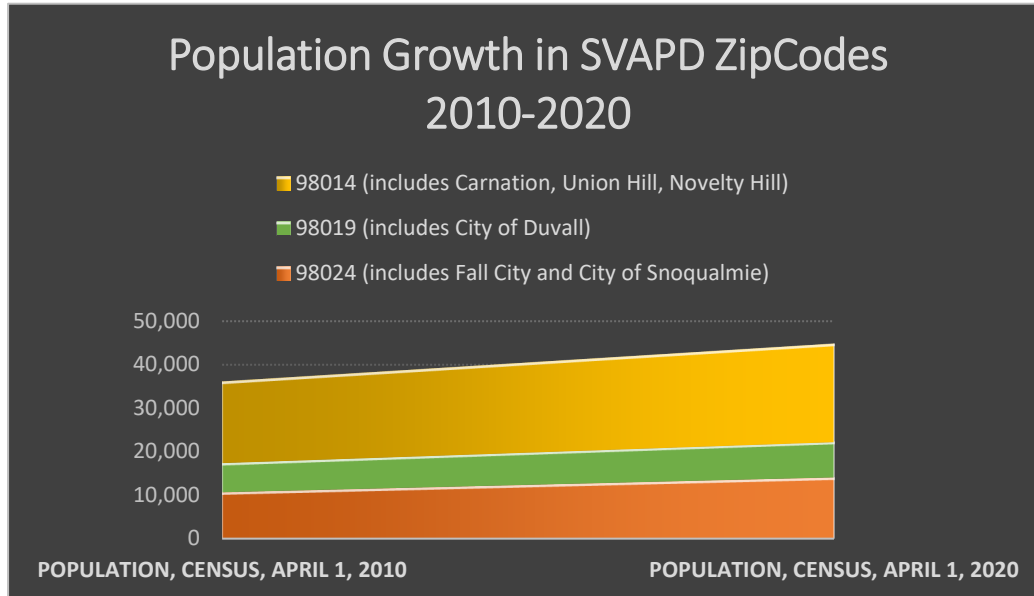


2.2.14 Population Pressure

Current Condition

Desired Condition by 2048

Figure 38. U.S. Census Population Growth in SVAPD Zip Codes, 2010-2020¹



Increased population and visitation can strain local resources, economic sectors such as agriculture, and even the local culture. King County’s population has grown more than 50% since 1990², and is now the 12th most populous county in the U.S. at an estimated 2,317,700 people in 2021³ Most population growth is in incorporated areas (see Figure 39). More locally to the SVAPD, in King County Council District 3,⁴ which includes the SVAPD and surrounding cities and towns from North Bend to Bothell and Skykomish to Issaquah, there are 251, 999 residents.⁵ Drilling down still further, there are three zip codes covering the APD and Duvall, Carnation, Snoqualmie and Fall City. These zip codes (98019 Duvall, 98014 Carnation/Novelty Hill, and 98024 Fall City/Snoqualmie) show that the total population was 36,170 in 2010 and has grown by 8,668 to a new total of 44,838 in 2020, a 24% increase.⁶ See Figure 38.

Growth in the Snoqualmie Valley was focused in its neighboring cities. The population of Carnation grew by 365 people or 20%, Duvall grew by 1,340 people or 20%, and Snoqualmie grew by 3,447 people or 32% between 2010 and 2020. The rural town of Fall City grew by 39 people, or 2%, between 2010 and 2020.⁷ Growth in these three cities and the Fall City rural town accounted for 1.5% of King County’s total growth between 2010 and 2020.

Recent growth has been influenced by regional and local planning efforts, including the Puget Sound Regional Council’s VISION 2050 plan and local growth targets in the King County Countywide Planning Policies.⁸ Figure 40 illustrates the relationship of state, regional, and local growth management planning. The VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy includes numerical guidance on how different groups of jurisdictions are expected to grow through 2050. Smaller cities in King County, including Carnation, Duvall, Snoqualmie, and 16 other cities, are a part of the Cities and Towns Regional Geography, which is expected to accommodate 5% of King County’s population growth through 2050.

Growth targets implement the VISION Regional Growth Strategy and state the amount of growth each jurisdiction is planning for in its comprehensive plan. Under the current growth targets in the Countywide Planning Policies, the cities of Carnation, Duvall, and Snoqualmie are planning for approximately 1% of countywide housing growth, a collective increase of approximately 3,200 housing units over 25 years. Growth targets for cities in the rural area (not contiguous to the Urban

Importance of agriculture, farming practices, and the zoning protections of the APD are commonly understood by the public. Population impacts on farmers and farmland are analyzed and addressed so that farmers are able to do business safely and efficiently on farm and in roadways while making the most of population growth in agritourism, sales revenues, farm support and advocacy.

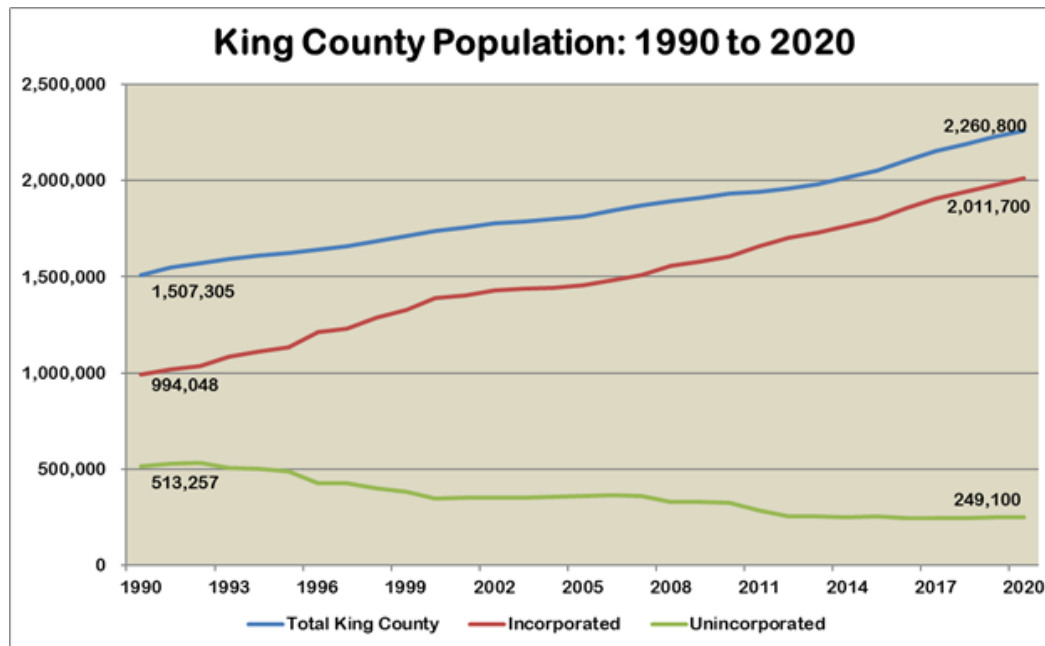
Timeline

- 2024
 - Post new and more road signage for farm traffic safety and APD boundaries
- 2025
 - Require real estate sales in or near the APD to have notification to prospective buyers about the agricultural zone, working farms, and environmental hazards
 - Evaluate Capital Improvement Projects for potential project recommendations
- 2026
 - Planning review of over-tourism/over-visitiation impacts
 - Implement environmental services cost-share/payments to farmers
- 2027
 - Develop Agritourism Resources, Outreach and Education
- 2030

Growth Area) include the urban unincorporated area adjacent to the city. The King County Urban Growth Capacity Report is a countywide assessment of how jurisdictions and collectively, urban King County, are performing relative to their growth targets and in providing capacity for growth.⁹ The 2021 Urban Growth Capacity Report found that the cities neighboring the SVAPD were mostly growing on pace with their adopted growth targets for 2035. Carnation was growing at 89% of its targeted rate of growth, Duvall at 105% of the targeted rate.¹⁰ Growth in Snoqualmie had already met their 20-year growth target, owing to the build out of the Snoqualmie Ridge master planned community. With this development complete, the pace of development in Snoqualmie has recently slowed.¹¹ Countywide, King County has achieved 104% of the planned growth under the 2035 growth targets.

Managed home building growth will continue to add to population pressure in the SVAPD, with household sizes in the cities neighboring the SVAPD range from 2.8 to 3.1, averaging higher than King County as a whole.¹²

Figure 39. Demographic Trends of King County: King County Population: 1990 to 2020¹³



Just an hour from downtown Seattle, the Snoqualmie Valley Agriculture Production District (SVAPD) is bordered by major east-west routes of Interstate 90 and Hwy 2 and north-south routes of State Highway 203, and the West Snoqualmie Valley Road NE to NE Novelty Hill Road taking commuters to Redmond. Population pressures have increased congestion along these routes and throughout the APD, causing interruptions to the SVAPD agriculture sector. American Farmland Trust states in their “Farms Under Threat” data for Washington State that 26% or 2,800 acres of King County’s “best agricultural land” will be converted to other uses by 2040 in their “business as usual” scenario, in large part due to population pressures on zoning.¹⁴ This report also cites the importance of “planning for agriculture” including “inventory resources” and “incorporate agriculture into community plans”.¹⁵

While increased visitation to the SVAPD supports many agritourism businesses including farm stands, u-pick, dinners, classes, and tours, increasing visitor and residential populations in Duvall and surrounding areas also impact farming in several ways including:

- Traffic Safety: congestion; speeding vehicles; bicyclists backing up traffic due to slower speeds or cycling in the middle of the roadway; road maintenance; parking; as well as tractor and farm equipment competing with cars and trucks that pass too closely/dangerously.
- Stormwater: runoff from increased impervious surfaces impacts water quality, impacts soil health, and may cause farmland contamination from debris and fuel spills.

- o Implement and refine remaining transportation strategies
- 2035
- o Implement stormwater and flood strategies for stormwater flow solutions, upland water storage pilot, payments and cost-share programs

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Supply (quantity and quality): water withdrawals can affect fish, wildlife & farms. • Wildlife: habitat degradation; disrupted feeding and breeding activities. • Pollution: increased local air and water pollutants; increased litter; increased noise pollution scaring farm animals; unsubstantiated complaints against agriculture. • Recreation: different forms and approaches to recreation can disturb farm animals and routine farm activities including farm to market commerce, harvesting, or polluting the river used for irrigation, i.e., bicycle racing, motorized paragliding (paramotoring), river activities such as floating and jet skis, lost recreationists who climb the river bank into fields, walk or bike through fields or along roadways, or land hot air balloons, and using the roads like a trail for roller skating, walks with strollers, biking. • Real estate: growing market costs for agricultural land and farms; conversion of agricultural soils to open space or recreation; difficult for farmers and employees to find affordable housing. • Cost of Living: cost increases for housing, goods, and services; employee hiring more difficult compounded by equitable and wage competitiveness. • Security: trespassing, theft, biosecurity and food safety. 		
<p style="text-align: center;">Background</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Service Providers</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Priority</p>
<p>The majority of SVAPD’s 214 commercial farms sell directly to consumers and utilize some form of agritourism. Farm agritourism revenues tripled from 2002 to 2017 in the U.S.; while farms closer to urban areas often experience higher revenues.¹⁶ King County boasts the strongest farm-direct marketplace in the state with King County farmers markets reporting farm vendor sales of \$16.6 million in 2021.¹⁷ In addition, during the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, King County’s farmers drastically increased their u-pick, farm stand sales, and CSA program memberships.</p> <p>Washington State’s population has more than tripled in the last 70 years, going from 2.3 million to 7.7 million¹⁸ – and roughly 20% of that growth occurred in the central Puget Sound region since 2000.¹⁹ This growth has increased the number of persons living within or near the Snoqualmie Valley, as well as those visiting the valley from both the greater Puget Sound area and from destinations outside the state.</p> <p>Per the King County Countywide Planning Policies and PSRC’s VISION 2050 Multicounty Planning Policies, growth targets form the basis for the amount of growth a jurisdiction plans for in its comprehensive plan. Jurisdictional growth targets are developed from a regional forecast apportioned to King County and then groups of cities with similar characteristics (Regional Geographies), per the growth shares in the VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy. Collaboratively, jurisdictions consider a variety of local factors including capacity, size, and infrastructure constraints to select and determine city-level targets. Jurisdictions are held accountable for <u>planning</u> consistently with growth targets through PSRC plan certification. If a jurisdiction uses growth assumptions in its plan that are substantively inconsistent with the growth targets, PSRC could conditionally certify a plan, meaning the jurisdiction must take steps to bring the plan into compliance with regional policy before receiving transportation funding (although it would still be eligible to apply for funding). PSRC could also not certify the plan, meaning it would be ineligible to receive transportation funding.</p> <p>Jurisdictions that are not <u>achieving</u> rates of growth consistent with their growth targets, are held accountable through the King County Urban Growth Capacity (or “buildable lands”) Report. In this study, jurisdictions with rates of growth significantly lower than the targeted rate could be required to adopt “reasonable measures,” or additional planning actions to permit or incentivize growth, and report on progress in meeting growth targets. Currently, there are no accountability measures for jurisdictions where growth exceeds targeted amounts.</p> <p>As jurisdictions begin to develop their comprehensive plan updates due to the state in 2024, members of the public have opportunities to weigh in and ensure that jurisdictions are planning consistent with adopted growth targets and regional policy through the public participation processes run by each jurisdiction. The Washington Growth Management Act requires public participation to be early and continuous throughout the development of the comprehensive plan.</p>	<p>Lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ King County Department of Local Services and Department of Natural Resources <p>Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SnoValley Tilth ○ SVPA ○ Savor Snoqualmie ○ King Conservation District ○ Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission ○ WDFW ○ King County Sheriff’s Office 	<p style="text-align: center;">Medium</p>

After plans are developed, PSRC plan certification and the development of the King County Urban Growth Capacity Report are public processes with opportunities for public comment.

Presently, the state growth management plans guide regional multi-county plans, which guide county plans and then local plans. See Figure 40.

Figure 40. Planning Policies for Development Growth²⁰



Population growth is expected to continue in this region. Planning strategies and enforcement are needed to further protect the agriculture sector in the Snoqualmie Valley APD and help reduce negative population growth impacts.

Strategies

Protect farming activities in King County permitting and planning efforts

- Evaluate programs, activities, and event permits in local planning efforts with consideration of critical agricultural production times to limit the impacts of over-visitation.
- Create strategies to address over-visitation and over-tourism in general planning for the area (NEKC plan).
- Develop agritourism resources, outreach, and education that:
 - Direct tourism to focused farm locations and away from farm areas that are not open to the public.
 - Help interested farmers capitalize on increased local visitation.
 - Adopt management strategies for parking by adding or increasing parking prices at hiking, scenic, and visitor destinations and disperse visitation throughout the day.
 - Provide resident-only parking, or reduced entry costs, for local attractions.
 - Create timeslots for popular attractions, maybe with real-time monitoring.
- Increase signage about the APD, open farm activities and to improve traffic safety and flow (see Figure 29-31).
- Create policy to further protect farming activities in the APD by requiring real estate sales in or within 1,000 feet of the APD to have:
 - “Notification to prospective buyers (in the purchase and sales agreement) that they are considering purchasing property in close proximity to farms and may experience farm-related”²¹ sounds, smells, and activities, including traffic.
 - Information about APD zoning, floodplain permitting and restrictions, including water and wells.
 - Farmland Preservation Property easement encumbrances.
 - Current Use Taxation and Public Benefits Rating System agricultural programs.
- Require a notice to be e/mailed at least every three years to all residences in or within 1,000 feet of the APD²² to describe the protections in the zone and how residents can support agricultural uses in the zone to protect food production resources (i.e., drive slower, wait for farm vehicles and customers at turn outs, etc.).
- Increase succession planning resources and funding to assist current landowners to transition their businesses to new farmers and keep homes occupied and livable.
- Include agricultural permit updates, both submitted and approved, regularly to King County Agriculture Commission.
- Explore adding APD buffer overlay zones to protect boundaries of the APD.
- Evaluate and incorporate transportation, traffic, water availability, drainage, stormwater and other negative impacts on the APD from cities into County and local planning processes.

Transportation

- Include and seek to solve increased traffic and visitation impacts that affect agriculture in local transportation plans, such as adding bike lanes on rural routes, permits for bike events, responding to parking on the side of roads with law enforcement, particularly illegal parking around float and jet ski areas, the SnoValley trail, and by bird watchers and photographers.
- New standard signage to delineate the APD at every street, trail, and river entrance to the APD, traffic safety signage for tractors/farm vehicles at entrances to APD and throughout the APD.
- Evaluate the King County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to recommend projects that may provide strategic transportation relief, such as added bike lanes or trail enhancements to keep cyclists safe from passing farm machinery; on Hwy 203 prohibit bicycles, add passing lanes for slow traffic such as tractors, and wildlife viewing turnouts.
- Setup roadworks digital signage to encourage safer driving and highlight farm season, wildlife, etc.
- Study and capture pollutants from road run-off before reaching agricultural fields and waterways.
- Designate “farm to market” roads and/or overlays for further protection of commercial farm activities from recreation and traffic.

Stormwater and Flooding

- Continue to research, test, and implement stormwater flow solutions for the APD and surrounding area including possible new requirements for retrofitting existing developments.
- Pilot water storage in the uplands, to increase flows in summer for irrigation and fish and to decrease flood impacts.
- Payments and/or cost-share for
 - Pollutant clean-up including heavy metals, toxic materials such as fuels, herbicides, fecal coliform, sewage overflow, noxious weeds, etc.
 - Lost farm production days due to increased development (traffic, flooding from upland runoff will increase flooding severity, etc.).
 - Ecosystem services for flood water capture and flow, filtration.
 - Flood debris removal and local garbage and recycling service in the form of dumpsters; woodchippers.
 - Portion of SVAPD SWM fee allocated to ag projects in the APD, including contracted to ag orgs for outreach and education.
 - Ecosystem service credit to farmers, grants, etc. from SWM fee.
 - Solicitation for public donations to ag orgs in SVAPD.

Figure 29. New Caution Farm Area signage



Figure 30. New APD signage

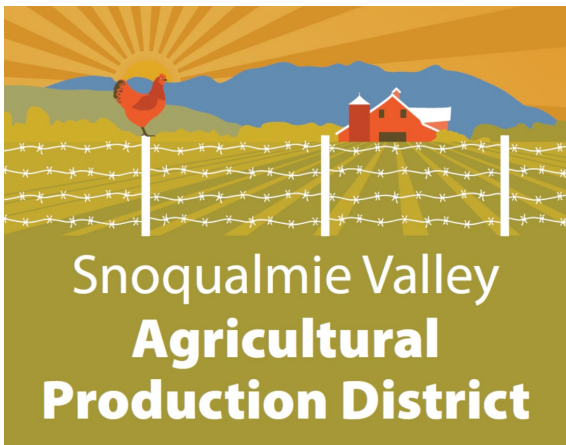


Figure 31. Drive Carefully signage



- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau, "Quick Facts: Population, Census, April 1, 2010, and Population, Census, April 1, 2020." [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 8/1/22.
- ² King County Office of Economic and Financial Analysis, "Demographic Trends of King County" [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 6/29/22.
- ³ Washington Office of Financial Management, "April 1, 2022 Population of Cities, Towns, and Counties" [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 8/31/22.
- ⁴ King County Council, "Map of District 3" [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 7/26/22.
- ⁵ King County Local Services, "Snoqualmie Valley/Northeast King County Subarea Planning: Visioning and Scoping Kickoff Event," May 24, 2022. [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 7/26/22. Slide 10.
- ⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, "Quick Facts: Population, Census, April 1, 2010 and Population, Census, April 1, 2020." [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 8/1/22.
- ⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, "Quick Facts: Population, Census, April 1, 2010 and Population, Census, April 1, 2020." [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 8/31/22.
- ⁸ Puget Sound Regional Council, "Vision 2050," October 2020. [\[LINK\]](#). King County, "2021 Countywide Planning Policies," ratified April 2022. [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 8.31.22
- ⁹ The Urban Growth Capacity Report is King County's "buildable lands report" required by RCW 36.70A.215. [\[LINK\]](#)
- ¹⁰ King County, "2021 King County Urban Growth Capacity Report," June 2021, ratified April 2022. [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 9/1/22.
- ¹¹ Washington Office of Financial Management, "April 1, 2022 Population of Cities, Towns, and Counties." [\[LINK\]](#). "April 1 Intercensal Estimates of Population and Housing, 2010-2020." [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 9/1/22.
- ¹² U.S. Census Bureau, "2020 Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Summary Files." [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 9/1/22
- ¹³ King County Office of Economic and Financial Analysis, "Demographic Trends of King County" [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 6/29/22.
- ¹⁴ American Farmland Trust, "Farms Under Threat: Projected Conversion of Farmland and Rangeland from 2016-2040: Washington and King County" [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 8/4/22.
- ¹⁵ American Farmland Trust, "Farms Under Threat 2040: Choosing an Abundant Future Washington Webinar," at 46:37 minutes, June 12, 2022. [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 8/4/22.
- ¹⁶ Whitt, Christine, Sarah Low and Anders van Sandt, "Agritourism Allows Farms to Diversify and Has Potential Benefits for Rural Communities," U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service, November 4, 2019. [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 11/29/21.
- ¹⁷ King County, "King County Farmers Markets: 2021", August 15, 2022. [\[LINK\]](#) Accessed 9.1.22. Report prepared for King County Department of Natural Resources, Water and Land Resources Division by Washington State Farmers Market Association.
- ¹⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, "Historical Population Change Data (1910 – 2020)," April 26, 2021. [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 11/24/2021.

- ¹⁹ Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), “Region has added over a million people since 2000,” July 1, 2020. [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 11/24/21.
- ²⁰ Puget Sound Regional Council, “Vision 2050,” October 2020. [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 8.23.22
- ²¹ King County Farm and Forest Report, “Chapter 5: A Strategy to Preserve Farms and Farming,” 1995. [\[LINK\]](#). Accessed 3/17/22. Page 41.
- ²² Ibid, page 41.