich areas. Analysis of opportunity mapping can provide valuable information about where more affordable housing needs to be located, and what needs to be remedied in areas where these types of opportunities are currently very limited.))~~

## P

### Particulate Matter

Particulate matter is solid or aerosol particles dispersed in the air including dust, soot, and oil. The major sources are industrial activities, fugitive road dust, motor vehicle emissions, and wood smoke.

### Passive Recreation ((Site))

~~Passive recreation ((sites require a lower level of development and provide areas for informal, self-directed activities for individuals and groups)) is characterized by low-impact, individually oriented activities such as informal play, hiking, walking, jogging, horseback riding, and biking. Capital improvements are generally minimal, such as picnic tables, park furniture, signage, grass fields or meadows, or backcountry trails.~~

### ~~((Pervious surface~~

~~A pervious surface is an area that allows the entry of water into the soil mantle, as under natural conditions prior to development.~~

### Pipeline Development

~~Pipeline Development is comprised of land use development applications, whether vested or unvested, that were submitted prior to adoption of the King County Comprehensive Plan and are pending review/approval in the permitting process.~~

### Pipeline transportation needs

~~Pipeline transportation needs are associated with growth that is pending through the county's development review process.~~

### Point Pollution

~~Point pollution is pollution that enters any waters of the state from an identifiable source such as a pipe.))~~

### Potential Annexation Area ((PAA))

A Potential Annexation Area is an area in unincorporated King County adjacent to a city that is expected to annex to the city and to which that city will be expected to provide services and utilities within the next two decades. (See Chapter 2((:)). Urban Communities)

### Precautionary Action

Precautionary action, also referred to as the "no risk approach," means in such instances where an absence of valid scientific information or incomplete scientific information relating to the county's critical areas, leading to uncertainty about whether development

and land uses could lead to harm of critical areas or uncertainty about the risk to critical area function, such development and land use activities are strictly limited until the uncertainty is sufficiently resolved.

### **Preserve/Preservation**

Preserve/preservation, as used in Chapter 2((:)), Urban Communities, and Chapter ((9: Services, Facilities and Utilities)) 4, Housing and Human Services, regarding affordable housing, means the process of protecting the availability of affordable housing, especially publicly assisted affordable housing, for ~~((low and moderate income))~~ households at or below 120 percent of area median income when transitions from current assistance programs or affordable housing uses are planned. Preservation may occur through acquisition of the housing by a non((=))profit or public agency or through funding mechanisms that include a covenant or similar legal agreement requiring that the units in the property remain affordable to a designated household income level for an extended period of time, such as 15 years, 30 years, or 50 years. (See "Rehabilitate")

### **Priority habitat**

Priority habitat means a habitat type with unique or significant value to one or more species. An area classified and mapped as priority habitat must have one or more of the following attributes:

- Comparatively high fish or wildlife density;
- Comparatively high fish or wildlife species diversity;
- Fish spawning habitat;
- Important wildlife habitat;
- Important fish or wildlife seasonal range;
- Important fish or wildlife movement corridor;
- Rearing and foraging habitat;
- Important marine mammal haul-out;
- Refugia habitat;
- Limited availability;
- High vulnerability to habitat alteration;
- Unique or dependent species; or
- Shellfish bed.

A priority habitat may be described by a unique vegetation type or by a dominant plant species that is of primary importance to fish and wildlife (such as oak woodlands or eelgrass meadows). A priority habitat may also be described by a successional stage (such as old growth and mature forests). Alternatively, a priority habitat may consist of a specific habitat element (such as a consolidated marine/estuarine shoreline, talus slopes, caves, snags) of key value to fish and wildlife. A priority habitat may contain priority and/or nonpriority fish and wildlife. [Washington Administrative Code 173-26-020 ~~((24))~~]

### **Priority Species**

Priority species means species requiring protective measures and/or management guidelines to ensure their persistence at genetically viable population levels. Priority species are those that meet any of the criteria listed below.

- ~~((a))~~ a. Criterion 1. State-listed or state-proposed species. State-listed species are those native fish and wildlife species legally designated as endangered (Washington Administrative Code ~~((232-12-014))~~ 220-610-

010), threatened (Washington Administrative Code ((232-12-011)) 220-200-100), or sensitive (Washington Administrative Code ((232-12-011)) 220-200-100). State-proposed species are those fish and wildlife species that will be reviewed by the ~~((d))~~Department of ~~((f))~~Fish and ~~((w))~~Wildlife ~~((POL-M-6001))~~ for possible listing as endangered, threatened, or sensitive according to the process and criteria defined in Washington Administrative Code ((232-12-297)) 220-610-110.

~~((b))~~ b. Criterion 2. Vulnerable aggregations. Vulnerable aggregations include those species or groups of animals susceptible to significant population declines, within a specific area or statewide, by virtue of their inclination to congregate. Examples include heron colonies, seabird concentrations, and marine mammal congregations.

~~((c))~~ c. Criterion 3. Species of recreational, commercial, and/or Indian tribal importance. Native and nonnative fish, shellfish, and wildlife species of recreational or commercial importance and recognized species used for tribal ceremonial and subsistence purposes that are vulnerable to habitat loss or degradation.

~~((d))~~ d. Criterion 4. Species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as either proposed, threatened, or endangered.

#### **~~((Protect~~**

~~Protect means to keep from harm, attack, injury, or destruction; to maintain the integrity of, especially through environmental care.))~~

#### **Public Benefit Rating System ((PBR5))**

The Public Benefit Rating System ((PBR5)) is a current use taxation program whereby property taxes are reduced by an amount determined by a scoring system related to the numbers and quality of open space resources located on all or portions of the property.

#### **Public Review Draft**

A Public Review Draft is a draft of Executive proposed Comprehensive Plan updates, including proposed ~~((Community Service Area))~~ subarea plans, made available to the public for review and comment. A Public Review Draft~~((s))~~ is published prior to transmittal of proposed Comprehensive Plan updates to the Council ~~((so as))~~ to provide the public an opportunity to record comments before the Executive finalizes the recommended updates.

#### **Puget Sound**

Puget Sound is an estuary—a semi~~((=))~~enclosed, glacial fjord where salt water from the ocean is mixed with fresh water. Puget Sound is bordered by about 1,300 miles of shoreline with a mix of beaches, bluffs, deltas, mudflats, kelp forests and eelgrass meadows. Approximately 100 miles of this saltwater shoreline lie within King County. King County's immediate responsibilities include those portions of Puget Sound which lie within the county, roughly between Point Wells to the north and Dumas Bay to the south. King County shares responsibility for the health of the main basin of Puget Sound with its neighbors—Pierce County, Kitsap County, and Snohomish County.

#### **Puget Sound Regional Council ((PSRC))**

The ~~((PSRC))~~ Puget Sound Regional Council is the designated metropolitan planning organization for the four-county region that includes King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties, and is responsible for regional growth management and transportation planning. The ~~((PSRC's))~~ Puget Sound Regional Council's General Assembly includes mayors, county executives, and council commission members from the four counties, as well as representatives from local Indian tribes, ports, transit agencies, the State Department of Transportation, and Transportation Commission. The ~~((PSRC))~~ Puget

Sound Regional Council prepared Multi(=)county Planning Policies for the four -county region.

## Q

## R

### Rare Ecosystems, Habitats, and Species

Rare ~~ecosystems, habitats, and species~~(, habitats, and ecosystems) are those that are few in number or are poorly represented in an area. Rare species often lack the capability to resist changes in environmental conditions or lack the resilience to recover after a change. Species, habitats, and ecosystems may be rare because of the following reasons: changing natural conditions have reduced their range, abundance, or distribution; they depend on specific environmental conditions that are not commonly represented in this area (species or habitats at the edge of their range or occurring as relicts); and anthropogenic (human-related) actions have caused habitat loss or severe decreases in range or abundance.

### Recycled Water (also, referred to as Reclaimed Water)

Recycled water means effluent from a wastewater treatment system that has been adequately and reliably treated, so that as a result of that treatment it is suitable for a beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise occur, and is no longer considered wastewater. Recycled is also referred to as Reclaimed Water under Washington State law. Recycled water may be used for beneficial purposes such as landscape and agricultural irrigation, heating and cooling, industrial processing, and environmental enhancement or restoration of streams, wetlands, and aquifers.

### ~~((Regionally Significant Resource Area (RSRA))~~

~~RSRAs are those portions of watersheds that contribute to the resource base of the entire Puget Sound region by virtue of exceptional species and habitat diversity and abundance when compared to aquatic and terrestrial systems of similar size and structure elsewhere in the region. may also support rare, threatened or endangered species or communities. (See Chapter 5: Environment))~~

### Regional Wastewater Services Plan ((RWSP))

King County adopted the Regional Wastewater Service Plan ((RWSP)) in 1999. The ((RWSP)) Regional Wastewater Services Plan outlines a number of important projects, programs, and policies for King County to implement through 2030 to continue to protect public health and water quality and ensure sufficient wastewater capacity to meet future growth needs. ((RWSP)) Regional Wastewater Services Plan policies guide the phasing and size of treatment facilities and improvements to the conveyance system, as well as improvements to control combined sewer overflows. The ((RWSP)) Regional Wastewater Services Plan also includes policies that guide the production and use of biosolids and recycled water.

### Rehabilitate/Rehabilitation

Rehabilitate or rehabilitation, as used in ~~((Chapter 2: Urban Communities, and Chapter 9: Services, Facilities and Utilities))~~ Chapter 4, Housing and Human Services, regarding affordable housing, means as repairs, improvements, replacements, alterations, and additions to existing properties that bring them into full compliance with existing building and health codes. Rehabilitation may be minor, moderate, or substantial; or it may involve adaptive reuse from nonresidential to residential uses. Rehabilitation of housing is undertaken to improve and revitalize housing stock that is aging or in poor

condition. ~~((When public funding is used for rehabilitation it is usual to require a covenant or other legal mechanism to preserve the affordability of the rehabilitated property.))~~ (See "Preserve")

#### **~~((Resource Lands, designated~~**

~~The Growth Management Act requires cities and counties to designate natural resource lands which include the following: 1) agricultural lands that have long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other agricultural products; 2) forest lands that have long-term significance for the commercial production of timber; and 3) mineral resource lands that have long-term significance for the extraction of minerals. The Comprehensive Plan designates Agricultural Production Districts, Forest Production Districts, and Mineral Resource Sites. (See Chapter 3: Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands))~~

#### **Restore**

Restore, ~~for the purposes of Chapter 5, Environment,~~ means to return land and water resources from a disturbed or altered condition to an approximation of their condition prior to disturbance or alteration. Restoration projects are conducted by public agencies through capital improvement projects and by developers as a means to mitigate adverse impacts of their proposals. (Restoration of land is not required of developers when they protect land and water resources according to King County regulation.) ~~((See Chapter 5: Environment))~~

#### **Rezone((s))**

Rezoning is the term that refers to the process of individual requests and applications to change the zoning classification of land.

#### **Riparian Area**

~~((Pertains to the banks of rivers and streams, and also sometimes wetlands, tidewater and lakes.))~~ A designated area contiguous to an aquatic area such as a stream, lake, estuary, or marine waters, that provides fish and wildlife habitat, protects adjacent aquatic fish and wildlife species and habitat, and protects water quality. Riparian areas reduce impacts from adjacent land uses through various physical, chemical, or biological processes.

#### **Rural Area ((g))Geography (See also Rural Area Zoning)**

~~((The Growth Management Act requires that counties designate a Rural Area in order to conserve the rural character and quality of the existing rural lands in Washington. King County's))~~ The Rural Area refers collectively to the geography that primarily contains the following land use categories: ((=)) Rural Towns, Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers, and Rural Area ((RA-2.5, RA-5, RA-10 and RA-20)) in unincorporated King County. The Rural Area geography also includes a limited amount of acreage with the Industrial land use ~~((categories such as Industrial, Commercial Outside of Center, etc)) designation.~~ The Rural Area geography does not include designated Natural Resource Lands, although resource activities occur ~~((on them))~~ in it. The Rural Area contains very low-density residential development, commercial and industrial development, farms, forests, watersheds crucial for both fisheries and flood hazard management, mining areas and towns, historic sites and buildings, archaeological sites, and regionally important recreation areas. (See Chapter 3((:)), Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands)

#### **Rural Area ((z))Zoning**

~~((The))~~ Rural Area ((zone)) (RA) zoning or zones refers to the Rural Area((-))2.5, Rural Area((-))5, Rural Area((-))10, and Rural Area((-))20 zoning ~~((categories))~~ classifications. This zoning is meant to provide an area-wide, long-term((;)) rural character and to minimize land use conflicts with nearby agricultural, forest or mineral extraction production districts. These purposes are accomplished by: 1) limiting residential



densities and permitted uses to those that are compatible with rural character and nearby resource production districts and are able to be adequately supported by rural service levels; 2) allowing small-scale farming and forestry activities and tourism and recreation uses which can be supported by rural service levels and which are compatible with rural character; and 3) increasing required setbacks to minimize conflicts with adjacent agriculture, forest, or mineral zones.

### **Rural Character**

Rural character refers to the pattern of land use and development established by a county in the rural element of its comprehensive plan:

~~((a))~~ a. In which open space, the natural landscape, and vegetation predominate over the built environment;

~~((b))~~ b. That foster traditional rural lifestyles, rural-based economies, and opportunities to both live and work in the Rural Area(~~(s)~~);

~~((c))~~ c. That provide visual landscapes that are traditionally found in the Rural Area(~~(s)~~) and communities;

~~((d))~~ d. That are compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat;

~~((e))~~ e. That reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development;

~~((f))~~ f. That generally do not require the extension of urban governmental services; and

~~((g))~~ g. That are consistent with the protection of natural surface water flows and groundwater and surface water recharge and discharge areas.

### **Rural Forest Focus Areas**

Rural Forest Focus Areas are designated geographic areas with Rural Area zoning that contain large contiguous blocks of rural forest. Funding, economic incentives, regulatory actions, and other strategies are enacted to maintain forest cover and the practice of sustainable forestry.

### **~~((Rural Growth~~**

~~Rural Growth refers to residential, commercial, and industrial growth that is scaled to be compatible with, and maintains the traditional character of the Rural Area. Rural growth typically does not require urban governmental services except in the case of some Rural Towns to protect the environment as provided in this Comprehensive Plan. The basic elements of "Rural Character," as defined by the King County Countywide Planning Policies, are natural features, resource-based industries, rural towns, rural neighborhoods, rural infrastructure and services, open space system, rural housing, rural economy, and Cities in the Rural Area:))~~

### **Rural Neighborhood Commercial Centers**

~~Rural Neighborhood Commercial Center((s~~ (a specific land use category within the larger geography of Rural Areas) are)) is a land use designation used to recognize existing small pockets of commercial development((s)), or in some cases, historic ((towns)) communities or buildings, that are too small to provide more than convenience shopping and services to surrounding residents. They generally do not have services such as water supply or sewage disposal systems any different from those serving surrounding rural residential development. (See Chapter 3((:)), Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands)

### **Rural Towns**

Rural towns (a specific land use category within the larger geography of Rural Area((s))) are unincorporated towns governed directly by King County. ~~((They provide a focal point for community groups such as chambers of commerce or community councils to participate in public affairs.))~~ The purposes of Rural Town designations within the Comprehensive Plan are to recognize existing concentrations of higher density and economic activity in the Rural Area((s)) and to allow modest growth of residential and economic uses to keep them economically viable into the future. (See Chapter 3((+)), Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands)

## **S**

### **Salmonid**

A member of the fish family Salmonidae. In King County, salmonid species include, but are not limited to, Chinook, Coho, chum, sockeye, and pink salmon; cutthroat, steelhead, and rainbow~~((, and brown))~~ trout ~~((and steelhead))~~; Dolly Varden char, ~~((brook))~~ trout, which is a type of char; ~~((, char,))~~ kokanee; ~~((, and))~~ pygmy whitefish; and mountain whitefish.

### **Satellite ((System)) Management Agency**

~~((When large water utilities oversee the operations of smaller water systems, not connected to their own system, it is called satellite system management. The satellite system manager is))~~ A satellite management agency is a large water utility hired by ~~((the))~~ smaller system managers to operate and maintain the system in accordance with local, state, and federal health regulations.

### **Sediment Transport**

Sediment transport is the process of taking soil from one place and depositing it in another via the flow of water. Deposition of the soil occurs when sediment in the water flow is more than the flow can transport.

### **~~((Sensitive Areas Map Folio~~**

~~The folio displays the location of environmentally sensitive areas in unincorporated King County. It identifies sensitive areas for wetlands, streams, flood hazards, erosion hazards, landslide hazards, seismic hazards, and coal mine hazards.))~~

### **Sensitive Species**

Sensitive species means any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or significant portion of its range and which has been designated as such in regulations issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

### **Sewer Availability**

Sewer availability means the presence of sewers now or within six years through extensions included in adopted sewer comprehensive plans. ~~((In the case of Urban Planned Development, 1) the capacity to intercept and treat waste water as evidenced by a King County approved sewer system plan or a Metro utility plans, 2) a firm commitment to serve an area with sewer as evidenced by either a sewer availability certificate, utility extension agreement, or an approved sewer system plan and 3) a firm financial commitment to provide sewer, as evidenced by either a capital improvement program or utility extension agreement.~~

### **Sewer Tightline**

~~Fightlining of sewers means that a sewer line is designed and sized to only serve a particular structure.))~~

**Shall**

To guide King County, the use of the terms "shall," (~~("will,"~~) "should," and "may" in policies determine the level of discretion the ((c))County can exercise in making future and specific land use, budget, development regulation, and other decisions. "Shall" (~~(and "will")~~) in a policy means that it is mandatory for the ((c))County to carry out the policy, even if a timeframe is not included. "Shall" (~~(and "will" are)~~) is imperative and nondiscretionary--the ((c))County must make decisions based on what the policy says to do. (~~("May" in a policy means that it is in the county's interest to carry out the policy, but the county has total discretion in making decisions. "Must" in a policy means a mandate, the action is required. "Should" in a policy means: noncompulsory guidance, in which cost, availability of funding, and public benefit associated with the policy's purpose are considered as part of the implementation decision; establishes that the county has discretion in making decisions.))~~) (See definitions for "should" and "may.")

**Shoreline Environment**

Shoreline environment (~~(or master program environment)~~) means the categories of shorelines of the state established by the King County shoreline management master program to differentiate between areas whose features imply differing objectives regarding their use and future development.

**Shoreline Master Program**

The Shoreline Master Program is the comprehensive use plan for a described area, and the use regulations together with maps, diagrams, charts, or other descriptive material and text, a statement of desired goals, and standards developed in accordance with the policies enunciated in Revised Code of Washington 90.58.020.

**Should**

~~((See definition for "shall".))~~ To guide King County, the use of the terms "shall," "should," and "may" in policies determine the level of discretion the County can exercise in making future and specific land use, budget, development regulation, and other decisions. "Should" in a policy means noncompulsory guidance, in which cost, availability of funding, and public benefit associated with the policy's purpose are considered as part of the implementation decision; it establishes that the County has discretion in making decisions.

**Significant Adverse Environmental Impact**

Significant as used in State Environmental Policy Act means a reasonable likelihood of more than a moderate adverse impact on the environment. Significance involves context and intensity and does not lend itself to a formula or quantifiable text. The context may vary with the physical setting. Intensity depends on the magnitude and duration of an impact. The severity of an impact should be weighed along with the likelihood of its occurrence. An impact may be significant if its chance of occurrence is not great, but the resulting environmental impact would be severe if it occurred.

**Significant vegetation removal**

Significant vegetation removal means the removal or alteration of trees, shrubs, and/or ground cover by clearing, grading, cutting, burning, chemical means, or other activity that causes significant ecological impacts to functions provided by such vegetation. The removal of invasive or noxious weeds does not constitute significant vegetation removal. Tree pruning, not including tree topping, where it does not affect ecological functions, does not constitute significant vegetation removal.

**Single~~(-Family Housing))~~ Detached Residences**

Single~~(-family housing units)~~ detached residences are individual structures, including conventional houses and ~~((mobile))~~ manufactured homes, containing one primary dwelling unit. Attached accessory dwelling units may also be included in a single detached residence.

### Special Housing Needs

Housing arrangements for populations with special physical or other needs. These populations may include seniors; people with behavioral, physical, cognitive, or developmental disabilities; and homeless individuals and families.

### Species of Local Importance

Species of local importance include priority species as identified by the state of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; bird species whose populations in King County are known to have declined significantly over the past 150 years; anadromous salmonids; and aquatic species whose populations are particularly vulnerable to changes in water quality and water quantity.

### Subarea Plans

A subarea plan is a detailed local land use plan that implements, is consistent with, and is an element of the Comprehensive Plan containing specific policies, guidelines and criteria adopted by the council to guide development and capital improvement decisions within specific subareas of the county. ~~((Subareas are))~~ Subarea plans are used for distinct communities, specific geographic areas, or other types of districts having unified interests or similar characteristics within the county. ~~((Subarea plans may include: community plans, community service area subarea plans, neighborhood plans, basin plans, and plans addressing multiple areas having common interests. The relationship between the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan and subarea plans is established by K.C.C. 20.12.015.~~

### Subarea Study

~~A subarea study is a study that is required by a policy in the Comprehensive Plan to evaluate a proposed land use change, such as the establishment of new community business centers, adjusting Rural Town boundaries, or assessing the feasibility of zoning reclassifications in urban unincorporated areas. Subarea studies are focused on specific areas of the County, but do not look at the larger range of issues that a subarea plan would include. Subarea studies are separate from area zoning and land use studies defined in K.C.C 20.08.030. The Comprehensive Plan policies and accompanying text shall guide the scope and content of the subarea study:))~~

### Subdivision

~~((A subdivision is land that has been divided into legal lots, or is the process of dividing land into lots:))~~ A division or redivision of land into lots, tracts, parcels, or sites for the purpose of the sale, lease, or transfer of ownership.

### Sustainable economic development

Sustainable economic development means economic development that does not exceed the ability of the natural or built environments to remain healthy while sustaining growth over the long term.

### Sustainable Housing

Sustainable housing includes but is not limited to housing that uses sustainable building materials and construction practices to increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support transit-oriented development, as well as housing that is located or built in ways that reduce climate change impacts on residents and structures.

### Substantially degrade

Substantially degrade means to cause significant ecological impact.

## T

### **((Sewer)) Tightline**

Tightlining of sewers means that a sewer line is designed and sized to only serve a particular structure.

### **Totalizing source meter**

A totalizing source meter is a device that will measure the volume of water withdrawn from a well over time and provide a sum total of the water extracted. This type of meter is different than a meter that would measure just the instantaneous volume of water being withdrawn.

### **Traditional Rural Development**

In King County, traditional rural land uses could include, but are not limited to: low density residential uses; small scale farming, forestry and mineral extraction; small, neighborhood ~~((churches))~~ religious facilities; feed and grain stores; the keeping of horses and livestock; cottage industries, crafts and trades that support the residents of the Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands and/or the needs of natural resource production; and public and private facilities necessary to serve rural homes such as utility installations or public schools. In general, the rural development pattern in King County has historically been comprised of houses, barns, fences, and cultivated fields, but natural features and open spaces are the predominant visual image.

### **Transfer of Development Rights ((TDR))**

Transfer of development rights means the ability to transfer allowable density, in the form of permitted building lots or structures, from one property (the "sending site") to another (the "receiving site") in conjunction with conservation of all or part of the sending site as open space or working farm or forest. ~~((King County allows transfers of development rights as part of standard subdivision, mobile home park and multifamily project review processes through its TDR Program. (King County Code, Title 21A))~~

### **Transit-Oriented Development ((TOD))**

~~((A private or public/private real estate development project that creates, expands, maintains or preserves a mixed-use community or neighborhood within walking distance of a transit center, or stop, that is designed to encourage transit use and pedestrian activity. Transit Oriented Development projects support transit by increasing the density of residents, shoppers, visitors or employees per acre. New Transit Oriented Development projects are often coupled with an increase in transit service to the area.))~~  
Transit-oriented development refers to a style of development that often includes a mix of housing, commercial space, services, and job opportunities near public transportation. These developments encourage transit use and reduce automobile dependence through thoughtful design that is sufficiently dense, prioritizes pedestrians, often reduces parking, and enhances access and mobility between residences, jobs, and services.

### **Transportation Concurrency Management ((System))**

~~((The Growth Management Act requires jurisdictions to adopt and enforce ordinances))~~  
Transportation Concurrency Management means regulations that prohibit development approval if the development causes the level of service on a transportation facility to decline below the standards adopted in the ((c))Comprehensive ((p))Plan, unless transportation improvements or strategies to accommodate the impacts of development are made "concurrent" with the development. Concurrent with development means that transportation improvements or strategies are in place at the time of development or that financial commitment is made to complete the improvements or strategies within six years. (((The Concurrency Management System of King County))) King County's Transportation Concurrency Management program



establishes a process to manage new development in unincorporated King County  
based on transportation impacts on levels of service and the concurrency of needed  
improvements or actions. (See Chapter 8((-)), Transportation)((-))

#### **((Transportation Demand Management (TDM))**

Transportation Demand Management is a strategy to reduce the number of automobile  
trips, particularly trips taken in single-occupant vehicles. Transportation Demand  
Management encourages public transportation over automobile use and specifically  
refers to policies, programs and actions implemented to increase the use of  
high-occupancy vehicles (public transit, car-pooling and van-pooling and spread travel  
to less congested time periods through alternative work hour programs (See Chapter 8:  
Transportation)).

#### **Transportation Facilities and Services**

Transportation facilities and services are ((the physical assets)) elements of the  
transportation system that are used to provide mobility. They include roads, sidewalks,  
bike lanes and other facilities supporting ((nonmotorized travel)) active transportation,  
transit, bridges, traffic signals, ramps, buses, bus garages, park ((and)) ride lots, and  
passenger shelters.

#### **((Transportation needs for new growth**

Transportation needs for new growth are associated with growth that has been planned  
for 2012 in this comprehensive plan.))

#### **Transportation Needs Report ((TNR))**

The ((TNR)) Transportation Needs Report is a comprehensive list of ((recommended  
c))County transportation needs ((through the year 2022 needed)) to implement the land  
use element of the Comprehensive Plan. It includes transportation needs for the  
unincorporated King County road network((, and some city, state, and adjacent county  
projects)). It does not include transit service or capital needs. (See Chapter 8((-)),  
Transportation, and Appendix C1, Transportation Needs Report)

## **U**

#### **Unemployment Rate**

The unemployment rate is the percentage of the civilian labor force that is unemployed  
and actively seeking work.

#### **Unincorporated Activity Centers**

Unincorporated Activity Centers are the primary locations for commercial and industrial  
development in urban unincorporated King County. ((Currently, White Center is the  
only designated Unincorporated Activity Center, as other such centers are now parts of  
cities.)) (See Chapter 2((-)), Urban Communities)

#### **Unincorporated Areas**

Unincorporated areas are those areas outside any city and under King County's  
jurisdiction.

#### **((Unique Wetland**

The term unique wetland refers to bogs and fens, which have unusual and sensitive  
water chemistries.))

#### **Universal Design**

Universal design ((as used in Chapter 2: Urban Communities,)) means the design of products, buildings, and public spaces ((environments)) to be usable by all people((to the greatest extent possible,)) with or without disabilities and which allows people to age in place in their home without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

### **~~((Urban Centers~~**

~~Urban Centers are centers of concentrated employment and housing located within the Urban Growth Area designated by the Phase II Countywide Planning Policies. Urban Centers are to be serviced directly by high-capacity transit and are to contain a wide variety of land uses, including retail, recreational, cultural and public facilities, parks and open spaces. Unincorporated Urban Centers are represented on Urban Centers Map included at the end of Chapter 2: Urban Communities.))~~

### **Urban Growth**

Urban growth refers to residential, commercial, and industrial growth that makes intensive use of land for the location of buildings, structures and impermeable surfaces to such a degree as to be incompatible with the primary use of such land for the production of food, other agricultural products, or fiber, or the extraction of mineral resources. Urban growth typically requires urban governmental services. "Characterized by urban growth" refers to land having urban growth located on it, or to land located in relationship to an area with urban growth.

### **Urban Growth Area**

The Growth Management Act requires King County's Comprehensive Plan to designate an Urban Growth Area, where most future urban growth and development is to occur to limit urban sprawl, enhance open space, protect the Rural Area((s)) and Natural Resource Lands, and more efficiently use human services, transportation, and utilities. The Comprehensive Plan designates an Urban Growth Area which includes areas and densities sufficient to permit the urban growth that is projected to occur in the county for the succeeding 20-year period. (See Chapter 1((:)), Regional Growth Management Planning, and Chapter 2((:)), Urban Communities)

### **~~((Urban Growth Target~~**

~~The Growth Management Act and the Countywide Planning Policies require King County and its cities to plan for a 20-year population and employment growth target for each jurisdiction, based on designation of the Urban Growth Area, Urban Centers and the criteria of the Countywide Planning Policies. (See Chapter 2: Urban Communities))~~

### **Urban Planned Developments ((UPD))**

Urban Plan Developments are site specific projects consisting of conceptual site plans, development stands, processing, and other elements.

### **Urban Separator**

Urban separators are corridors of land that define community or municipal identities and boundaries, provide visual breaks in the urban landscape, and link parks and open space within and outside the Urban Growth Area. Urban separators are ((areas)) planned for permanent low-residential density within the Urban Growth Area. Urban separators protect adjacent resource land, ((environmentally sensitive)) critical areas, or Rural Area((s)) and create open space corridors within and between urban areas which provide environmental, visual, recreations, and wildlife benefits.

### **Utilities Technical Review Committee ((UTRC))**

The Utilities Technical Review Committee ((UTRC)) is an interdepartmental committee with responsibility for ensuring that water and sewer plans comply with county and state health requirements and county land use policies. The committee reviews the plans of all water and sewer utilities that operate in unincorporated King County and then

recommends the plans to King County Executive and the Metropolitan King County Council for approval.

## V

### ((Variable Tolling

Variable tolling or pricing is any form of collecting a direct user fee on a roadway.))

## W

### Water Availability

Water availability means the presence of a water source of sufficient quantity and quality with applicable water rights that can serve the projected demand for the planning horizon, as shown in water comprehensive plans approved by King County. ((In the case of Urban Planned Developments, water availability is defined as: 1) presence of a water source with water rights that can serve the projected average daily demand; 2) a firm commitment to serve an area with water, as evidenced by either a water availability certificate, utility extension agreement or a King County approved water system plan; and 3) a firm financial commitment to provide water, as evidenced by either a capital improvement plan or utility extension agreement.))

### Water Quality

Water quality, in the context of the shoreline jurisdiction, means the physical characteristics of water within shoreline jurisdiction, including water quantity, hydrological, physical, chemical, aesthetic, recreation-related, and biological characteristics. Where used in this plan, the term water quantity refers only to development and uses regulated under this plan and affecting water quantity, such as pollution generating surfaces and ((storm water)) stormwater handling practices. Water quantity, for purposes of this comprehensive plan, does not mean the withdrawal of ground water or diversion of surface water pursuant to Revised Code of Washington 90.03.250 through 90.03.340.

### ((Water Reuse

Water reuse refers to the use of recycled water or the reuse of other non-potable water, such as greywater, stormwater, or collected rainwater, as allowed under relevant state or local standards.

### Water Supply Availability

Water supply availability is the presence of a water source of sufficient quantity and quality with applicable water rights that can serve the projected demand through the planning horizon shown in adopted water comprehensive plans.

### Water System Classifications

Water System Classifications define the level of service for different water systems. A public water system is defined as any system that has more than one connection. A well serving one house is a private system. Group A water systems have fifteen or more service connections. Group B water systems have two through fourteen service connections.))

### Water System Plan

Water system plans are planning documents that include water system plans as referred to in Chapter 43.20 Revised Code of Washington, comprehensive plans of water supply systems (including combined water and sewer plans) as referred to in Revised Code of Washington 57.16.010, water system plans and coordinated water system plans as referred to in Revised Code of Washington ~~((70.116.050))~~ 70A.100.050, and all other water system plans, comprehensive plans and plan elements that may be required under King County Code Chapter 13.24 and ~~((this King County))~~ the Comprehensive Plan for any special district or any other public or private entities that distribute or obtain water in unincorporated King County.

#### **Watershed**

A watershed, like a drainage basin, is an area that drains to a common outlet or an identifiable water body such as a river, stream, lake, or wetland. The six major watersheds in King County are Cedar River, Green River, Skykomish River, Snoqualmie River ~~((and))~~, White River, and the Puget Sound. These watersheds contain a total of 72 individual drainage basins. (See Chapter 5((-)), Environment)

#### **~~((Well Head))~~ Wellhead Protection**

~~((Well Head))~~ Wellhead protection is a ~~((no other))~~ way that King County can protect its groundwater resource. This program directs purveyors to identify ~~((1))~~ one, ~~((5))~~ five, and 10-year time of travel to their well(s) to identify contamination sources, and to propose methods to reduce or eliminate contamination sources.

#### **Wetland**

The term wetland means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, landscape amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990 that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. Wetlands shall include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland areas to mitigate conversion of wetlands.

#### **~~((Wetland Banking~~**

~~Wetland banking is a process that allows certain wetlands to be developed if the development is accompanied by the restoration or creation of wetlands in other areas. (See Chapter 5: Environment))~~

#### **Wetland Functions**

~~((Functions refer to the ecological (physical, chemical and biological) workings or attributes of a wetland regardless of their importance to society. Food chain support or the transport and transformation of chemicals in ecosystems are examples of wetland functions. Water quality maintenance, flood storage, and wildlife habitat are examples of ecological functions to which society attributes a value.))~~ The physical, biological, chemical, and geologic interactions among different components of the environment that occur within a wetland. Wetlands perform functions that are grouped into three categories: functions that improve water quality, functions that change the water regime in a watershed such as flood storage, and functions that provide habitat for plants and animals. (See Chapter 5((-)), Environment)

#### **Wetland Values**

Values are estimates, usually subjective, of the worth, merit, quality, or importance of wetland attributes that are valuable and beneficial to society. Values vary by watershed or human community. Education, research, aesthetics, and recreation are examples of

other wetland attributes that may be considered values in that they are beneficial to society.

### **Wildland-Urban Interface**

The wildland-urban interface is the geographic area where structures and other human development meets or intermingles with wildland vegetative fuels.

~~((Will~~

~~See definition for "shall".))~~

## **X**

## **Y**

## **Z**

## ~~(((Frequently Used Acronyms~~

APD	Agricultural Production District
CIP	Capital Improvement Program
CPP	Countywide Planning Policy
CSA	Community Service Area
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FCC	Fully Contained Community
FPD	Forest Production District
GMA	Growth Management Act
GMPC	Growth Management Planning Council
HOT	High Occupancy Toll
HOV	High Occupancy Vehicle
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems
KCCP	King County Comprehensive Plan
KCSP	King County Strategic Plan
LID	Low Impact Development
LOS	Level of Service
LSRA	Locally Significant Resource Area
MPP	Multi-county Planning Policies
MPS	Mitigation Payment System
PAAP	Potential Annexation Area
PBRS	Public Benefit Rating System
PSRC	Puget Sound Regional Council
RSRA	Regionally Significant Resource Area
RWSP	Regional Wastewater Services Plan
SCAP	Strategic Climate Action Plan
SPPT	Strategic Plan for Public Transportation
SPRS	Strategic Plan for Road Services
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
TAM	Transportation Adequacy Measure
TDRT	Transfer of Development Rights



1836	<del>TDM</del>	<del>Transportation Demand Management</del>
1837	<del>TNR</del>	<del>Transportation Needs Report</del>
1838	<del>TOD</del>	<del>Transit Oriented Development</del>
1839	<del>UGA</del>	<del>Urban Growth Area</del>
1840	<del>UGB</del>	<del>Urban Growth Boundary</del>
1841	<del>UPD</del>	<del>Urban Planned Development</del>
1842	<del>UTRC</del>	<del>Utilities Technical Review Committee))</del>





# **APPENDICES**



## APPENDICES

The Comprehensive Plan also includes the following detailed appendices that supplement the information found in the Plan and support compliance with the Growth Management Act.

Appendix A. Capital Facilities and Services

Appendix B. Housing Needs Assessment

Appendix C. Transportation

Appendix C1. Transportation Needs Report

Appendix C2. Regional Trail Needs Report

Appendix D. 1994 Growth Targets and the Urban Growth Area

Appendix D1. Growth Targets and the Urban Growth Area

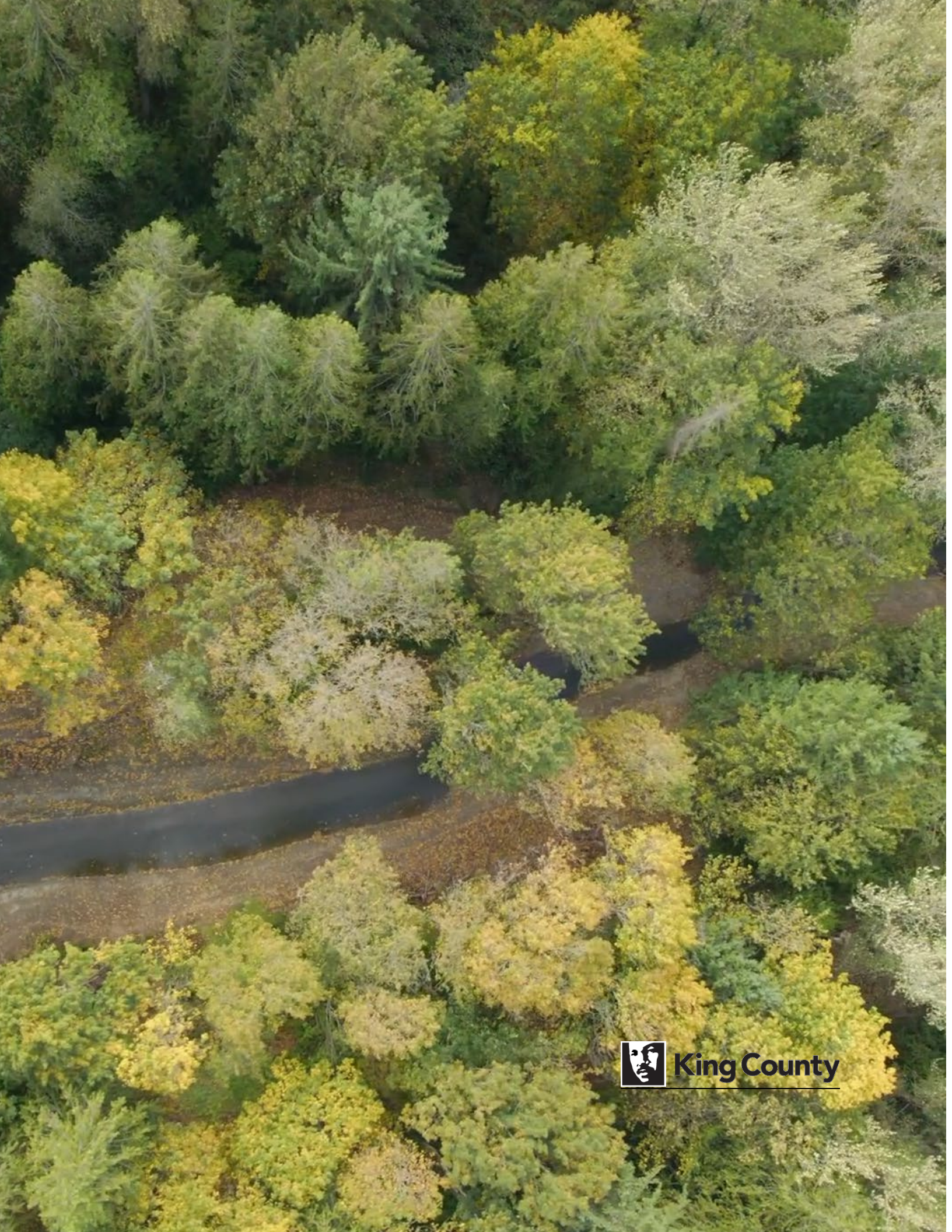
Appendix E. 1994 Natural Resource Lands

Appendix F. School Siting Task Force Report









**King County**