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**Amendments to King County Countywide
Planning Policies, as adopted by Ordinance
19660**



King County

June 2024

24 ***In the Vision and Framework chapter, beginning on page 9, amend as follows:***
25

26 **FW-1** Maintain the currency of the Countywide Planning Policies through periodic review and
27 amendment. Initiate and review all amendments at the Growth Management Planning Council
28 through the process described below:

- 29 a) Only the Growth Management Planning Council may propose amendments to the
30 Countywide Planning Policies except for amendments to the Urban Growth Area that
31 may also be proposed by King County in accordance with policies DP-16 through
32 DP-18B;
- 33 b) Growth Management Planning Council recommends amendments to the King County
34 Council for consideration, possible revision, and approval; proposed revisions by the
35 King County Council that are of a substantive nature may be sent to the Growth
36 Management Planning Council for their consideration and revised recommendation
37 based on the proposed revision;
- 38 c) A majority vote of the King County Council both constitutes approval of the
39 amendments and ratification on behalf of the residents of Unincorporated King
40 County;
- 41 d) After approval and ratification by the King County Council, amendments are
42 forwarded to each city and town for ratification. Amendments cannot be modified
43 during the city ratification process; and
- 44 e) Amendments must be ratified within 90 days of King County approval and require
45 affirmation by the county and cities and towns representing at least 70 percent of the
46 county population and 30 percent of those jurisdictions. Ratification is either by an
47 affirmative vote of the city's or town's council or by no action being taken within the
48 ratification period.

49
50 ***In the Development Patterns chapter, beginning on page 25, amend as follows:***

51 **DP-17** Allow expansion of the Urban Growth Area (~~only if at least one of the following criteria is~~
52 ~~met~~) as follows:

- 53 a) A countywide analysis determines that the current Urban Growth Area is insufficient in
54 size and additional land is needed to accommodate the housing and employment
55 growth targets, including institutional and other non-residential uses, and there are
56 no other reasonable measures, such as increasing density or rezoning existing urban
57 land, that would avoid the need to expand the Urban Growth Area. Expansions under
58 this subsection shall also be consistent with the criteria in DP-18A; ((or))
- 59 b) ((A)) Through the Four-to-One Program, where a proposed expansion of the Urban
60 Growth Area is accompanied by dedication of permanent ~~((open space))~~ natural area

81 express or implied, as to the accuracy, completeness, timelines, or rights to the use of such information. This
82 document is not intended for use as a survey product. King County shall not be liable for any general, special,
83 indirect, incidental, or consequential damages including, but not limited to, loss revenues or lost profits resulting from
84 the use or misuse of the information contained on this map.

85

86 **DP-18A** ~~((Add land to the Urban Growth Area only if expansion of the Urban Growth Area is~~
87 ~~warranted based on the criteria in DP-17(a) or DP-17(b), and it)) An expansion of the Urban
88 Growth Area under Policy DP-17(a) shall meet((s-all-of)) the following criteria:~~

- 89 a) ~~((Is))~~ Be adjacent to the existing Urban Growth Area
90 b) ~~((For expansions based on DP-17(a) only, is));~~
91 Be no larger than necessary to promote compact development that
92 accommodates anticipated growth needs;
93 c) Can be efficiently provided with urban services and does not require supportive
94 facilities or services to cross or be located in the Rural Area or Natural Resource
95 Lands;
96 d) Follows topographical features that form natural boundaries, such as rivers and ridge
97 lines and does not extend beyond natural boundaries, such as watersheds, that
98 impede the provision of urban services;
99 e) Is not currently designated as Natural Resource Land;
100 f) Is sufficiently free of environmental constraints to be able to support urban
101 development without significant adverse environmental impacts, unless the area is
102 designated as an Urban Separator by interlocal agreement between King County
103 and the annexing city; and
104 g) Is subject to an agreement between King County and the city or town adjacent to the
105 area that the area will be added to the city's Potential Annexation Area. Upon
106 ratification of the amendment, the Countywide Planning Policies will reflect both the
107 Urban Growth Area change and Potential Annexation Area change.

108

109 **DP-18B** Expansions of the Urban Growth Area under the Four-to-One Program in Policy DP-
110 17(b) shall meet the following criteria:

- 111 a) The proposed expansion of the Urban Growth Area:
112 1. Shall only allow for residential development;
113 2. Can be efficiently provided with urban services and does not require
114 supportive facilities or services to cross or be located in the Rural Area or
115 Natural Resource Lands;

- 116 3. Follows topographical features that form natural boundaries, such as rivers
117 and ridge lines and does not extend beyond natural boundaries, such as
118 watersheds, that impede the provision of urban services;
- 119 4. Is not currently be designated as Natural Resource Land;
- 120 5. Is sufficiently free of environmental constraints to be able to support urban
121 development without significant adverse environmental impacts, unless the
122 area is designated as an Urban Separator by interlocal agreement between
123 King County and the annexing city;
- 124 6. Is adjacent to the original Urban Growth Area boundary which was adopted in
125 the 1994 King County Comprehensive Plan, unless there are limitations due to
126 the presence of critical areas, and does not expand the Urban Growth Area
127 from a location that was previously expanded through the Four-to-One
128 program;
- 129 7. Is subject to an agreement between King County and the city or town adjacent
130 to the area that the area will be added to the city's Potential Annexation Area.
131 Upon ratification of the amendment, the Countywide Planning Policies will
132 reflect both the Urban Growth Area change and Potential Annexation Area
133 change; and
- 134 8. Where the area is adjacent to an incorporated area, no development proposal
135 or activity shall be allowed until the land added to the Urban Growth Area is
136 annexed into a city or town; and

137 b) The proposed natural area shall:

- 138 1. Be at least four times the acreage of the land added to the Urban Growth
139 Area;
- 140 2. Provide least three-quarters of the area required to be dedicated natural area
141 is on-site,
- 142 3. Fully surround the portion of the proposed Urban Growth Area expansion that
143 is adjacent Rural Area and Natural Resource Lands; and
- 144 4. Preserves high quality habitat, critical areas, or unique features that contribute
145 to the band of permanent natural area along the edge of the Urban Growth
146 Area.

147 **DP-19** Allow redesignation of Urban land currently within the Urban Growth Area to Rural land
148 outside of the Urban Growth Area if the land is not needed to accommodate projected urban
149 growth, is not served by public sewers, is ~~((contiguous with))~~ adjacent to the Rural Area, and:

- 150 a) Is not characterized by urban development;

- 151 b) Is currently developed with a low-density lot pattern that cannot be realistically
152 redeveloped at an urban density; or
- 153 c) Is characterized by ((~~environmentally sensitive~~)) critical areas making it inappropriate
154 for higher density development.